

**VALE Members Council Meeting Minutes**  
**February 5, 2021 | 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**  
**Virtual meeting via Zoom**

**Attending:**

Beth Beecroft (RCSJ) , Linda Beninghove (Stevens), Andrew Bonamici (Drew), Ed Chapel (Edge), Steve Chudnick (Brookdale), Judy Cohn (Rutgers), Stephanie Cooper (Sussex), Heather Craven (CCM), Jane Crocker (RCSJ), Sebastian Derry (SHU), Jeff Donnelly (Georgian Court), Evenlyn Frangakis (PTS), Isabel Gray (Camden), Muhammad Hassan (Kean), Janet Hauge (ACCC), Sisalee Hecht (Eastwick), Rob Hilliker (Rowan), Ann Hoang (NJIT), Judith Hunt (MSU), Matthew LaBrake (Berkeley), Melissa Lena (VALE), David Marks (Bergen), Margaret Nizolek (NJSL), Marilyn Ochoa (Middlesex), Edward Owusu-Ansah (WPU), Taras Pavlovsky (TCNJ), Dave Peterson (RCBC), Jennie Pu (Hudson), Pamela Price (Mercer), Joe Rearden (Edge), Donna Rosinski-Kauz (Ocean), Susanne Sacchetti (LLNJ), Jodi Shelly (Felician), Alyssa Valenti (RVCC), Kurt Wagner (Monmouth)

**Coffee and conversation - 9:00 - 9:30 a.m.**

**1. Business meeting – Introduction (Owusu-Ansah)**

Edward Owusu-Ansah opened the meeting at 9:30 a.m. Meeting attendees were invited to introduce themselves.

**2. Open Educational Resources (OER) committee update (Hilliker/Ochoa)**

- The federal grant application submitted to the Department of Education has been funded, and a kick-off meeting will be held soon.
- VALE is not technically a partner, but Edge is a partner, and all VALE member libraries are members. There will be many opportunities for members to become involved in statewide OER efforts.
- The work of the OER ambassadors will continue and the grant will focus the ambassadors' activities.
- Pamela Price raised the issue of publishing company McGraw-Hill's exploration to become a primary provider of inclusive access textbooks. The Members discussed inclusive access textbooks (commercial digital resources) and OER.
- Some points raised include:
  - In an inclusive access model, students are pre-charged for access to the electronic textbooks and course materials.
  - Concerns exist regarding the potential for costs to become "invisible" to students, especially if loans are being used to pay for tuition and fees.
  - If a student wants a physical/print book, the student needs to pay for a printed version.
  - At Rowan, the inclusive access model is being used for math courses, and materials are available for 70% of textbook cost.
  - It was remarked that it is easier for a publishing company like McGraw-Hill to pivot, when librarians and libraries are taking years to accomplish goals to promote OER.

- It was agreed that the language of “inclusive access” is misleading and that librarians should promote the distinction between inclusive access and OER.
- If adjunct professors are teaching courses, the inclusive access content may be more easily transferable to multiple course sections.
- It was remarked that it may be easier for a publishing company to bill a university, but harder for the university to bill students.
- Institutional bookstores may see revenue from inclusive access models.
- It was suggested that VALE should consider presenting a plan to the presidents’ council to counter the publishers’ offer, to demonstrate academic libraries’ expertise on this issue, and to promote the work being done in relation to the recently-awarded federal grant.
- NJLA can provide support as advocates; VALE cannot lobby.
- It was stated that the marketplace is big enough for all entities: libraries, OER, and publishers, and it would make sense for communication to be expanded among all constituents.
- It was suggested that VALE could seek opportunities to reimagine itself beyond the database business, and in essence monetize OER.
- It was suggested that libraries in New Jersey need a coherent strategy and we should focus on creating an ecosystem of creating and sharing content, collaboration, development, and dissemination.
- A robust OER repository will be created with the federal grant.

### **3. VALE report (Wagner)**

Kurt Wagner expressed thanks to Amanda Piekart and Alyssa Valenti and the VALE/ACRL-NJ/NJLA-CUS conference planning committee and appreciation for keynote speaker Tracie D. Hall, ALA Executive Director for their contributions to the 2021 conference.

