



**VLA Council Quarterly Meeting
Libbie Mill Library
Richmond, VA 23223
September 22, 2023**

Attendees

Executive Committee

Kimberly Knight (President), K.T. Vaughan (Past President), Nan Carmack (President-Elect), Kyle Binaxas (Treasurer), Kerri Copus (ALA Councilor), Lisa Varga (VLA Executive Director), Rebecca Purdy (Secretary). Zach Elder (Second Vice President) attended virtually.

Council

Lisa Broughman (VIVA), Jennifer Brown (VALLA), Kelsey Cheshire (Scholarship), Hailee Coleman (Cardinal Cup), Suzanne Corriell (VALL), Nico D'Archangel (LGBTQIA+), Easter DiGangi (Intellectual Freedom), Melinda McKenzie (Intellectual Freedom), Kelly Miller (VAASL), Debbie Pence (Professional Associates Forum), Amy Sanders (VLA Administrative Assistant), Tom Shepley (Legislative Committee), Clint Rudy (VALLA), Vanessa Salo (Cardinal Cup), April Watkins (Youth and Family Services), Babak Zarin (Conference Committee)

Call to Order

Kimberly Knight called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

Secretary's Report

Rebecca Purdy directed attention to the draft minutes from the June 9, 2023 Council meeting which were posted on the VLA website. Nan Carmack moved to approve the minutes; Nico D'Archangel seconded. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Kyle Binaxis presented the written 2023 Statement of Activities report. ALA has increased the joint student membership fees which means VLA will receive an additional dollar for every student member.

Executive Director's Report

Lisa Varga reviewed the Executive Director's written report and shared that it has been a very busy year for presentations and interviews.

VLA Chapter Councilor to ALA Report

Kerri Copus reviewed the written report.

Legislative Update

Tom Shepley reported there was an increase in state funds for libraries. Lisa thanked Tom and our legislative liaison Phil Abraham on their hard work towards this increase.

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VALLA Task Force

Clint Rudy reviewed the written report. Jennifer Brown provided additional information regarding the survey results and how that informed the mission, vision and values. Clint Rudy announced that sufficient sponsorships were received to fund the upcoming Virginia Library Leadership Academy and that registration is expected to open the last week of September.

Executive Committee Report

Kimberly Knight announced that the Committee met yesterday and voted to increase the dues for affiliate memberships based on library budget levels. There is no change to individual membership dues which have remained the same since 2007. Lisa Varga shared that the decision was made for this increase in order to fund an additional part-time VLA employee to assist with increased membership, currently at 5,000 members, forums and the ability to spend additional focus on sponsorships. VLA currently employs one full-time employee and one part-time employee.

VLA Annual Conference

Babak Zarin announced that as of yesterday 342 people have registered for the conference and that all spaces in the exhibit hall have been filled. Lisa Varga gave an update on possible media attendance at the conference. Lisa added that food costs are high this year due to costs from the hotel.

2023 VLA Election – Candidate Statements

K.T. Vaughan announced the 2023 VLA election results. Vivian Washington was elected Vice-President/President-Elect, Kelsey Cheshire was elected 2nd Vice President and Maryke Barber was elected Treasurer.

Unit Reports

Committees

Awards and Recognitions: Lisa Varga shared that all awards have been announced and recipients will be celebrated at the conference.

Intellectual Freedom: Melinda McKenzie presented on the book resume project and shared that there has been publisher interest in the project. Melinda stated that additional support is needed for content creation. Easter DiGangi shared that the committee has discussed ideas for promotion of Banned Books Week. Lisa Varga shared that a template editorial in support of the freedom to read was written in honor of Constitution Day and distributed in hopes that it will appear in newspapers throughout Virginia.

Nominating: K.T. Vaughan shared the 2023 VLA election results: Vivian Washington was elected Vice-President/President-Elect, Kelsey Cheshire was elected 2nd Vice President and Maryke Barber was elected Treasurer. K.T. thanked the nominating committee, Lisa Broughman, Teresa Doherty and Kevin Smith, for their work.

Cardinal Cup: Vanessa Salo announced that author L.M. Elliott will attend the conference. Vanessa announced that there are newly designed Cardinal Cup award seals and that work has been

completed on digitizing past records. Vanessa reviewed the written proposed committee manual updates which included a proposal that the Committee become its own Committee with representation at Council and to no longer be underneath the Youth and Family Services Forum.

Babak Zarin moved to approve the change; K.T. Vaughan seconded. The motion passed.

Scholarship: Kelsey Cheshire shared that the basket raffle will once again be held at the upcoming conference. Kelsey also reviewed the written proposed committee manual updates including an updated committee structure to allow for succession planning.

Nan Carmack moved to approve the adjustment; Nico D'Archangel seconded. The motion passed.

Forums

Collections & Technical Services: Not present.

College & Research Libraries (VLACRL): Lisa Varga shared that the VLACRL held a successful conference.

LGBTQIA+: Nico d'Archangel announced that the Forum worked with the Intellectual Freedom Committee on a written statement regarding book banning.

Librarians of Color: Not present.

Local & Family History: Not present.

Makerspace: Nan Carmack announced that the forum will be touring VCU facilities and additional tours will be planned in the future.

New Members Roundtable: Lisa Varga shared that promotions are being worked on for sharing at the conference.

Professional Associates: Debbie Pence announced that the website has been updated and handouts are being created for the conference.

Public Services Forum: No leadership at this time.

Virginia Libraries Journal: Not present.

Youth Services: April Watkins mentioned that there will be YSF presence at the conference and that the forum is looking for a vice-chair. April shared that the forum has reached out to VAASL and inquired on how they can provide additional support.

Liaisons

VAASL: Kelly Miller reviewed the written report and announced that their conference will be held in November. Kelly provided an update on recent book challenges. Kelly shared that VAASL has hired a lobbyist again this year.

VALL: Suzanne Corriell shared there is an upcoming workshop on access to justice; VLA members will receive a discount.

VIVA: Lisa Broughman shared that VIVA discussed how academic libraries can support colleagues in school and public libraries. Lisa mentioned that there has been discussion about how academic libraries can strengthen their own reconsideration policies.

Task Force:

Growing Libraries: Kimberly Knight shared that handouts are being prepared for sharing at the conference.

Other Business

Lisa Varga shared that the Texas Library Association provides professional liability insurance and the possibility of offering this insurance for VLA members is being explored.

Adjournment

Kimberly Knight asked for a motion to adjourn. K.T. Vaughan moved to adjourn with Kerri Copus seconding. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 12:01 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Rebecca Purdy, VLA Secretary