

**Virginia Library Association  
VLA Council  
Online (Zoom)  
June 4, 2021**

**Attendees:**

Executive Committee – K.T. Vaughn, Lisa Varga, Maryska Connolly-Brown, Regina Carter, Jennifer Resor-Whicker, Lucinda R. Wittkower

VLA Council – Alisha Barnes, Cammy Koch, Mary Guillory, Jennifer Brown, Pearl Derlago, Bonnie Shaw, Christina Harris, Aryn Dagirmanjian, Isaak Hopson, Malia Willey, Kyle Binaxas, Kimberly B. Knight, Cindy Church, Margaret Howard, Olivia Hasan, Zach Elder, Tom Shepley

**Call to Order**

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

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

**Secretary's Report**

Maryska emailed the minutes of the Council meeting held April 16th prior to this meeting. Jennifer moved the minutes be approved. Pearl seconded. The motion carried to approve minutes as corrected. The spelling of Phil Abraham's name was the only correction.

**Treasurer's Report**

Lisa reported.

Budgeted for \$66,000 for our Affiliate Member program and have raised \$81,000 so far.

We typically expect about \$15,000 in Jobline, but cut the estimate this year to \$6,500 anticipating less hiring due to COVID. However, we are posting about a job per day. We posted almost 30 jobs in May, and this revenue is expected to go up. We are at about \$5,500 and still have about ten unpaid invoices we expect to come in.

Individual membership dues are still going strong. We are at \$13,000 of an estimated \$16,000 and we expect that to increase with the opening of the fall conference registration.

Expenses are on track for the year, despite the fact that it was challenging to create an estimated budget for 2021 based on the events of 2020.

Our investment accounts also doing well. These numbers are through April 30<sup>th</sup>. The end of May report is not yet in, but the Main Investment Account is up \$35,000 and Professional Development Endowment is up \$2,700.

**Executive Director's Report**

Lisa reported.

**2021 Membership**

220 Individual members (141 unpaid 2021 renewal invoices)

42 Life Members

83 Affiliate Members (4,444 members)

Institutional Dues invoices have been sent and \$41,314 of anticipated \$45,000

has been collected

**Joblines for 2021:**

83 (28 invoices, 17 posted for free for public libraries who paid Institutional Dues)

**VLA Projects:**

2021 Conference Session Proposals/Session Acceptances/Software Evaluation in process

2021 Scholarship Applications/Winners Announced, checks have been mailed

2020 Graphic Novel Diversity Award winners announced

2021 LGBTQIA+ events posted to member list and posted on social media

2021 VLACRL Spring Program

2021 VLA Conference Exhibitor Registration

2021 The Innovative Library Classroom (administrative support)

Met with Regina Carter to fix the Appendices section of the VLA Manual for clarity.

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.

Attended the International Council of Library Association Executives May 11, 18 and 23 with facilitator Lowell Appelbaum who gave great insight on Boards, orientation, reading reports at Council meetings.

**Executive Committee**

Jennifer reported.

- We discussed proposed changes to scholarship application which will be talked about under business.
- We voted on Life Membership honorees. Those winners will be announced at a later date when the rest of the award winners are announced.
- We began to brainstorm about the theme of our scholarship baskets. All forums and committees are encouraged to donate a scholarship basket. There are some great ideas on Pinterest.

**VLA Annual Conference**

Lisa reported. Written report provided by Tracy McPeck.

Conference session, poster, and lightning talk proposals: All have been accepted. VLA forums and Virginia Libraries Journal will be given spaces in the exhibit hall to promote awareness of their forums and increase participation. As of 4/19, we have sold 7 vendor booths, leaving 62 to sell (accounting for the VLA business row).

Lisa is gathering details to one big launch of the conference portal on the VLA website. We need a preliminary conference before registration can open, ideally in mid-June. Lisa is finalizing talks with two conference platform companies, Whova and Pheedloop, that will help with administering an in-person conference with a virtual component.

Conference Committee member updates

Social:

- University of Tennessee Knoxville offered to sponsor a photo booth at the conference social. Recommending plastic props for easy cleaning.
- We will mount the Virginia is for Library Lovers backdrop for photo opportunities throughout the conference.

