



**VLA Council Quarterly Meeting
Libbie Mill Library
Richmond, VA 23223
January 26, 2024**

Attendees

Executive Committee

Nan Carmack (President), Kimberly Knight (Past President), Vivian Washington (President-elect), Maryke Barber (Treasurer), Lisa Varga (VLA Executive Director), Rebecca Purdy (Secretary).

Council

Liz Bass (LGBTQIA+), Lisa Broughman (VIVA), Jennifer Scott Brown (VALLA), Hailee Coleman (Cardinal Cup), Suzanne Corriell (Virginia Association of Law Libraries), Michelle Cuccherini (Professional Associates Forum), Quettara Drayton (Scholarship Committee), Olivia Hasan (Librarians of Color Forum), Natalie Hutchinson (MakerSpace Forum Chair), Stephen Leist (Virginia Libraries), Natasha Payne-Brunson (Conference Committee), Erica Roque (VLA Consultant), Clint Rudy (VALLA), Tom Shepley (Legislative Committee), Reynor Jones (New Members Roundtable), Jennifer Stout (VLACRL), April Watkins (Youth and Family Services), Keith Weimer (Intellectual Freedom), Christine Woods (VLACRL)

Call to Order

Nan Carmack called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

Secretary's Report

Rebecca Purdy directed attention to the draft minutes from the September 22, 2023 Council meeting which were posted on the VLA website. Vivian Washington moved to approve the minutes as presented; Maryke Barber seconded. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Maryke Barber presented the written 2023 Statement of Activities report. Under revenues, affiliate dues were higher than anticipated, student memberships exceeded projections, and the annual conference made a profit. It was pointed out under expenses that the cost of the Professional Associates Forum was approximately \$19,000 higher than revenue.

Maryke presented the current Statement of Activity and the 2024 proposed budget. Quettara Drayton moved to approve the 2024 budget proposal; Jennifer Scott Brown seconded. The motion passed.

Executive Director's Report

Lisa Varga reviewed the written Executive Director's report and shared that Amy Sanders has resigned and Erica Roque has been contracted to assist with a variety of tasks. Lisa announced that the Senate Education Committee has passed SB235 and encouraged people to write to the House Education Committee in support of the bill. Lisa shared that work is underway to move the enactment clause of § 22.1-16.8 into the full text of the bill.

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Lisa announced that the project to evaluate professional liability insurance for VLA members is currently on hold. Lisa informed the Council that Amazon Business has approached library associations for an opportunity that would provide discounts to libraries that are VLA members and that VLA would receive a one percent rebate.

VLA Chapter Councilor to ALA Report

Nan Carmack shared that Kerri Copus reviewed the written report at yesterday's Executive Committee meeting and that VLA would be adding a link to ALA in order to facilitate awareness and communication on issues facing libraries.

Legislative Update

Tom Shepley reported on the written 2024 Legislative Report. Tom shared that efforts continue to increase state funds for libraries and that supporting the freedom to read continues to be a priority.

Lisa shared that working with state legislators is common practice for state library organizations. and pointed out that support for the Library of Virginia is also one of the 2024 legislative priorities.

Michelle Cuccherini moved to approve the 2024 Legislative Report; Jennifer Scott Brown seconded. The motion passed.

Executive Committee Report

Nan Carmack announced that the Executive Committee met yesterday. Nan recently attended an advocacy workshop in Chicago and is working with Lisa on ways to partner with VAASL and implement lessons learned.

VLA Annual Conference

Natasha Payne-Brunson shared the theme for the 2024 Annual Conference which is "Welcome to My Libratory," with a focus on creativity, STEM and focus on innovation and engagement.

Lisa shared that due to the high cost, an awards dinner will not be held. Instead VLA will host a cocktail party with winners during the poster session. Award winners will also be recognized during the Opening Session and receive one night in the hotel. Scholarship winners will receive a hotel room for two nights.

Nan shared that the 2024 social will be oriented around building bikes that will be donated to children. The goal is to increase relationship building and attendees will be invited to suggest a song towards a shared playlist. Megan Lotts, a librarian and play researcher from Rutgers will be the keynote from Rutgers and will also present a session. There will be an art show and attendees will be able to submit their work. Lightning round sessions will be presented in the vendor hall. There will be a makerspace lounge which will also host sessions.

Unit Reports

Committees

Awards and Recognitions: Not present.

Intellectual Freedom: Keith Weimer thanked Phil Abraham for inviting Keith and Tom to participate in initial discussions with legislators. The committee will meet next week with representatives from VASL to plan activities related to the legislature. New members are being sought, especially from Region 1 and Region 4.

Cardinal Cup: Hailee Coleman shared that the committee has been formed. This is the first year that there was no requirement to have a committee member from every region. Letters to the publishers have been sent and the committee has received 130 books so far; unfortunately sixty-four percent were ineligible.

Nominating: Kimberly Knight reported that the nominating committee will be formed in the coming months and will look for candidates from the academic world for President and Secretary.

Scholarship: Quettara Drayton announced that the committee has a newly created treasurer position and is actively recruiting committee members. The scholarship application will be posted on the website on February 1.

Forums

Collections & Technical Services: Not present.

College & Research Libraries (VLACRL): Jenny Stout reported that the spring program will be held virtually on March 15. Librarians from W&M speaking on hiring practices for neurodivergent candidates.

LGBTQIA+: Liz Bass announced that Forum has plans to meet soon and begin event planning.

Librarians of Color: Olivia Hasan shared that there will be several brunch meetups throughout the year and that the forum will be providing virtual training.

Local & Family History: Not present.

Makerspace: Natalie Hutchinson shared that the forum holds virtual monthly meetings and that members recently visited the VCU makerspaces.

New Members Roundtable: Reynor Jones announced that the roundtable is doing very well. The mentorship program began this month and fifty-four people are participating and receive a monthly discussion prompt.

Professional Associates: Michelle Cuccherini shared that the forum is looking for a chair-elect.

Public Services Forum: No leadership at this time.

Virginia Libraries Journal: Stephen Leist shared that an issue of the journal is now in progress.

Youth Services: April Watkins announced that the forum met last week and is considering restructuring to eliminate the requirement for a member from each region. The forum is seeking a vice-chair and several more members.

Liaisons

VAASL: Not present.

VALL: Suzanne Corriell shared there is no report at this time.

VIVA: Lisa Broughman shared that they are accepting proposals through February 16.

Other Business

MakerSpace Forum By-laws

Nan reviewed the written proposed by-laws. It was suggested that the forum consider defining the leadership roles in the by-laws at a later date.

Keith Weimer moved to approve the MakerSpace Forum by-laws as presented; Vivian Washington seconded. The motion passed.

VALLA Task Force

Jennifer Scott Brown shared that 110 applications to VALLA had been submitted. This year's cohort has been selected and, once the conference includes, will have monthly meetings. The Task Force recommends that the VALLA Task Force become a VALLA Committee.

Jennifer Scott Brown moved to approve the creation of a VALLA Committee; VALLA Committee seconded. The motion passed.

Growing Libraries Task Force

Kimberly Knight shared that the group would continue as an ad hoc committee at this time.

Lisa Varga provided an update on the book resumes project. United on Book Bans VLA's site will be moved to the national database in the coming week.

Adjournment

Nan Carmack asked for a motion to adjourn. Vivian Washington moved to adjourn with Jennifer Scott Brown seconding. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 11:37 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Rebecca Purdy, VLA Secretary

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