

VALE Members Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 8, 2022 | 9 am – 12 pm | Virtual via Zoom

Attending: Ali Cole (VALE), Kurt W. Wagner (Monmouth), Sisalee Hecht (Eastwick), Elizabeth Leonard (Drew), Heather Craven (CCM), Robert Hilliker (Rowan), Isabel Gray (Camden CC), Ralph Bingham (LibraryLinkNJ), Leslie Murtha (ACCC), Jane Crocker (RCSJ), Daniel Kipnis (Rowan), Edward Owusu-Ansah (William Paterson), Susan Van Alstyne (Centenary), Lisa DeLuca (Seton Hall), Nicole Potdevin (ACRL-NJ/NJLA-CUS), Dave Peterson (RCBC), Patti Schmid (RCSJ), Neil Grimes (William Paterson), David Marks (Bergen), Marilyn Ochoa (Middlesex), Ann Hoang (NJIT), Megan Dempsey (RVCC), Daisy DeCoster (Saint Peters), John Hernandez (Hudson CCC), Pamela Price (MCCC), Leigh Keller (Ramapo), Janet Hauge (Atlantic Cape), Consuella Askew (Rutgers), Bonnie Fong (Montclair), Ana Fontoura (FDU), Patrick Milas (NBTS), Ewa Dziedzic-Elliott (TCNJ), Taras Pavlovsky (TCNJ), Maria Baratta (NJSL), Donna Rosinski-Kauz (OCC), Jodi Shelly (Felician), Bill McNelis (Brookdale), Ruth Ware (Essex), stephanie C (CCC), Evelyn Frangakis (Princeton Theological Seminary), Jane Jiang (Union College)

Welcome & Business Meeting. (Edward Owusu-Ansah)

- Edward Owusu-Ansah opened the business meeting at 9:02 a.m.
- New members introduction
 - Ali Cole, new Program Manager introduced herself.
 - Guest speakers were introduced: Ewa Dziedzic-Elliott is the Education Librarian at The College of New Jersey and the current President of the New Jersey Association of School Librarians (NJASL) and Neil Grimes is Education & Curriculum Materials Librarian at William Paterson University.

Presentation. (Ewa Dziedzic-Elliott, Neil Grimes)

- “College Readiness: Academic & School Library Partnerships, An Organizational Approach.” Ewa and Neil provided an overview of the NJ statewide initiative, which offers College Readiness skills to high school students. [Presentation slides](#) can be found in the shared meeting folder.
- The initiative provides high school students with an orientation to the academic library and is part of an effort to develop a shared community of practice between K-12 librarians and academic librarians in the interest of bridging the gap between high school and higher education.
- Neil summarized research on library anxiety and how academic libraries are a factor in college choice and Ewa discussed college research visits from the high school perspective, these visits became more than library visits and verged on advising. He discussed the “Real Men Read” program with Paterson Public Schools – in person and virtual workshops for students involved in National History Day, AP courses, and more.
- Ewa explained that though there are national standards, AASL, many schools have not adopted them. Librarians are often using ELA standards or Social Studies standards. She reviewed the benefits of high school students working with college/academic librarians.

- [First Years Meet the Frames](#) study was discussed – Ewa will share libguide and slides for this study.
- Ewa discussed the Information Literacy Student Learning Standard Bill signed January 2023, its goals & challenges: Every school district has flexibility how it approaches research; Standard is not tied to a certification – anyone can teach it; School librarian shortage; goes into effect 2025.
- Neil provided a collaboration overview between school and academic library communities.
- School librarians are encouraged to attend academic librarian conferences and academic librarians encouraged to attend school librarian conferences. By creating this network – we can break open the silos and ease collaboration. One issue is that all school districts operate on a different schedule.
- Public librarians are fielding a lot of questions from the public re: the info lit bill. There will be hearings open to the public. College library visits are a great soft recruitment & retention tool.
- Q&A:
 - Q: Megan Dempsey asked a clarifying question about whether these standards are supposed to be integrated into other areas of the curriculum – not only for the librarians. A From Ewa: we don't know how the standards will be implemented.
 - Q: Edward asked how do you envision this? What would be the conduit? How would we deliver on this request? A from Ewa: one of the best ways to collaborate is conference participation – send academic librarians to school librarian conferences to present – to communicate what is missing – where are the gaps in knowledge, etc. Conference attendance is one of the easiest ways to work on this. A from Neil: virtual prof dev from academic librarians to school librarians – academic librarians bring value to k-12 educators and librarians. Example – provided a workshop for Paterson public school librarians to apply for grants – 4 of them awarded collection development grants!