Local arrangements:

- Librarians of Color and LGBTQIA+ forums (Olivia and Liz) working to create a joint list of BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ businesses in the RVA area to share with conference attendees. Along with resources from the Convention and Visitors' Bureau, the list will be posted to the VLA website and in the conference app.

We have discovered that it is very expensive to live stream # sessions and we have decided to record and close caption the recordings to make them more accessible. Recording is less expensive, and we can provide better quality closed captioning. At \$1000 per session, it's prohibitively expensive to live-stream each session. We felt it was worth the delay in getting those out. The keynote and luncheon speaker will be live streamed.

Kimberly suggested an anonymous survey to give a sense of comfort and security without the privacy violation of asking people to prove their vaccination status. If members know a certain percentage are vaccinated, it might provide more of a sense of security.

Cammy reported that she and Margaret are working on local arrangements for the conference committee. They are working on locating and contacting local musical groups in Richmond. Please email Cammy if you have any that you want to recommend.

Margaret shared that they will also be arranging transportation around the hotel. Scott's Addition is the new hot spot in RVA, and we might set up a shuttle before the social to go back and forth to this area. She is also working on the ribbon for the ribbon cutting. Lisa confirmed she has the big scissors.

There are also efforts underway to get a local government official to attend. Dinearounds are still planned.

### **2021 VLA Election – Candidate Statements**

Bios and Candidate Statements can be found on the VLA Website: <https://www.vla.org/vla-2022-election-of-officers-is-now-open>

Statements were given by:

Candidate for VLA Treasurer

- Kyle Binaxas
- Bonnie T. Shaw

Candidate for Second Vice-President

- Alisha Barnes
- Zac Elder

Candidate for Vice President/President Elect

- Margaret Howard
- Kimberly Knight

Elections will begin the first week of August and run through the middle of September. Winners will be announced at the conference at the end of October.

## **Unit Reports**

### **Youth Services Forum**

Cammy reported.

We held regional town halls in May. Instead of offering town halls for individual regions, we combined them to hopefully boost attendance. Regions 1 and 2 met on May 10<sup>th</sup>, though no one came. The townhall for regions 3 and 4 was held on May 11<sup>th</sup> with 6 attendees. Regions 5 and 6 took place on May 14<sup>th</sup> with 4 attendees but great discussions.

### **Website Content Committee**

Meg Slingerland was not in attendance.

Lisa shared that the Meet a Member profile might be coming back to the website. Council has been asked to complete the form if you are interested in being profiled as leaders in VLA.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSctEU\\_kMPkKz6t6RqHCHjGsO4uwjVbVEWapbgWsWImJABLERw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSctEU_kMPkKz6t6RqHCHjGsO4uwjVbVEWapbgWsWImJABLERw/viewform)

### **Virginia Libraries Journal**

Julia Feerrar was unable to attend but sent a report.

Since the last Council meeting, we have published two essays, one themed column, and one case study! Check them out here: <https://virginialibrariesjournal.org/>

Call for Submissions: We are ready for new submissions and would love to hear from you. We welcome essays/commentaries, themed columns, case studies, best practice articles, and research articles. We continue to review submissions as they are received and publish items individually when they are ready. Learn more on our Submissions page and feel free to reach out with any questions:

[virginialibrariesjournal@googlegroups.com](mailto:virginialibrariesjournal@googlegroups.com).

### **Virginia Association of School Librarians**

Kelly Miller was not in attendance.

### **Virginia Association of Law Libraries**

Amy Harrison was not in attendance.

### **Scholarship Committee**

Malia reported.

The 2021 VLA Scholarship Committee selected this year's [scholarship winners](#) from the pool of applicants. The winner of the 2021 VLA Scholarship is Lytesha Ellis. Sussan Ayala Rodriguez is the recipient of the **CDR Alexander C. Varga Memorial Scholarship**. The recipient of the Clara M. Stanley VLA Professional Associates Forum Scholarship is Cheryl Wagner.

