

**Virginia Library Association
Annual Business Meeting
Friday, November 6, 2020
Virtual - Zoom**

Call to Order

President Jennifer Resor-Whicker called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

Secretary's Report

Kayla Payne gave the Secretary's Report. The minutes from the annual business meeting held October 25, 2019 in Norfolk, VA are available on the VLA website calendar entry for today's date, along with the agenda for this meeting.

<https://www.vla.org/assets/VLABusMeet10.25.2019.pdf>

Jeanne Scott moved that the minutes be approved as written. Nan Carmack seconded. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Bill Edwards-Bodmer reported. The Treasurer's Report can be found here:

<https://www.vla.org/assets/Treasurers%20Report%2011062020.pdf>

This has been a crazy year, but overall VLA's finances are better than can be expected. We finished the year with more total revenue than expenses. The reason we were able to finish not in the red is because we took out \$35,000 from our main investment account, which helped us throughout the year. This fund exists to give us a cushion in difficult years.

Our Jobline revenue did drop dramatically, but we anticipated this when the pandemic began. We met our goal for the Affiliate membership revenue, while individual membership dues were down. Refunds for VALLA were mischaracterized, so we can expect the expenses to go up from this report.

Executive Director's Report

Lisa Varga reported.

2020 Membership:

335 Individual Members

72 paid Affiliate Members (4,341 employees)

42 Life Members

Joblines:

77 Jobline posts (201 total last year)

14 Complimentary for Institutional Memberships

\$5225 revenue

11 currently unpaid

In early March, the Homestead let us know they would be undergoing renovations and wouldn't have enough sleeping rooms for us in October. They let us out of our contract at no fee and we signed with the Marriott Norfolk Waterside. The Norfolk hotel allowed us to move our conference to 2022 without financial penalty.

We were able to cancel or postpone all contracts slated for 2020 without financial penalty.

We (along with 1700 other libraries and museums) submitted paperwork for a \$467000 **CARES Act Grant through IMLS**. Just 68 projects were chosen for funding; ours was not selected. Congrats to Lonesome Pine Regional Library on their grant!

On March 4, Kristi Jerome, Isaak Hopson and coordinated our first (and, alas, only) regional workshop at Longwood University. We had speakers from Prince William speak about SMART goals and Virginia Phelps from Chesterfield County Public Library gave a great presentation on weeding collections.

I attended ALA's Midwinter Conference in Philadelphia and helped lead the Chapter Leaders Forum as part of a preconference. I also went to Nashville for PLA and presented the online Chapter Leader's Forum event for the ALA Annual Conference in June. I moderated two online panels for the Virginia Society of Association Executives.

Second Vice President's Report

Kayla Payne read the report, as submitted by Regina Carter.

Since the October 2019 business meeting, the VLA Bylaws have been revised to reflect changes to committee and forum names, updates to language regarding VLA Life Membership, and the addition of the Virginia Library of the Year Award. The VLA Programming Forum was also created. Regina connected librarians who were interested in sharing COVID-19 resources with Virginia's Spanish speaking residents to VLA leadership. Upon receiving these resources, Lisa ensured that they were shared with VLA members. Regina kept leadership and the Website Content Committee abreast of needed revisions to the VLA website. With the support of committee and forum chairs, Regina continued to update committee rosters. She also notified committee and forum chairs of new member interest. This is a snapshot of what has occurred since the last business meeting and concludes the Second Vice-President's report.

Past President's Report (Elections)

Jessica Scalph reported on the activities of the VLA Nominating Committee. She thanked the members of the Nominating Committee for their service, past presidents Keith Weimer and Lisa Lee Broughman. The process started last November/December and finished around June.

She congratulated the incoming officers from this year's election:

- VLA President-Elect: KT Vaughan
- VLA Secretary: Maryška Connolly-Brown

Other candidates included Nathan Hall and Natisha Harper. All candidates needed to be from academic libraries. When Jennifer develops a slate for the 2021 elections, they will need to be

from public libraries.

President's Report

This year has been a year unlike any other. Many of VLA's events, including the 2020 Annual Conference, had to be cancelled. With the exception of the January meeting, we had to move all of our Executive Committee and Council meetings online. Many events that were scheduled by VLA's committees and forums also had to move online. We saw libraries across Virginia close in the spring as we tried to stop the spread of COVID-19 in our communities. COVID-19 has changed a lot about how we deliver services in libraries, but it has not changed our mission or our desire to serve our communities. We did our best to try to work from home during a crisis. We did our best balancing our many different roles as our home and work lives intertwined. We did our best to work with reduced staff. We did our best to find new and creative ways to meet the needs of our patrons sometimes with shrinking resources. I hope we all learned and accepted that our best was good enough as we tried to meet our commitments and accomplish all we needed to while also dealing with the mental and emotional toll of a global pandemic and the extent of systemic racism exposed by the Black Lives Matter movement. This has been a hard year for us all.

Through all of this, VLA continued to work behind the scenes. The various things we accomplished have been reported in the VLA Council minutes throughout the year. You can find those minutes on the calendar at vla.org. Some of the highlights of the year are:

- We made changes to the structure of the Lifetime Membership Award. This award is now decided on by the Executive Committee and not by a vote of the VLA membership. This allows it to be decided in April instead of August. Since this is awarded at the conference it helps to have it decided earlier for planning purposes.
- We restructured conference discounts. All VLA Council Chairs, members of the VLA Executive Committee, and the members of the Conference Committee will receive a discount code for \$75 off their conference fees for the year(s) in which they are serving the Association. All presenters will also receive a discount of \$75 (up to two presenters per session, per poster, and per lighting talk.)
- We began holding VLA Zoomversations as a way for VLA members to connect, network, and discuss what is going on in our libraries.
- VLA posted a statement on Racism and Violence and also posted an anti-racism resource list that was curated by the attendees of our June 3rd Zoomversation.
- We approved a new VLA logo. It can be seen on VLA's website.
- Thanks to the work of the Librarians of Color Forum, VLA became an affiliate of the Black Caucus of the American Library Association and they just celebrated their 50th anniversary.
- Council approved a Library of the Year Award that will be awarded for the first time in 2021.

I want to thank this year's Executive Committee and Council for all of your hard work. Your dedication to Virginia librarianship is what makes VLA such a great organization, and it's why I'm proud to call you colleagues and friends.