

**Virginia Library Association
VLA Council
Online (Zoom)
April 16, 2021**

Attendees:

Executive Committee – K.T. Vaughn, Lisa Varga, Maryška Connolly-Brown, Regina Carter, Jennifer Resor-Whicker, Lucinda R. Wittkower
VLA Council – Phil Abrahams (Legislative), Cindy Church, Cammy Koch, Tracy McPeck, Pearl Derlago, Jennifer Brown, Tom Shepley, Alisha Barnes, Sue Erickson, Christina Harris, Kerri Copus, Lucinda Rush, Olivia Hasan, Aryn Dagirmanjian, Meg Slingerland, Malia Willey, Mary A. Guillory, Julia Feerrar

Call to Order

Jennifer called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. and welcomed everyone.

Jennifer made introductions and asked that everyone list their name, position in VLA, and the library they belong to in the chat box.

Secretary's Report

Maryška emailed the minutes of the Council meeting held January 28th prior to this meeting and made a couple of minor edits based on feedback from Council members. Sue moved the minutes be approved. Christina seconded. The motion carried to approve minutes as corrected.

Treasurer's Report

Lisa reported.

Budget Report:

We are in a good cash position at this time. The total revenue that has come in is \$145,000, and we have spent \$52,000. Under the line for Affiliate Membership dues, we were only anticipating \$66,000 but a lot more libraries participated in the program this year bringing us up to \$81,000 dollars in income. Jobline has also exceeded expectations. We reduced the amount we anticipated to get from Jobline, but we are already more than halfway to our goal for the year. Institutional memberships also very strong. We are only about \$4,000 short of budget goals on that. Individual dues have brought in \$13,000. We are expecting an increase when we open registration for the Conference.

We did a fundraising drive for LGBTQIA+ Forum and Librarians of Color Forum which brought in \$1350 for Librarians of Color and \$1325.00 for LGBTQIA+. This will allow for a lot of programming.

Expenses are on track. We anticipated paying over \$4,000 in bank charges. Current bank charges are over \$1,000 due to the volume of people and institutions using credit cards to pay for membership.

Our main investment account is already up \$17,581, and our Professional Development Endowment has already made \$1,536.

Lisa clarified the differences between the membership types including Institutional, Affiliate, and Individual.

Executive Director's Report

Lisa reported.

2021 Membership

- 217 Individual members (144 unpaid 2021 renewal invoices)
- 42 Life Members
- 81 Affiliate Members (4,283 members)
- Institutional Dues invoices have been sent and \$41314 of anticipated \$45,000 has been collected

Joblines for 2021:

38 (28 invoices, 10 posted for free for public libraries who paid Institutional Dues)

Presentations:

February 5, ALA Chapter Leaders Forum

March 22, ALA Connect Live with President Julius Jefferson

April 7, State Librarian Dr. Sandra Treadway, school librarian Mary Keeling and I met with a representative from Congressman Ben Cline's office (VA-06) as part of an ALA effort to emphasize financial support for libraries.

April 8, Virginia Public Library Director's Association Spring Meeting

VLA Projects:

2021 Conference Session Proposals

2021 Scholarship Applications

2021 Graphic Novel Diversity Award call for Judges

2021 LGBTQIA+ and Librarians of Color donations request

2020 VALLA gift (Rocketbooks from VLA and sponsor Quinn Evans)

2021 VLACRL Spring Program registration

2021 VLA Conference Exhibitor Registration

2021 The Innovative Library Classroom (administrative support)

COVID-19 and Vaccinations:

Continuing conversations with the VA Department of Health to ensure that libraries are included in 1b or 1c, in the future. We saw very little consistency across the country and localities as to where library staff were placed, despite CDC guidelines that staff be in 1C.

ALA Policy Corps:

Letter to the Editor by Clint Rudy, Suffolk Public Library Director and I, to be published in the Daily Press (hopefully by the end of the week) promoting the Build America's Libraries Act. We are doing a strong push in Rep. Bobby Scott's district (VA-03) since he is the Chair of the House Committee on Labor and Education and will have a say in funding for libraries.

ALA currently has TWO Advocacy Alerts and would like your participation in them.

Please share amongst your networks:

- ALA Build America's Libraries Act, directed at Senators and Congresspeople. No VA legislators have signed on yet. <https://cqrcengage.com/ala/app/write-a-letter?2&engagementId=5113>
- ALA #FundLibraries LSTA and IAL for FY 2022. <https://cqrcengage.com/ala/app/write-a-letter?0&engagementId=511238>

VLA Chapter to ALA report

Lucy reported.

