



VLA Council
Libbie Mill Library and via Zoom
Friday, June 3, 2022, 10 am
Agenda

- I. Call to order (KT Vaughan)
- II. Introductions (KT Vaughan)
- III. Secretary's Report (Lisa Broughman)
- IV. Treasurer's Report (Kyle Binaxis)
- V. Executive Director's Report (Lisa Varga)
- VI. VLA Chapter Councilor to ALA Report (Lucinda Wittkower, in absentia)
- VII. Legislative Update (Phil Abraham)
- VIII. Executive Committee (KT Vaughan)
- IX. VLA Annual Conference 2022 (Vivian Washington, KT Vaughan, Lisa Varga)
- X. 2021 VLA Election – Candidate Statements (Clint Rudy)
- XI. Unit Reports
- XII. Other Business
 - a. VIVA liaison joining VLA Council
 - b. Renamed awards
- XIII. Adjournment. After this meeting a small group will be meeting to discuss a proposal for sponsoring engagement activities with the Legislature.



**VLA Council Quarterly Meeting
Zoom & Libbie Mill Branch Library
Henrico, VA
Friday April 22, 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)

Council

Jennifer Brown (Programming Forum), Kelsey Cheshire (Scholarship Committee), Cindy Church (Library of Virginia Liaison), Quettara Drayton (Scholarship Committee), Julia Feerrar (Editor, Virginia Libraries Journal), Stephanie Hardy (VLACRL), Christina Harris (LGBTQIA+ Forum), Olivia Hasan (Librarians of Color Forum), Margaret Howard (Continuing Education Committee), Shaunna Hunter (Awards & Recognition Committee), Brian Manning (Intellectual Freedom 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 10:06 a.m.

Secretary's Report

Lisa Broughman submitted a draft of the January 21, 2022 Council meeting minutes. Zach Elder moved to approve the minutes; Margaret Howard seconded. The motion passed to approve the minutes.

Treasurer's Report

Kyle Binaxas reviewed the January 1-April 18, 2022 Statement of Activities and reported the Association had earned approximately \$105,000 from the Affiliate Membership dues, and about \$10,000 in vendor booth sales has already been collected for the annual conference. VLAPAF will not hold an in-person event this year so there will be no incoming revenue on this budget line. Institutional Memberships are approximately \$5,000 short of the \$45,000 goal, but it is still early in the year. Programming expenses include the cost of the training provided by Dr. Sharon Jones and the Designing Our Post-Pandemic Library program. The Virginia Public Library Director Association members agreed to donate \$3,000 toward the Scholarship Fund, leaving \$1,500 for the Association to fundraise this year. Kyle is exploring opportunities for expanding corporate scholarships to offset the cost of some of the Associations events.

Executive Director's Report

Lisa Varga submitted a written report to the Council that highlighted memberships which is just under 5000 total members from the various categories. Over 70 Joblines have been posted this

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year, and seventeen individuals applied for the Joint Conference of Librarians of Color travel grants. Lisa participated in the ALA Legislative Fly-in which allowed her to speak with several representatives. Additionally, Lisa reminded participants that the ALA Annual Conference would be in Washington, D.C. on June 23-28, and VLA members can receive a \$50 discount on the registration fees. VLA will have a complimentary booth in the ALA exhibit hall, and Lisa will soon be looking for VLA members to sign up for hour-long shifts in the booth.

VLA Chapter Councilor to ALA Report

Lucinda Wittkower submitted a written report to Council and highlighted the dissolution of two overlapping round tables that focused on support staff, which will be replaced by a singular Library Support Staff Round Table. ALA plans to simplify its membership model and transform the governance structure.

Legislative Committee Update

Tom Shepley reported that Phil Abraham would prepare and submit a written report to Council in the upcoming weeks. Virginia's public libraries are well-positioned to receive a \$2.5 million increase in state aid. The budget amendment wording includes language saying this increase was the first in a four-year phase-in of full funding by 2026. Tom updated the Council on recent developments on book challenges in Virginia. Lisa Varga remarked on VLA's contributions to letters sent by the Virginia Association of School Librarians in response to a challenge to *Lawn Boy* in Washington County. Tom and Lisa both emphasized the importance of the work that Phil Abraham has done to address book challenges on behalf of Virginia's libraries, which is outside of his regular work lobbying for State Aid, and Tom commended Lisa for the work she has done with other associations, both inside and outside of Virginia, to navigate these difficult times.

