



**VLA Council Quarterly Meeting
Zoom & Libbie Mill Branch Library
Henrico, VA
Friday, September 16, 2022, 10 a.m.**

Attendees

Executive Committee

K.T. Vaughan (President), Jennifer Resor-Whicker (Past President), Kimberly Knight (President-elect), Kyle Binaxas (Treasurer), Zach Elder (Second Vice President), Lucinda R. Wittkower (ALA Chapter Councilor), Lisa Varga (VLA Executive Director), Lisa Broughman (Secretary & VIVA Liaison)

Council

Kelsey Cheshire (Scholarship Committee), Cindy Church (Library of Virginia Liaison), Stephanie Hardy (VLACRL), Christina Harris (LGBTQIA+ Forum), Olivia Hasan (Librarians of Color Forum), Margaret Howard (Continuing Education Committee), Shaunna Hunter (Awards & Recognition Committee), Paula Kiser (Website Content Committee), Kelly Miller (Virginia Association of School Librarians Liaison), Amy Sanders (VLA Administrative Assistant), Chris Shaver (Professional Associates Forum), Tom Shepley (Legislative Committee), Vivian Washington (Conference Committee), Christine Woods (VLACRL)

Call to Order

K.T. Vaughan called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

Secretary's Report

Lisa Broughman submitted a draft of the June 3, 2022, Council meeting minutes. Zach Elder moved to approve the minutes; Jennifer Resor-Whicker seconded. The motion passed to approve the minutes.

Treasurer's Report

Kyle Binaxas reviewed the VLA Statement of Activities and reported that the ALA/VLA joint student memberships have increased to 67; the VLA Jobline is up to \$18,000 in revenue. The association received funding for another scholarship and has increased the association's revenue by approximately \$3,000. Investment funds have decreased, but Institutional and Affiliate memberships have increased.

VLA Chapter Councilor to ALA Report

Lucinda Wittkower attended three Council meetings at the ALA Annual Conference, where several resolutions were passed to support student loan relief initiatives, travel grant proposals, support for libraries in Ukraine, and to continue providing virtual access to ALA membership meetings online. The biggest initiative at Council was the passing of the new ALA structure. Please refer to the attached report for more information.

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Executive Director's Report

Lisa Varga shared the Executive Director's report with the Council and welcomed the Association's newest Affiliate Member, Hampton Public Library, which brings the total membership numbers close to 5000. Lisa reported on her activities at ALA, where she reconnected with numerous vendors to update her contact list for VLA conference booth sales. The joint VLA/DCLA/MLA booth was popular, where VLA shared *Virginia is for Library Lovers* buttons. Intellectual freedom issues in Virginia have taken an enormous amount of time in the past few months, and Lisa provided an update on the lawsuits from Virginia Beach. K.T. Vaughan reminded Council members that the book resume program is a way to help support intellectual freedom issues.

President's Report

K.T. Vaughan reported that the Executive Committee voted to rename two of the Association's awards: The *Jefferson Cup Award* will be renamed the *Cardinal Cup Award* and the *George Mason Award* will be renamed the *Advocacy Award*.

VLA Annual Conference

Vivian Washington reminded Council that the conference would be held on October 19-21 in Norfolk, VA, with registration closing on September 28. To date, there are 268 registered attendees, and we have received several sponsorships for the conference app, WiFi, keynote speakers, and lunch bag. Vivian also thanked members of the conference committee for doing an amazing job when planning this year's conference. Lisa Varga announced that the conference app should be available in early October, and she is still working to sell out the vendor hall to help fully fund this year's conference. K.T. Vaughan reminded Council members that there would be numerous volunteer opportunities at the conference and asked people to contribute baskets to the scholarship raffle. Kimberly Knight announced that Babak Zarin from Central Rappahannock will be the 2023 Conference Chair, with the conference being held at the Westfields Marriott Washington-Dulles on October 22-24, 2023.

Unit Reports

Committees

Awards and Recognitions: Shaunna Hunter reported that the 2022 winners have been announced and thanked the committee members for their help in selecting the winners. Shaunna also reminded Council members that the Awards Dinner would be held on October 19 at the VLA conference.

Donna G. Cote Librarian of the Year: Dana Bomba, Chesterfield County Public Library

Friends of the Library Award: Williamsburg Regional Library Foundation

George Mason Award: Babak Zarin, Central Rappahannock Regional Library

Librarian of Color Forum Award: Wilma Andrade, Fairfax County Public Library

Outstanding Professional Associates Award: Sylvia Enriquez, Fairfax County Public Library

Public Library Innovator Award: Jessica Chatham, Chesapeake Public Library

Trustee Library Award: Margaret "Dale" Harrell, Chesapeake Public Library Board

Up and Comer Award: Olivia Hasan, Hampton Public Library

Virginia Library of the Year Award: Jefferson-Madison Regional Library

VLA Professional Associates Forum Award: Darlene Perry, Richmond Public Library
VLAPAF Supporter of Professional Associates Award: Stephanie Wiggins

Continuing Education:

Intellectual Freedom: Lisa Varga reported that the Protecting the Freedom to Read virtual series was so popular that they had to expand the Association's Zoom license to accommodate the demand. VLA created a Google Drive to share documents and recordings of the presentations.