Documents

[December Meeting Minutes](#) (Discussed at last VLA Executive Committee meeting, but minutes were not available at that time)

Meetings attended by VLA Chapter Councilor since last report

ALA Midwinter 2021 Meetings

Council Forum I

Membership Information Session

Council I

Council II

Council III

Forward Together & Chapters Discussion

Spring Meeting

Attended on March 31, 2021

Resolutions Adopted by the ALA Council at Virtual Midwinter 2021

- [RESOLUTION in Support of Broadband as a Human Right](#)
- [RESOLUTION to Condemn White Supremacy and Fascism as Antithetical to Library Work](#)
- [RESOLUTION in Opposition to Facial Recognition Software in Libraries](#)
- [RESOLUTION to Prioritize Library Workers to Receive the COVID-19 Vaccine](#)
- [RESOLUTION on the Misuse of Behavioral Data Surveillance in Libraries](#)

Other Highlights from ALA Midwinter 2021

- Discussion of the [Forward Together](#) Final Report ALA CD 35
 - o Recommendations for a reimagined ALA Governance model, worked on this since June 2018
 - o Seeks to enable strategic and effective member engagement, financial stability, organization-wide planning
 - o Report recommended new structure that includes various types of groups. Phases out ALA Council, but creates “Leadership Assemblies” and also includes Board of Directors, Divisions, Round Tables, etc. (see full list in report linked above)
 - o Next steps: New working group established in Spring 2020 to carry on the work, Council vote #1 in January 2022, Council Vote #2 in June 2022, Membership vote in Spring 2022
- Forward Together Fiscal Analysis Report ALA CD 37

The ALA Vaccine Working Group gave their report, which Lucy also summarized. It was decided that, since each locality and state is handling the vaccine differently, ALA would not put forward any sweeping statement regarding libraries being essential workers at this time.

The ALA Annual Conference will be online in June. Registration is open. They are planning to be back in person in January for LibLearnX, a professional development conference that will take the place of ALA Midwinter. It will be in San Antonio in January 2022.

Executive Committee

Jennifer reported.

The Executive Committee met yesterday. We discussed the VLA Strategic Plan that we will be looking at under Other Business.

We discussed the nominees for VLA officers that I will discuss in the Nominating Committee Report. Also, we are currently looking into EDI training for all Executive Committee members. We are planning on making this required for VLA officers going forward. I will keep Council updated on that.

We voted to purchase an upgraded account for Hootsuite. The ability to schedule things to post on our social media accounts is essential. We had reached our posting limit and needed to expand. Thank you to Pearl Derlaga, Chair of the Awards and Recognition Committee, for bringing this to our attention.

Congratulations to Olivia Hasan for being named the 2021 West African Research Center Library Fellow! One person is chosen every year out of the entire United States and this year Olivia was chosen for this fellowship. She will be spending time this summer in Dakar, Senegal.

VLA Annual Conference

Tracy reported.

The Call for Proposals closed on Wednesday, April 7. We received a total of 95 proposals. This includes 45-minute sessions, posters, lightning talks, and VLACRL proposals. The session selection meeting will be held Wednesday, April 21st.

[Vendor registration](#) is now open. If you know of anyone who might be interested in purchasing a space, please send them the link.

Lisa has been in contact with Richmond Region Tourism, which has provided a map of the Convention District, a downtown parking map, and dining options. They also are happy to work with us on activities for attendees, such as a local brewery or food tour, or walking history tour.

Conference Committee member updates

At our March meeting, we welcomed Olivia Hasan and Liz Bass, who are the Conference Committee's representatives on the Librarians of Color and the LGBTQIA+ forums, respectively. Jennifer Scott Brown is now representing the Programming Forum. We welcome Vivian Washington as the 2022 Conference Chair. Vivian and president-elect K.T. Vaughan will be joining next week's session selection meeting.

In progress

We have started a COVID-19 protocol document that will be used as a guide for in-person attendees, conference volunteers, vendors, and presenters.

During the year, we will also be putting together a conference planning handbook that will serve as a comprehensive guide to planning and holding the VLA Annual Conference.

Unit Reports

Awards and Recognition Committee

Pearl reported.

