

## VALE Members Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 4, 2020

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Virtual meeting via Zoom

**Present:** L. Beninghove (Stevens), C. Berg (ACRL-NJ/NJLA-CUS, WPU), A. Bonamici (Drew), J. Buschman (Seton Hall), E. Chapel (Edge), S. Chudnick (Brookdale), J. Cohn (Rutgers), H. Cook (Caldwell), S. Cooper (Sussex), H. Craven (CCM), J. Crocker (RCSJ), H. Dalal (Rider), J. Donnelly (Georgian Court), G. Fallon (Passaic), M. Fegan (Centenary), A. Fontoura (FDU), I. Gray (Camden), M. Hassan (Kean), J. Hauge (Atlantic Cape), S. Hecht (Eastwick), R. Hilliker (Rowan), A. Hoang (NJIT), J. Hunt (Montclair), M. Lena (VALE), J. Machie (LLNJ), D. Marks (Bergen), M. Nizolek (NJSL), M. Ochoa (Middlesex), E. Owusu-Ansah (WPU), T. Pavlovsky (TCNJ), D. Peterson (RCBC), P. Price (Mercer), J. Pu (Hudson), D. Rosinski-Kauz (Ocean), P. Schmid (RCSJ), J. Shelly (Felician), J. Toth (Stockton), A. Valenti (RVCC), K. Wagner (Monmouth)

### 1) Call to Order/ Welcome (Chudnick)

- Steve Chudnick convened the meeting at 9:32 a.m.

### 2) VALE Report (Wagner)

- Kurt Wagner expressed appreciation to the Members Council for their efforts at their respective colleges and universities to provide important and foundational support for their communities during the pandemic and subsequent campus closure period.
- Wagner thanked the Members Council for their contributions to the VALE web page listing remote library services and resources:  
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1srpOcjDER5sN41uLLTw324HE1x1zJgRThwnhCBAOneA/edit?ts=5e78fb26#gid=1413481802>
- Wagner provided an update on Melissa Lena's efforts to communicate with electronic resources vendors to advocate on behalf of VALE member institutions during this uncertain financial period.
  - Lena has been working with vendors to inform them that libraries are awaiting their FY2021 budgets and may not be able to make firm decisions regarding renewal or acquisition until they have confirmed budgets, which may not happen until early fall.
  - Lena is seeking to shift vendor timelines and to advocate for flat rate or reduced rate pricing.
  - VALE members will have from the end of June to mid-August to make selections for September renewal. VALE invoices will go out in September/October.
  - Members should see a full list of their final offers toward the end of this month.
  - A full list of VALE offerings are listed at:  
<https://vale.njedge.net/initiatives-services/e-resources/>
- Wagner addressed inquiries about the New Jersey State Library arrangement with the EBSCO Business Source Premier & Academic Search Premier databases. Margaret Nizolek shared that the intent to continue access to these databases is unchanged, but the State Library is awaiting information about their FY2021 budget.

- Wagner expressed gratitude to Juliet Machie, Interim Executive Director of LibraryLinkNJ (LLNJ), for the proactive work accomplished by the Taskforce on Post COVID-19 Alignment, Trends & Strategies (TOPCATS) and LLNJ to create adaptable reopening plan guidelines and strategies for all New Jersey libraries.

### **3) Edge Report (Chapel)**

- Ed Chapel shared the Edge report this morning and provided highlights about how Edge is doing all it can to help institutions prepare for the “next normal”, and working in concert with sector representatives and clients to support online learning and to assist with the acquisition of hardware, contact tracing software, and a broad array of health and safety equipment.
- Chapel reported that all Edge activities and events have transitioned to a full online format for the foreseeable future, and that the EdgeCon 2021 conference will be held in January as a virtual conference.
- Chapel announced that Edge has launched the EdgeMarket Portal to support clients around the country. More information may be found at <https://njedge.net/solutions/edgemarket/>

### **4) ACRL-NJ/NJLA-CUS Report (Berg)**

- Cara Berg announced the results of the ACRL-NJ/NJLA-CUS elections, and shared that Alyssa Valenti will serve as the next president, Hilary Westgate as president-elect.
- Berg shared that there is a subcommittee planning a virtual mini-conference for posters to provide a space for this content, following the cancellation of the NJLA conference.
- Berg expressed congratulations to the NJLA/College & University Section/ACRL-NJ Chapter award recipients.