The Scholarship Committee met on May 26 to discuss potential changes to the VLA Scholarship application. We voted on the following suggestions to present to Council:

- A change in the reference requirement: Suggesting "One (1) of the two (2) references is strongly recommended to be a librarian or other information professional." This would replace the current wording "One (1) of the two (2) references must be a librarian or other information professional employed in the state of Virginia."

- A change in the financial status requirement: Suggesting removing: Gross Income, Monthly Expenses, and Proposed MLS college expenses. Replace with "Projected household income, How many people are supported by that income, Other scholarships and aid received." Suggesting adding to Financial Need section: "(100 words or less) You may add additional context for your financial need for a scholarship."

The Council voted on the two proposed changes. Jennifer B. moved to approve these changes. Christina seconded. The motion carried. The proposed changes will be made to the scholarship application.

### **Programming Forum**

Jennifer Brown reported.

Have been working to get more engagement with the programming Forum. Created in 2019 just before the pandemic hit. Added 25 new members this month. Started creating a program resources list. It's very barebones right now. They have a form for resources people typically use in order to crowdsource some of the information in the list. They are planning to have monthly meetups.

### **Professional Associates Forum (VLAPAF)**

Isaak reported.

We are planning on having mental health virtual sessions throughout the summer. The first speaker will at the end of June and will be Hallie Billingsly, a graduate assistant and professor at VCU. She has a Masters in Health and Movement Science and a B.S. in Human Nutrition. She is currently pursuing her Ph.D. We have a 45-minute talk planned plus time for a Q&A. This will cover healthy eating habits, healthy eating at home and how nutrition positively impacts mental health.

Georgianne Ginder, the second speaker, is a Certified Health and Wellness Counselor at Virginia Commonwealth University. Her Master's is in Education and Holistic Medicine. She will provide information on stress relief tactics as well as lead participants through a virtual, meditative relief session aimed at reducing stress and anxiety.

Our plans to collect the historical VLAPAF document have proven more difficult than expected because they are scattered throughout the state, being held by past members or officers, or are in storage in different places. Cindy Church is helping determine what's at the Library of VA to get a head start while navigating collecting the documents during the pandemic.

Mental health and archiving our history have been our focus for 2021, but we are looking towards planning the 2022 regional workshops. We hope to be back on track with in-person events in 2022.

Donna Gant has an archive of VLAPAF history from the 1980s through the 2000s that has proven interesting: [https://scholar.lib.vt.edu/ojs/ejournals/VALib/v51\\_n3/gant.html](https://scholar.lib.vt.edu/ojs/ejournals/VALib/v51_n3/gant.html)

### **Library of Virginia Liaison**

Cindy reported.

### **Library of Virginia Open Tuesday–Friday, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM**

#### **Appointments are no longer required for researchers**

As of May 28, 2021, the Library of Virginia's second-floor reading rooms are open to all with no advance appointment necessary during our current hours: **Tuesday–Friday, 10:00 AM–4:00 PM**

The Virginia Shop at the Library is also open during the Library's current hours: Tuesday–Friday, 10:00 AM–4:00 PM. The shop offers books, gifts, souvenirs, décor, and other items for history lovers and the literary-minded. Our Exhibition Gallery will be closed May 29–August 29, 2021, while we prepare for our next exhibition.

The Library of Virginia follows health and safety protocols based on the latest guidance from the Governor's Office, the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

**What to expect when visiting the Library:**

- Face coverings are encouraged in the building—fully vaccinated visitors are not required to wear them, but are welcome to do so
- Face masks and hand sanitizer available for the public
- Signage describing coronavirus symptoms – Please do not enter the building if you feel unwell or have a fever
- Frequent cleaning of restrooms and surfaces in public areas throughout the day
- The reading room at the State Records Center will remain closed

For additional information about what to expect on your visit, please see our [COVID-19 Update: Guidelines for Researchers](#), which will be updated regularly.

Staff members are still available to respond to your questions and research inquiries by email or phone.

For Library Reference assistance, call 804.692.3777 or email [refdesk@lva.virginia.gov](mailto:refdesk@lva.virginia.gov). For Archives Reference assistance, call 804.692.3888 or email [archdesk@lva.virginia.gov](mailto:archdesk@lva.virginia.gov).