We are getting close to the end of the nomination period for the current VLA and VLAPAF Awards cycle. The deadline is coming up on Saturday, May 1, 2021. We have been promoting the Awards on VLA and VLACRL Facebook pages, and Lisa has sent out email reminders to the VLA listserv and the VPLDA listserv.

There are approximately 13 awards in total – 10 VLA, 3 VLAPAF. As previously noted, we have two new awards starting this year—Virginia Library of the Year Award and Librarian of Color Forum Award. Currently, we only have five nominations in total for all the awards combined. I am hoping that many are still working on their nominations and plan to submit closer to the deadline. In any event, please consider talking up the awards in your respective workplaces and enthusiastically encourage anyone who says that they're thinking of nominating someone.

The Awards nomination form does require individuals to sign into Google since there is an option on the form to upload supplementary materials. This aspect of the form has been frustrating to some; we will evaluate that part of the form later in the year and determine if a better solution can be reached for next year's awards cycle.

CaTS Forum

Mary reported.

Chair position has been filled by Mary A. Guillory of Chesterfield County Public Library. Three executive positions remain vacant: (1) Co-chair, (2) Programming Director, (3) Conference Director. A virtual social activity for members is in the works.

VLACRL

Sue reported.

We have two events coming up. We have the VLACRL Spring Program on May 4 from 9:30am-Noon in Zoom. The title is "We're not Libraries; We're People: Identity and Emotional Labor in Public Services." Carolina Hernandez and Mary K. Oberlies will explore how professional service expectations outlined in the Library Bill of Rights can come into conflict with personal identities of public service library workers. They are going to focus on gender and race with regard to emotional labor. Registration for that is still open. We have about 20 registrations so far. The limit is 50. It does have a \$15 fee to cover the speaker honorarium and logistics costs. It is non-refundable, but we are going to record it and share the recording with anyone who registered.

The Innovative Library Classroom (TILC) will be held in Zoom April 27-28, 2021. We have a great slate of presentations and posters lined up, and Derrick Jefferson, Associate Librarian at American University in DC, will be our keynote. The full schedule is available at:

<https://theinnovativelibraryclassroom.weebly.com/2021-conference.html>

Thanks to our sponsors, TILC this year will be FREE. Registration was limited to 150 participants, and it is full. Sessions will not be recorded.

We are in the process of reviewing proposals for the Conference within a Conference.

Continuing Education Committee

Alisha reported.

We welcomed Aryn Dagirmanjian as our new Continuing Education Committee co-chair. Heather Simpson, our previous co-chair for the committee, has moved onto another position.

The committee submitted our conference proposal, An Epic Continuing Education Brainstorm, which is a panel discussion from library training experts within Virginia.

We decided to offer 2020 Virginia Library Leadership Academy (VALLA) accepted members the opportunity to attend VALLA in 2022. The committee will not hold a pre-conference as originally discussed. VALLA 2022 will be held on April 5-6, 2022, at the Hotel 24 South in Staunton.

We were able to purchase a commemorative gift in order to honor the 2020 VALLA accepted attendees that were unable to attend the academy due to the COVID-19 cancellation. We were glad to be able to provide the gift of a Rocketbook from VLA and support from sponsor Quinn Evans.

Intellectual Freedom Committee

Brian Manning was not in attendance.

Jefferson Cup

Cammy reported.

The Jefferson Cup Committee is still reading and planning on having a meeting next week. Some books came in later than deadline because of covid.

LGBTQIA+ Forum

Christina reported.

The forum met for our quarterly meeting on Saturday, March 27th. The next meetings will take place in June, September, and December. Specific dates and times are TBD.

Upcoming/ Current events:

- April Poetry Contest – April 1st-30th, winners will be announced on May 15th
- Movie Night – two movie licenses (Moonlight and "Title" TBD)
- Collaboration with LOC forum to showcase BIPOC authors and illustrators, and Q&A forum for those in attendance to ask questions in a safe, open-minded environment.
- Pride Month Bingo: the month of June

Resources:

- Creating a website that features a timeline of LGBTQIA+ history, scholarships, and VA announcements for the queer community.
- Creating a "Rainbow Book" to support Virginia/ Queer-owned businesses and organizations that are LGBTQ+ friendly.
- VA Governor's LGBTQIA+ Advisory Board:
 - Link to the bill: --> <https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?211+sum+HB2130>

- Applications should be submitted here https://solutions.virginia.gov/BoardAppointments?fbclid=IwAR1WpqCtFl9Pff5vuzONVl2as9eYFd_ByrwH5PCB32zSUnloJHbyJ1p1Ct8 --> Appointment Application, you can find the LGBTQ+ Advisory Board under "Commonwealth"
- For any additional questions, you can email the office of Delegate Lopez directly. (I've found that his staff is super responsive to emails) Email: delalopez@house.virginia.gov

Legislative Update

Phil reported.