### **5) LibraryLinkNJ (Machie)**

- Juliet Machie reported on the formation and work of the Taskforce on Post COVID-19 Alignment, Trends & Strategies (TOPCATS), and LLNJ’s efforts to bring everyone to the table to articulate solutions surrounding the reopening of libraries across the state of New Jersey. Machie shared that over 70 people are participating in TOPCATS in five different work groups. More information may be found at <https://topcatsnj.org/>
- Machie shared that the MentorNJ engagement portal hosted over 60 engagements and meetings online. They hosted Meetup Mondays featuring a directors forum, yoga, and other events, with over 600 participants from April to present.
- Machie stated that delivery service continues to be in a hiatus mode as most libraries are still closed. LLNJ is awaiting the resolution of budget issues to plan for next steps.
- Machie announced that Jennie Pu has been appointed to the LLNJ Executive Board effective July 1, and expressed gratitude to Steve Chudnick for his contributions to LLNJ.

### **6) New Jersey State Library Report (Nizolek)**

- Margaret Nizolek reported on highlights from the NJSL report submitted in advance of the meeting. Nizolek shared that the Talking Book and Braille Center has been working offsite for the past 11 weeks, and they have been able to interact with patrons via telephone and email. They have observed a 20% increase in the use of audio books.

- Nizolek reported on the New Jersey Library Construction Bond Act extension deadline of June 5 and shared that the committee review process will be conducted virtually beginning July 16 and will conclude by September 1.
- Nizolek announced that the DPLA site should go live in fall 2020.
- Nizolek reported that the State Library information center has been working since the building closed to provide the state government with library services and support related to critical issues and legal matters throughout the pandemic. The use of digitized material has reinforced the importance of continued digitization to ensure access to critical information.

#### **7) VALE Budget (Pavlovsky)**

- Taras Pavlovsky presented the FY2020 activity report. A discussion followed regarding unexpected costs related to the 2020 VALE/ACRL-NJ/NJLA-CUS Users Conference, and unanticipated costs related to legal expenses. It was indicated that the Partnership Review Committee will discuss these matters.
- Pavlovsky presented the FY2021 budget.

#### **8) OTN/OER (Chudnick / Fallon)**

- Steve Chudnick and Greg Fallon reported on the efforts of the OER Committee, including the formation of the OER Committee, the Ambassadors program, the recent four regional workshops, and the outreach to individual institutions in the state of New Jersey.
- Chudnick and Fallon discussed the 90 day extension past May 1 deadline for institutions of higher education to submit their OER plans to the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education.
- Marilyn Ochoa reported on the OpenNJ repository created at Middlesex County College, and she described ways in which OpenNJ may be used as a vehicle for future collaborations.
- It was announced that Chudnick and Fallon are leaving the VALE Executive Committee.
- It was announced that VALE is not renewing its membership in the Open Textbook Network (OTN).
- The committee discussed their efforts to form communities of practice and offer professional development for faculty, administrators, and librarians across the state of New Jersey.

#### **9) VALE Elections (Chudnick / Lena)**

- VALE elections were held via Google Forms. Ballots were closed at 11:20 a.m.
- Election results:
  - Joe Toth (Public, 4-year sector)
  - Kurt Wagner (Independent, 4-year sector)
  - Jennie Pu (Community College, 2-year sector)
  - Donna Rosinski-Kauz (Community College, 2-year sector)
  - Edward Owusu-Ansah (Moderator, any sector)
  - Linda Beninghove (Recorder for Members Council meetings)

## **10) Old business**

- The VALE Executive Committee will discuss reopening materials.

## **11) New business**

- A discussion was held regarding the success and productivity of the TOPCATS collaboration.
- A discussion was held regarding unexpected license review costs. The Edge legal team can review two electronic resource licenses per year. ADA accessibility language shall be added to contracts.
- Congratulations were wished to the new members of the VALE Executive Committee, and gratitude was expressed to those who are leaving the committee.
- Pam Price shared that TOPCATS is soliciting the submission of individual libraries' reopening plans, for sharing with colleagues across the state of New Jersey.

*Minutes prepared by L. Beninghove*