

**Virginia Library Association
General Session – Annual Business Meeting
Friday, October 25, 2019
The Main
Norfolk, VA**

Call to Order

President Jessica Scalph called the meeting to order at 3:17 pm and welcomed everyone.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Kayla Payne gave the Secretary's Report. The minutes from the annual business meeting held September 28, 2018, in Williamsburg, VA are available on the VLA website along with the agenda for this meeting. Kayla asked for a motion to approve this meeting. Jennifer Resor-Whicker moved; Barbara Ferrara seconded. The motion carried.

Last year's business meeting minutes can be found here:

<https://www.vla.org/assets/VLABusMeet092818.pdf>

Treasurer's Report (report submitted by Cori Biddle)

Good afternoon, I am Cori Biddle VLA Treasurer, and today I will briefly report on the Association's financial status. The numbers I will be reporting on are as of today, October 25th of this year. You will find the report on the VLA website, on the calendar under the business meeting that is listed under today's date.

<https://www.vla.org/assets/2019%20Budget%20Report%2010252019.pdf>

The important thing that you need to take away from this report is that the Association is in excellent financial state. This is thanks to you, our members, and the unbelievable response we have had to the affiliate membership, in addition to the great management of Lisa as our executive director.

One of the biggest highlights of this year is the increase in membership due to our new affiliate membership structure. More will be said on that later. Our income from membership has exceeded our budgeted expectations by well over \$10,000 allowing us to upgrade our membership platform, and give more support to our executive director. Since this is only the first year for affiliate membership, we are hopeful for the prospect of continued growth of the association and providing more value to our members. Our income from individual membership also exceeded our expectations by about \$6,000. This allowed us to update our Memberclicks platform to make it more functional for members and to provide additional support for our executive director.

We are also excited by the memberships' response to this year's conference. The final numbers for income and expenses are not in yet, but we are on track to exceed our budgeted revenue for this year. The income from our annual conference allows us to provide other programs, advocacy, and support other services and initiatives during the entire year.

Other areas of interest in income include the successful TILC program held in June and the

Jobline service. We have \$14,700 from JobLine and we still have 11 outstanding invoices for JobLine.

You may notice that the line for legislative support is empty in this report, we will be sending the letters requesting this support from public libraries in the near future, so that will be forthcoming.

Our expenses for the year have been right on target. Because of the different way that the association is handling payroll taxes this year you will see the added line of payroll expenses. The budgeted administrative costs will be split between two lines.

That was just a brief overview of the report. If you have any questions, I will be available after the Business Meeting. This is my last report as Treasurer of VLA, and it has been a pleasure to serve you all in this capacity. Thank you!

Affiliate Membership Update

Lisa Varga reported. The goal of the affiliate membership was to create structure by which libraries, both public and academic, could become members of the organization for a price based on their budget, and every single person working at that library would then be a member. We wanted to take the barrier for individual membership down, especially for part time and paraprofessional staff who may not normally be able to join. Lisa thanked past presidents Lisa Lee Broughman and Matt Todd, Nan Carmack from the Library of Virginia, and Cori Biddle for their help working on this membership project.

VLA membership went from just over 900 members to 4,444 as of today's business meeting. Seventy institutions have paid dues for affiliate memberships. This also helped us increase conference attendance, as affiliates attend at the member rate. Last year we had 582 attendees in Williamsburg and this year had 720 attendees. These numbers helped us attract more vendor sponsorships, which helps us keep the conference cost lower.

We have seen a lot more diversity in our crowd as a result of affiliate membership. Lisa thanked Joslyn Bowling Dixon who created a petition to start a Librarians of Color Forum.

Our goal was to have more avenues of engagement. The VLA website has been updated to encourage discussion and collaboration within "Facebook" like Circles.

Second Vice President's Report

Adrian Whicker gave the Second Vice-President's report. In the past year we updated the VLA bylaws with language concerning various forums, committees, and Virginia Libraries Journal. With the help of the committee chairs, Adrian continued to maintain rosters and member contact information for each of the committees. We created a committee interest form to help the Second Vice President more easily communicate service interest to committee chairs.

We rebranded the Diversity and Inclusion Forum to the LGBTQIA+ Forum, and the Local, Oral History, and Genealogy Forum was renamed the Local and Family History Forum. We adjusted language for those forums in the Bylaws. We formed the Librarians of Color Forum and

petitioned the membership for the creation of a Programming Forum. You will find that petition on the VLA website.

Adrian also assisted forums and committee chairs to fill member and officer vacancies throughout the year. Adrian thanked VLA for the opportunity to serve from 2014-2017 as CaTS Forum Chair, and the past two years as Second Vice President.

