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From the President
Marie Hamm

I’ve always loved being a New Year’s baby. Sure, I never get a real birthday party—just a half-hearted rendition of Happy Birthday after Dick Clark has signed off and the last notes of Auld Lang Syne have faded. And, for some reason, my “birthday” presents (in Christmas wrap, no less) are usually left sitting forlornly under the Christmas tree with scribbled instructions not to open until January 1st. Still, there’s something special about simultaneously celebrating a birthday and starting the year anew.

This year, as I futilely wished that my own little one would make a New Year’s appearance, I found myself reflecting on the events of the past year. The opportunity to serve as president of VALL certainly stands out as one of the highlights. As I interacted with other Chapter and SIS leaders from across the country at the AALL Annual Meeting in San Antonio, I realized that our “little”
chapter has earned a Texas-sized reputation. With the likes of Jim Heller, Joyce Janto, Tim Coggins, Gail Warren, Donna Bausch, Lyn Warmath, and so many others numbering among our ranks, there is no doubt that VALL produces leaders. The same commitment and creativity is evident in the efforts of VALL’s committee chairs.

As chair of the Publications Committee, Gail Zwirner has tirelessly spearheaded efforts to further strengthen the reputation of not only our Chapter and its members, but also of the library profession, in the eyes of the Virginia legal community. The committee’s most recent accomplishment is the publication of seven librarian-authored articles in the December 2005 issue of Virginia Lawyer. The articles include: Bridging the Information Gap: Librarians Offer Sources To Satisfy Topical Needs by Gail F. Zwirner; “It’s Not Rocket Science”: Making Sense of Scientific Evidence by Paul Barron; Identifying and Evaluating Expert Witnesses by Hazel L. Johnson; Yes, Virginia, Everything is Available on the Web for Free by Lyn Warmath; A Piece of Work: Employment Law Research in Virginia by Kent C. Olson; Nothing Dismal About It: Researching Environmental Law Without Getting Swamped by Jennifer Sekula; and Law Libraries in the Digital Age--An Interview with Virginia’s Chief Justice by Gail Warren. The front of the issue sports a photo of Leroy R. Hassell, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and State Law Librarian Gail Warren!

The Membership Committee, led by Margaret Christiansen, has been amazingly productive this year. The meticulously edited VALL Directory was recently made available to members both in print and on CD. The committee also undertook a redesign of both the VALL brochure and letterhead and took the initiative in setting up a VALL domain name and generic email addresses for the Executive Board.

Evelyn Campbell and the Program Committee did an exceptional job in planning the VALL Annual Meeting. Hosted by the Muse Law Library on the lovely University of Richmond campus, the meeting included a two-day slate of exceptional speakers and ample opportunity for interacting with colleagues from across the Commonwealth. VALL was honored to welcome AALL Vice-President/President-Elect, Sally Holterhoff, as our Chapter Visitor.

With 2006 only a few days old, VALL committees are already working toward making this year even better than last. The Nominations Committee, chaired by Charles Oates, is finalizing the new slate of VALL officers. A redesign of the VALL website is underway. The Placement Committee, headed by Femi Cadmus, is developing content for a new job placement page. The Program Committee has planned another relevant and timely event. The Winter Meeting, which will focus on Access to Court Records: Public v. Privacy Rights, is scheduled for Friday, February 10, at the National Center for State Courts in Williamsburg. Details and registration information are available both in this issue and on the VALL website!

From the Editor: Congratulations to David and Marie on the birth of Seth Ayden. Seth was born on 1/12/06. Everyone is doing well! We hope to have pictures soon.
**VALL Committee Chairs**

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<tr>
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<td>Jennifer Sekula</td>
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Access to Court Records:
Public vs. Privacy Rights

NAME:

INSTITUTION:

ADDRESS:

PHONE:

EMAIL:

Please mail your check for $35 ($40 non-members), payable to “VALL,” and this registration form to: Evelyn M. Campbell, Hunton & Williams LLC, 951 East Byrd Street, Richmond, VA 23219.
Registration deadline: February 6, 2006
Registration cost includes breakfast and lunch

Directions: http://www.nesconline.org/D_Comm/Maps/Directions_Index.htm
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY

8:00 a.m. - 8:45 a.m. Registration & Continental Breakfast

8:45 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Welcome and Opening Remarks

9 a.m. - 10: a.m.:  
Rebecca Hulse, Adjunct Professor of Law, W&M Marshall-Wythe School of Law: Overview on current practices/policies regarding public access to private legal information.