Please visit our website at [lva.virginia.gov](http://lva.virginia.gov) and follow us on social media to find online resources, virtual events (and some in-person events), and other ways to engage with the Library.

**Using the Collections** [lva.virginia.gov/public/using\\_collections.asp](http://lva.virginia.gov/public/using_collections.asp)

**June and July Library of Virginia Events**

**Virtual Literary Virginia Book Group**

<http://www.lva.virginia.gov/news/calendar?event=411>

Wednesday, June 9, 2021 from 6:00 PM–7:30 PM

Online

Free

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](https://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 *Mary Ball Washington: The Untold Story of George Washington's Mother* by Craig Shirley (2020 People's Choice Nonfiction Award winner).

In July, we'll discuss *Oregon Hill* by Virginia author Howard Owen.

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](mailto:nan.carmack@lva.virginia.gov) or 804.692.3792.

## **WEINSTEIN AUTHOR SERIES EVENT: VANESSA M. HOLDEN**

### **Surviving Southampton: African American Women and Resistance in Nat Turner's Community**

<http://www.lva.virginia.gov/news/calendar?event=436>

**Thursday, June 10, 2021 from 6:00 PM–7:30 PM**

**Online**

**Free**

**Please join us for an online talk by author and historian Dr. Vanessa M. Holden on her book *Surviving Southampton: African American Women and Resistance in Nat Turner's Community*.** This bold challenge to traditional accounts sheds new light on the places and people surrounding America's most famous rebellion against slavery. The 1831 Southampton Rebellion led by Nat Turner involved an entire community. Dr. Holden rediscovers the women and children, free and enslaved, who lived in Southampton County before, during, and after the revolt. Mapping the region's multilayered human geography, she draws a fuller picture of the inhabitants, revealing not only their interactions with physical locations but also their social relationships in space and time. Her analysis recasts the Southampton Rebellion as one event that reveals the continuum of practices that sustained resistance and survival among local Black people. To pre-order a copy of the book, [sign up here](#).

The Carole Weinstein Author Series supports the literary arts by bringing both new and well-known authors to the Library of Virginia through online or in-person events. Free and open to the public, the series focuses on Virginia authors and Virginia subjects across all genres. For more information, contact Dawn Greggs at 804.692.3813 or [dawn.greggs@lva.virginia.gov](mailto:dawn.greggs@lva.virginia.gov).

## **GENEALOGY VIRTUAL WORKSHOP**

### **African American Migration**

<http://www.lva.virginia.gov/news/calendar?event=444>

**Friday, June 11, 2021 from 10:00 AM–11:00 AM**

**Online**

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

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/african-american-migration-tickets-136979606691>

During this workshop, Library of Virginia reference archivist Cara Griggs will provide an overview of the types of records in the Library of Virginia's holdings that track free and enslaved Americans involved with the international and domestic slavery trade, as well as other migrations within Virginia, including those resulting from voluntary relocations and the settlement of enslavers' estates. Contact Ashley Ramey at [ashley.ramey@lva.virginia.gov](mailto:ashley.ramey@lva.virginia.gov) or 804.692.3001 for more information.

## **Common Ground Virginia History Virtual Book Group**

<http://www.lva.virginia.gov/news/calendar?event=445>

**Tuesday, June 15, 2021 from 6:00 PM–7:30 PM**

**Online**

**Free**

**Read and discuss compelling nonfiction books handpicked by Library staff that explore Virginia history, society, and culture. This month, we'll discuss *Never Caught: The Washingtons' Relentless Pursuit of Their Runaway Slave, Ona Judge* by Erica Armstrong Dunbar (2018).** In July, we are taking a little summer break. 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](mailto:rebecca.schneider@lva.virginia.gov) or 804.692.3550.

