



**VLA Council Quarterly Meeting Agenda
Library of Virginia, Richmond and via Zoom
April 4, 2025**

Attendees

Executive Committee

Lisa Varga (VLA Executive Director), Vivian Washington (President), Nan Carmack (Past President), Nancy Falcianai-White (President-elect), Kelsey Cheshire (Second Vice President), Kerri Copus (ALA Councilor), Maryke Barber (Treasurer), Kendra Hawkins (Secretary)

Council

Vanessa Salo (VLA Administrative Assistant), John Diaz (Graphic Novel Diversity Award Committee), Rachel Kopchick (Awards and Recognition Committee), Lisa Broughman (VIVA Representative), David Black (Virginia Libraries Journal Managing Editor), Malia Willey (College and Research Libraries Forum/VLACRL co-Chair), Tom Shepley (Legislative), Jane Gagne (ALA Law for Librarians), Nico D´ Archangel (LGBTQIA+ Chair Forum Chair), Jamie Kollar (Intellectual Freedom Committee Chair), Ann Marie Hatton (Local and Family History Forum Chair), Natasha Payne-Brunson (MakerSpace Forum Co-Chair), Cammy Koch (MakerSpace Forum Co-Chair), Jane Gagne (ALA Law for Librarians Liaison), Suzanne Corriell (Virginia Association of Law Libraries Liaison)

Call to Order

Vivian Washington called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM

Introductions - Vivian Washington

- Nan Carmack will be serving as interim director until a new director is appointed
- Kimberly Knight is returning as Immediate past president

Secretary's Report - Kendra Hawkins

Kendra Hawkins directed attention to the draft minutes from the January 2025 council meeting. Motion was made to approve the minutes as amended made by Nico D´ Archangel, seconded by Jennifer Brown. The motion was passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report - Maryke Barber

Maryke Barber presented Maryke presented the written statement of activities through March 2025. Document attached.

Executive Director's Report – Lisa Varga

Lisa presented a written report on VLA activities through March 2025. Document attached.

- **SLA Transition:** The Special Libraries Association (SLA) is in the process of dissolving. We will explore the possibility of integrating Virginia-based SLA members into the Virginia

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Library Association (VLA), potentially offering them a membership discount. Additionally, we propose establishing a Special Libraries Forum within VLA, allowing these members to participate in elections and run for office.

- **IMLS Update:** The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) currently has employees on administrative leave for 90 days. State grant programs are being cancelled. We may consider issuing a public statement opposing these funding cuts and highlighting their potential impacts.
- **Basecamp Documentation:** A Basecamp folder has been created containing key documents outlining organizational processes. A monthly timeline has also been developed to track essential tasks and deadlines.
- **Arlington Speakeasy:** The Morrison House Hotel in Alexandria has reached out with a proposal to host a speakeasy event, with the Virginia Library Association (VLA) designated as the beneficiary. According to initial communications and emails from Lisa, 50% of book sales from the event would be donated to VLA.
- **Upcoming Event:** Nan will represent the organization at the Virginia PTA meeting on May 17.

VLA Chapter Councilor to ALA Report - Keri Corpus

Kerri presented the written statement of activities through March, 2025. Document attached.

Legislative Update -Tom Shepley

- **State Aid Update:** The Virginia General Assembly did not approve the anticipated increase in state aid; however, \$630,000 was allocated to maintain current funding levels.
- **JLARC Study:** A study will be conducted by the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) to assess relevant issues.
- **Senate Bill 931:** This bill, which proposed the creation of adults-only (18+) rooms in libraries among other provisions, was voluntarily withdrawn by its sponsor. Phil Abraham engaged with the senator who introduced the bill, and following discussions with library representatives, the senator chose to strike the bill.

President's Special Report - Vivian Washington

Lisa Varga was granted an Honorary Lifetime Membership to the Virginia Library Association (VLA).