Executive Committee Report

K.T. Vaughan explained that VLA sends letters to representatives on behalf of the Association each year, encouraging them to sign *Dear Appropriator* letters to support ongoing funding for the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) and Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL). The Executive Committee discussed potentially renaming all of the awards currently named for people and identified two that should be renamed, the Jefferson Cup and the George Mason Award. The remaining named awards, named for Donna Cote and Clara Stanley, are closely tied to the history of the Association and do not need updating. K.T. discussed VLA's interpretation of state law, which previously stated large administrative bodies such as the VLA Council are supposed to meet in person, except for periods of emergency. There was a temporary change to allow for meeting online during the pandemic, which has allowed for more participation from members who would otherwise be unable to travel on a quarterly basis. The Executive Committee will review the bylaws to allow for continuing to meet in a hybrid environment moving forward. Lastly, the Executive Committee approved a proposal submitted by the Continuing Education Committee to create a Virginia Library Leadership Academy Task Force to plan the 2024 Academy while sunseting the CEC because it no longer oversees the broad continuing education opportunities offered by the Association.

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VLA Annual Conference

Vivian Washington updated the Council on the recent conference committee activities, including extending the date for submitting session proposals by one week to April 20. The Conference Committee will meet on May 2 to review the submissions. The conference will offer opportunities for career services, including resume review services, interview skills advice, and photographers to provide headshots, and the Librarians of Color and LGBTQIA+ Forums will help in identifying businesses who may provide those services. Registration for the conference may open in June. Lisa Varga added that VLA received several generous sponsorships for the conference, which included funding for lunch totes from The Central Rappahannock Regional Library Friends group, a \$1500 donation from Charlotte Mecklenburg to sponsor Marcellus Turner's keynote, and an additional \$1500 from EBSCO to support the cost of the conference app. The vendor hall will have fewer vendors this year, and corporate sponsorships will help offset that revenue reduction.

Unit Reports

Committees

Awards and Recognitions: Shaunna Hunter announced that award nominations are open with a deadline of May 25. Self-nominations are also welcome, and the award ceremony will be held on the first night of the conference in October.

Continuing Education: Margaret Howard reported there were 23 attendees (6 from academic libraries and 17 from public) at this year's Virginia Library Leadership Academy, which was held on April 5 & 6. Speakers included Paula Bates, Jade Doswell, and Nan Carmack. Lisa Varga commended Margaret for her excellent work after taking over VALLA with only a four months lead time. Lisa also announced that VALLA received a \$2500 sponsorship from Quinn Evans Architects, and VLA will continue to explore other ways to receive corporate support.

Intellectual Freedom: Brian Manning is working on scheduling a committee meeting to review the challenges taking place in Virginia and is looking for ways to engage people in conversation. They are looking for new members and participation. Lisa Varga encouraged Council members to sign up for ALA's campaign Unite Against Book Bans which hopes to unite people who are not library employees in the effort to fight book challenges.

Jefferson Cup: Not present.

Nominating: Jennifer Resor-Whicker reported that the committee President-Elect/President/Past President. The candidates will join Council for the June meeting, with elections opening in August. The winners will be announced prior to the VLA conference in October.

Scholarship: Kelsey Cheshire announced the 2022 scholarship recipients: Christine Forbes, Megan Goldfarb, and Erica Gudiño, who will each receive \$3000 from VLA to help with costs associated with their education. In October, all three will be honored at the Annual Awards and Scholarship Banquet at the VLA Conference.

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Website Content: Not present.

Forums

Collections & Technical Services: K.T. Vaughan announced that the CaTS Forum had a very successful virtual event on April 8.

