



**VLA Council Quarterly Meeting**  
**Libbie Mill Library**  
**Richmond, VA 23223**  
**January 17, 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) Jennifer Stout (VLACRL Immediate Past Chair), Jane Gagne (Law 4 Librarians Trainer), Jennifer Brown (Virginia Library Leadership Academy Coordinator), Lisa Broughman (VIVA Liaison), Bettina Peacemaker (Virginia Libraries Journal), Annie Hatton (Local and Family History Forum), Rachel Kopchick (Awards and Recognition Committee), Sherry Matis (VLACRL Chair), Nico D'Archangel (LGBTQIA+ Forum), Taylor Foreman (YFS Forum), Joy Doukas (New Member Roundtable), Cammy Koch (Makerspace Forum Co-chair and VLA Representative for You Belong Grant from Missouri Library Association)

**Call to Order**

Vivian Washington Called the meeting to order at 10:09 AM.

**Introductions**

**Secretary's Report – Kendra Hawkins**

Kendra Hawkins directed attention to the draft minutes from the September 2024 council meeting. Motion was made to approve the minutes by Kelsey, seconded by Jennifer brown. The motion passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's report – Maryke Barber**

Maryke Barber presented a statement of 2024 budget activities. Document attached. Maryke also presented the proposed budget for 2025. Motion to accept proposed budget was made by Nico D'Archangel, Nan Carmack seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**ALA Councilor report – Kerri Corpus**

ALA gave us discounts to attend the conference. ALA is launching a new advocacy campaign and new training module, we'll hear more at LibLearnX.

### **Legislative Update – Lisa Varga**

The General Assembly session is short this year. Phil Abraham is looking at bills and coordinating with Tom and Lisa to get information out. Three bills have been submitted that will affect 1<sup>st</sup> amendment rights of library users. SB931 (Obscene materials; restrictions on purchase, distribution, exhibition, or loan; exceptions; libraries and schools) has been pulled. The other 2 focus on school libraries and we are working with Virginia Association of School Libraries to address these. JLARC Study: We have had a delegate and senator to study the removal of books from school libraries since the implementation of bill 656 in 2022 so we can have an accurate impact of the removal of these books. The governor will not be able to veto this study.

### **Executive Committee Report – Vivian Washington**

Institutional membership Jobline: Members currently receive 1 free Jobline posting and the Executive Committee voted to discontinue the free postings beginning in 2026. Since we have not raised dues in several years, this will help with incoming revenue. Nomination for a lifetime VLA membership: A recommendation has been received and approved. Manual Update: We received a request to approve the wording in our manual to include the Southeastern Library association (SELA) representative position. Nan Carmack has been nominated for a three year assignment. The VLA president will appoint the SELA reps going forward. The committee reviewed 2025 budget to present for approval.

### **2025 Conference update – Vivian Washington**

The committee is in the process of designing a logo. Opening the call for proposals will take place at the end of January/beginning of February. The committee is looking for volunteers. Lisa, Vanessa and Kathy will be looking at the positions to see what is needed and letting volunteers to know what expectations are.

### **Unit reports**

Awards and Recognition Committee - Rachel Kopchick: Looking at timeline to put out call for awards launching on February 5, 2025 and closing on March 12, 2025; with the expectation that we will have the announcement for the winners in May. Trying to finalize membership. There are currently 17 members, looking for 1 additional member. 2 new awards have been established: Intellectual Freedom and Intellectual Advocacy awards. This will be the inaugural year for these two awards.

Cardinal Cup Committee – Not Present: Report submitted. Document attached

Conference Committee – Not present

Intellectual Freedom Committee - Not present

Legislative Committee – Previously presented by Lisa Varga

Nominating Committee – Nan Carmack: The committee currently consists of 5 members, however we are still seeking members from academic libraries. We have received 5 nominations for President, 1 nomination for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, 1 nomination for ALA Councilor (representative should be from an academic library). We still need nominations for Treasurer (representative should be from a public library).

Scholarship Committee – Not present: The committee is planning to open the call for applications on January 31, ending in March.

Virginia Library Leadership Academy (VALLA) – Jennifer Brown: Full year of participation, including meeting with mentors, for the 2024 Cohort has been completed. Clint Rudy has been tasked with coming up with a way to celebrate successes. The committee will start plans for next cohort soon after that celebration.

## **Forums**

Collections and Technical Services Forum (CaTS) – Not present

College & Research Libraries (VLACRL) - Jennifer Stout: Currently have 4 members with Malia Wiley from James Madison University as the new cochair. We are working on the organization of files. The business meeting will be held at the VLA conference again this year. The VLARCL track at the conference went well. Spring and Summer programs will be offered online for the next year, however the Spring program not yet finalized.

LGBTQIA+ Forum – Nico D'Archangel : We have someone ready to take over the social media position, but still looking for treasurer.

Librarians of Color Forum – Not present

Local and Family History Forum – Annie Hatton: The forum did meet at the conference, hoping to reach out to libraries in the state to get connected. We've identified that we don't have a lot of training materials, looking to create a toolkit for those who are sort of thrown in the job don't know what they are doing. Hoping to have a presentation at the next conference.