Executive Committee Report - Vivian Washington

- **SLA Membership:** Efforts are underway to support former SLA members during the transition.
- **Director Hiring:** The hiring process for a new director is currently in progress. Additional information will be made available on the website soon.

VLA Annual Conference 2025 - Vivian Washington

Vivian Washington presented notes from the last Conference Committee meeting.

- Annual Conference will be held from Wednesday, October 1 - Friday, October 3 in Richmond, Virginia. Kathy Bradshaw conference chair. Theme: With Libraries, All Rise
- The majority of positions have been successfully filled. Kathy Bradshaw is the conference Chair.
- Next Meeting: Scheduled for April 14.
- Logo Selection: A new logo has been finalized.

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- Conference Proposals: Submissions are due by April 6.

2nd Vice President's Report - Kelsey Cheshire

Kelsey Cheshire made the approved edits to the Manual and Bylaws. The group continued collaborating with Vanessa to update the Committee and Forum interest forms. They presented a minor addition to the ALA Councilor responsibilities in the Manual. Addition to ala councilor responsibilities.

Unit Reports

Awards and Recognition Committee – Rachel Kopchick – Current projects:

- Timeline for awards nominations and notifications (updated as of 03.12.25)
 - February 5, 2025: Launch call for awards
 - March 12th deadline extended: Deadline for closure of nomination forms was extended through April 1, 2025 in hopes of additional entries
 - May 2025: Announcement of winners to membership and on website, press release

Cardinal Cup Committee – Not present. Angela Critics submitted a report in advance. Document Attached

Conference Committee – See Vivian Washington's previous report.

Graphic Novel Diversity Award Committee – John Diaz presented a written report. Document attached.

Intellectual Freedom Committee – Jamie Koller presented a written report. Document attached.

Legislative Committee – See Tom's previous report.

Nominating Committee Nan presented that there are 2 nominations each for president and vice president, 5 nominations for ALA Councilor and 0 nominations for Treasurer. The committee is meeting next week and will reach out to the previous treasurer to do an info video to help with seeking nominations. The candidate for Treasurer (from a public library) doesn't need to be MLIS, any staff working in libraries can run.

Scholarship Committee – not present. Vanessa reported that the committee is in the process of reviewing applications. They received 32, however, 2 were disqualified – one person was not a VLA member, and one person did not upload references.

VALLA Committee – Jennifer Brown 2024 cohort wrapped up their year. Celebratory dinner in May, with mentors. Some of the cohort working on a VLA proposal to discuss their experiences. Working on 2026 cohort. Applications should be available by October. Jennifer will remain chair for this cohort. Looking at ways to streamline the process. How do we make it free for cohort members asked by Lisa. Free for cohort members except for travel. Did a lot of fundraising, 28000 raised vla picked up rest, which totaled 34000. Looking for ideas for fundraising to keep this free.

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CATS Forum – not present

VLARCL Forum – Malia Willey – The committee hosted a successful Spring Program focused on the role of artificial intelligence in instructional settings, with particular emphasis on its implications for emerging MLIS professionals. Attendees were encouraged to refer to email communications or the program website for a detailed session description. Attendance: 108 participants. 60% rated the program 10/10, 20% rated it 9/10, 20% rated it 7/10. The committee discussed the need to improve the clarity and appeal of leadership position descriptions to support recruitment efforts, proposed the addition of a new committee member to expand programming capacity, and confirmed that review processes are in place for our track at the upcoming VLA Conference.

LGBTQIA+ Forum – Nico D´ Archangel – A Virtual Poetry Slam will be held on 4/10.

Librarians of Color Forum – Brea – summer mentorship series June – August 1 hour webinars. Monthly connection chats via Zoom 1st one in late April all forum members to get togeth to talk. Identifying regional leaders for all 6 regions. 2 brunces in May in the 757 area and one in the DC area.

Local and Family History Forum – Ann Marie Hatton – The committee has a meeting planned at Jones Memorial Library in Lynchburg in May, to discuss IMLS news and its impact since most of our funding comes from them.