2021 Session:

The 2021 session was very unique given Covid-19. It was actually two sessions. The regular one on Jan 31st only went for 30 days because the House and Senate Republicans wouldn't agree to extend it to its normal 45 days. It was then followed by a 15-day special session. We are expecting a new special session in early June to deal with the topic of new judges for the Court of Appeals (it was expanded by six members) and the latest Federal money that has come down from the third stimulus bill. There will possibly be another special session later in the year to deal with redistricting. This was delayed because the Census was delayed due to Covid-19.

One of the unique aspects of the short session this year was that there was a tight limit on the number of bills that could be introduced. Senators could only introduce 12 bills and House members could only introduce 7 bills. This resulted in slightly less than 1,000 bills being introduced at the 2021 regular and special sessions (about half of what you would see in a normal session). The session was also totally virtual in regard to the public and lobbyists being able to monitor committee meetings. All lobbying activities had to be conducted via text, cellphone, or Zoom. It was a lot more challenging as lobbyists couldn't catch legislators in person in the hallways or offices. The amount of time we had to testify on legislation ranged from a low of 30 seconds to a high of 2 minutes.

Major issues dealt with in the General Assembly: abolishing the death penalty, legalizing marijuana (simple possession as of July 1, 2021), passing the revised state budget, and legislation providing for the expungement of many criminal convictions.

For VLA, our primary issue has been in recent years to increase state aid. \$1M is what we asked for in the second year to restore the funds that were eliminated due to Covid-19 in 2020. We had two great new champions for our efforts including Betsy Carr, who put in the amendment once before in the House. She now chairs the Higher Education subcommittee of the House appropriations that handles state aid to local libraries. She put in the amendment for us on the House side. Senator Mamie Locke, who is the Senate Democratic Caucus Chair from Hampton, put in the amendment the first time on the Senate side. For the first time in many years, both the House and Senate agreed to what we asked for and included the \$1M restoration. We also had support from Delegate Mark Sickles, who is Vice-Chair of the Appropriations Committee from Fairfax County, and Senator Tommy Norment, a Republican who used to chair the Senate Finance Committee from James City County. Those four people were really our go-tos in support of that amendment. We also had a new staff because Sarah Herzog is now the budget director for Christopher Newport University. Tyler Williams is our new Senate staffer, and Tony Maggio remains the House person we deal with. He was very supportive as well.

The only other bill that concerned libraries in particular was legislation that allowed Fairfax South Boston regional system to get their full amount of state aid in the wake of their reversion to a town status. They were the only one not treated and held harmless. That bill was interesting when it went through the Senate when Delegate Edmunds got up and presented that bill, the Chair of the Senate Finance Committee Janet Howell from Fairfax County said, "Aren't you aware, Del. Edmunds, that we already put \$1M in the state

budget for increased local aid to public libraries?" I thought that was a good comment and demonstrated her interest in funding libraries.

Next session our focus will be continued progress on fully funding the formula. We hope to get there in no more than four years to divide the shortfall up into four segments of a little over \$2.5M. With support from Senator Carr and Senator Locke, we can hopefully make real progress.

Right now, the members of the House are distracting because all 100 of them are up for reelection in November. Then we have the state-wide elections going on for a new Governor, Lt. Governor, and Attorney General. The Democrats will have a state-wide primary on June 8th, and the Republicans are having a virtual convention in roughly 35 sites around the state in May. By June we'll know who the two candidates for Governor are and we'll do our best to educate them on the importance of fully funding state aid and try to get some commitments during the campaign to move towards full funding.

Legislative Committee

Tom reported.