Jefferson Cup: Not present.

Legislative: Tom Shepley reported that Phil Abraham has watching local primaries to keep an eye on fall elections. Tom reminded everyone that Virginia's libraries received a \$2.5M increase for FY23 and are penciled in for an additional \$2.5M increase for FY24. VASL may be trying to hire a lobbyist who can work with Phil Abraham in the future. Lisa Varga announced that ALA will offer a new legislative software package to register people so they can keep abreast of what is happening in their home districts.

Nominating: Jennifer Resor-Whicker reported that the elections closed on September 15, and the results still need to be in. Approximately 15% of VLA's members voted in the election, with the winners soon to be announced.

Scholarship:

Kelsey Cheshire reminded everyone that gift cards are accepted if you or your library want to support scholarships but do not want to create a basket. More information on how to donate baskets or gift cards and how to purchase raffle tickets will be sent to VLA members soon.

VALLA Task Force: Margaret Howard reminded everyone that the next academy is planned for 2024, so at this time, the task force is focusing on gathering information to make VALLA a stronger event. They will send out a survey to former participants and a second survey for everyone else—particularly potential VALLA attendees. The task force is also looking into potential grant opportunities.

Website Content: Paula Kiser reported that the committee hadn't done much because Amy Sander's work as VLA's Administrative Assistant eliminated the need for the committee to update website content; Paula wondered if it was time to sunset the committee. Christine Woods mentioned that committee members with assigned tasks continued to do their work, so perhaps Lisa Varga and Amy Sanders should help to redistribute website updates to committee chairs. K.T. Vaughan reported that the Executive Committee would discuss website management options at the December retreat.

Forums

Collections & Technical Services: Not present.

LGBTQIA+: Christina Harris reported that the forum recently hosted two successful events, Paint & Pride and a game night. Christina invited everyone to join the forum at the Queer Pride Block Party during one of the concurrent sessions at VLA, which will include crafts, music, and a relaxed, fun time. Representatives from the forum will also be at VA Pridefest in Richmond.

Librarians of Color: Oliva Hassan reported that they are looking forward to programming at the upcoming VLA conference. The forum also held a successful summer brunch in Richmond and is considering holding a similar winter event at the Salamander Resort & Spa, a black-owned, 5-star resort in northern Virginia.

Local & Family History: Not present.

College & Research Libraries: Stephanie Hardy reported that the summer program entitled *Advancing EDI within LIS: Pivoting from Talk to Action*, presented by Tina Rollins from Hampton University, was amazing and well-attended.

Professional Associates: Chris Shaver reported that the forum is progressing with planning the 2023 Professional Associates Conference, which will be held on April 23-25 at the Newport News Marriott; a call for proposals will be sent out soon. A survey will also go out for professional associates to provide feedback on the issues they face in libraries statewide. The results of this survey will help the forum curate programming and resources for assistance.

Programming: Not present.

Liaisons

Library of Virginia: Cindy Church read Sandy Treadway's email, emphasizing the library's work in building a relationship with Virginia's new administration. Ms. Treadway will also present at the annual conference on the Library of Virginia's 200th-anniversary events.

Virginia Association of Law Libraries: Not present.

Virginia Association of School Librarians: Kelly Miller announced the 2022 conference would be held on November 2-4 in Williamsburg, VA. Kelly is also the intellectual freedom chair for VASL, but the Association's work is only beginning for the academic year. Kelly thanked Lisa Varga's work on behalf of the Virginia Beach school district. Lisa Varga reminded everyone that academic and public librarians could further help their local school district librarians by attending school board meetings and writing op-eds in the local newspapers to support intellectual freedom.

Virginia Libraries Journal: Not present.

Virtual Library of Virginia (VIVA):

Lisa Broughman announced two upcoming VIVA events. The next installment of VIVA's Anti-Racism Webinar Series is entitled *Race, Culture, and Community in Archives & Special Collections* and will be held on October 7th, from 10:00 am-11:30 am. This webinar features three

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speakers: Petrina Jackson, Dr. Ricardo Punzalan, and Dr. Rhondda Robinson Thomas. Additionally, the VIVA Annual Member Meeting will be held on October 20 at the VLA conference.

Other Business

K.T. Vaughan thanked everyone for participating in the running of the Virginia Library Association over the past year. Lisa Varga announced that VLA recently became a partner with United against Book Bans, and Penguin and Random House will send ARCS to hand out at the Business Meeting at the end of the VLA conference. Christina Harris announced that the LGBTQIA+ and Librarians of Color Forums would collaborate to create a Norfolk VA/VLA bookmark for the conference.

Adjournment

Jennifer Resor-Whicker moved to adjourn, with Lisa Broughman seconding. The meeting adjourned at 11:03 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Lisa Broughman, VLA Secretary

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