Updates & Reports. (Edward Owusu-Ansah)

VALE. (Ann Hoang)

- Ann welcomed MC members to the 3rd and final meeting of this year and thanked Edward for moderating, Ewa & Neil for presenting, Joe Toth for being interim program manager these last few months to keep VALE operating, Marilyn for keeping us moving and being a sounding board, Taras for keeping our budget on target, and EC members for their guidance.
- Since our last meeting, the officers' section of ByLaws has been updated (Taras will present on this in the New Business section), Joe and the P&L committee have been actively working on transitioning Waldo/Lyrasis products to VALE. Ann noted the challenge of learning Consortia Manager in order to work through renewals for all. Everyone should have received a message regarding renewals by this time.
- Thank you to Kurt and the search committee for recruiting our new permanent program manager. We have begun the process of completing the old and of working on a new strategic plan.
- Thanks to everyone our product renewals have increased over 10%, thank you! We are working on adding new resources based on member recommendations. Please reach out to Ali for trials. We cannot do this without acknowledging the purchasing and licensing committee.

- Welcoming Ali Cole, as our permanent program manager, Ali will be the principal point of contact for VALE operations and business, Ali will work to increase member engagement and receive feedback from you to create purposeful communications and programming.

Purchasing & Licensing. (Kurt Wagner, Leigh Keller)

- Kurt compared the current environment of renewals, new program manager, new P&L committee, and the dissolution of WALDO to Sebastian Younger's book, *The Perfect Storm*.
- We took the position to try to get former WALDO databases into our slate of offerings, under a very tight timeline to do negotiations. The good news is that most vendors are amenable.
- Thank you to Joe Toth for following up with the vendors on all of this and keeping focus.
- Kurt gave info contained in the PM report (shared in the 2023-06-08 EC Meeting folder).
- Noted that we have a shorter turnaround time this year – we ask for your patience, we are all learning. Ali & Joe have uploaded vendor pricing as it is received. All 9 WALDO vendors have been added into CM. Bottom line is to make sure your access is not interrupted. Kurt noted that there can be issues maintaining communication with vendors.
- The routine has been to request contracts from the vendors, there are a few outstanding, Christine Valentino at Edge is reviewing. Oxford and Digital Theatre are ready. We are also working with the Center for Research Libraries on getting NYT.
- Leigh confirmed that Kurt covered it all, thanked Kurt, Joe, & Ali. We will keep working on it, it is a continuous process.
- Ali stated to send her an email if there are any questions about Consortia Manager, or anything else.

Budget. (Taras Pavlovsky)

- Taras noted that in the early days of VALE when a lot was being added, adding 4 or 5 databases in a year was a lot so adding 9 databases due to outside reasons – is unprecedented.
- Taras shared [budget reports](#) – they are saved in the MC meeting folder.
- We are right on target for Consortia Manager. Users Conference was planned virtual so nothing budgeted. The anticipated \$5k in revenue was actually \$2k. We budgeted for a keynote speaker who got sick, so we didn't spend on them. VALE had been funding OER ambassador travel in the state, that changed so we saved money. We are still spending on the OpenNJ Sobek software.
- There is an operating reserve and a strategic reserve. Instead of 0 (where we should be), Taras projected that we will be around 1700 in the black for operations. Edge is doing more in house legal review instead of outside counsel, this is good.
- Database budget, which is 100% pass through, expected a little over 4.5 million, basically right on target. 0.001% - good bookkeeping.
- BoY Reserves: 256,317.6; EoY Reserves 273,205.79.
- Q from Jane Crocker: do we get any interest? A: from Taras – you'll hear Ann discuss this in the MOU revision – whether Edge earns interest and keeps it or whether it all sits in a checking account, we don't know – either way we do not see or get any interest. Unable to get a straight answer about this from Edge.

OER. (Rob Hilliker)

- We have been looking to take a new direction with OER from a committee to a special interest group - a community of practice. Under VALE ByLaws we can create a SIG, and shift from the ambassador model. Goal is to have the SIG established, with a monthly meeting scheduled, by the end of the year. Including a few in person meetings.
- There is a lot of interest in OER and seeing a community of practice in this area.
- Q from Pam Price: Will the SIG be limited only to librarians? A from Rob: Group itself will be made up of librarians, but plan to intentionally invite non-librarians to meetings, particularly in person meetings. Someone on campus invested in affordability will be interested.

LibraryLinkNJ. (Ralph Bingham)

- Ralph stated that a written report is in the shared folder. Announced a major update has been made to the LibraryLinkNJ website. Improved navigation, user interface, and content review.
- Second annual summer book bash event coming up – this is for library workers in New Jersey, there will be publisher and author presentations, as well as prizes. Please participate and let your staff know. Remember it is not too late to register for the membership meeting next week. There will be an author presentation on intellectual freedom.
- Level Up Your Library mini grant program closed out. Highlighted grantees Atlantic Cape Community College and the Moore Library at Rider University.
- Ralph announced new staff members: Jon Braun, Online Learning & Digital Content Specialist & Kimberly, Bookkeeper in the office.