LGBTQIA+: Christina Harris reported that the forum would soon announce the winners of the 2022 Art Contest, which has the theme of *How to Express Your Queer Joy*. June is Pride Month, with several events lined up, including a Paint and Sip on June 15. This year at the VLA conference, the forum is looking into ways to recruit more members, including having a booth in the vendor hall and hosting a more lighthearted, artsy, relaxing, and fun session.

Librarians of Color: Olivia Hasan announced that the forum would be offering a virtual, monthly mentorship program, with Vivian Washington offering the first event. They are exploring starting a quarterly book club and plan to provide an in-person meetup this summer or early fall. They will be collaborating with the LGBTQIA+ Forum to create informational bookmarks for the VLA conference.

Local & Family History: Not present.

College & Research Libraries: Stephanie Hardy reported that the VLACRL Spring on creating healthy and inclusive libraries would be held virtually, with the summer program scheduled in person for late July.

Professional Associates: Chris Shaver announced the forthcoming virtual workshop on May 17, featuring Natalie Browning from Longwood University. The workshop title is *Big Goals and Intentional Actions: How Goal-Setting Can Make You a Better Library Professional*. Additional virtual workshops are planned for the summer.

Youth Services: Not present, but Rachel Timm emailed the forum's most recent meeting minutes. Of particular note is that the forum's networking space was relocated to <https://ysforumvla.wixsite.com/website> and is planning to host region-specific events, virtually or in person.

Programming: Jennifer Brown highlighted the use of the Slack channel to provide a space for networking opportunities. There are about 160 members of the channel, but they have seen limited engagement and are working on posting conversation prompts to encourage discussion.

Liaisons

Library of Virginia: Cindy Church was pleased to announce that she completed the first three in person, on-site training sessions of 2022. The 200th Anniversary of the Library of Virginia will be coming up, with David Baldacci donating \$1 million toward the celebration efforts. The Library of Virginia also has extended library hours, and they are beginning to see more visitors. K.T. Vaughan

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reiterated how grateful VLA is to Cindy and LVA for the continuing education programming offered.

Virginia Association of School Librarians: Kelly Miller thanked the members of VLA for the support schools librarians and VASL have received when facing the numerous challenges this year. The VASL annual conference is scheduled for November 3-5, in Williamsburg. VASL is also exploring hiring a lobbyist for ongoing support for school libraries.

Virginia Libraries Journal: Julia Feerrar reported that two essay submissions are currently undergoing review and revision. The board is reviewing session topics from the 2021 VLA conference to identify potential article submissions for the future.

Other Business

Cindy Church said the Library of Virginia's Anniversary Celebration will include a special day of recognition in January 2023, a three-panel exhibit entitled *Two Hundred Years, Two Hundred Stories*, and a LVA On the Road vehicle which will travel to libraries around the state showcasing the library's collections.

K.T. Vaughan also gave a shout-out to Amy Sanders for her work on the VLA Newsletter and reminded Council members to send announcements or promotions to Amy for inclusion.

Adjournment

Jennifer Resor-Whicker moved to adjourn, with Brian Manning seconding. The meeting adjourned at 11:19 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Lisa Broughman, VLA Secretary

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VLA Statement of Activities
January 1, 2022 through May 31, 2022

