

VALE Members Council Meeting Minutes
Friday, February 3, 2023 | 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Virtual meeting via Zoom

Attending: Consuella Askew (Rutgers), Maria Baratta (NJSL), Natalie Beach (MSU), Linda Beninghove (Stevens), Ralph Bingham (LLNJ), Sam Conn (Edge), Stephanie Cooper (Sussex), Heather Craven (CCM), Jane Crocker (RCSJ), Daisy DeCoster (St. Peter's), Jeffrey Donnelly (GCU), John Foglia (Brookdale), Ana Fontoura (FDU), Isabel Gray (Camden), Janet Hauge (Atlantic Cape), John Hernandez (Hudson), Rob Hilliker (Rowan), Ann Hoang (NJIT), Sharon Ince (SHU), Sabrina Johnson-Taylor (Passaic), Leigh Keller (Ramapo), Elizabeth Leonard (Drew), David Marks (Bergen), Bill McNelis (Brookdale), Marilyn Ochoa (Middlesex), Edward Owusu-Ansah (WPU), Taras Pavlovsky (TCNJ), Dave Peterson (RCBC), Nicole Potdevin (FDU), Pam Price (Mercer), Donna Rosinski-Kauz (Ocean), Jodi Shelly (Felician), Gus Stamatopoulos (Stockton), Susan Van Alstyne (Centenary), Joe Toth (VALE), Kurt Wagner (Monmouth), Ruth Ware (Essex).

Welcome and Business Meeting. (Edward Owusu-Ansah)

Sam Conn, Ph.D., President and CEO of Edge, was introduced as the guest speaker.

Presentation. (Sam Conn)

- Sam Conn gave a presentation and he will share his slides with Ann Hoang, Chair of the VALE Executive Committee.
- The focus of Dr. Conn's presentation was to share with the VALE members a vision of Edge, what it represents, its current and future aspirations, and how those relate to higher education in general. The presentation discussed how Edge's status and operations provide opportunities for a better-functioning VALE.
- Questions and discussion from the Members Council included topics such as Internet2 and the Open Access mandate as well as management, discovery, and preservation of research data.
- Ann Hoang stated that VALE will reach out to Forough Ghahramani, Ed.D. at Edge to arrange a presentation/discussion with the VALE Members Council about the Open Access mandate and managing research data.

Updates and Reports.

VALE Report. (Ann Hoang)

- Ann thanked Edward Owusu-Ansah, Sam Conn, Taras Pavlovsky, Joe Toth, and Marilyn Ochoa for their commitment to supporting VALE Members.

- A new draft of the VALE-Edge affiliation MOU is currently being reviewed by the Edge team. The MOU will then go to the Partnership Review Committee, and then to the Members Council for a vote in the June 2023 meeting. It is hoped to have a completed and signed new MOU before the start of FY2024.
- Suggestions for Members Council meeting guest speakers are welcomed and should be suggested to Edward Owusu-Ansah, Moderator.
- Joe Toth has shared a report on Reciprocal Borrowing and questions and discussion will be welcomed.
- Ann thanked Taras Pavlovsky for his work in drafting the FY2024 VALE budget.
- The VALE Executive Committee is finalizing the VALE Strategic Plan 2020-2022, and they are working on the next three years.
- The Executive Committee is working to revisit and review the VALE by-laws, as well as the Officer structure.
- Greg Fallon has retired from Passaic County Community College (PCCC). Greg served on the VALE Executive Committee for many years and was the first to prioritize OER, having hosted the first OER summit. Ann thanked Greg for his many years of service to VALE and wished him a happy and healthy retirement.
- Ann reflected upon how Edge can help VALE to facilitate projects such as the digital literacy mandate, grants, and other initiatives.
- VALE processed 788 subscriptions totaling \$4.6 million in FY2023 compared to 692 subscriptions totaling \$4.2 million in FY2022. Ann thanked the VALE Members Council for their consideration of VALE as a source for electronic resource subscriptions. Ann also thanked the VALE Purchasing & Licensing Committee for identifying needed resources for Member libraries and working hard to make them available.

FY23 Budget & FY24 Proposed Budget. (Taras Pavlovsky)

- Taras Pavlovsky, Treasurer, presented the spreadsheet showing budget activity for FY2023 to-date. The year should finish with reserves around \$256,000. The budget activity shows we are up by \$2,000, as the conference speaker could not participate due to illness.
- Taras presented the draft for the FY2024 VALE budget.
 - The service fee for last year was 3.971%; the service fee for FY2024 will decrease by approximately 2%.
 - The service fee is lowered when more Members purchase electronic resources through VALE.
 - There will be outside legal review of old contracts in the coming year.
 - The conference planning committee is planning for an in-person New Jersey Academic Libraries Conference.

- VALE will continue to support the OER initiative.
 - VALE will designate \$1,000 for professional conference sponsorship.
 - The coming year will mark the 25th anniversary of VALE; while there will be no celebration, there will be something to mark the anniversary.
 - Some Members Council meetings may be in-person in the future, and catering will be taken into consideration.
- Pam Price made a motion to approve the FY2024 VALE budget as presented by the Treasurer. Jodi Shelley seconded the motion. Joe Toth presented the link to the ballot in the Zoom chat. The Members Council voted on the budget; there were 30 votes to approve and one abstention.