Jim McMillan, Senior Court Technology Consultant, NCSC: "Validation and verification of electronic information is a considerably significant subject for the judicial and legal system. It is called by many names such as Digital Rights Management, Digital Signatures, Secure Computing, and others. This presentation will attempt to cut through the technical jargon and explain how these technologies work and how they apply to the courts and legal process."

10:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.: Break

10; 15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.:  
Tom Carlson, Internet Communication Specialist, NCSC: Introduction to the Global Justice XML Data Model (GJXDM), a standard for information sharing among justice agencies that gives us tools to help enforce privacy regulations.

Jean Holcomb, Consultant: Challenges and opportunities as court technology makes information more accessible. How law librarians can make sure that there are no new barriers created for the public.

11:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.: Library Tour (Robert Weber)  
VALL Board Meeting

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.: Lunch

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.: VALL Business Meeting
# V A L L

Virginia Association of Law Libraries  
Financial Statement

## GENERAL SUMMARY:  May 2005 - January 6, 2006

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| BEGINNING BALANCE:      | $13,360.31            |
| RECEIPTS:               | $9,222.50             |
| EXPENDITURES:           | $5,055.70             |
| ENDING BALANCE:         | $17,527.11            |

For the full report, contact Jeanne Ullian at jullian@williamsmullen.com
VALL Treasurer's Report  
Winter 2006  
Jeanne Ullian

We are starting off the New Year with a healthy treasury due to the financial skills of our members and two checks from LexisNexis. Evelyn Campbell has more than balanced the debits and credits for the three meetings held so far this year. LexisNexis supported her efforts with a $700 check for the lunch at the Annual Meeting. At the Board meeting preceding the Annual Meeting our AALL guest, Sally Holterhoff, commented on our reasonable meeting registration fees. We are fortunate to have willing hosts in our members that help keep costs down. Margaret Christiansen also secure underwriting from LexisNexis in the amount of $675 for the 2005-2006 Membership Directory.

As I mentioned at the Annual Meeting Business Meeting it is time to re-evaluate our finances due to decreased costs in several areas-newsletter printing and mailing being the largest. If the bylaws changes are approved we will see even more savings in mailing costs for elections and other required notifications. As of this newsletter the treasury balance (with no encumbrances) stands at $17,527.11. While I am still reviewing past financial records in order to make a more firm recommendation on how to re-allocate our funds I can give you a very simple explanation. Basically we take in around $3000 in dues and spend less than $1000 in donations and miscellaneous expenses. This accounts for the $2000 annual growth in the treasury. An obvious area in which to increase expenditures is grants. Do you have ideas we should consider on how to best use our funds to benefit our members?
SEND US YOUR NEWS!!!

Have you: Attended a seminar? Published an article? Received an award? Been elected or appointed to an office or committee? Traveled out of the state or country?

TELL US ABOUT IT! WE WANT TO HEAR WHAT OUR MEMBERS ARE DOING!

WHO? ____________________________
WHAT? ____________________________
WHERE? ____________________________
WHEN? ____________________________
WHY? ____________________________
HOW? ____________________________

Submitted by ____________________________
Library ____________________________
Phone ____________________________

Send your news to:
Micheal Klepper

Email Address: mtk@virginia.edu
VALL Business Meeting
November 5, 2005
University of Richmond, T.C. Williams School of Law

Called to Order: 12:35pm, by Marie Hamm, VALL President
Marie extends thanks to the Program Committee (Evelyn Campbell, Lisa Reinhard, Michelle Gernhard); the LexisNexis Librarian Relations Group and GSI for sponsorship; Tim Coggins and the UR library staff for hosting

Reports:

Secretary: (Leanne Battle)
Minutes from the July 2005 meeting are available in the Fall 2005 VALL Newsletter

Treasurer: (Jeanne Ullian)
• We have renewed the chapter liability insurance policy
• The account balance as of 10/31/2005 is $16,218.86
• Jeanne is reviewing the records to identify all of the VALL fixed expenditures
• Any member who has suggestions for future regular or one-time expenditures should contact Jeanne
• Jeanne has asked that she be allowed to destroy all treasurer’s records prior to 2000. This gives VALL 5 years of records which exceeds the 3 year federal requirement.
• Motion to allow destruction of the records by shredding – Donna Bausch
• Second to the motion – Gail Warren
No discussion – the motion carries

Bylaws:
• Proposed bylaws changes were distributed to the members present at the meeting. Proposed changes will be distributed by mail to absent members. This will meet the bylaws requirement that members must be notified in writing of any bylaws changes.
Bylaws changes will be discussed and voted on at the February 2006 meeting. If you will not be able to attend the February meeting, but have comments regarding these changes please contact Marie Hamm.

