

**Virginia Library Association
VLA Council
Online (Zoom)
January 29, 2021**

Attendees:

Executive Committee – K.T. Vaughn, Lisa Varga, Maryška Connolly-Brown, Bill Edwards-Bodmer, Regina Carter, Jennifer Resor-Whicker, Lucinda R. Wittkower,
VLA Council – Candice Benjes-Small, Olivia Hasan, Pearl Derlaga, Brian Manning, Sue Erickson, Isaak Hopson, Kerri Copus, Cammy Koch, Cindy Church, Matt Haddox, Alisha Barnes, Heather Simpson, Julia Ferrar, Malia Willey, Tracy McPeck, Rachel Timm, Paula Kiser, Kelly Miller

Call to Order

Jennifer called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the first VLA Council of 2021.

Secretary's Report

Maryška emailed the minutes of the Council meeting held October 16, 2020 prior to this meeting. Candice Benjes-Small moved the minutes be approved. Brian Manning seconded, and the motion carried.

Maryška asked attendees to list their name and current email in the chat to act as a roster for correcting contact information and recording attendance respectively.

Treasurer's Report

Bill reported.

2020 budget:

Last year's total revenue was \$180,799 and total expenses were \$169,858. Miscellaneous revenue includes a figure of \$35,426. That is money we withdrew from the VLA main investment account. The investment account is there as a rainy-day fund to keep VLA operating. It was very helpful last year. Even with taking \$35,426 out of the account we only lost \$779 since the investment account performed so well in 2020.

Proposed 2021 budget:

Two budgets are proposed for 2021. One takes into consideration an in-person conference and the other assumes that the conference is online rather than in-person conference. If we don't have an in-person conference, we will need to make up revenue of \$51,545.

Lisa let the committee know that the budget would need to be approved by the VLA Council but it's different this year due to the two possible budgets. Paula made motion to approve the budget, Tracy seconded. The motion carried.

January Statement of Activity:

In our Statement of Activity for January, we currently have a total revenue of \$69,912 compared to the total expenses of \$20,086. Right now, we are in a good place financially.

Lisa informed the Council that the Executive Committee voted in December to increase the cost of Jobline from \$100 to \$125 in order to help make up expected revenue shortfalls.

Executive Director's Report

Lisa Varga reported.

2021 Membership

- 162 Individual members (186 unpaid 2021 renewal invoices)
- 40 Life Members
- 60 Affiliate Members (3756 employees)/14 unpaid invoices (with an additional 359 employees)
- Institutional Dues invoices will be sent to 95 public library directors February 3
- Quick math: if everyone who was a member last year renews, total membership will be: 4,503

2020 Membership year closed with

- 355 Individual members
- 40 Life Members
- 73 Affiliate Members (4409 employees)
- 66 Institutional Members/27 unpaid

2019 Membership year closed with

- 368 Individual members
- 40 Life Members
- 70 Affiliate Members (4,020 employees)
- 78 Institutional Members/16 unpaid (2018 numbers: 84 Institutional Members/9 unpaid)

Joblines for 2021:

9 posted

Price increase to \$125 per posting as on 1/1/21

Joblines for 2020:

91 postings

20 Complimentary for Institutional Memberships

\$7125 revenue

1 currently unpaid

Will be helping to co-host the ALA Chapter Leaders Forum Friday, February 5. Have consulted with both the Delaware and New Jersey library associations; they are thinking of moving forward with an Affiliate Membership program.

A VLA Council 101 meeting is generally held before the first meeting but was delayed this year. Lisa will be organizing that in the coming weeks.

VLA Chapter to ALA report

Lucy reported.

No formal report right now. ALA Council just met (she'll release the official report after they complete the minutes). Lucy shared a link to the ALA Council documents in the chat. No one had questions.

Executive Committee

Jennifer reported.

We rescheduled the June Council meeting to June 4th since June was accidentally scheduled for June 19th (Junetheeth), which is observed in Virginia. The Executive Committee will meet on June 3rd of that week.

Yesterday the Executive Committee discussed VLA's Core Values and Strategic Planning process. I plan to have something for Council to review at April's meeting concerning this. We also discussed a motion to revise the ByLaws concerning a resident work requirement that will be presented and voted on under other business today.

We reviewed the 2021 designated agenda. You can see the Designated Agenda under the VLA Calendar of Events under today's date. The VLA President presents this every year. It is updated to reflect what is going on in the library profession each year. Only one small change made this year. Under the 3rd item, the phrase "actively pursue diversity voices and people of color as keynotes and presenters" was added.

