At the beginning of each year, the president of the Virginia Library Association is tasked with writing her first President’s Column for Virginia Libraries. This is the traditional time for us to reflect on the Association’s accomplishments from the previous year, while also looking forward to planning events to come. I like to think of it as our very own State of the Association address. I think you’ll agree with me that 2012 was a spectacular year, but there are also many great things to look forward to in 2013.

The Executive Committee held its annual retreat in early December, at which we discussed the 2013 annual budget; made updates as needed to the VLA Manual; planned topics for the four upcoming council meetings; discussed the recruitment and involvement strategies for the ALA National Library Legislative Day; and revised the contract structure for the VLA Executive Director during her annual review, rewarding her with a multi-year contract to provide additional job security. The 2012–2015 VLA Strategic Plan, which went into effect this year, did not need to be updated, but the Executive Committee approved the Association’s annual Designated Agenda, which will be presented to the Council in January. We further discussed the new Organizational Membership structure, which was introduced in mid-2012 as a way for academic libraries to gain membership in the Association, similar to the Institutional Memberships currently in place for Virginia public libraries. Additionally, the committee approved instituting an Association sponsorship of one participant in the 2013 ALA Emerging Leaders Program.

I am exceptionally happy to report that the 2012 budget year closed with a bit of a surplus, which puts us in good standing as we move forward in 2013. The membership year closed with more than 880 members in the association—almost 180 members more than we had during the 2011 year, and 190 of them were new members! Membership renewal notices for 2013 went out in December, so if you have not done so already, don’t forget to renew your membership soon. Go ahead and do it right now. I can wait.

Back already, with your membership renewed? Great! Now I would love to talk about some of our upcoming events:

- On February 5th, the VLA Technical Services and Technology Forum will sponsor a workshop at Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, Virginia, on the Basics of RDA Cataloging, which promises to be a very informative event.
- Please contact Kevin Smith (smithk@yorkcounty.gov) if you are interested in participating in the ALA National Library Legislative Day in Washington, DC, on May 7–8. We would love to see participation from at least one person from each congressional district in Virginia this year.
- On May 19–21, the 2013 VLA Paraprofessional Forum’s annual conference will be held at the Koger South Conference Center in Richmond, Virginia—the theme this year is Libraries: Gateway to the Future. Please visit wwwvla.org for conference registration and hotel information.
- Don’t forget to mark your calendars for this year’s Annual Conference as well, which will be held a bit early this autumn, on September 25–27, in Williamsburg, Virginia. We are very pleased to announce that Elisabeth Doucett, the author of What They Didn’t Teach You in Library School and Creating Your Library Brand, will be our opening keynote speaker on Thursday; and Maureen Sullivan, Organization Development Consultant, current president of the American Library Association, and former president of the Association of College and Research Libraries and the Library Administration and Management Association, agreed to join us as the keynote speaker at the second General Session on Friday.
- Please visit the New Members Round Table Forum’s events page at vlnmrt.wordpress.com/events for information about upcoming programs.
Similarly, keep an eye on the VLA-College and Research Libraries Forum page at www.vla.org/?page_id=2799 to learn more about its summer programs and this year’s Conference-Within-a-Conference at VLA Annual.

As you can see, this promises to be a very exciting year for the Association, and I look forward to a term of representing you as your Association president. I welcome all of your ideas and feedback, so please feel free to visit www.vla.org or flip to the council list at the back of this issue of Virginia Libraries to locate my contact information.

### Guidelines for Submissions to Virginia Libraries

1. **Virginia Libraries** seeks to publish articles and reviews of interest to the library community in Virginia. Articles and interviews reporting research, library programs and events, information of particular interest to libraries in Virginia, and opinion pieces are all considered for publication. Queries are encouraged. Brief announcements and press releases should be distributed via the VLA listservs and blog (www.vla.org).

2. Please submit manuscripts via email as attachments in Microsoft Word, rich text, or plain text format. Articles should be double-spaced with any bibliographic notes occurring at the end of the article. Please avoid using the automatic note creation function provided by some word processing programs.

3. Work published in **Virginia Libraries** conforms to the latest edition of the *Chicago Manual of Style* and *Webster’s Third New International Dictionary, Unabridged*. Accepted pieces are subject to editing for style and clarity. Authors will be consulted on points of fact.

4. Articles should generally fall within the range of 750–3,000 words. Please query the editors before submitting any work of greater length.

5. Reviews should consider works produced by Virginia creators or concerning Virginia subjects that have been published within the last two years. The reviewed works can appeal to any age or audience or appear in any format or area of the arts, sciences, and humanities. Reviews generally fall within the range of 500–1,500 words and must include a bibliographic citation in *Chicago* style and an evaluative statement supported by evidence from the text. Please query the editors before writing or submitting a review.

6. All work submitted for consideration will be reviewed by the editors and may be refereed by the editorial board. Material not selected for publication will be returned within three months.

7. VLA holds the copyright on all material published in **Virginia Libraries**. Contributors receive one copy of the issue in which their work appears.

8. Illustrations are encouraged and should be submitted whenever appropriate to accompany a manuscript. Hard-copy illustrations will be returned if requested in advance. Digital images should have a resolution of at least 300 dpi. Authors are responsible for securing legal permission to publish photographs and other illustrations.

9. Each contributor should provide a brief sketch of professional accomplishments of no more than fifty words that includes current title, affiliation, and email address. Unless specified otherwise, this information will be shared with readers of **Virginia Libraries**. Physical addresses should also be provided for the mailing of contributors’ copies.

10. Email manuscripts and queries to both Beth DeFrancis Sun, defrancb@georgetown.edu, and John Connolly, jpconnolly@crimson.ua.edu. Please be sure to include both editors.

11. **Virginia Libraries** is published quarterly. The deadlines for submission are November 1 for Number 1, January/February/March; February 1 for Number 2, April/May/June; May 1 for Number 3, July/August/September; and August 1 for Number 4, October/November/December.