REVENUE	BUDGET	GENERAL	LEGISLATIVE	SCHOLARSHIP	TOTAL
Advertising	\$500				\$0
Affiliate Membership Dues	\$87,500	\$105,400			\$105,400
ALA Joint Student Membership	\$700	\$1,100			\$1,100
Conference	\$141,895	\$10,875			\$10,875
Jobline	\$17,000	\$9,750			\$9,750
VLAPAF Conference	\$5,000				\$0
Interest	\$5	\$4			\$4
Institutional Memberships	\$45,000	\$40,073			\$40,073
Legislative Support	\$4,000		\$235		\$235
Membership Dues	\$16,000	\$15,290			\$15,290
Miscellaneous	\$1,000	\$53			\$53
Programs	\$2,500	\$350			\$350
The Innovative Library Classroom	\$4,250	\$7,950			\$7,950
Scholarship	\$9,000			\$4,539	\$4,539
VALLA	\$15,000	\$8,195			\$8,195
Contingency					\$0
Professional Devel Donations	\$1,000	\$60			\$60
Librarians of Color Award	\$1,000				\$0
LGBTQIA+ Forum	\$1,000	\$200			\$200
TOTAL REVENUE	\$352,350	\$199,300	\$235	\$4,539	\$204,074
EXPENSES					
Adminstrative	\$150,100	\$77,397			\$77,397
Bank Charges	\$7,500	\$6,983			\$6,983
Conference	\$101,000				\$0
VLAPAF Conference	\$5,000				\$0
Contingency					\$0
Council	\$12,750	\$13,076			\$13,076
Legislative Liasion	\$45,000		\$23,556		\$23,556
Legislative Expenses					\$0
Misc					\$0
Programs	\$1,000	445.94			\$446
The Innovative Library Classroom	\$3,000	\$2,900			\$2,900
Scholarship	\$9,000			\$9,000	\$9,000
Units	\$4,000				\$0
JCLC	\$0	\$3,000			\$3,000
VALLA	\$14,000	\$10,127			\$10,127
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$352,350	\$113,929	\$23,556	\$9,000	\$146,485

MAIN INVESTMENT ACCOUNT VLA	
INVESTMENT VALUE 3/31/2022	\$375,660
INVESTMENT VALUE 4/30/2022	\$384,292
INCREASE/DECREASE	\$8,632
PROF DEVELOPMENT ENDOW	
INVESTMENT VALUE 3/31/2022	\$59,687
INVESTMENT VALUE 4/30/2022	\$60,617
INCREASE/DECREASE	\$931



Executive Director Report
VLA Executive Committee
June 2, 2022

Membership

2022 Membership

- 240 Individual members
- 44 Life Members
- 89 paid Affiliate Members (4689 employees)/7 unpaid (84 members)
- 95 Institutional Members/79 paid so far
- 46 ALA Joint Student Memberships

2021 Membership year closed with:

- 293 Individual members
- 43 Life Members
- 89 Affiliate Members (4493 employees)
- 82 Institutional Members/12 unpaid

Joblines for 2022:

100 posted

ALA Annual Conference

- VLA Booth, sign up genius sent out for people to staff booth
- Virginia is for Library Lovers Buttons
- LRV will co-lead the Chapter Leaders Forum June 24 with Brianna Hoffman, Executive Director of the Washington Library Association
- District of Columbia Library Association, Maryland Library Association and VLA are co-hosting an event on June 23; all tickets have been claimed

Congratulations to Patricia Kendalls of Norfolk Public Library and Babak Zarin of Central Rappahannock Regional Library, both on the Library Journal Movers and Shakers list for 2022

We wish Masuma Sarwar, ALA Emerging Leader Class of 2022, the best of luck as she attends her first ALA Conference later this month.

Intellectual Freedom Issues and Virginia Beach lawsuits:

Facts:

- Virginia Beach City Public Schools put Gender Queer through reconsideration in October 2021
- In February 2022, the book was deemed appropriate for high school level and was kept on the shelves
- In April 2022, School Board member Victoria Manning requested an appeal. The Chief Academic Officer appointed a 3-person workgroup to evaluate the book. The workgroup met two times and deemed the book inappropriate for libraries. It was pulled from the shelves.
- On April 6, Senate Bill 656 was approved by the Governor, and requires “That the Department of Education shall develop and make available to each school board model policies pursuant to subsection B of § 22.1-16.8 of the Code of Virginia, as created by this act, no later than July 31, 2022.”
- On April 28, VA Republican Congressional Candidate filed a lawsuit against the authors and publishers of Gender Queer and A Court of Mist and Fury (written by Maia Kobabe and Sarah J. Maas, respectively.) The suit was filed in VB civil court. All judges in VB recused themselves, and the suit was sent to retired Judge Pamela Baskervill.
- On May 18, Baskervill filed an Order to Show Cause, Pursuant to 18.2-384 of the Virginia Code that there was probable cause to believe the books are obscene for unrestricted viewing by minors. The authors and publishers were given 21 days to respond.
- The next day, Delegate Tim Anderson (who filed the lawsuits for Altman) posted an image to his Facebook account of a FOIA request he made to the school board requesting the names of librarians at the schools where these and other titles could be accessed. He suggested the previous evening at a Meet and Greet for Altman that people could be prosecuted for sharing or selling these titles to minors.
- At a May 24 school board meeting, the policy for opting a child out of lessons or checking out books in the library was clarified; Anderson and Altman took to social media, declaring a win against the school.
- On May 25, Anderson and Altman requested a hearing for a Temporary Restraining Order on the books, sent to the Counsel for the Virginia Beach School Board and General Counsel for Barnes and Noble [sic.] The counselors requested a delay, which was approved by Baskervill and the hearings have been moved to July.
- On June 1, a national coalition (including VLA) released a statement about the lawsuit: <https://ncac.org/news/virginia-legal-threat-freedom-to-read>
- The Virginia Primary Election for the VA-02 is June 21.