At the Executive Committee retreat Lisa's contract was reinforced until the end of 2022.

VLA Council meeting dates

Lisa reported.

On VLA website, the meetings have already been put in on the calendar. They will always be on a Friday from 10am until noon. The Executive Committee meetings on the day before Council meets. As of right now they are all scheduled to be held virtually.

VLA Annual Conference

Tracy reported.

The 2021 Conference will be held at the Richmond Marriott from Oct 27-29th. We are planning in person right now with an online option. Hotel rooms are \$159/night and there will be a block of rooms available at the prevailing per diem government rate of \$147/night. There will be a fee for parking, but that is controlled by the city. Since we were unable to use the speaker and conference graphics from last year, we will keep the same keynote and theme: Pass on What You Have Learned. The keynote speaker will be Beth Macy.

On the Wednesday before the conference, VALLA will hold a preconference. This will be followed by a hybrid all-conference poster session and the Scholarship and Awards Banquet to include the 2020 winners as we were not able to honor them last year. There will be eight sessions per time block with three time blocks on Thursday and four on Friday.

Call for proposals will go out by February 19th and closed on March 31st. Vendor registration will open in March. In April the Conference Committee will choose the sessions and communicate the selections to the presenters by May. A preliminary schedule will be created by June. July 1st is the goal for opening registration. Right now, the Conference Committee is being assembled with every effort being made to have a representative from each VLA committee and forum. Meetings monthly will be held from Feb to September. In September it will be every other week, and weekly in October weekly until the conference.

This application to be on the conference committee:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1iWPNBvQnqiYinX4KaIprqUZ73sDqGZGQLZfur_1yUnY/edit

Responsibilities of conference members:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1LVAIzWHMYKHyEXBrW7zevbg1KoASlrOyo-meiv_AHJc/edit

We would like to previous chairs join the conference committee, so we have voices from each committee, though it's not required. As we plan, we are looking at accessibility such as closed captioning. In regards

to a platform for holding the virtual conference, Feedloop is a frontrunner, but the committee is still exploring options.

Pearl asked if conference committee meetings will be in-person as we get closer. Lisa confirmed that it would be mostly virtual but there would need to be at least one in-person meeting since it's hard to get a feel for how the space is laid out if you are not able to see it in-person.

Unit Reports

Youth Services Forum

Cammy reported.

A few months ago, the Youth Services Forum had regional town halls. Around 9 people attended the different town halls. They discussed the state of current public library services and talked about successful virtual programs and unique services that have popped up during the pandemic for youth and teens. There is interest in doing it again, especially since travel and meeting in-person isn't on the table.

The committee still has openings for regional representation for regions 1, 4 and 6.

Website Content Committee

Meg report.

The first committee meeting is next week. Lisa and Meg put out something for recruitment and heard from about eight people who are willing to serve on the committee this year. The committee is working to add more content to the People and Happenings section as well as updating other areas of the website. A co-chair isn't in place yet, but they will vote next week.

Lisa thanked Meg for adding new slider images to the VLA website. Lisa is meeting with Memberclicks next week to find out why our color profile hasn't been entirely updated yet.

Virginia Libraries Journal

Julia reported.

Four new members have been appointed to the Editorial Board: Tracey Berning (Assistant Editor), Stephen Leist, Erin White, and Emily Correa. Volume 65 of the journal will begin soon with Jennifer Resor-Whicker's president's letter. We have three additional manuscripts undergoing editorial review and copyediting, including the themed column on Virginia library responses to COVID-19.

Virginia Association of School Librarians

Kelly reported.

No formal report yet as the first meeting is tomorrow.

Virginia Association of Law Libraries

Amy was not in attendance.

Scholarship Committee

Kerri reported.

At this time, we are not actively recruiting new committee members since our committee is full with twenty members. We had six members either rotate off at the end of 2020 or leave due to position changes that were not conducive to continuing with the VLA Scholarship Committee. We welcomed one

new member, Isaak Hopson, who steps in as part of the role as Chair of the Virginia Library Association Professional Associates Forum.

Since we were not able to hold the VLA Conference last fall, we lost our chance to hold a basket raffle, the main fundraising event for the Scholarships. Thankfully, we received a generous donation of \$2,500 from the Virginia Public Library Directors Association. This left \$2,500 for the Scholarship Committee to fundraise. Lisa contacted the vendors from the VLA Conference and several contributed in exchange for promotion.