Legislative Committee's work was an extension of the 2020 session, which ended right as the pandemic took hold. In 2020, Legislative Committee and our Legislative Liaison, Phil Abraham, achieved the 2020 VLA Legislative Agenda and obtained a \$2M increase in state aid for public libraries, which would have come as state aid increasing \$1M each year of the biennial budget. However, most of the \$2M came as new funding, which the General Assembly froze due to budget uncertainties due to the pandemic. In the special session held in the fall, we successfully lobbied to retain the \$1M increase in funding for FY2021. This spring, we successfully lobbied to retain the \$1M increase in funding for FY2022. VLA has to be considered to have been very successful, retaining new funding in the pandemic with uncertain state revenues and huge demands from government functions across the state.

Librarians of Color Form

Olivia reported.

- Dorothy Hargett is now the Librarians of Color Forum Vice Chair/Chair-Elect
- LoC hosted the Library Workers of Color MBA Discussion Webinar in partnership with Ray Pun, Librarian & Educator from Stanford University on March 18. We had 121 registered and 39 active participants. We sent the recording out and provided a link on our forum page.
- Our next large event is Friday, April 9 at 6:30pm to 8:30pm, entitled "Bring Your Own Brush (virtual paint night event)
- We plan to meet again as a forum later this spring to discuss the second half of the year goals (plan out networking events, Jeopardy, etc.)
- Recent meeting to partner with VLA LGBTQIA+ Forum went well, and we have plans for more virtual programs in 2021.

Lisa took this opportunity to thank Olivia for being available to talk on camera to a new station regarding the issues of problematic race representation in the Dr. Seuss books that are no longer being published.

Library of Virginia Liaison

Cindy reported.

Still open Tues-Fri by appointment only. The LoV will continue to do a virtual programs model as it's working well.

ARPA (American Rescue Plan) — funds are being funneled through IMLS to LoV and it is several million dollars. LoV is getting ideas from public libraries around the state for cooperative purchasing options. Nan Carmack would welcome suggestions from VLA as well. Cindy also works with public libraries to make sure they get reimbursements for phone, internet, and connectivity as the state eRate Coordinator. There is an additional billion coming through the Emergency Broadband Act to help fund those efforts. This would include funding to pay for the hotspots that public libraries have been providing to their patrons.

The Library of Virginia is open by appointment only 10:00 to 4:00 Tuesday through Friday.

GENEALOGY VIRTUAL WORKSHOP

Portals to a Jewish Heritage: Researching Jewish Genealogy with a Southern Accent

Friday, May 7, 2021 from 10:00 AM–11:00 AM

Online

\$15 (\$10 for Library of Virginia members)

Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/portals-to-a-jewish-heritage-researching-genealogy-with-a-southern-accent-tickets-136978579619>

Even the most avid students of Jewish genealogy find that the thousands of databases, books, and websites devoted to the subject can make their quest for information a daunting one. What you really need is a knowledgeable guide and some practical tips and strategies. Karen S. Franklin is ready to provide them as she outlines the process to successfully explore general family history websites such as Ancestry.com, as well as online sites exclusive to Jewish genealogy such as JewishGen.org, and, of course, local archives and libraries. Franklin will feature a Richmond Jewish family as she demonstrates how to use these tools. Contact Ashley Ramey at ashley.ramey@lva.virginia.gov or 804.692.3001 for more information.

Virtual Literary Virginia Book Group

Wednesday, May 12, 2021 from 6:00 PM–7:30 PM

Free online event

For now our book group meetings will be virtual. Please log in at 6:00 PM through either the GoogleMeets link or the phone number below:

Meeting ID

meet.google.com/hfh-uwev-jeu

Phone Number: (US)+1 347-941-2137

PIN: 343 725 357#

Read and discuss the best of today's Virginia literature—books by Library of Virginia Literary Award winners and finalists in fiction and nonfiction. This month, we'll discuss *One Night Gone* by Tara Laskowski (2020 Fiction Award finalist).

In June we'll discuss *Hitler's Last Hostages: Looted Art and the Soul of the Third Reich* by Mary M. Lane (2020 Nonfiction Award finalist).

Library of Virginia loaner books are unavailable at this time but check your local public library for curbside checkout or digital download. This book is available at the Virginia Shop online and other online retail outlets. For more information, contact Nan Carmack at nan.carmack@lva.virginia.gov or 804.692.3792.

