

**Virginia Library Association  
General Session - Annual Business Meeting  
Friday, October 29, 2021  
Richmond Marriott, Richmond, Virginia**

**Call to Order**

President Jennifer Resor-Whicker called the meeting to order at 2:31 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

**Secretary's Report**

Maryska Connolly-Brown gave the Secretary's Report. The minutes from the annual business meeting held November 6, 2020, held on Zoom, are available on the VLA website calendar entry for today's date, along with the agenda for this meeting. Stella Pool made the motion to approve those minutes. Neda Defibaugh seconded. The motion passed.

<https://www.vla.org/assets/VLABusMeet11.6.2020.pdf>

**Treasurer's Report**

Lisa Varga on behalf of Bill Edwards-Bodmer

The Treasure's report can be found at: [https://www.vla.org/assets/Statement\\_of\\_Activities\\_09142021.pdf](https://www.vla.org/assets/Statement_of_Activities_09142021.pdf)

Financially we are doing well. We have double the revenue expected from Jobline. Jobline postings are about \$125 a piece, and we've posted over 100 jobs.

We really exceeded our expectations with the Affiliate Memberships. At the end of 2018, we started offering Affiliate Memberships to encourage libraries to pay one flat fee and get everyone at their library a membership to VLA. We were estimating that we'd bring in about \$66,000 and we are at \$82,000. Eighty-six libraries are Affiliate Members which comes to 4,454 people who are members through the Affiliate Membership program.

We really cut down on our expenses this year. The biggest thing that we did was that the Executive Committee gave approval to hire a part-timer to help VLA. We hired Amy Sanders who works remotely from Florida and has a library background and a lot of association experience. You may have met her in the registration booths.

For a number of years, VLA has put any excess revenue in an investment account for a rainy day. We may need to dip into the fund to pay for expenses this year since a virtual and in-person account was very costly this year. We are in a good financial position and are easily able to weather the storm. Lisa thanked the membership for their support.

**Membership Update and ALA Joint Student Membership Program**

Lisa Varga

<https://www.vla.org/assets/2021%20Executive%20Directors%20Report%20October%20Annual%20Business%20Meeting.pdf>

**2021 Membership**

293 Individual members

46 Life Members

86 Affiliate Members (4,454 members)

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP: 4,792

### **ALA Joint Student Membership Program starting in 2022**

MLS students join ALA for \$44/year – and they automatically become VLA members (as soon as ALA send us their names and email addresses.) VLA gets \$22 for each person who joins ALA/VLA in this way. If students do not want to join ALA, they can still join VLA for just \$15/year.

### **Past President's Report**

Jennifer Resor-Whicker

I want to start by thanking the members of this year's nominating committee for their work on recruiting nominees for the open positions on the Executive Committee. This year's nominating committee included me as well as Todd Elliot, Cammy Koch, and Adrian Whicker.

This year we held elections for Vice-President/President-Elect, Second Vice-President, and Treasurer. The newly elected officers will be joining the Executive Committee at the close of this business meeting. Please stand when I call your name.

- Our new Treasurer is Kyle Binaxas.
- Our new Second Vice-President is Zach Elder.
- And our new Vice-President/President-Elect is Kimberly Knight.

Congratulations to the new VLA officers.

### **Second Vice-President's Report**

Submitted via email by Regina S. Carter

Second Vice-President Regina S. Carter offers her sincerest gratitude to everyone for the opportunity to serve. She worked with committee and forum leaders to connect with members who were interested in serving. Additionally, she worked with the Executive Committee and Council to revise VLA's Bylaws and Procedures. Some revisions from the following two years include: revising language regarding Honorary Life Membership and the VLA Professional Associates Forum, suspending the Fundraising/Development Committee, establishing the VLA Librarian of Color Forum Award, approving the Virginia Library of the Year Award, and renaming of the Youth Services Forum to become the Youth and Family Services Forum. The appendices section of the bylaws was also updated and now includes hyperlinks to pertinent VLA webpages.

### **President's Report**

Jennifer Resor-Whicker

One of the things that I needed to do this year was to set a new strategic plan. When the Executive Committee began discussing this it was brought up that many organizations are moving to naming ongoing strategic priorities instead of reevaluating a strategic plan every so many years. Strategic priorities allow us to have a consistent foundation that we are always building from instead of working with a strategic plan that changes frequently. I looked at our previous strategic plan and drew inspiration from some other library associations that had already moved to strategic priorities. After looking at our previous plan I decided on four priorities that seemed to encompass our primary focus.

They are:

- Membership
- Advocacy and visibility
- Conferences and continuing education
- Clear communication and organizational structure

This was voted on and approved by Council in April. We also updated this year's Designated Agenda, and we voted on this year's Honorary Life Members.