Makespace Forum – Natasha Payne-Brunson and Cammy Koch – The forum is continuing efforts to recruit new members and explore a wider range of topics. Last month’s discussion focused on artificial intelligence. The upcoming meeting will address how to better support adults with disabilities and neurodivergence, with a goal of making makerspace activities more inclusive. The group will also discuss recent news from the IMLS and its potential implications. Communication is transitioning to Basecamp to streamline coordination. Additionally, the forum is organizing field trips to visit makerspaces at various libraries, including a potential visit to Maryland, as part of a broader initiative to increase engagement and collaboration..

New Members Round Table Forum – not present

Professional Associates Forum – not present

Youth and Family Services Forum – not present

Virginia Libraries Journal – David Black - *Virginia Libraries* published two articles, *Let’s Get Creative: Arts Education and Public Libraries* from Emma FitzGerald and *Real Talk on the Future of Libraries: A Conversation with ALA President-elect Sam Helmick* from Simone Cote with two more coming soon. We’ve also been working on a policy on the use of AI that we’ll share soon and planning a webinar later this year. We welcome a variety of submission types featuring insights and best practices from any type of library in Virginia.

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Liaisons

ALA Law for Librarians Liaison – Jane Gagne – Jane provides ongoing professional development trainings and encouraged members to utilize the ALA Connect group to ask questions directly. Work is underway on a field guide that explores how legal issues intersect with the library profession. There was also discussion around recent IMLS actions, and members are encouraged to reach out with any questions for Jane. Vivian noted that there are plans to publish related information on the website.

Library of Virginia – No report.

Virginia Association of Law Librarians – Suzanne Corriell - fully virtual meeting on May 16. If have any ideas for a program for VLA conference in October, send so we can put it together.

Virginia Association of School Librarians – not present

VIVA – Lisa Broughman – The 22025 VIVA Community Forum will be held next week. Nancy Falciani-White will be the keynote speaker.

Other Business

- Brea and Vivian travel to Washington, D.C. as part of the COSLA (Chief Officers of State Library Agencies) delegation, led by Kevin Smith, Director of York Public Library. They receive training from Voices for Libraries and meet with legislative aides to emphasize the importance of continued IMLS funding. The visit serves as a valuable learning experience, highlighting how libraries make a meaningful impact not only on communities but also on policymakers. Alongside Keith Weidner and Easter DiGangi, they examine policy priorities and gather stories that illustrate how libraries are affected. The goal is to ensure that every library is represented in future advocacy efforts. For more detailed information, members are encouraged to reach out to Vivian.
- Lisa – National Library week Drawn to the Library: Free tools are available.
- Kendra Scott potential for fundraising: Kendra Scott's Little Yellow Libraries supports children's literacy by organizing donation drives and hosting pop-up events, where a portion of the proceeds is contributed to their cause. Kelcey will collaborate with the organization to explore potential partnership opportunities.
- Conference Management Update (Lisa): Lisa shared that Esimann Company has offered a contract agreement to manage the upcoming conference. Their services would be covered by a proposed increase in conference registration fees of approximately \$11–\$12 per attendee. Esimann has extensive experience in conference management and is familiar with a wide range of venues. The Executive Committee has voted to approve and sign the contract. Vendor registration is expected to open next week.
- Urban Librarians has a support network (<https://libraryworkersupport.org/>) to discuss currently happening in libraries. Information will be shared on social media.

- I. Motion to adjourn at 11:30am by Nico D ´ Archangel, Jennifer Brown seconded.

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Treasurer Report

Virginia Library Association, April 2025

Notes on Statement of Activities

Revenue:

- Membership income is on track. Both affiliate and institutional memberships have payments still outstanding. Individual memberships is not near the goal, however, this category usually catches up at conference time.
- Jobline income is on track.
- We can anticipate a modest rebate of approximately \$3000 from the Amazon Prime contract. We will have the exact number later this Spring.
- Scholarships has a significant balance carried over from last year, almost \$7000. This is great news for the scholarships committee.