A CONVERSATION WITH JOSHUA D. ROTHMAN

The Ledger and the Chain: How Domestic Slave Traders Shaped America

Thursday, May 13, 2021 from 6:00 PM–7:30 PM

Online

Free but registration is required. <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8776745329899525645>

Join Joshua Rothman, author of the stunning new book *The Ledger and the Chain*, and the Library of Virginia's Gregg Kimball in a virtual discussion about the rise of domestic slave trading as a grimly efficient business in the antebellum era and how its impact still reverberates today. Virginia history is often associated with stately antebellum mansions, Civil War battlefields, and monuments to military leaders, but one key aspect of its 19th-century history has largely been banished from the landscape and popular memory—a trade that sold more than a half-million enslaved men and women from the Upper South to the Deep South. Rothman, chair of the department of history at the University of Alabama, is the author of two prize-winning books, *Flush Times and Fever Dreams* and *Notorious in the Neighborhood*. For more information, contact Emma Ito at emma.ito@lva.virginia.gov or 804.692.3726.

Common Ground Virginia History Book Group

Tuesday, May 18, 2021 from 6:00 PM–7:30 PM

Online. Please log in at 6:00 PM through Zoom.

Free

Read and discuss compelling nonfiction books handpicked by Library staff that explore Virginia history, society, and culture. This month, we'll discuss *American Fire: Love, Arson, and Life in a Vanishing Land* by Monica Hesse (2018). Next month, we'll discuss *Never Caught: The Washingtons' Relentless Pursuit of Their Runaway Slave, Ona Judge* by Erica Armstrong Dunbar (2018). Check your local public library to borrow titles, or purchase through the Virginia Shop or other online retailers.

We invite attendees to sign up for our monthly email list. Get meeting reminders as well as unique historical resources from the Library's collections selected to accompany upcoming discussions. To sign up for the list or request more information about this event, contact Becky Schneider at rebecca.schneider@lva.virginia.gov or 804.692.3550.

Making History with LVA

Saturday, May 22, 2021 from 12:00 PM–2:00 PM

Online

Free, but registration is required

<https://www.handsonva.org/opportunity/a0C1J00000LLrI9?Id=a0C1J00000LLrI9>

Crowdsource with us! The Library of Virginia acquires, preserves, and promotes access to unique collections of Virginia's history and culture. With more content and research moving online, we seek to make digital documents as accessible as possible by crowdsourcing their contents. Volunteers will transcribe handwritten pages and historical newspapers by reading the text and typing it into digital form. Join us for a virtual volunteer session to learn how you can help make historical documents more searchable and usable for researchers now and in the future.

Each session will focus on one or more of these three crowdsourcing projects (depending on document availability):

- Making History: Transcribe
- From the Page: WWI Questionnaires
- Virginia Chronicle

After Library of Virginia staff members introduce the platform and demonstrate the activity, volunteers will work independently for the remaining time. Participants can share their screens and ask questions about specific documents or issues. Information about joining through Zoom will be emailed the week of the event.

Participate in enhancing access to collections of over 400 years of Virginia history, people, and culture. From peace to wartime, wedding announcements and world-changing events, and court records to letters home, there will be something for everyone. Help us tell the narrative of all Virginians—the famous, infamous and even anonymous—and join us in Making History.

Contact Sonya Coleman for more information at makinghistory@viriniamemory.com or call Hands On Greater Richmond at 804-330-7400.

Nominating Committee

Jennifer reported.

Vice-President/President-Elect

- Margaret Howard, Chesterfield Public Library
- Kimberly Knight, Alexandria Library

Second Vice-President

- Alisha Barnes, Central Rappahannock Regional Library
- Zach Elder, Chesapeake Public Library System
- Cynthia Hart, Virginia Beach Public Library

Treasurer

- Kyle Binaxas, Richard Bland College of W&M
- Anne K. Melville, George Mason University

These nominees will be joining us for our June Council meeting to give their candidate statements. I want to thank the members of the nominating committee for all of their work on this. This year's nominating committee included Todd Elliott, Cammy Koch, and Adrian Whicker.

Professional Associates Forum

Isaak reported.

- Aiming to have a series of mental health workshops this summer (June, July, August). We are in the process of finding speakers and contributors to this event.
 - Some possible topics include mental health during covid, services to patrons dealing with covid, segments on health care, moving on from toxic work environments, and grieving processes due to losing friends, loved ones, or jobs, self-care, sharing workshops—what works and doesn't work. If anyone knows of possible speakers, please get in touch with the PAF.
- Our Knowledge Management Committee is starting to initiate the process of collecting the VLA PAF's history and plans to create an archive by the end of the year. Some of the goals of the committee are to create a finding aid, the digitization of all files and records, and possibly collecting oral histories of members from the past 20+ years.