The Vectre Corporation

MEMORANDUM

TO: VLA Council
FROM: Phil Abraham *PA*
CC: Tom Shepley
Lisa Varga
DATE: May 11, 2022
RE: Legislative Update – 2022 Virginia General Assembly Session

While I hope to have the opportunity later this year, as in the past, to present an update in-person or by Zoom, I wanted to provide you with a written legislative update at this time on the 2022 General Assembly Session. We are in the unusual but not unprecedented situation where the General Assembly adjourned sine die on March 12, 2022 from its regular session without a budget. In doing so, the General Assembly continued the proposed budget bills into a Special Session that began April 4, 2022.

The purpose of the Special Session is to: (1) complete work on the budget; (2) consider any bills that remained in conference at adjournment of the 2022 Regular Session; (3) make any agreed upon judicial appointments and (4) consider any legislation requested by the Governor. As of this date, there has been no conference report agreed upon on the budget. However, it appears the sides are getting closer and conventional wisdom is that there will be an agreement that can be voted on sometime between the week of May 16 and the first week of June. The current budget expires on June 30, 2022. The General Assembly has never failed to pass a new budget by June 30.

The budget stalemate results from Virginia Republicans sweeping all 3 statewide offices as well as retaking the majority in the House of Delegates that they lost in 2020 while the Senate remained under the control of Virginia Democrats. The split in control of the General Assembly between the Senate Democrats and the House Republicans assured gridlock on many key issues in 2022, including adoption of a final budget. House Republicans now hold a 52-48 majority and Senate Democrats a 21-19 majority.

The new House and Senate districts that will be elected in 2023 (and still possibly in 2022 for the House if ordered by the federal courts) could produce further changes in control or widen existing majorities. The election of Governor Youngkin in November 2021 also has resulted in considerable change in 2022 within the Executive Branch of Virginia State Government. About 70% of previous agency heads serving at the pleasure of the Governor were not reappointed.

Unfortunately for libraries, a bill that was twice vetoed by Governor McAuliffe, and that was characterized as increasing parental rights regarding books their children must read in the classroom, became a central focus of the Governor's campaign. Many believe former Governor McAuliffe's debate comments on the issue, and the use of those comments against him in television ads, was a key element of Governor Youngkin's victory. This issue would continue to reverberate through the 2022 General Assembly session that followed two months later.

As always, my work on behalf of VLA focused first on achieving a significant budget increase for State Aid to Local Public Libraries. Because of the focus many legislators gave to issues surrounding books in school classrooms and school libraries that resulted from the Governor's race, I also spent considerable time during the 2022 Session opposing a variety of bills that could have negatively impacted school libraries.

State Aid to Local Public Libraries: We were successful in getting introduced in the House and Senate VLA's budget amendment proposing a \$2.5 million increase in state aid to local public libraries in the first year of the new biennium and continuing that increase in the second year. The proposed amendment would result in a total increase of \$5 million in funding for the program during the next biennium. It also included language saying this increase was the first in a four year phase-in of full funding by FY 2026.

