



**VLA Council Quarterly Meeting  
Fairfield Library  
Richmond, VA 23223  
April 21, 2023**

**Attendees**

*Executive Committee*

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

*Council*

Phil Abraham (Legislative), Jennifer Brown (Programming Forum), Kelsey Cheshire (Scholarship), Margaret Howard (VALLA), and Debbie Pence (Professional Associates Forum). Lisa Broughman (VIVA), Nico D'Archangel (LGBTQIA+), Annie Hatton (Local and Family History), Kelly Miller (VAASL), Clint Rudy (VALLA), Vanessa Salo (Cardinal Cup), Amy Sanders (VLA Administrative Assistant), Tom Shepley (Legislative Committee), Keith Weimer (Intellectual Freedom), and Babak Zarin (Conference Committee) attended virtually.

**Call to Order**

Kimberly Knight called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

**Secretary's Report**

Kimberly Knight directed attention to the draft minutes from the January 20, 2023 Council meeting which were posted on the VLA website. Babak Zarin moved to approve the minutes; Keith Weimer seconded. The motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report**

Kyle Binaxas presented the written 2023 Statement of Activities report. Kyle stated that the membership dues line item only reflects individuals that have joined thus far this year and is expected to increase.

**Executive Director's Report**

Lisa Varga reviewed her written report. Lisa directed the Council's attention to the recent and future presentations and interviews section of her report.

**VLA Chapter Councilor to ALA Report**

Kerri Copus reviewed her written report. Kerri also shared that it was announced last night that an honorary lifetime membership was awarded to Dolly Parton.

**Legislative Update**

Phil Abraham thanked VLA for allowing him to represent VLA in the General Assembly and Tom Shepley and Lisa Varga for their support. Phil shared that VLA had worked towards a 2.5 million dollar increase in FY24 and that the House recommended a 2 million dollar increase and the Senate

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recommended a 5 million dollar increase; the final decision has not yet been made. Phil shared that this has been a very active session that involved efforts to protect the freedom to read and that the bills were defeated. Phil reminded the Council that 140 members of the General Assembly are up for election and that there has been much redistricting since the last election.

### **Executive Committee Report**

Lisa Varga shared that the Executive Committee discussed intellectual freedom challenges across the state, and that there were no policy or procedure changes at the meeting. Lisa mentioned that ALA has asked VLA to consider adopting a sustainability pledge for the upcoming VLA conference and that this would be discussed at the upcoming Conference Committee meeting.

### **VLA Annual Conference**

Babak Zarin reported that conference planning is going well and that the venue is being remodeled, but renovations are expected to be completed by the conference date. Babak shared that the Committee will be discussing policy statements at the upcoming meeting to include a land acknowledgement statement.

Lisa Varga announced that one hundred and three VLA proposals have been submitted and that Jesse Crosson, an advocate for prison reform, has been confirmed to present. She shared that she and Amy Sanders are working on logistical challenges at the hotel related to space for vendors.

### **VALLA Task Force Update**

Margaret Howard shared that the task force has been meeting monthly and has crafted an updated vision statement and values. Margaret stated that they are looking for a facilitator for the upcoming VALLA and asked the Council for recommendations.

Clint Rudy shared that the task force had gathered great information from the survey and are focusing on including as much diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging as possible. He expressed that the cost of VALLA impacts the success and that the increase in hotel costs needs to be considered. He welcomed ideas for funding. Lisa Varga shared that sponsorships have been successful in years past and will be pursued again.

### **Unit Reports**

#### **Committees**

*Awards and Recognitions:* Lisa Varga shared that award nominations close soon and encouraged members to submit themselves or their colleagues.

*Cardinal Cup:* Vanessa Salo shared that submissions closed on March 31 and that one hundred and eighty nine titles were received. Vanessa shared that discussions are almost concluded and the committee expects to vote in June. Vanessa recommended that there is a dedicated focus on recruiting more diverse committee members next year.

*Intellectual Freedom:* Keith Weimer shared that he testified at a House subcommittee and attended other sessions. Keith shared that the committee also prepared text for messaging to legislators and are now presenting on intellectual freedom at library staff workshops around the state.

*Legislative Committee:* Tom Shepley mentioned that Phil Abraham covered the legislative session in his presentation.

*Nominating:* K.T. Vaughan reported that the open nomination period has closed and the committee is evaluating the list of candidates.

*Scholarship:* Kelsey Cheshire shared that the scholarship recipients were announced and the recipients are Christopher Skipper (Tidewater Community College), Shawna LoMonaco (Suffolk Public Library), and Kelli Murrie (Roanoke County Public Libraries) each of whom received \$3,000 from VLA to help with costs associated with their education. Kelsey shared that the committee is preparing for the basket raffle at VLAPAF to continue to fundraise for our scholarship funds and that the raffle will be online so that all may participate. Kelsey shared that this was the first time VLA used the Kaleidoscope software and that there were some challenges, but overall it was a nice change.

## **Forums**

*Collections & Technical Services:* Not present.

*College & Research Libraries (VLACRL):* Lisa Varga shared that the forum had a very successful spring program on Occupational Stress in Academic Libraries.

*LGBTQIA+:* Nico d'Archangel announced that the first quarterly meeting and event were well attended. Nico shared that the forum is holding an in-person, evening meeting with a hybrid option and that they are looking for a social media manager.

*Librarians of Color:* Not present.

*Local & Family History:* Annie Hatton stated that there was a successful meeting in February and are planning a hybrid meeting for May 5 at the Library of Virginia.

*New Members Roundtable:* Lisa Varga shared that Reynor Jones is working to implement a mentor/mentee program before the VLA Conference.

*Professional Associates:* Debbie Pence shared that the first Professional Associates Conference in 5 years begins Sunday, April 23.

*Programming Forum:* Jennifer Brown shared that they have tried multiple formats to engage with little success and recommended sunsetting the forum for the time being. K.T. Vaughan made the motion, Zach Elder seconded. The motion passed.



*Public Services Forum:* Lisa Varga shared that Alicia Phinney is working to reinstate this forum.

*Virginia Libraries Journal:* Not present.

*Youth Services:* Lisa Varga stated that statewide introductions have been made with the Virginia Association of School Librarians (VAASL) and the next step will be to build regional partnerships by hosting a virtual meeting for the VAASL representatives to meet the public library heads of youth services in their regions. Forum leadership will meet next week to develop an action plan for that process.

### **Liaisons**

*VAASL:* Kelly Miller shared that they are currently experiencing an increase of School Boards questioning library policies and school districts adopting bills that failed in the General Assembly and adopting them on a local level. Kelly stated that there are efforts underway to support Spotsylvania school librarians whose school superintendent suggested eliminating school libraries as a possible budget cut. Kelly mentioned that the superintendent also pulled fourteen titles and stated they would be donated to the local public library.

*VIVA:* Lisa Broughman shared that there will be a hybrid program on May 19 for resource sharing.

### **Other Business**

#### **Designated Agenda**

Kimberly Knight shared that the name of item number X has been updated from librarian to library workers to more accurately reflect library staffing and is now Growing Library Workers. She announced that work by subcommittees is already underway to include customizable promotional information.

#### **Adjournment**

Kimberly Knight asked for a motion to adjourn. Kelsey Cheshire moved to adjourn with Jennifer Brown seconding. The meeting adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

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Minutes prepared by Rebecca Purdy, VLA Secretary

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