Past President's Report (Elections)

Todd Elliot reported on the activities of the VLA Nominating Committee. He thanked the members of the Nominating Committee for their service. He announced the officers elected during this year's election:

- Joslyn Bowling Dixon (Prince William Public Library System) – Vice-President/President-Elect
- Dr. Regina Carter (U.S. Army) – Second Vice President
- Bill Edwards-Bodmer (Suffolk Public Library) – Treasurer
- Lucinda Rush Wittkower (Old Dominion University) – ALA Councilor

President's Report & Presidential Citation (report submitted by Jessica Scalph)

Jessica Scalph gave the President's Report. I have read many books about public speaking and they often mention telling a joke. Ask anyone in my family and they will say that is not one of my strengths. So, what is a librarian to do? LOOK up QUOTES from literary sources!

In relation to what VLA represents to me, "It is only with the heart that one can see rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye" by Antione de Saint-Exupery, The Little Prince.

What VLA means to me personally, "Anyone who ever gave you confidence, you owe them a lot." By Truman Capote, Breakfast at Tiffany's

And what I learned during my presidency of VLA;

"And now that you don't have to be perfect, you can be good." By John Steinbeck, East of Eden

I want to start out by thanking our phenomenal executive committee Todd Elliot, Jennifer Resor-Whicker, Adrian Whicker, Cori Biddle, Kayla Payne, and Samantha Duncan. They offered support, advice and counsel throughout my tenure. Lisa Varga, our executive director has been my first resource for most of my daily dealings as President and I cannot thank her enough for everything she does everyday for all of us! Katie Kalil, is currently our conference chair person and she has done a wonderful job bringing together many details and considerations that go into planning an amazing conference. I also want to say that the entire conference committee was a pleasure to work with, they were so creative and responsive on many levels.

Throughout this past year we have been working on various initiatives. The affiliate membership has been a project that has been diligently put together over several years. The Ad Hoc Membership restructuring committee, consisting of Lisa Varga, Lisa Lee Broughman, Matt Todd, Nan Carmack and Cori Biddle have accomplished this model and as a result we have grown from 900 members last year to 4,444 members. Many members are able to join our

organization that were not able to join in the past. These new members coming into our organization, present an opportunity for VLA to grow through new ideas and initiatives.

The Professional Associates, through the leadership of Jeanne Scott, have sent surveys out to our membership on various topics with the intention of utilizing the results for future planning of regional programs and a semi-annual conference in 2021.

The New Members Round Table (NMRT) mentorship program, successfully matched 40 participants (20 mentor/mentee pairs) this year. That is up from 22 participants (12 pairs) last year. Chelsea Seddon did a great job organizing and leading the mentor program.

One of the main tasks of the President, executive committee, the executive director and the conference committee is to plan an exciting, fun and engaging conference. Peace-Love-Libraries as a theme has brought forward many creative ideas for conference sessions from all of you and the sessions that I was able to attend have been inspiring.

In recognition for her service to the Virginia Library Association, Cori Biddle was awarded the Presidential Citation. Cori is awarded this honor for her work on the editorial board of Virginia Libraries and service on the Executive Committee as Treasurer. She served on the Conference Committee and is next year's Conference Chair, and she assisted with converting the conference program to a mobile app. Cori is previous member of the ad-hoc Membership Committee and is being honored for her general support and willingness to take on about any task.

Executive Committee Recognition & Passing the Gavel

Jessica Scalph thanked the outgoing Executive Committee members for their service: Todd Elliot (Past President), Adrian Whicker (Second Vice President), Cori Biddle (Treasurer) and Samantha Thomason Duncan (ALA Councilor). She presented them with tokens of appreciation, and then passed the presidential gavel to Jennifer Resor-Whicker.

2020 Annual Conference

Jennifer Resor-Whicker thanked the membership for electing her as President for 2020. She is looking forward to starting this year as president and is excited to see what this year will bring. She thanked the presidents she has had the pleasure of serving with on the Executive Committee for the past three years: Martha Hutzler, Keith Weimer, Todd Elliott, and Jessica Scalph, for their leadership and dedication to VLA. She hopes to continue in the examples they have set.

She announced that next year's Conference will be held in Hot Springs, VA at the Omni-Homestead Resort on October 28-30, 2020. The conference theme is When in Doubt, go to the Library. She introduced Cori Biddle as Chair of the 2020 Conference Committee. She encouraged everyone to think about what programs they might like to present.

Jennifer asked for a motion to adjourn. Todd Elliot moved; Adrian Whicker seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 3:42 pm.

Minutes prepared by Kayla Payne, VLA Secretary