

VALE Members Council Meeting Minutes
September 25, 2020 | 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Virtual meeting via Zoom

Present: L. Beninghove (Stevens), A. Bonamici (Drew), E. Chapel (Edge), S.Chudnick (Brookdale), J. Cohn (Rutgers), S. Cooper (Sussex), H. Craven (CCM), J. Crocker (RCSJ), D. DeCoster (St. Peter's), S. Derry (Seton Hall), T. Domick (Union), J. Donnelly (Georgian Court), G. Fallon (Passaic), A. Fontoura (FDU), E. Frangakis (Princeton Theological), M. Hassan (Kean), J.Hauge (Atlantic Cape), S. Hecht (Eastwick), A. Hoang (NJIT), J. Hunt (Montclair), L. Keller (Ramapo), M. LaBrake (Berkeley), M. Lena (VALE), D. Marks (Bergen), M. Nizolek (NJSL), M. Ochoa (Middlesex), E. Owusu-Ansah (WPUNJ), T. Pavlovsky (TCNJ), J. Piddington (RCSJ), P. Price (Mercer), J. Pu (Hudson), R. Riccardi (Rider), D. Rosinski-Kauz (Ocean), S. Sacchetti (LLNJ), P. Schmid (RCSJ), J. Shelly (Felician), V. Spied (Pillar), J. Toth (Stockton), A. Valenti (RVCC), K. Wagner (Monmouth)

1) Business meeting – Introduction (Owusu-Ansah)

- Edward Owusu-Ansah opened the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

2) VALE update (Wagner)

- Kurt Wagner thanked Melissa Lena for coordinating monthly meetings for VALE members to share progress and experiences regarding reopening plans, COVID-19 health and safety plans, and adjustments to library services. Additional meetings are planned for the fall semester.
- New members of the VALE Executive Committee were announced and include: Rob Hilliker of Rowan University, Jennie Pu of Hudson County Community College, Donna Rosinski-Kauz of Ocean County College, and Joe Toth of Stockton University.
- Kurt Wagner has been re-elected as Chair of the VALE Executive Committee; Joe Toth has been elected as Vice-Chair, and Taras Pavlovsky has been re-elected as Treasurer.
- VALE Members are asked to go into ConsortiaManager and approve the database renewals/offers.
- A VALE-Edge Partnership Review Committee meeting took place over the summer. Goals include seeking to improve the financial workflow and updating the MOU as the relationship evolves over the years.
- The 2021 VALE/ACRL-NJ/NJLA-CUS annual users' conference will be presented as a virtual conference in January 2021. In January 2020, the conference was co-located with EdgeCon at the Ocean Place Resort & Spa in Long Branch. The vConference platform, which will also be used for the virtual 2021 EdgeCon, will be used to deliver the conference. Wagner extended thanks to Amanda Piekart and Alyssa Valenti for organizing the conference.
- The VALE Executive Committee continues to work on the implementation of the new VALE strategic plan.
- The VALE OER Committee is making progress; Wagner extended thanks to Greg Fallon, Marilyn Ochoa, and Rob Hilliker.
- The reciprocal borrowing program faces challenges due to the pandemic.

3) Treasurer's report (Pavlovsky)

- Taras Pavlovsky presented the Treasurer's report.

4) OER Committee report (Ochoa/Hilliker)

- The OER Committee plans to restructure the committee and work with the Planning & Assessment Committee to carry out responsibilities related to the new VALE strategic plan.
- An advisory group will be established.
- The OER Committee is working toward the open textbook pilot program grant opportunity, for which the application is due in November. The collaborative approach consists of:
 - Open NJ: the technology aspect
 - Training: developing and promoting OER on campus
 - Curricular: identifying what kinds of programs would be most fruitful to develop and to promote affordability for education across the state
- Ochoa asked Members to share our individual institutions' OER plans with her for incorporation into the grant proposal.
- Ed Chapel offered assistance from Edge for grant support.

5) Edge report (Ed Chapel)

- Ed Chapel shared an update regarding the new Edge strategic plan, which is in its final iteration, and discussed how the pandemic underscores the strategic value of technology. One of the 28 strategic objectives in the new Edge strategic plan is oriented at increasing the value proposition of Edge and Edge's affiliated organizations, to grow revenues, and to expand Edge to outside New Jersey.
- Chapel discussed plans for the EdgeCon virtual conference, which has received submissions from far and wide.

6) NJLA report (Tumulty)

- Pat Tumulty shared her last NJLA report to the VALE Members Council, as she will be retiring as of October 30. NJLA has instituted a search for a new executive director. The physical office in Trenton will close by the end of the year. NJLA is looking to establish another office in 2021.
- The governor and state had initially passed a three-month budget for the state.
- Tumulty discussed the challenges related to canceling the May 2020 NJLA conference.
- Tumulty shared praise for how the library community has coped with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, however, the pandemic has exacerbated the digital divide in the state. The New Jersey Library Alliance is seeking \$21 million to support digital equity initiatives; a petition is being circulated. The NJ Wi-Fi Locator Map has been launched.

7) ACRL-NJ/NJLA-CUS (Valenti)

- On June 4, ACRL-NJ/NJLA-CUS shared a statement condemning racism and injustice; the statement is available on their website.
- On June 30, ACRL-NJ/NJLA-CUS held their annual summer transition meeting; they are forming an anti-racism taskforce and they invite more members to join.
- The VALE/ACRL-NJ/NJLA-CUS conference planning committee held a webinar yesterday to provide helpful information about submitting proposals for the conference, which has been recorded for sharing with the membership. The theme of the 2021 conference is “open, adaptable, resilient” and they are planning to use the vConference software to produce the virtual conference.
- On October 2, ACRL-NJ/NJLA-CUS will hold its annual fall open membership meeting.

8) LibraryLink NJ (Sacchetti)

- Building upon the meet & greet immediately preceding this VALE Members Council meeting and the LLNJ report shared prior to this meeting, Sacchetti shared highlights from the LLNJ update.
- The NJ Wi-Fi Locator Map has been launched.
- A six-month contract between LLNJ and the New Jersey State Library has been signed, which will carry them through December 2020.
- LLNJ is working on plans to restart statewide delivery services; a survey will be sent out to members soon.

9) New Jersey State Library (Nizolek)

- Nizolek shared highlights from her report which was shared earlier, focusing on the State Library Information Center, Talking Book and Braille Center, DPLA, Cares Act Funds, and the Public Library Construction Bond Act.
- Staff are able to provide reference support working mostly remotely.

10) Conclusion (Wagner)

- Wagner recognized Pat Tumulty on her retirement as Executive Director of NJLA.
- Wagner recognized Judith Lin Hunt on her retirement as Dean of Library Services at the Harry A. Sprague Library at Montclair State University.

11) Adjournment

- The Members Council meeting concluded at 11:22 a.m.
- The next meeting is Friday, February 5, 2021 virtual via Zoom.