The proposed budget amendments were introduced in the Senate by Senator Mamie Locke (D-Hampton) (Chair of the Virginia Senate Democratic Caucus) and Senator Tommy Norment (R-James City) (Senate Republican Leader), both of whom serve on the Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee. It was introduced in the House by Delegate Betsy Carr (D-Richmond) (Immediate-past Chair of the Higher Education Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee).

Due to the change in House control, and the failure to appoint subcommittee chairs before the deadline for introduction of budget amendments, we did not have a Republican patron for the budget amendment. We did, however, during the course of the 2022 Session identify some good potential House champions for local public libraries within the Republican leadership ranks in Delegate Glenn Davis (R-Virginia Beach), who is on the Higher Education Subcommittee of Appropriations and also chairs the House Education Committee, and Delegate Will Morefield (R-Tazwell) who chairs the Higher Education Subcommittee of House Appropriations.

When the House and Senate money committees issued their reports for amendments to the proposed budget, the Senate included [VLA's budget amendment](#) in its entirety in their proposed budget bill. Unfortunately, the House Appropriations Committee proposed no increase in state aid to local public libraries. The Senate in recent memory has always been a stronger supporter of state aid to local public libraries and this proved the case again in 2022. However, House funding was strictly limited in most areas because of its adoption of the tax relief proposed by Governor Youngkin that left little funding available for any new spending by the House. It is our hope that the budget conferees agree to the Senate position and the \$5 million increase for state aid to local libraries when a conference report is agreed upon.

Restrictions on School Libraries:

Three bills were introduced at the 2022 General Assembly that would have placed significant restrictions on school libraries, in two cases on the books that could be circulated by school

libraries. The only Senate bill on this issue ([SB 275-DeSteph](#)) contained many parts and different versions were proposed. The bill would have required parental consent before a child could access in a school library any materials “that could be considered” to be “grooming materials” as that phrase is explicitly defined in state criminal law. The bill would have further required removal from school libraries of any such material. It also would have required new procedures for parental involvement before new materials are evaluated and purchased for school libraries. I joined school librarians in speaking against the bill in subcommittee and it was narrowly defeated by one vote when heard by a subcommittee and then (without further public testimony) by the full Senate Education and Health Committee.

An even more burdensome House bill was introduced ([HB 1032-LaRock](#)) and it would have required the State Department of Education to establish mandatory statewide standards to be adopted by local school divisions for evaluating, classifying, and removing from any public elementary or secondary school library any sexually explicit material. The bill also requires a process for the review and approval of library materials by parents, including requiring the parents of all students who attend a public elementary or secondary school to comprise the Parental Review and Approval Committee for such school to review and vote to approve or disapprove each item on a list of proposed library materials from the school. I lobbied against this bill, it had little support and died in a House subcommittee.

The third bill impacting school libraries ([HB 1126-Avoli](#)) would have established a “Parental Bill of Rights” for school parents. It included provisions relating to the ability of parents to review the books available in school libraries. It also was defeated in House subcommittee.

Restrictions on Books in School Classrooms

This update ends with the actions taken on the key issue from the Governor’s campaign, parental consent requirements for books with sexual content that are taught in the classroom. While there were five bills introduced on this topic, two identical bills were introduced at the request of Governor Youngkin ([SB 656-Dunnavant](#) and [HB 1009-Durant](#)). At various points in the process one Senate Democrat either voted for the Senate version of the bill or did not vote. This allowed SB 275 to pass 8-7 in the Senate Education and Health Committee and the full Senate on a 20-18 vote. The House version was defeated in the same Senate Committee that passed it by one vote earlier in the session. Governor Youngkin signed SB 275 into law and school boards must adopt the required parental consent policies by January 1, 2023. The final version of the bill states its provisions “shall not be construed as requiring or providing for the censoring of books in public elementary and secondary schools”.

While the books in classroom bill passed, no legislation passed in 2022 that put restrictions on school libraries or any other library. I believe this firewall remains strong and VLA is well-positioned to defeat any such proposals in the future. I hope you find this information helpful. Please let me know if you have questions and I hope to see you in person later this year.