Nominating Committee for 2006 slate of officers:
• The committee chair will be Charles Oates. Also serving will be Bobbie Denny and Lyn Warmath. The nomination form will appear on the VALL website and in the Winter 2006 VALL Newsletter.

Grants:
Eric Welsh and Rae Best will be exploring possible additions to grants currently offered through VALL
Legislative Awareness:
• Tim Coggins reports from the Depository Library Council meeting:
• The DLP may be phased out
• GPO is currently developing a program to authenticate electronic documents. This will help to address the decreasing number of documents available in print.
• USA PATRIOT Act
• Senate has a conference committee
House still needs to appoint conferees

Membership:
• The new directory is available in print and in CD-ROM format. Members at the meeting can pick up their directories from Margaret. Please let Margaret know if you have technical limitations or difficulties that prevent your use of the CD-ROM directory.
• A new brochure is available.
• VALL now has association email addresses for board members as follows:
  o president@vallonline.org
  o vicepresident@vallonline.org
  o secretary@vallonline.org
  o treasurer@vallonline.org
  o newsletter@vallonline.org
• VALL has 17 new members:
VALL membership is distributed as follows: 51% academic, 23% private law firm, 21% court/agency, 5% other

Newsletter:
Deadline for submissions is January 1, 2006.

Placement:
Soon there will be a Jobline available on the VALL web site.

Programs:
• Thanks to Sally Holterhoff, chapter visitor from AALL; Thanks to Tim Coggins and the UR staff for hosting the meeting; Thanks to Gail Zwirner, Lisa Reinhard and Michelle Gernhard for coordinating the programs; Thanks to LexisNexis Librarian Relations Group and to GSI for sponsorships
The Winter 2006 meeting will be hosted by Rob Weber at the National Center for State Courts in Williamsburg on February 10, 2006.

Public Relations:
An announcement about the new VALL officers was sent to *AALL Spectrum* and *The Richmond Times Dispatch* for publication.
Publications:
• There is a new edition to the Guide to Legal Research in Virginia. Numerous chapter revisions were completed by VALL members. The December 2005 issue of The Virginia Lawyer is an “all librarian” issue.

Recruitment:
This committee is working with the membership committee to determine an effective recruiting use for the new brochure.

New Business
• VALL web site redesign
  • Micheal Klepper, Allison White and Dave Denton will be working on the redesign
  • Paul Birch has agreed to remain webmaster
  • A test site will be available at the February VALL meeting
  • The new site will be migrated from its current server to the AALL website.

• AALL Education Summit
  o 60-70 AALL chapter and committee leaders met to discuss a variety of topics in order to provide AALL with suggestions about the role of AALL is providing educational programs outside of the annual meeting.
  o Three task forces were created: Funding, Calendaring and Speakers’ Bureau, Framework and Oversight
  o Marie Hamm, Joyce Janto and Gail Warren attended.
  o VALL Member serving on Task Forces: Joyce Janto – Funding Task Force

• 2006 AALL Annual Meeting Program
  o VALL is co-sponsoring with SEALL a full day workshop on advanced web searching. The workshop is being coordinated by Tim Chinaris, Charles Oates and Cindy Smith

• VSB Online Legal Services Evaluation Committee
  o The committee met with 2 vendors with the goal of choosing a provider of online legal services that would be made available to bar members as a benefit of membership
  o An antitrust issue was raised and the Supreme Court of Virginia issued a rule of court
  o A second RFP was issued and one vendor responded
  o Negotiations with this vendor are progressing
  o VALL has been volunteered to design a training program and materials that will help with the implementation of this service. Contact Gail Warren with your interest and suggestions. VA law librarians will be issued passwords.

Motion to adjourn: Fred Dingledy
Second: Gail Warren
Meeting adjourned: 1:15 pm
Tony Ikwueme from Liberty University School of Law Library and Sally Wambold from the University of Richmond Law School Library

VALL Crowd
AALL Vice President/President Elect, Sally Holterhoff, chatting with VALL members at the Saturday breakfast.

AALL Vice President/President, Sally Holterhoff, with VALL President, Marie Hamm. Sally was the AALL Chapter Visitor at VALL's annual meeting at the University of Richmond Law Library.

Patty Petroccione from the Walter T. McCarthy Law Library and Donna Bausch from the Norfolk Law Library.