

**VALE Members Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Friday, September 23, 2022 | 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**  
**Virtual meeting via Zoom**

**Attending:** Maria Baratta (NJSL), Linda Beninghove (Stevens), Ralph Bingham (LLNJ), Annie Chatterjee (Essex), Jane Crocker (RCSJ), Daisy DeCoster (St. Peter's), Megan Dempsey (RVCC), Maria Deptula (Berkeley), Jeffrey Donnelly (GCU), Nick Ferrelli (Centenary), Ana Fontoura (FDU), Evelyn Frangakis (Princeton Theological Seminary), Isabel Gray (Camden), Muhammad Hassan (Kean), John Hernandez (Hudson), Ann Hoang (NJIT), Sharon Ince (SHU), Sabrina Johnson-Taylor (Passaic), Melissa Lena (VALE), Elizabeth Leonard (Drew), David Marks (Bergen), Bill McNelis (Brookdale), Dorianne Mizzy (MSU), Marilyn Ochoa (Middlesex), Edward Owusu-Ansah (WPU), Taras Pavlovsky (TCNJ), Josh Piddington (RCSJ), Rachel Pieters (RCBC), Pam Price (Mercer), Patti Schmid (RCSJ), Gus Stamatopoulos (Stockton), Kurt Wagner (Monmouth).

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

**Business Meeting.** (Edward Owusu-Ansah)

- Edward Owusu-Ansah opened the business meeting at 9:33 a.m.
- A brief discussion followed in which the Members agreed that the group should consider starting the meeting at 9:30 a.m. with ten minutes allotted for conversation.
- The Members shared good wishes regarding the recent retirement of Judy Cohn.
- Each Member introduced themselves and called upon another person; the introductions concluded at 9:42 a.m.
- The June 9, 2022 Members Council meeting minutes were reviewed.

**Updates & Reports.**

**VALE Report.** (Ann Hoang)

- Ann Hoang, recently-elected Chair of the VALE Executive Committee, shared that today, September 23, is Melissa Lena's last day in the role of VALE Program Manager and that the Members Council wishes Melissa all the best. Ann thanked Melissa for her experience, commitment, and knowledge. Ann remarked that throughout her 4 ½ years with VALE, Melissa has increased VALE revenues by 4.5% and helped to keep the Member fee below 5%, and helped VALE navigate the Covid-19 pandemic through collaboration with Members, vendors, and colleagues, as well as hosting monthly Member meetings.

- Ann expressed thanks to Edward Owusu-Ansah for moderation of VALE Members Council meetings and to Marilyn Ochoa for her partnership as Vice Chair of the VALE Executive Committee. Ann shared her gratitude to Kurt Wagner, former Chair, for providing mentorship as she gets acclimated to her new role, and to Taras Pavlovsky for his support as Treasurer. Ann also thanked the VALE Executive Committee for their support in the recent election.
- Ann introduced Elizabeth Leonard as the new Library Director at Drew University.
- Ann offered best wishes to Margaret Nizolek upon her retirement from the New Jersey State Library in June.
- Ann thanked Judy Cohn for her 21 years of service and leadership within the New Jersey academic library community, and shared that Judy was an original founding member of VALE. Ann expressed best wishes to Judy for her retirement.
- Ann extended congratulations and best wishes to Dr. Consuella Askew, who became Rutgers' 15th University Librarian in July, and she welcomed Dr. Askew to the VALE Executive Committee.
- Ann shared that VALE and Edge are seeking to revitalize their relationship and conduct a review of the MOU. The Partnership Review Committee (PRC) was unable to meet during summer 2022, and Ann seeks to have more information by the February 2023 VALE Members Council meeting.

**VALE Budget.** (Taras Pavlovsky)

- Taras presented the VALE budget for FY2023 which was approved in June 2022 by the Members Council.
- Taras noted that “strategic initiative” represents that VALE is paying some funds out of reserves to help keep the Member fee cost down. A slightly higher service fee of 3.9717% should constitute about \$168,193.29.
- Taras anticipates that the reserves should be around \$260,272 but he is awaiting reports from Edge to confirm these figures.
- VALE has invoiced the Members \$4,528,791.11; to-date, about half of the Members have paid their invoices.