Please log in at 6:00 PM through Zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/95146878135>

Meeting ID: 951 4687 8135

Passcode: 623795

**"Walk the Ward"**

**Part 3 of The JXN Project Summer Lecture Series**

<http://www.lva.virginia.gov/news/calendar?event=468>

**Wednesday, June 23, 2021 from 7:00 PM–8:15 PM**

**Online**

**Free, but registration required.** <https://rvalibrary.libcal.com/event/7844669>

In partnership with the Library of Virginia and The JXN Project, RPL is pleased to present The JXN Project Summer Lecture Series. The JXN Project's co-creators, Enjoli Moon and Dr. Sessa Joi Moon, seek to recontextualize and more accurately capture the role of Richmond, Virginia and Jackson Ward in the Black American experience. Through a year-long celebration of Jackson Ward's 150th anniversary, a set of initiatives to rename the ward's streets after former residents, and a push to increase Black representation in Richmond's historical preservation bodies, The JXN Project will partner with community stakeholders to build a Richmond that honors Black excellence.

In this third lecture in a six-part series, Gary Flowers will moderate a discussion between panelists Dr. Carmen Foster (the Foster family), Maurice Hopkins (the Maggie L. Walker High School Alumni Association), and Liza Mickens (the Maggie Walker family). They will explore the arch of Jackson Ward through the lens of its past as "Little Africa," its prime as "Black Wall Street" and "Harlem of the South," and its present as the "Historic Jackson Ward District" and "North Jackson," with artifacts and anecdotes from multigenerational Jackson Wardians.

The public is invited to attend these lectures, comment, and become part of the process of this historic justice initiative.

**Making History with LVA**

<http://www.lva.virginia.gov/news/calendar?event=428>

**Saturday, June 26, 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.

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.

**Contact Sonya Coleman for more information at [makinghistory@virginiamemory.com](mailto:makinghistory@virginiamemory.com) or call Hands On Greater Richmond at 804-330-7400. Registration is required.**

**Looking Back, Looking Forward: The 50th Anniversary of the Virginia Constitution**

<http://www.lva.virginia.gov/news/calendar?event=471>

**Thursday, July 1, 2021 from 3:30 PM–5:00 PM**

Library of Virginia Lecture Hall

Free, but registration required. <https://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/constitution/register.php>



Limited seating is available for this special program commemorating the 50th anniversary of Virginia's current constitution, the seventh in the state's history, which went into effect on July 1, 1971. Join us for a stimulating conversation about the advances made possible by this constitution and the work that still remains. Moderated by A. E. Dick Howard (Warner-Booker Distinguished Professor of Law at the University of Virginia), the panel will include Henry L. Chambers Jr. (professor of law, University of Richmond), Catherine Ward (University of Virginia School of Law, Class of 2022), and Brian Cannon (director of campaigns, Institute for Political Innovation). This event will also be live-streamed—watch for details to come.

The Library is joining with others across the state this year in engaging Virginians in thoughtful reflection about our constitution and its advances in areas such as civil rights, local government, education, and environmental conservation. We invite you to join the conversation about how our constitution can help Virginians address the challenges of the 21st century. For information about related events and online resources, visit [www.lva.virginia.gov/71constitution](http://www.lva.virginia.gov/71constitution).

#### **Funding opportunity updates:**

Cindy is the state eRate coordinator. Libraries should be aware of the Emergency Broadband Fund (EBF) which can help pay for broadband access with a simple application. If you know of someone who is struggling, please let them know about this. The Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) will fund hotspots, computers, etc., to public libraries and public schools and will fund many of these things 100%. Institution of Library and Museum Services has a separate grant process that they are offering to both museums and libraries: <https://www.imls.gov/news/15-million-american-rescue-plan-act-grants-now-available-museum-and-library-services>

#### **Librarians of Color Form**

Olivia reported.

The LGBTQIA+ and Librarians of Color Forums held a collaboration meeting. They will be presenting jointly at VLA: "Inclusion starts with you: Celebrating BIPOC and LGBTQ content". It will be a 45 session on Friday. The Forum information tables will also be side by side, and they will be creating a list of BIPOC and LGBTQIA businesses in Richmond so conference attendees can check those out while they are in town.

They are trying to have at least two posts per year from LoC librarians in the Virginia Library Journal.

No travel dates have been announced for Olivia's Sinegal trip yet, but the West African Research Association fellowship will be about 8 weeks. She will update the Council when travel dates are finalized.

#### **Legislative Committee**

Tom reported.

Since the Legislative session is done, things have been quiet. Legislative comes back into session for a special session this summer. Face coverings are still an issue we are watching as the emergency declarations cease. We may have staff that want to continuing to wear masks to protect themselves.

