

Since April, the Intellectual Freedom committee has continued to be active. We have:

Drafted a statement on Academic Freedom, which was approved by the Executive Committee and linked to the Intellectual Freedom Committee's page:

<https://vla.memberclicks.net/intellectual-freedom-committee>

Have continued working with the VLA President, Executive Director, Legislative Committee Chair, and representatives of the Virginia Association of School Librarians (VAASL) to plan visits to representatives of the General Assembly in their districts, focusing on members of the House Education Committee, possibly in late July or early August. Next steps include identifying state delegates and senators to visit and arranging advocacy training with the League of Women voters—to be organized by IFC member Carolyn Caywood and VLA President Nan Carmack.

IFC member Easter DiGangi Easter is working with Hope Kelly on an oral history project where library staff will be able to make appointments during the 2024 Conference to share their stories of book bans and challenges. Easter will also present on the history of the Book Resumes, and other anti-censorship tools.

IFC Chair Keith Weimer and Past Chair Shari Henry's book chapter has been accepted for an ACRL volume *Advocacy and Policy Work for Academic and Research Library Workers: Perspectives and Strategies*. The chapter reviews the work of the VLA IFC and Executive Council from 2016-2023 in addressing challenges to intellectual freedom, VLA's growing partnership with VAASL, and especially participation in VLA as a means of raising awareness about the interconnectedness of academic, public, and school libraries. They will also present their research at the VLA annual conference.

Shari Henry will also present Pohick Regional Library's POD: An antidote to loneliness at the VLA Conference.

The IFC will also hold a Roundtable discussion at the VLA conference. We are working on question prompts for the roundtable.

The IFC will host another open meeting for VLA members on August 2.

IFC member Jamie Kollar continues to compile intellectual freedom news from around the Commonwealth.