



**VLA Council Quarterly Meeting
Twin Hickory Library
Richmond, VA 23223
June 14, 2024**

Attendees

Executive Committee

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

Council

Liz Bass (LGBTQIA+), Lisa Broughman (VIVA), Jennifer Scott Brown (VALLA), Hailee Coleman (Cardinal Cup), Suzanne Corriell (Virginia Association of Law Libraries), Michelle Cuccherini (Professional Associates Forum), Nico D'Archangel (LGBTQIA+), Quettara Drayton (Scholarship Committee), Gregg Grunow (MakerSpace Forum Chair), Natalie Hutchinson (MakerSpace Forum Chair), Stephen Leist (Virginia Libraries), Kelly Miller (VAASL), Natasha Payne-Brunson (Conference Committee), Vanessa Salo (VLA), Rekesha Spellman (Awards), Jennifer Stout (VLACRL), April Watkins (Youth and Family Services), Keith Weimer (Intellectual Freedom), and Christine Woods (VLACRL)

Other attendees

Nancy Falciani-White, Dorothy Hargett, Kendra Hawkins, and Connie Piper

Call to Order

Nan Carmack called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Secretary's Report

Rebecca Purdy directed attention to the draft minutes from the April 19, 2024 Council meeting which were posted on the VLA website. Quettara Drayton moved to approve the minutes as presented; Jennifer Scott Brown seconded. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Maryke Barber announced that forty-one libraries have signed up for the Amazon Business program thus far and that 25,000 books will be available for discount in the future. Lisa Varga shared that Amazon Business will present a poster session at the upcoming VLA Conference in addition to having a table in the vendor hall.

Maryke presented the written 2024 Statement of Activities. She informed the Council that affiliate and institutional memberships are very close to the targeted amount and that jobline is doing great. The investments will be updated at the next meeting as those are quarterly reports.

Executive Director's Report

Lisa Varga reviewed the written Executive Director's report.

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VLA Chapter Councilor to ALA Report

Kerri Copus shared that the ALA Conference will be held before the Council meets next and there will be more to report at the September Council meeting. One resolution that will be considered at the upcoming American Library Association meeting is the draft ALA Councilor's Resolution to Support AASL School Library Chapters and ACRL Academic Library Chapters.

Legislative Update

Lisa Varga reported that state aid for libraries has increased by 2.5 million dollars for FY25.

Executive Committee Report

Nan Carmack announced that the Executive Committee has been working on a Position Statement Framework. Keith Weimer shared that the Intellectual Freedom Committee used the draft framework for a recent statement made by the Committee and found it helpful. Nan shared that the Executive Committee had voted yesterday to make minor changes: change the document name from Societal to Position, adding to the Position Statement Elements section that any statement will include appropriate contact information within the statement and extending the response timeline to 72 hours. Quettara Drayton moved to approve the Position Statement Framework, Keith Weimer seconded. The motion passed.

Nan Carmack shared that the Dignity Index will present an online webinar on September 23, 2024 at 4 p.m.

VLA Annual Conference

Natasha Payne-Brunson shared that the deadline for presenters to accept their presentation dates and times for the upcoming conference has passed and that there is still space for a few poster sessions. Nan Carmack encouraged attendees to bring their creativity as there will be ample opportunities to use it. Lisa shared that there will not be an awards banquet this year and award honorees will be recognized in a new way.

2025 VLA Election – Candidate Statements

Kimberly Knight thanked Kendra Hawkins for chairing the nominating committee and recognized Lisa Broughman for her assistance in identifying candidates.

The candidate for secretary Kendra Hawkins and candidates for vice-president/president-elect Dorothy Hargett and Nancy Falciani-White gave brief statements on their experience and interest in the position. Candidate for secretary, Reagen Thalacker, was unable to attend.

Lisa Varga shared that elections will open on August 1 and that VLA members who have joined before July 1 will receive ballots.

Unit Reports

Committees

Awards and Recognitions: Rekeshia Spellman shared that nominations are now being accepted.

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Cardinal Cup: Hailee Coleman presented the written report and shared that the Committee has selected award winners.

Intellectual Freedom: Keith Weimer presented the written report. The committee will be looking for librarians to visit freshmen legislators. Nan Carmack shared that work is underway to provide training to VLA and VAASL members before making these visits.

Scholarship: Quettara Drayton shared that the new evaluation process was a success and that scholarship winners have been selected and notified. The Committee members have identified new ideas to fundraise and will be sharing those proposals with Lisa Varga in the near future.

VALLA: Jennifer Scott Brown shared that on the afternoon of June 14, Jennifer and Clint Rudy will present on VALLA to California Libraries Learn.

Forums

Collections & Technical Services: Not present.

College & Research Libraries (VLACRL): Jenny Stout shared that the forum is hosting several events this summer. Jenny shared that there will be a meeting with Nan Carmack and Lisa Varga for VLACRL future planning.

LGBTQIA+: Nico D'Archangel and Liz Bass shared that there is nothing to report at this time.

Librarians of Color: Not present.

Local & Family History: Not present. Nan Carmack shared there has been discussion of a presentation on the use of inclusive language when discussing history.

Makerspace: Gregg Grunow shared that monthly virtual meetings are continuing and the forum is working towards creating a regular rotation to visit members' makerspaces.

New Members Roundtable: Not present.

Professional Associates: Michelle Cuccherini shared that a recent meeting with Lisa Varga and Vanessa Salo was productive towards making adjustments to the forum.

Public Services Forum: No leadership at this time.

Youth Services: April Watkins presented the written report and shared that the forum is looking to rebrand and is gathering feedback. The forum is considering events that are organized by theme rather than by region. The forum is still looking for additional members to fill leadership roles.

Liaisons

VAASL: Connie Piper shared that the VAASL elections close today and they are accepting proposals

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for their upcoming conference.

VALL: Suzanne Corriell shared that several VLA members attended the recent VALL conference and there will be another event this summer.

VIVA: Lisa Broughman shared several virtual events that will be held this summer.

Virginia Libraries Journal: Stephen Leist shared that there is a dearth of submissions for the journal and requested Council share the need with colleagues.

Other Business

VALLA bylaws

Jennifer Scott Brown presented the proposed bylaws. Nico D'Archangel moved to adjourn with Quettara Drayton seconded. The motion passed.

Second Vice President's Report

Kelsey Cheshire shared plans to review the bylaws and procedures for any necessary updates and offered to assist the committees and forums with member recruitment if it is needed.

Report on Law for Libraries Program hosted by ALA

Lisa Varga shared that Jane Gagne from the 2024 VALLA cohort attended the Law for Libraries program presented by ALA. The hope is to offer webinars on this topic to the membership.

Banned Books Week

Nan Carmack shared that work is underway to rebrand Banned Books Week to Freed to Read in Virginia.

Adjournment

Nan Carmack asked for a motion to adjourn. Vivian Washington moved to adjourn with Jennifer Scott Brown seconding. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 11:44 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Rebecca Purdy, VLA Secretary