Phil Abraham has been working on maintaining good contacts and relationships with our key legislators as we look ahead to next year.

#### **LGBTQIA+ Forum**

Christina reported.

Collaborations with the LoC Forum have been going well, and we're excited to present together at the conference.

The poetry contest in April concluded after many great submissions. Click here to see the [Contest Winners](#).

June is Pride month! In addition to celebrating ourselves and the greater community, we are hosting a variety of events to connect with our forum members and Virginia. Click the link to view our forum's [Summer Events](#).

- June 1st-30th: Pride Bingo
- June 11th 6:30pm-9pm- Movie/Discussion of *Moonlight*
- June 24th @ 3pm- Quarterly Forum Meeting
- July 22nd 6-8pm- Pride & Paint party

Please email us at [vla.lgbtqia.forum@gmail.com](mailto:vla.lgbtqia.forum@gmail.com) for more information and your Bingo Card.

### **Jefferson Cup**

Cammy reported.

The committee met in May. They accepted a few late submissions, and are still working through the list. They are meeting next week to hopefully finish the selection process.

### **Intellectual Freedom Committee**

Brian Manning was not in attendance.

### **Continuing Education Committee**

Alisha reported.

Cindy and Alisha met with the panel of the Continuing Education Committee's accepted conference session titled "An Epic Continuing Education Brainstorm." We discussed potential questions for the session.

The next Continuing Education Committee meeting will be held next Thursday, June 10.

### **VLACRL**

Sue was not in attendance.

### **CaTS Forum**

Mary reported.

The purpose statement on the forum's VLA website page has been updated to further define the term and reflect a focus on access aiding technology. Information about past forum events has also been added to the page. CaTS will be hosting a social event via Zoom on 8/6/21 at noon. The Mark and Tale Social will have a sentimental bookmark theme and registration will open in July.

### **Awards and Recognition Committee**

Pearl reported.

The Awards nomination period ended on May 1st, with 47 submissions in total. Five of those nominations were for Honorary Life Membership, which I passed along to the Executive Committee for

review. We extended the deadline for the Librarian of Color Forum Award to May 8th as a result of an error and received an addition two submissions, bringing the overall number of received VLA and VLAPAF Award nominations to 44 (49 if you also count the Honorary Life submissions). That is excellent and way more than anticipated. My hope is to notify winners and get press releases written and sent out in the next week or two. Overall, this was an excellent group of nominations, and I have heard from many committee members that they were excited to hear about all the amazing things that librarians, paraprofessionals, Friends groups, and library systems are doing in Virginia. Thank you to all that sent in nominations this year!

### **Graphic Novel Diversity Award**

Maryska reported.

Like the Jefferson Cup, we had a lot of late submissions. We ended up with submissions from 23 publishers totaling 62 titles across the adult and youth categories. Though they came in later than usually, that's a fairly average number of submissions. We selected *SFSX, Vol.1* from Image comics for the winner in the Adult category and *The Magic Fish* from Random House Children's Books for the winner in the Youth category. The list of winners, honor books, and overfloweth titles can be found on the [VLA website](#).

Kevin Clement will chair the 2021 award and has already selected judges. He will start sending out a call for submissions soon.

### **Other business**

- A. **Awards committee** – Pearl shared that it is often challenging to determine if a nominee meets the award criteria, or to choose between several highly qualified candidates. A rubric could help committee members make a more informed choice in evaluating the nominees and selecting winners. Lisa and Pearl have been working on this for a while and decided that a task force to create this rubric might be a good way to proceed. This task force should ideally have people from outside of the committees as well as within to bring a variety of perspectives to the table. A call will be made for members of the Council and other members of VLA who are interested to volunteer for this rubric task force. Since there are so many different awards, multiple rubrics may need to be created. Interested Council members should email Lisa or Pearl.
- B. **In person meeting in September** – Both the Council and Executive Committee will meet in person in September. Thanks to Henrico County Library for being willing to provide that space. We'll be offering a virtual participation option. Sept 17<sup>th</sup>.

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

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*Minutes prepared by Maryska Connolly-Brown, VLA Secretary*