### **4. VALE budget (Pavlovsky)**

Taras Pavlovsky reported that VALE expenses are doing well and on-target. Pavlovsky explained that VALE is conducting a legal review of all vendor contracts, part of which is performed by outside legal counsel (professional services) and part of which is done with Joe Reardon of Edge. Other professional services include Ally Marketing and Consortia Manager. The vConference software was not used for the 2021 conference, and it is unclear at this time whether VALE will be responsible for the software cost. Some libraries pay \$100 per year to be a member of VALE but do not subscribe to databases through VALE.

### **5. Edge report (Chapel)**

Ed Chapel shared highlights from the Edge report, and emphasized items relevant to the VALE-Edge relationship. Chapel reported that the virtual Edge conference was an extremely heavy lift and generally a good experience, with an exhibit hall, 400 actual attendees, and vendor partners. The virtual nature of the conference permitted Edge to cast a wide net for speakers and conference feedback indicated high marks for the speakers. There were more attendees in breakout sessions than are present for the

in-person conferences. Chapel stated that going forward, a hybridized format will be used for conferences in the future, as events and conferences are reimaged. Chapel expressed congratulations to the OER Committee for being awarded the federal OER grant, and shared that Edge is pleased to be a part of it. Chapel also reported that he will no longer be attending VALE meetings.

Wagner expressed thanks to Chapel for his contribution, input, and collegiality through the years.

#### **6. ACRL-NJ/NJLA-CUS report (Valenti)**

Alyssa Valenti reported that the 2021 VALE/ACRL-NJ/NJLA-CUS conference was successful, and that the planning committee will begin planning for the 2022 conference immediately, instead of waiting until June. Since the conference, many librarians have expressed interest in joining the reference and user education committee, outreach committee, and electronic resources group. Elections for ACRL-NJ/NJLA-CUS are coming up soon and the VP position will become available. Valenti shared that the Anti-Racism Task Force has been working together since summer 2020, and plans to write recommendations, related to the *Resolution to Condemn White Supremacy and Fascism as Antithetical to Library Work - 2021 ALA Virtual Midwinter Meeting*

([http://www.ala.org/aboutala/sites/ala.org.aboutala/files/content/ALA%20CD%2043%20Resolution%20%20Condemn%20White%20Supremacy%20and%20Fascism%20as%20Antithetical%20to%20Library%20Work%20Final\\_0.pdf](http://www.ala.org/aboutala/sites/ala.org.aboutala/files/content/ALA%20CD%2043%20Resolution%20%20Condemn%20White%20Supremacy%20and%20Fascism%20as%20Antithetical%20to%20Library%20Work%20Final_0.pdf))

Valenti mentioned that the NJLA-CUS awards will be presented at the NJLA conference in June, and nominations for candidates are open.

#### **7. LibraryLink NJ (LLNJ) report (Sacchetti)**

Susanne Sacchetti shared that LibraryLinkNJ would be hiring two part-time Program and Outreach Specialists. She invited Members to review the LLNJ report shared prior to the meeting.

#### **8. New Jersey State Library (NJSL) report (Nizolek)**

Margaret Nizolek announced that Jennifer Nelson has just started in her new role as New Jersey State Librarian. Nelson is formerly of the Minnesota State Library Services. Nizolek invited Members to review the NJSL report shared before the meeting, and highlighted the State Library's upcoming Black history month activities and announced that New Jersey and Delaware materials should become viewable in Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) by the end of March.

#### **9. Old business and new business (Wagner)**

##### **New business:**

- Mohammed Hassan invited Members to attend Kean University's Open Educational Resources Conference on March 29-30. Registration is free, and there is a suggested donation of \$49. Librarians, students, and faculty are encouraged to attend the conference.
- Price asked Valenti about the efforts of the Anti-Racism Task Force and asked what the task force would need from VALE. Valenti shared that her goal was to put it on VALE's radar during this Members Council meeting.
- Pavlovsky asked about how libraries are handling staffing for an upcoming furlough day, and Members shared their feedback and plans.

**10. Good of the order (Owusu-Ansah)**

- Wagner shared about upcoming events at Monmouth University in recognition of Black History Month.
- Judith Lin Hunt shared the New York Public Library Schomburg Center's Black Liberation Reading List: <https://www.nypl.org/books-more/recommendations/schomburg/adults>

**11. Adjournment**

The next meeting of the VALE Members Council will be held via Zoom on June 10, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.