**OER Report.** (Danieanne Mizzy, Marilyn Ochoa, Muhammad Hassan)

- Muhammad Hassan reported that they offered an OER course for ambassadors during the summer; the materials are available on the OpenNJ website (<https://opennj.net/>) and they comprised practical projects that introduce library faculty and librarians to advance their knowledge of OER and advance the community of practice. The four projects include: toolkit, metrics, slide deck, and marketing administrator outreach for advocacy within Members' institutions.

- With a focus on communicating with senior management and the importance of implementing these tools at individual institutions, Muhammad encouraged Members to reach out to Megan Dempsey and Muhammad to arrange for training from the ambassadors.
- Dorianne Mizzy expressed gratitude for the efforts of the OER ambassadors.

**NJLA-CUS / ACRL-NJ Report.** (Nicole Potdevin, Melissa Lena)

Nicole Potdevin had shared the NJLA-CUS/ACRL-NJ report in advance of today's meeting, but could not be present at the meeting. Melissa Lena invited questions and there were none.

**LibraryLinkNJ (LLNJ) Report.** (Ralph Bingham)

Ralph Bingham encouraged Members to reach out to LLNJ if they are experiencing any issues with the statewide delivery service, and he shared highlights from his report prepared in advance of today's meeting. Ralph urged VALE Members to reach out to him with any questions or concerns.

**New Jersey State Library Report.** (Jen Nelson, Maria Baratta)

- New Jersey State Librarian Jen Nelson and Maria Baratta, Associate Director of the New Jersey State Library Library Information Center, shared highlights from their report which they prepared and shared in advance of today's meeting, including:
- According to a recent IMLS public library survey, public library usage is increasing as the pandemic eases.
- The New Jersey-Delaware digital collective now has 180,000 discoverable items in the DPLA holdings, and they encouraged Members to refer to their report to read about highlighted collections.
- JerseyConnect staff is evaluating potential replacements for GoSecure.
- National Family History Month will take place in October and VALE Members are invited to view and use resources and programs on the NJSL website.
- Social Work Informed Library Services in NJ (SWILIBS-NJ) is in the planning phase, which is a project that aims at strengthening public and academic libraries' capacity in providing social work informed library services.
- The NJSL Talking Book & Braille Library is celebrating its 55th anniversary.
- The NJ Department of Human Services is supplying naloxone (brand name Narcan) to public libraries for free to fight the opioid epidemic as part of the new Overdose Prevention Act.

**NJLA Report.** (Melissa Lena)

Melissa Lena shared that Dr. Juliet Machie is no longer with NJLA, therefore a search is underway for a new Executive Director.

**Conclusion, Old Business, and New Business.** (Edward Owusu-Ansah)

Ann Hoang called for any Old Business and Marilyn Ochoa called for any New Business that Members would like to share.

- Dorianne Mizzy shared information on The Global Center on Human Trafficking at Montclair State University (<https://www.montclair.edu/human-trafficking/>).
- Taras asked about the status of VALE reciprocal borrowing. Melissa recounted that in 2019, VALE ran a survey to gauge participation. While the service is not widely used, it is still in place and VALE Members are encouraged to remind library staff about the VALE Reciprocal Borrowing program (<https://vale.njedge.net/initiatives-services/reciprocal-borrowing/>).
- Some Members expressed concern about the State of New Jersey's universal borrowing capabilities and resource sharing. After some discussion among Members, Pam Price made 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.
  - It was discussed that a universal academic borrowing card was a driver for the VALID project, but that project did not succeed.
  - Some Members expressed they have joined or are considering joining PALCI.
  - At least 19 Members voted to support this motion, so the recommendation will be forwarded to the VALE Executive Committee.

**Good of the Order.** (Edward Owusu-Ansah)

Ralph Bingham shared that LLNJ is looking for an academic library representative for the Library Network Review Board.

**Adjournment.**

- A motion to adjourn was made by Taras, and the motion passed unanimously.
- The meeting was adjourned at 10:52am.

**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 Friday, February 3, 2023.