Scholarship Committee Chair Kerri Copus created a social media campaign and worked with Lisa to post content of former scholarship recipients to draw interest in the fundraising efforts and to request donations on behalf of the scholarships.

We held special “Zoomversation” highlighting former scholarship recipients on Wednesday, November 18 at 6:30 p.m. hosted by Lisa Varga. Several former scholarship recipients spoke about the importance of the scholarship and VLA in their library career. Scholarship Committee Co-Chair Malia Willey posted the fundraising link throughout the conversation. We had door prizes (won by Lisa Dinkle and Beth Johnson, both of Radford University) and a raffle for a Nancy Pearl action figure (won by Zach Elder of Chesapeake Public Library).

We exceeded our goal and are able to offer all three scholarships for \$2,500 again this year! This year’s scholarship application is live and currently up on the VLA website. The application due date has been pushed back to April 9, 2021.

Programming Forum

Jennifer Scott Brown was not in attendance.

Professional Associates Forum

Isaak reported.

A month and a half ago the forum sent out an interested form to generate members and went from six active members to about fifteen. They are envisioning being able to do much more this year with more members.

- Knowledge Management Committee plans to digitize approximately 20 years of previous PAF documents.
- Social Media Committee is trying to increase their presence on Facebook and put out some form of monthly content.
- Conference and Regional Workshop Committees are doing things a bit different this year due to Covid-19. They are trying to brainstorm and come up with 2-3 virtual events for 2021.

Nominating Committee

Jennifer reported.

The Committee has been formed and includes Jennifer Resor-Whicker, Cammy Koch, Adrian Whicker, and Todd Elliot. A meeting will be scheduled in the next week or two to start working on getting nominations for the needed elected officials: a pres-elect from public library, a treasurer from an academic library, and a public librarian for second vice-president.

Library of Virginia Liaison

Cindy reported.

Governor Wilder Papers are processed and open to researchers. In other words, the project is done! We were able to accomplish this important work in record time thanks to the hard work of the archivists in State Records and of staff members throughout the library who either volunteered or were "voluntold" to help us process the papers.

Exhibition extended:

Exhibition Gallery & Lobby | January 13, 2020 - May 28, 2021

We Demand: Women's Suffrage in Virginia

In 1920, Virginia's General Assembly refused to ratify the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution to grant women the right to vote. The suffragists lost. Or did they? *We Demand: Women's Suffrage in Virginia* reveals for the first time how women created two statewide organizations to win the right to vote. Virginia suffragists were a remarkable group of talented and dedicated women who have almost all been forgotten. They marched in parades, rallied at the state capitol, spoke to crowds on street corners, staffed booths at state and county fairs, lobbied legislators and congressmen, picketed the White House, and even went to jail. At the centenary of woman suffrage, these remarkable women are at last recognized for their important achievements and contributions.

Items on display include suffrage postcards and memorabilia such as pinback buttons and badges, as well as suffrage banners from the Congressional Union Party's Virginia branch. This exhibition is a project of the Task Force to Commemorate the Centennial Anniversary of Women's Right to Vote.

For more information on *We Demand*, visit its web page.

Check out the LVA calendar. All events are virtual, and most are FREE!

Calendar link: <https://www.lva.virginia.gov/news/calendar/>

Librarians of Color Form

Olivia reported.

- September all-regions Zoom meeting had 41 in attendance.
- December all-regions Zoom meeting had 29 in attendance.
- Vice Chair will be Dorothy Hargett.
- Social Media Coordinator will be Katrina Lee Spencer.
- Librarians of Color Award is underway, and applications will be accepted in the coming weeks. Official announcement in the works. The award winner will receive monetary award, physical award, and state-wide recognition.

Lisa confirmed that we can add a tax-deductible line so that people can donate to the award.

Legislative Committee

Tom reported.

The Legislative Committee has been working on and approved an agenda for state aid. They have decided to seek the million dollars that was unallocated in the special session late in calendar year 2020. We had good success last spring. That money was held by the state, who decided what could be used and what would be held on to. There's still a million we are seeking from last year to bring us back to where we were. We have a budget amendment sponsored already for that. It will be difficult, as it's difficult to get access to legislators, but we have several supporters in the legislature.

LGBTQIA+ Forum

Christina was not in attendance. Matt reported.

The forum has been hard at work over the last couple of months working on a virtual event called “Queer and Cocoa” that will be held on February 27th. Will show an LGBTQIA+ movie to try and engage membership with the Forum. There will be a poetry contest in April. A theme hasn’t been finalized yet, but it will likely be “What does LGBTQIA+ Mean to Me”. The Forum will vote on winners.