- Our Social Media Committee has been overhauling our Facebook page and plans to promote our mental health workshops this summer as well as creating a schedule to post content regularly through Hootsuite.

Programming Forum

Jennifer Brown reported.

Accomplishments:

- Added to forum listings on the VLA website
- Worked with Lisa to create a listserv for forum members
- Drafted and implemented a welcome message for all new forum members
- Created a form to gather programming resources to create a libguide on the VLA website (eventually) and emailed to all members
- Spoke with Sue LaParo about sharing summer programmer information so we don't have to reinvent the wheel, but cross promote that resource

Upcoming Projects:

- Identify needs of the programming forum members to begin building infrastructure to support members
- Begin drafting libguide web-page
- Recruit more members
- Figure out what to do with officer and future leadership

Scholarship Committee

Kerri reported.

The 2021 VLA Scholarship applications closed on April 9 with a total of 19 completed applicants. Lisa Varga and Kerri Copus contacted applicants with missing parts to their application packets and we now have 25 total applicants. The Dropbox link was sent to the Scholarship Committee to begin ranking on Wednesday, April 14, 2021. The committee plans to announce the winners by the beginning of May.

Unfortunately, several applicants are attending ODU which is not currently accredited by ALA, so letters had to be sent to let them know that they were not eligible.

The goal is to complete ranking by the end of this month and have the names of the winners by the beginning of May.

Virginia Association of Law Libraries

Amy Harrison was not in attendance.

Virginia Association of School Librarians

Kelly Miller was not in attendance.

Virginia Libraries Journal

Julia reported.

Following some editorial process setbacks, we have now officially closed out Volume 64 with an editorial from the board. Volume 65 of the journal will begin imminently with Jennifer Resor-Whicker's president's letter. We have three additional manuscripts that are ready for layout, so look out for a publication announcement and call for more submissions very soon!

The Editorial Board is also discussing ways to further improve the equity and transparency of our processes. In that vein, we're planning to offer some webinars this summer geared towards potential authors and peer reviewers.

Website Content Committee

Meg Slingerland reported.

Working on many of the same projects, including People and Happenings and Meet a Member. Andrew, one of our members, is working on Career Resources. We have an opening for the front-page slider request. If anyone needs something to be featured, the committee can make an image and add it. If you have updates for your committee or forum pages and need to be put in touch with your website liaison, you can reach out to Meg. Most of the committee pages have been updated, but a few still need to be done.

Lisa suggested the VLACRL spring program as a slider image to promote that event.

Youth Services Forum

Cammy reported.

Leadership Committee meeting is planned at the end of this month. We also intend on holding spring town halls to talk about summer reading planning. This will hopefully happen in May.

Other business

A. VLA Strategic Plan

Jennifer reported.

VLA Strategic Priorities

One of the things that I needed to do this year was to set a new strategic plan. When the Executive Committee began discussing this it was brought up that many organizations are moving to naming ongoing strategic priorities instead of reevaluating a strategic plan every so many years. Strategic priorities allow us to have a consistent foundation that we are always building from instead of working with a strategic plan that changes frequently. I took a look at our previous strategic plan and drew inspiration from a couple other library associations that had already moved to strategic priorities. After looking at our previous plan I decided on four priorities that seemed to encompass our primary focus. They are:

1. Membership
2. Advocacy and visibility
3. Conferences and continuing education
4. Clear communication and organizational structure

The document also contains our vision, mission, and core organizational values. I will give everyone a few minutes to look it over. Please let me know if you have any questions about it. I would like us to consider voting to approve this today if possible.

Jennifer Brown had concerns about setting these and then forgetting about it going forward and never looking at them. Jennifer R-W suggested that we make it explicit that the president will review the Strategic Proprieties every year and use them to inform the Designated Agenda for each year.

A proposal was made to add the lines “These inform the Designated Agenda each year and will be reviewed in that process. These Strategic Priorities should be used as a guide for all VLA committees and forums.” under the title “VLA Strategic Proprieties”.

Jennifer Brown made a motion to approve the Strategic Proprieties with the suggested amendments. Cindy seconded. The motion carried.

There being no further business, Sue moved the meeting be adjourned. Jennifer Brown seconded. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 11:17 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Maryška Connolly-Brown, VLA Secretary