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

- Report included in folder. Nicole highlighted the online repository of committee created documents added to their [webpage](#). Purpose is to share the important work the committees are doing with the community and be available for anyone to see and use.
- A new membership assessment taskforce has been created to assess opinions of the organization – the purpose is to learn how we can best serve our community of NJ academic librarians and maintain a more active membership. The number of active librarians has decreased since the pandemic. A survey will be sent out to all academic librarians in NJ to assess attitudes and collect contact information. The survey will include interviews and be implemented in the fall.
- NJLA intern, Ruby Constantino, a Rutgers library student – has participated in the research and archives committee and wrote an article for the newsletter.
- Elections were held this past spring for open executive board positions. Maria Deptula from Rutgers has been elected incoming vice president/president elect, Ruth C. Ware, Essex County College, will continue to serve as Secretary and David Williams from William Paterson University has been elected incoming Member at Large. Gary Marks from William Paterson will be incoming president.
- NJLA: Stronger presence of academic librarians at the conference last week – annual section luncheon was well attended. Awarded four section awards:
 - Distinguished service award: Kate Skrebutenas, Princeton Theological Seminary
 - Technology award: Joyce DeStasio, Outreach & Public Services Librarian at Stockton University

- Research award: team of 10 New Jersey librarians who published "[First years' information literacy backpacks: What's already packed or not packed?](#)" ([link is external](#)) in *The Journal of Academic Librarianship*. They have been awarded the 2023 ACRL New Jersey Research Award.
- Technical services award: Mae Ling Joyce Chow, Montclair State
- Continuing to wrestle with bylaws – specifically with elections and voting. In the future all members will be able to vote – not password protected. Once these issues are amended – working on changing the name of the organization in the coming year.
- The collaborative work of Gary Marks and the marketing and outreach committee will continue this fall.
- Planning for 2024 Academic Libraries Conference has begun. Gary Marks will be Chair and Maria Deptula will be co-chair.

Old Business. (Marilyn Ochoa)

- No old business. Nothing raised.

New Business. (Ann Hoang)

- Ann: Taras referenced the MOU – a subcommittee created a revised MOU to edge in Dec, did not come to fruition. Edge did not accept/reject or suggest changes. Still pursuing this. The question about interest is part of this edit. The question about interest (budget section) is part of this. Hopefully we will have an update by Sept. for review and voting.
- The subcommittee to update bylaws has been very successful. We decided to change some outdated language as well as make updates to the roles of the officers.
- Taras walked through proposed changes in ByLaws (found in the shared folder):
 - First three sets of changes are relatively minor, first in article 2 – clarifying the language in the criteria for membership – Office of the sec of higher ed, and also the NJSL.
 - Article 3, Section 1: Relating to officers of members council - Revised for PM to be recorder. Not an elected position. Article 5, section 1A: from 7 to 8 categories of members.
 - Article 5, Section 2: Officers - Updated to provide overlap of leadership, proposing one person be elected each year to become vice chair/chair elect, then chair, and finally past chair. The Treasurer is now the 4th officer – elected annually. Added terms and what happens if an officer leaves early. Already approved by EC, MC has the authority to change the bylaws.
 - Q: Jodi shelly – what if all three play the lottery at the same time and win? (hypothetical – wishing you all winnings)
- Motion to approve the revised ByLaws
 - Ann called – Taras motioned; Elizabeth seconded. Is there any discussion of the motion? No. Votes in favor as presented raise your virtual hand – 30 votes, 35 participants.
 - Opposed hands: 2; Abstained: 1; Yes: 27 – the motion passes.
- Elections (Edward Owusu-Ansah)
 - You have all received candidate bios and they are also in the meeting folder. Edward named candidates and invited them to speak briefly about themselves.

- Independent: Ana Fontoura, Fairleigh Dickinson & Elizabeth Leonard, Drew University
- State: Taras Pavlovsky, TCNJ & Gus Stamatopoulos, Stockton (absent)
- Community/County: Isabel Gray, Camden CC & Pam Price, Mercer CCC
- Members' Council Moderator: David Marks, Bergen CC & Marilyn N. Ochoa, Middlesex CC
- Clarification from Taras that nominations from the floor are only for Moderator. No nominations from the floor. Ali posted google form/ballot in the zoom chat. Ali submitted the 3 absentee votes to the form. Five minutes for voting. 33 participants on zoom at time of vote. 30 votes total.
- Results:
 - State College/University Sector – Taras Pavlovsky (26/4)
 - Community/County College Sector – Isabel Gray (16/14)
 - Members Council Moderator – Marilyn N. Ochoa (24/6)
 - Independent Sector – tied 15/15 votes, revote Ana Fontoura wins. (17/13)
 - While Ali created a re-vote poll – there was discussion about emergency preparedness and the current state of air quality in NJ. At time of tie, a new form was created and sent out with only independent sector candidates for revote – 3 minutes given.
- Ali announced winners were invited to the afternoon EC meeting and would be granted any necessary document access.

Conclusion & Adjournment.

- Megan shared some OER news, a faculty member writing a business textbook, reviewed an OpenStax book, and got funding to write her own that will include New Jersey specific business law information. Will be published in Pressbooks and submitted to the OpenNJ repository. Another faculty member left behind a chemistry/environmental project, and they are looking for someone to continue their work. Be in touch if you know anyone.
- Marilyn and Ann thanked and congratulated everyone who stood for office.
- The meeting was adjourned at 11:41 am.