The Forum submitted a grant for funding for a resource to share with libraries in VA to aid in incorporating more diversity and inclusion in their programing and help with readers’ advisory.

Jefferson Cup

Helen Hinkle was not in attendance.

Intellectual Freedom Committee

Brian reported.

The committee has not yet held their first meeting. There is a link on committee page for reporting any issues that are encountered, but nothing has caught a red flag since the last meeting.

Continuing Education Committee

Alisha reported.

The Continuing Education Committee is working on a conference proposal for a panel of training experts within VA libraries to discuss how different systems handle professional development and continuing education within their libraries. The hope is that the panel could provide feedback about lessons learned, create partnerships amongst libraries, and generate ideas for future continuing education.

We’re working to brainstorm ways to provide more Continuing Education Committee members with active and rewarding volunteer opportunities and projects. We’ve put time and research into reviewing continuing education committees within other state library associations and we’re working to review partnership ideas between those committees and state libraries.

The Virginia Library Leadership Academy will hold a pre-conference for those that were admitted to the canceled academy for 2020. We’re also beginning to explore options for the next Virginia Library Leadership Academy, which will be held in Spring 2022.

VLACRL

Candice reported.

Sue Erickson is new co-chair. We have invited Carolina Hernandez and Mary Oberlies to be the next spring program speakers. They published a chapter in the book *Deconstructing Service in Libraries* called “We’re Not Libraries; We’re People: Identity and Emotional Labor in Providing Face-to-Face Services in Libraries” that looks at the disconnect between the Library Bill of Rights that sees libraries at entities and doesn’t talk about the personal experience of people on the service desk. This will be a virtual program. The VLACRL is finalizing dates with them now. We will also be co-hosting the Innovative Library Classroom scheduled to take place last week in April.

Awards and Recognition Committee

Pearl reported.

We recently advertised for new members and received more responses than they could accommodate. They made a wait list for next year. The committee has been working with Lisa to evaluation how we are handling the awards process in terms of evaluating and assessing. Changes have been made to how the award criteria are presented on website. The committee has also revised the form for nominations. The awards cycle will open at the beginning of February. They are planning on keeping nominations open until May 1st. Council members are invited to nominate people. Two new awards this year: Library of the Year and the Librarian of Color Award.

Other business

- A. Motion to change ByLaws for resident/work requirement — Historically the ByLaws do not include a requirement to be a resident of Virginia or work at a Virginia library. Jennifer proposed a motion to add wording to that effect to the ByLaws that would apply to anyone running for a Council seat or officer position. The changes would be as follows:

- a. Under Article IV, Section 1: add the sentence “Only those who live and/or work in Virginia and are Individual, Life, or Affiliate Members shall have the right to serve on council”.
- b. Under Article VIII, Section 1: “Only those who live and/or work in Virginia and are Individual, Life, or Affiliate Members shall have the right to hold office”.

There were no questions from the Council. Jennifer proposed the motion. Kerri Copus seconded. The motion carried.

- B. Library funding — Lisa shared that Rep. Bobby Scott from Virginia is charge of the House Education and Labor Committee. Earlier in the month, there was an act submitted by Sen. Jack Reed of Rhode Island called “Build America’s Libraries Act”. ALA provided a letter template and asked that we encourage Rep. Scott to back this. This would provide for accessibility, space, renovation, etc., for libraries in our country. Also, this week a Covid-19 relief plan is going through the House and Senate that includes LSTA (Library, Services, and Technology Act) funding that could give up to 2 million dollars to each state that could help with hotspots and other services libraries are providing during the pandemic. We reached out to directors of libraries in Bobby Scotts’ area and gave them a template letter to submit to him. We were able to get four or five letters submitted to him.
- C. Covid-19 vaccinations and library staff — Lisa has been working with other executive directors for a while now to ensure librarians would be included in 1b and 1c groups. We haven’t yet done a formal statement asking for this because we’ve determined that across the country distribution is being handled at a very local level. We have instead offered our help if a library is hearing form their county that they must be open but not offered a 1b or 1c spot. Pearl shared that her county has been vaccinating librarians. Kerri mentioned that library staff at Montgomery Floyd Regional Library have received the first dose, but it’s unclear if they’ll get the second.

There being no further business, Candice moved the meeting be adjourned. Brian seconded. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 11:02 p.m.