



**VLA Council Quarterly Meeting
Libbie Mill Library
Richmond, VA 23230
September 13, 2024**

Attendees

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Executive Committee

Kimberly Knight (Past President), Vivian Washington (President-Elect), Kelsey Cheshire (Second Vice President), Kerri Copus (ALA Councilor), Lisa Varga (VLA Executive Director), and Rebecca Purdy (Secretary). Maryke Barber (Treasurer) attended virtually.

Council

Lisa Broughman (VIVA), Jennifer Scott Brown (VALLA), Suzanne Corriell (Virginia Association of Law Libraries), Michelle Cuccherini (Professional Associates Forum), Nico D'Archangel (LGBTQIA+), Gregg Grunow (MakerSpace Forum Chair), Natalie Hutchinson (MakerSpace Forum Chair), Stephen Leist (Virginia Libraries), Sherry Matis (VLACRL), Clint Rudy (VALLA), Vanessa Salo (VLA), Tom Shepley (Legislative Committee), Jennifer Stout (VLACRL), Keith Weimer (Intellectual Freedom).

Call to Order

Vivian Washington called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

Secretary's Report

Rebecca Purdy directed attention to the draft minutes from the June 14, 2024 Council meeting which were posted on the VLA website. Kerri Copus moved to approve the minutes as presented; Kimberly Knight seconded. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Maryke Barber presented the written September 9 Statement of Activities and stated that student memberships are exceeding the goal. Maryke also announced that funds for this year's scholarships have been raised and that all funds raised at this year's conference will go to next year.

Maryke also stated that student memberships are exceeding the goal and that funds in the investment account are building back up to the goal of keeping a full year's expenses. Maryke announced that forty-eight libraries have signed up for the Amazon Business program; current projections are for a first year rebate of \$7,000.

Executive Director's Report

Lisa Varga reviewed the written Executive Director's report and reminded Council that each library with an institutional membership receives one free jobline posting.

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VLA Chapter Councilor to ALA Report

Kerri Copus presented the written ALA Councilor Report, announcing that Sam Helmick was chosen as 2024-2025 President-Elect after Ray Pun stepped down.

Legislative Update

Tom Shepley announced that an increase to state aid will be part of the 2025 agenda and full funding is anticipated for the first time since 2001.

Executive Committee Report

Vivian Washington shared that the Trauma Informed Taskforce proposal has been postponed and more information is forthcoming. Vivian also shared that the Executive Committee approved the creation of two intellectual freedom awards.

VLA Annual Conference

Lisa Varga shared that over 450 people have registered. George M. Johnson will be the closing session keynote speaker and the public can attend for a \$25.00 fee. An official contract has been signed with the Sustainable Libraries Initiative who will present a session at VLA; members will have access to SLI resources.

Unit Reports

Committees

Awards and Recognitions: Lisa Varga reported that winners should be announced by the end of the day.

Cardinal Cup: Not present.

Intellectual Freedom: Keith Weimer announced that the Intellectual Freedom Awards will change. There will now be two awards; the Intellectual Freedom Promotion Award and Intellectual Freedom Advocacy Award. These awards will be presented for the first time in the Fall of 2025. The Committee is also working on an oral history project where library staff can share their experience with book bans.

Scholarship: Kelsey Cheshire encouraged Council to consider donating baskets to the scholarship raffle.

VALLA: Jennifer Scott Brown shared that the VALLA Mentorship Program is going well and that Jennifer and Clint Rudy will be presenting on the taskforce at the upcoming VLA conference.

Forums

Collections & Technical Services: Not present.

College & Research Libraries (VLACRL): Jenny Stout shared that Malia Willeye is the new Co-Chair. Jenny announced that the VLACRL survey was completed and results are shared [here](#) on the

VLA website.

LGBTQIA+: Nico D'Archangel stated that work continues.

Librarians of Color: Not present.

Local & Family History: Not present.

Makerspace: Nathalie Hutchinson shared that the Forum visited Central Rappahannock Regional Library's IdeaSpace.

New Members Roundtable: Not present.

Professional Associates: Michelle Cuccherini shared that the Forum is working with VLA staff on ideas to refine the Forum to best meet the needs of professional associates.

Public Services Forum: No leadership at this time.

Youth Services: Not present.

Liaisons

VAASL: Not present.

VALL: Suzanne Corriell announced that VALL will be partnering with VLA for the 2025 conference and will present programming on the Thursday of that conference and will be offering tours of local law libraries.

VIVA: Lisa Broughman shared that the annual membership meeting will be held at the conference.

Virginia Libraries Journal: Stephen Leist shared that submissions were received and that a publication is being prepared for the fall. There will also be a presentation at VLA on how to write and submit for the journal. After the conference there will be a call for new members for the Advisory Board.

Other Business

Dignity Index Webinar

Lisa Varga shared that 65 people have registered for the webinar.

VLA License Plate Opportunity

Nico D'Archangel presented the opportunity for VLA to offer a branded license plate. Lisa Varga shared that this has been explored previously and shared that the process is easier now. At that time, VLA had to collect money in advance and, when the plate did not receive enough support, then had to write reimbursement checks to everyone who had requested the new plate. Approval to



create a VLA license plate requires a Legislative bill and the deadline to submit is imminent; it was suggested to plan for a January 2026 approval.

Adjournment

Vivian Washington asked for a motion to adjourn. Keith Weimer moved to adjourn with Jennifer Scott Brown seconding. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 11:20 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Rebecca Purdy, VLA Secretary

DRAFT

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