Makerspace Forum – Cammy Koch: We now have a Basecamp for the forum. We met in December and received some feedback for what members would like to see next meeting is in February.

New Members Roundtable Forum – Joy Doukas: Finished the first year with 25 pairs. There is an appetite for advanced mentorship, and we are piloting an advance membership tract. There are 30 mentor pairings this year, with 2 in the advanced tract. Diana Ailman will be serving as the communication director. We are looking for new members for the forum.

Professional Associates Forum – Not present

Youth and Family Services Forum – Taylor Foreman: The YFS Forum has a new Chair (Gary Dubour) and Co-Chair (Taylor Foreman). During VLA in October of 2024 the YFS Forum hosted a session to gain more interest in the Forum as well as table, we had 26 people attend the session as well as 24 people that gave us contact information during VLA. Our next Forum meet-up will be February 20th at 2:00pm, at this meet-up we will be discussing all things teen related. We are excited to announce we have also started to work on a new YFS Forum toolkit.

Virginia Libraries Journal – Bettina Peacemaker: We are working on wrapping up latest issue. We are asking all members to please submit articles.

## Liaisons

ALA Law 4 Librarians – Jane Gagne: Last year Jane attended a multiday training with reps from each state, with the goal to leave the training to be able to train others about law basics, like 1<sup>st</sup> amendment rights, personal rights, public forums. Jace can provide training to VLA or individual institutions. She can provide legal info and ask questions of legal experts for us.

Graphic Novel Diversity Award – Not present

Library of Virginia – Nan Carmack: The Library of Virginia has a new state librarian Dennis Clark. We just got info about new strategic plan, which includes as a digital first attitude – how can we provide all of our resources all across the state. We have a number of innovations coming through with grants. As part of the Virginia Department of Housing National Telecommunications and Infrastructure Act, we are working on a digital navigator project. We have also been invited to a 2nd round of proposals for a project on libraries vs loneliness. We have a new exhibit mapping the commonwealth. We have a new café bakery/lunch, espresso machine. Huge website revamp coming up.

South Eastern Library Association(SELA) – Nan Carmack: There will be a lot of info about this is a renewed relationship coming up in future newsletters. SELA is our regional library association which is a step between VLA and ALA. The SELA conference is in April. It will include a mix of public school and academic libraries. They also have a journal called *The Southeastern Librarian*. Nan is also the Mary Utopia Rothrock Award winner for SELA: <https://www.selaonline.org/awards/mura>.

The Virginia Association of Law Librarians – Not Present: The Virginia Association of Law Librarians is partnering with VLA for the conference; are there specific topics we are interested in seeing. We offer tours when you visit Richmond.

Virginia Association of School Librarians – Not present

VIVA Representative – Lisa Broughman: The annual meeting will be held at the VLA conference. We have several webinars coming up, including the Antiracism Webinar series beginning on 2/11 (1:00-2:30PM) The guest speaker is from the University of Richmond. Others include: February 11th, 2025 from 1pm to 2:30pm From Red Lines to Industry's Fires: Mapping Historical Racial Inequalities featuring guest speaker Robert K. Nelson. The 8th in our ongoing Anti-Racism webinar series, this talk explores the NIH-funded, multi-institutional collaboration at the University of Richmond's Digital Scholarship lab to use GIS & Technology to explore the long-term impacts of redlining on wealth inequality, environmental challenges, and public health disparities.

Grants from Missouri Library Association – Cammy Koch: The Grants from Missouri Library Association is a grant that funds 5 scholars from historically underrepresented groups for graduate and undergraduate students. Missouri looked for partners and strategically selected Virginia. Information can be found on two websites: <https://www.molib.org/You-Belong-Committee> and <https://www.molib.org/you-belong-scholars>.

Other business - None

Motion to adjourn Kelsey Jennifer brown seconded at 11:12 am.

## **VLA Council Meeting – 01.17.25**

### **Cardinal Cup Committee Report**

#### **Applicants and Committee**

- The 2025 Committee application was open from August 5 to 30. This year the application transitioned to an online Google form, instead of a document that had to be printed out, signed, and scanned to submit. The requirement for a Supervisor's signature was also eliminated.
- Twenty-four applications were submitted for just six open positions. Though there were no applicants from Regions 1 or 2, the committee membership is still spread evenly across most of Virginia with two members from Region 3, one from Region 4, two from Region 5, and one from Region 6. Four are actively working in public libraries and two are in academic libraries. One has previous experience on the Jefferson Cup Committee.
- Unfortunately, one member of the committee has withdrawn as she is moving out of state. The committee will continue with seven members.

#### **Publisher Contacts**

- Several publishers and authors reached out over the summer requesting submission information.
- Publisher letters were sent between September 18 and October 12, 2024
- We have received 97 books of which 24 are ineligible for the award.

#### **Meetings**

- Meetings are the first Friday of the month. The first meeting was October 4, 2024. The next meeting will be February 7, 2025
- The committee has considered 61 books so far and has advanced 12 to the final round.