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
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 sunsetting the CEC because it no longer oversees the broad continuing education opportunities offered by the Association.
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 VALA 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.
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](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
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