It was also decided this year that the Executive Committee will participate in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion training going forward. The 2022 Executive Committee had our first training last week and our second session is scheduled for November 10. We hired Dr. Sharon Blackwell Jones to conduct the training. Dr. Jones is a graduate of Penn State University and has experience consulting, working, and teaching in the areas of Cultural Competence, clinical mental health counseling, school counseling, and counseling psychology. Her doctoral research focused on culturally competent experiential diversity training. Dr. Jones has designed and delivered hundreds of diversity-related programs in academic, private sector, nonprofit, community, and volunteer settings.

The Executive Committee also recently wrote a letter to the Virginia Beach Public School Board in response to recent book challenges in their school libraries and curriculum. The letter can be seen on the calendar page with the other documents from today's meeting.

### **Presidential citation**

Jennifer Resor-Whicker

I would now like to present the VLA Presidential Citation for this year. This year I am posthumously awarding the Presidential Citation to Rachel Adele Smith. Rachel was an amazing member of our VLA community. We were all so fortunate to know her and we miss her presence. The citation reads:

*At the 2019 VLA Annual Conference, Rachel Adele Smith organized and facilitated an ongoing conversation about microaggressions entitled "Decoding Microaggressions: A VLA Project" that took place throughout the entire conference. Ms. Smith provided a safe place for people to learn more about and to become part of a conversation about microaggressions in libraries. In recognition of her expertise and dedication to educating Virginia's library community, this VLA Presidential Citation is posthumously issued to Rachel Adele Smith.*

Let's have a round of applause for Rachel. We will be mailing this citation to Rachel's sister Jamie Smith.

### **Executive Committee Recognition**

Jennifer Resor-Whicker

At this time, I would like to recognize the members of the Executive Committee who have completed their terms as officers. I want to thank them for the time they have spent in service to the VLA membership. I am thankful for the examples they have set and for their friendship. First our outgoing Second Vice-President, Regina Carter. Regina could not be with us today. Next, our outgoing Treasurer,

Bill Edwards-Bodmer. Bill could not be with us today. We will be mailing these appreciation of service awards to them after the conference.

I want to thank everyone for coming to Richmond for the 2021 VLA Annual Conference. Please remember to fill out the conference evaluations when you get the link in your email.

I want to thank you all for the opportunity to serve you as your VLA President for the past two years. It has been an honor and I am so grateful for the amazing community of libraries and library people here in Virginia. There are so many people who helped me on my path here. My parents and grandparents have always been incredibly supportive. I've had some amazing mentors who have been very generous with their knowledge and time. My husband played a huge part in me becoming a librarian and he always supports anything I want to do; especially if it takes him close to a Wawa. I've worked with some amazing librarians on the Executive Committee as well. It is not an exaggeration for me to say that getting involved with VLA was one of the best career decisions I ever made. I also want to take this time to thank Lisa Varga for her dedication to VLA and its membership. Lisa is awesome, and my life is better for knowing her. Her guidance has been invaluable to me while I have been president. I cannot thank her enough for all that she does. VLA has the best executive director of any association anywhere. Thank you, Lisa.

### **Passing the Gavel**

Jennifer Resor-Whicker

It is now time for me to pass the gavel to the new VLA President, K. T. Vaughn. I know she will be a fantastic president, and I am excited to see where she leads VLA next. K. T., let me be the first to say: Congratulations, madame president. May the force be with you.

K.T. Pointed out that Jennifer had a challenging term as a president (because of Covid and due to having to serve back-to-back terms). She did all of this with grace and kindness. Presented Jennifer with a bottle of cider from Old Hill Cidery, called Betwixt. Perhaps now she can concentrate on being just one thing and not having to be "betwixt" jobs.

### **2022 Annual Conference**

K.T. Vaughn

K.T. invited Vivian Washington, chair of the 2022 conference to tell us about next year's conference. It will be at Norfolk Waterside Marriott on Oct. 19-21, 2022. The chosen theme is Recovery and Revival. Invitations for proposals will come after the first of the year and will close in February. Marcellus "M.T." Turner will be one of the keynotes and will talk about the future of libraries. We also have a second keynote, Dr. Angela D. Reddix, who is an author and founder of a healthcare management technology firm. Dr. Reddix was also recently named to the Ebony Magazine's Power 100 list for 2021.

The theme was chosen deliberately to reflect on how we, as libraries and individuals, decide on where we go from here as we emerge from the last couple of years and become something new and exciting.

### **Adjournment**

K.T. asked for a motion to adjourn. Matt Todd moved; Babak Zarin seconded. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 2:56 pm.

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Minutes prepared by Maryska Connolly-Brown, VLA Secretary