

**Virginia Library Association  
General Session – Annual Business Meeting  
Marriott Hotel  
Richmond, VA  
October 23, 2015**

**Call to Order**

President Suzy Szasz Palmer called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

**Secretary's Report**

Secretary Cindy Church emailed the minutes of the annual business meeting held October 24, 2014 to all VLA members prior to this meeting. After a motion and second that the minutes be approved, the motion carried by voice vote.

**President's Report**

Suzy reported on the significant activities of the VLA Executive Committee and VLA Council over the past year:

Memberships – are strong!

- Individual
  - Current total = 969 for 2015, and renewed for 2016
  - New this year = 292 new in 2015, 184 new going into 2016
- Organizational (academic libraries) = 29 (out of 64?) ~ 45%
- Institutional (public libraries) = 75 (out of 92) ~ 82%

Executive Committee & Council highlights

- Webinars and training sponsored by the Leadership Development Forum and the VLACRL have been well attended and well received.
- The Continuing Education Committee developed a Job Search Workshop that was held on May 30. It was extremely successful, and will be repeated FOUR times across the state in 2016. See the program for dates and locations.
- On behalf of the Fundraising/Development Committee, we set up an Amazon Smile page (smile.amazon.com). ½% of the prices of eligible purchases support the Professional Development Endowment Fund.
- Virginia Libraries
  - First peer-reviewed issue was published and sent to members in April 2015, thanks to the leadership of the VLACRL, and Rebecca Kate Miller in particular
  - Decided to move the journal from a quarterly to an annual issue
  - Decided to transition the journal to an annual, peer-reviewed, publication
    - Sought applications for a new Editor in Chief; selected Ginny Pannabecker from Virginia Tech, who began her three-year term on September 1<sup>st</sup>.
    - Ginny is in the process of recruiting members for the Board of Editors, as well as recruiting individuals to serve as reviewers

- The journal will be peer-reviewed, but there may still be content that won't require the same level of review process
  - The new editorial team will be discussing the possibility of submissions that report original research (research articles), highlight innovative initiatives (practice articles), or discuss current trends/challenges (editorial/commentary).
    - A book reviewer webinar was held last November, and was positively received; a book review section may reappear in *Virginia Libraries*
    - Some material, such as conference reports that previously appeared in the journal, will appear on the website. The new Ad Hoc Website Content Committee has already created two new features – “Meet a Member” and “People & Happenings” – will feature timely news there.
  - Look to see a Writing Academy in the coming year, following on the success of the Presentation academies – 37 attended earlier this year, and a new group of 19 attended yesterday at the preconference.
- VLAPAF
  - Exec approved the VLAPAF holding a one-day conference in May 2015, which had 158 people attending. They will retain the one-day format for 2016, moving the venue to Williamsburg. The Board will continue to review the one-day format.
- Committees/Forums
  - A number of changes were made, and you'll hear more about these from Shari Henry, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President.
- Supported National Legislative Day, with Martha Hutzler as State Coordinator, leading a group to Washington, DC on May 4-5.
- Executive Director
  - Presented at ALA Annual Conference along with her counterpart from the NYLA.
  - Selected to attend ALA Leadership Academy this past summer. A unique 4-day immersive leadership development program for future library leaders. One of 40 participants from across the country.
- Supported and endorsed the Legislative Committee's 2016 Program (formerly called their “Agenda”). Focus is on:
  - 1. Strengthen State funding for public libraries to improve childhood literacy and invigorate STEM-focused instruction in schools.
  - 2. Support the Library of Virginia's legislative and budgetary priorities and propose that the General Assembly continue the work begun in fiscal 2013 to strengthen its financial foundation.
- Librarian of Congress
  - Submitted a letter to President Obama in September, joining other library associations that support appointing a professional librarian as the next Librarian of Congress.

It is not too early to think about running for VLA office. Suzy will be soliciting interest in spring of 2016.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Nathan Flinchum thanked the VLA Executive Committee as well as membership for the opportunity to serve as Treasurer.

He stated that overall VLA is in good financial shape. An updated statement can be found here:

<https://vla.memberclicks.net/assets/october%202015%20statement%20of%20accounts.pdf>

Highlights of the statement as of October 15, 2015 include:

*A financial review completed last year and everything is being done correctly.*

*Conference and Webinars* – These continue to be popular and profitable for VLA.

*Jobline* – Continuing to do well. From September 2014 to the October 2015 there were over 8,000 views of the Jobline site. The goal was \$9,000 in revenue, but more than \$10,000 has been received this year.

*Savings* – VLA is continuing to save money. We have been able to put an additional \$50,000 into our investment account. Kevin Smith was praised for putting VLA onto this path.

### **Second Vice-President's Report**

Second Vice-President Shari Henry thanked everyone for the privilege of serving. She continued to spend time revising the Manual. Revisions include: making sure when a committee interest form is filled out it gets to the right committee chair as quickly as possible. All committees will now start immediately after conference, keeping in line with the terms of the Executive Committee. We dissolved the Multicultural Committee and formed the Diversity and Inclusion Forum. The Public Libraries Committee was dissolved since all work was being done in the other committees. We dissolved the Communications Committee and formed the Ad Hoc Web-site Content Committee. The Committee will be Ad Hoc until we see how it goes and a vote will take place to determine if the committee should become a standing committee. The Fundraising and Professional Endowment Committees were combined into the Fundraising and Endowment Committee.

### **Election Results**

Past President Kevin Smith announced the results of the recent election:

Keith Weimer, University of Virginia – Vice-President / President-Elect

Teresa Doherty, Virginia Commonwealth University – Second Vice President

Shauna Hunter, Hampden Sydney College - Treasurer

And in a special election due to Rebecca Miller's departure, Samantha Thomason, Central Rappahannock Regional Library - ALA Councilor

### **Passing the Gavel**

Suzy Szasz Palmer noted that newly elected Executive Committee members had served on the Conference Committee. Suzy Szasz Palmer thanked the outgoing Executive Committee members for their service: Nathan Flinchum, Shari Henry, Rebecca Miller and Kevin Smith; and presented them with parting gifts. She then passed the presidential gavel to Martha Hutzel.

### **2016 Annual Conference**

Martha thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve, especially Caroline Parr. She encouraged participation in the Conference Committee as well as other VLA Committees. Martha Hutzel introduced Sasha Matthews, 2016 Conference Chair. Sasha announced that the 2016 Conference will be held October 26-28, 2016 in Hot Springs at the Omni Homestead Resort. The theme will be

Educate, Advocate, Promote, Praise and Repeat. It will also be the Homestead's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary and they are offering rooms at a reduced rate of \$250 for two nights.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

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*Minutes prepared by Cindy S. Church, VLA Secretary*