Expenses:

- Expenses are also on track.

Investments:

- Both accounts show positive earnings in the most recent report.

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Executive Director Report
VLA Council
April 4, 2025

Membership

2025 Membership: 5,092

- 203 Individual members
- 45 Life Members
- 87 Affiliate Members (4700 employees)
- 127 Joint Student Members
- 94 Institutional Members/27 unpaid (\$38,271 of \$50K collected)

2024 Membership year closed with:

- 270 Individual members
- 45 Life Members
- 92 Affiliate Members (4659 employees)
- 133 Joint Student Members
- 78 Institutional Members/26 unpaid

Joblines:

- 40 postings
- 5 Complimentary for Institutional Memberships

VLA hosted a Presidential Candidate Forum for ALA on March 3, from 12-12:30pm. Shortly after the forum and before voting opened, Andrea Jamison withdrew her candidacy.

SLA
IMLS
Eisenman
Basecamp
VA PTA meeting May 17

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ALA Councilor Report for Virginia Library Association, April 2025

ALA Council Documents are located here:

https://www.ala.org/aboutala/governance/council/council_actions

I. Meetings Attended by ALA Councilor since last report

- ALA Governance Institute on 1/24/25 - LibLearnX, Phoenix, AZ
- APA-ALA on 1/25/25 - LibLearnX, Phoenix, AZ
- Council I on 1/25/25 - LibLearnX, Phoenix, AZ
- Council II on 1/26/25 - LibLearnX, Phoenix, AZ
- GODORT Chat on 2/7/25 – virtual
- Get Familiar with Freedom of Information Laws – 2/25/25 - virtual

II. Highlight of LibLearnX Council News

- ALA-APA Council session included:
 - Approved - The establishment of the new Library Management Staff Certification Program
 - Approved - The establishment of the new Library Support Staff Certification Program
- Council I included:
 - Nominations of candidates for the councilors for Executive Board, elections to be held in February.
 - Approved, ALA Corporate Sponsorship Guidelines to be inserted into ALA's Policy Manual
 - Adopted, ALA CD#48 Resolution on the ALA Executive Board Composition - be revised to return to its previous language.
- Council II included:
 - Approved, ALA CD#19.1 - the "Prisoner's Right to Read: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights"
 - Adopted, ALA CD#20 Tribute Resolution in Honor of FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel

II. Other Council News:

- Leslie Berger announced LibLearnX registration totaled 1,625
- Executive Director search ongoing – Interviews in March & April with a goal to announce at Annual Conference
- Approved, ALA CD #17 Merge language in Code of Professional Ethics
- Approved, ALA CD#25, Section 8. Council Succession.
- Defeated, ALA CD#27 (Action 1), Establish a Library Makerspace Roundtable
- Approved, ALA CD#27 (Action 2), Replacement of Council Tellers Committee with adjusting the charge of the Election Committee.

III. Other ALA notes:

- ALA Elections - Closing April 2
- ALA Annual Conference will be held June 27-30 in Philadelphia – with special guests Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, George Takei, Brene Brown, Joe Hill, and Geena Davis
<https://2025.alaannual.org/>
- Show Up for our Libraries – ALA's Advocacy campaign – visit ala.org/showup

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- ALA is collecting stories about library impact – [Share your story](#)

Submitted by Kerri Copus, April 1, 2025

DRAFT

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VLA Council Meeting – 04.04.25
Cardinal Cup Committee Report

Committee

- A second member of the committee withdrew in February. Fortunately, one of last year's committee members, who had applied to serve in 2025, was available to step in. So the committee still has seven members. Publishers were very accommodating about sending extra copies to her, to include all books that have been put through to the final round as well as books that on which the committee has not yet voted.

Publisher Contacts

- In February email notices with a reminder of the deadline were sent to publishers from whom we have not yet received books.
- The committee has received 157 books of which 44 were ineligible.
- Fourteen books have been advanced to the final round of voting. One series has been advanced for consideration as a Series of Note.