Purchasing & Licensing Committee. (Kurt Wagner and Leigh Keller)

- Kurt Wagner provided some background information on what the Purchasing & Licensing Committee (P&L) does to support VALE Member libraries.
- Members are encouraged to review the P&L Committee report, which was shared in advance of this meeting. P&L has had several discussions with Lyris regarding the discontinuance of operations of the WALDO (Westchester Academic Library Directors Organization) consortium. From the WALDO website: “LYRISIS, a nonprofit membership organization and WALDO’s fiscal and administrative partner, will integrate most of WALDO’s content licenses into its own substantial group licensing program.” P&L is working on figuring out how this will impact VALE operations, and the matter will be discussed at the VALE Executive Committee this afternoon following the Members Council meeting.
- Leigh Keller shared that P&L has had some discussions with Kanopy. P&L will poll the VALE Members Council libraries that already subscribe to Kanopy to get a better sense of the current state of subscription content.
- Discussions with Library Lever are paused; P&L will look into it again once Library Lever is more settled in their new focus.

Open Educational Resources Committee (OER). (Rob Hilliker)

- Rob Hilliker expressed gratitude to Megan Dempsey for her service as an OER Ambassador. She will be taking on a leadership role at Raritan Valley Community College library. The current OER Ambassadors are Muhammad Hassan and Lily Todorinova.
- The OER Committee is working with the VALE Executive Committee to build a community of practice and take OER efforts to the state level.
- Lily Todorinova is working with Marilyn Ochoa to get the curriculum into OpenNJ.

- There will be travel opportunities for OER Ambassadors to facilitate in-person OER workshops, events, and meetings.
- Rob Hilliker shared that at Rowan University there is an affordability task force within student affairs, which helps to: coordinate OER efforts, connect with colleagues overseeing curriculum and reporting institutional data, and connect administrators in touch with cost-lowering efforts.

ACRL-NJ/NJLA/CUS. (Nicole Potdevin)

- Nicole Potdevin reported that the New Jersey Academic Libraries Conference had 218 registered attendees and the conference feedback was positive overall, with many respondents stating they would like an in-person conference next year.
- There is a call for submissions for the spring 2023 newsletter.
- There is a name change in process for ACRL-NJ/NJLA-CUS.
- They are working on creating an online repository of committee-created documents for their organization.
- They are working to amend the organization by-laws.
- Officer elections will be held in the spring.
- Nominations are invited for awards to be presented at the NJLA conference.
- There will be an awards luncheon for their section at the NJLA conference.
- They are discussing the formation of a coalition to create a social media campaign through their organization called EveryLibrary to educate New Jersey citizens about libraries, funding, book banning, censorship, and other relevant issues.

LibraryLinkNJ (LLNJ). (Ralph Bingham)

- Ralph Bingham shared highlights from the report he shared in advance of this meeting, and he encouraged the Members Council to view an inspiring presentation by Martha Hickson available on the LLNJ website.
- Jennifer Bruno has recently joined LLNJ.
- Janet Hauge will join the resource sharing/statewide delivery task force.
- Muhammed Hassan has recently joined the library network review board.
- Membership approved the LLNJ strategic plan in June 2022 and they presented an activity plan in the fall; they will provide quarterly updates on the strategic plan.
- Ralph Bingham shared additional highlights about upcoming events and LLNJ initiatives.

New Jersey State Library (NJSL). (Maria Baratta)

- Maria Baratta shared highlights from the report she prepared and shared in advance of this meeting.

- The New Jersey State Library has welcomed a new staff member, Michael Maziekien, former Director of the Cranford Public Library.
- Jen Nelson, New Jersey State Librarian, is working on the federal digital library program, which represents a move to mostly digital federal government documents.
- The Jersey Connect team is evaluating alternatives to the GoSecure spam filtering program.

Conclusion, Old Business, and New Business.

- Joe Toth presented a memo he previously shared regarding the current state and effectiveness of the VALE Reciprocal Borrowing Program.
- A discussion ensued among the Members Council. Some suggestions and remarks from Members included:
 - Should we look instead at statewide resource sharing, as an alternative to ReCAP-type facilities?
 - Is the debate that we really need an e-form and database, or, is the PDF sufficient?
 - Should we revisit the universal borrowing discussion?
 - The form provides a control mechanism to ensure that people attempting to access other institutions' libraries have approval to do so.
 - We could leverage the infrastructure of incommon.org, the backbone of Eduroam, which has a mechanism to verify the identity of people from other institutions.
- Pam Price rescinded her motion from the previous Members Council meeting, which was "a motion to make a recommendation for the VALE Executive Committee to explore current reciprocal borrowing needs, examine best practices outside of New Jersey, and assess and make recommendations by February to strengthen the status of reciprocal borrowing."
- Marilyn Ochoa asked if there was another motion regarding this issue; there was not.
- Ann Hoang welcomed feedback from the Members Council regarding speakers for next year's in-person conference. A virtual speaker could be acceptable, as long as the venue can accommodate the logistics.
- There was a suggestion to look at the topic of the future of work and the recently-passed law about literacy, and academic librarians' role within it.
- There was a suggestion to provide opportunities for New Jersey librarians to hear from veteran librarians' reflections on their careers.
- There was some discussion about defining and promoting the mission and goals of VALE.
- Ann Hoang encouraged Members to share thoughts, feedback, and recommendations on the Members Council listserv.

- Pam Price requested that Members share news of any programming happening at our respective institutions related to ChatGPT.

Adjournment.

A call for a motion to adjourn was made by Ann Hoang. A motion to adjourn was made by Ana Fontoura, and the motion was seconded by Rob Hilliker.

Next Meeting.

VALE Members Council meetings are held in September, February, and June. Please see <https://vale.njedge.net/events-meetings/meetings> for all meeting dates. The next VALE Members Council meeting will take place on Thursday, June 8, 2023.