Meetings

- Upcoming virtual meetings are scheduled for April and May 2.
- The final, in person meeting will take place on Friday, June 6, tentative location: Brightpoint Community College.

2024 Award Update

- The deadline for publishers to submit titles was January 31. 81 titles were submitted for the 2024 Award: 58 titles in the Youth Category and 23 titles in the Adult Category.
- The Committee aims to announce the winners and honor titles in May.

2026 Award Update

- In order to maintain consistency with the Cardinal Cup and other VLA book awards, the Graphic Novel Diversity Award year will change to reflect the year the award will be given rather than the year of publication for the titles honored. This change will take effect with the award given next year, the 2026 Graphic Novel Diversity Award.
- The call for 10 judges (five Adult category and five Youth category) for the 2026 GNDA went out on March 24. The application is an online Google form. The deadline to apply is April 13.
- In the first week, 8 applications were received. 5 of the 6 VLA Regions are represented in the applicant pool thus far.
- In accordance with the newly approved protocol to confirm two co-chairs, Kyle Binaxis has been nominated as the Adult Co-Chair and Kris Eldred has been nominated as the Youth Co-Chair. They await confirmation by the 2nd Vice President of VLA. Once confirmed, they will review the judge applications and make selections.
- Judges will be selected by the end of April. Judge orientation will be held in May. The title nomination form will be sent to publishers in either May or June.

Virginia Library Association Council
Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC) Quarterly Report
April 4, 2025
Jamie Kollar, Chair

Membership Changes:

- Chair position passed from Keith Weimer to Jamie Kollar
- Jane Gagne joined
- Alison Gregory and Rebecca Jasman stepped down
- Melinda McKenzie is now reporting news

Current Membership:

- Region 1: Sally Stauffer
- Region 2: Lisa Broughman
- Region 3: Carolyn Caywood, Easter DiGangie, Jane Gagne, Melinda McKenzie
- Region 4:
- Region 5: Shari Henry
- Region 6: Jamie Kollar, Keith Weimer

We are in need of at least one representative from Region 4! Additional representation for Regions 1, 2, and 5 would also be welcome.

Recent Business:

Apologies for my absence at January's meeting!

IFC has been monitoring the VA General Assembly, with Carolyn taking the lead on tracking legislation. Several concerning bills were submitted, but none were expected to pass, and none did. A promising JLARC study into book banning was approved, which we look forward to seeing.

IMLS defunding and staffing changes have obviously been very present on our minds! We have been working with Lisa Varga on responses and on tracking community response to messaging from other organizations. So far, we have been largely limited to informational posts, op-eds, and personally calling or writing our representatives, and are largely following the lead of VLA as a whole.

We have set up a [Basecamp](#) for IFC document storage and collaboration, as well as a new Google shared folder accessible only to current members. We discussed changes to VLA's website, and have agreed that IFC membership and contact information will no longer be listed (bringing us in line with other VLA committees). We will use ifc@vla.org as our official email for contact with the public, which Jamie will monitor.

We discussed the best way to facilitate communication between IFCs in other states, to take a more holistic approach. Easter has taken point on setting up a private Discord server, with assistance from Jane and Jamie, which can be shared with interested members and used for communication. Easter and Jamie are compiling a list of all other state IFCs and their contact information to begin reaching out, and Easter has been invited to attend an NCLA IFC meeting this month.

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Keith and Sally attended the Freedom of Information Day celebration at Montpelier. As in past years, IFC purchased a wreath for the ceremony.

Last year, the Banned Books Week Display Award was transitioned into a more general Intellectual Freedom Award focused on programming, displays, and presentations. After this year's VLA Conference, we officially created a new submission form and rubric for two awards – the Intellectual Freedom Promotion Award, recognizing events, displays, and activities promoting intellectual freedom; and the Intellectual Freedom Advocacy Award, recognizing contributions to the defense and/or awareness of intellectual freedom in libraries – and passed them on to the Awards Committee.

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