



## **Vice President/President Elect**

### **Martha Hutzel**

**Martha Hutzel's Biographical Information:** Martha Hutzel is currently the Branch Manager at the Central Rappahannock Regional Library's England Run Branch. The CRRL consists of a Headquarters facility and seven branches and serves the counties of Stafford, Spotsylvania and Westmoreland as well as the City of Fredericksburg. Prior to managing the England Run Branch, she managed the John M. Porter Memorial Library in Stafford County (2010-2013) and the C. Melvin Snow Memorial Library in Spotsylvania County (1998-2010), both branches of the CRRL. Before moving into branch management, Martha was Head of the Circulation Department at the Porter Memorial Library (1993-1998) and worked as a Library Assistant at the Headquarters Library in Fredericksburg (1989-1993), in adult reference, youth services and the law library. She has been employed by the CRRL for 25 years and holds an MLS from the University of Maryland at College Park and a BS in Public Administration from St. Francis College.

Martha has been a member of VLA since 1998 and a member of ALA and PLA for many years, attending the bi-annual PLA Conference four times. She has served on the VLA Conference Committee for two years and has served as the Chair of the Fundraising Committee for the last two years. Martha has participated in National Library Legislative Day for four years and is currently serving as the State Coordinator for NLLD. She has served as Secretary, President-Elect and currently President of the North Stafford Rotary Club and is an active member of the Fredericksburg Regional Chamber of Commerce, currently serving on the Chamber's Network of Enterprising Women Steering Committee.

**Martha Hutzel's Candidate Statement:** As a manager and a leader with more than 25 years experience, it has been my honor to work with some of the brightest, most highly motivated professionals in any field. I feel privileged to serve the public in an institution that has garnered so much genuine respect and admiration in our community, our state and across the Nation. I believe that libraries are uniquely positioned to lead their communities in new ideas, technologies, programs and services and that public libraries in particular are already on their way to becoming the best community resource available to every citizen. Advocating for libraries and librarians, telling our stories, communicating what we offer, marketing our product, providing information for lifelong learning, encouraging great customer service and a high level of professionalism, mentoring and motivating staff and co-workers are all part of my career philosophy.

I am honored to be nominated for Vice President/President Elect, and if elected, I will make every effort to have a productive tenure by working with the Executive Committee, the VLA Council and all members of VLA as we continue to move the association, Virginia librarians and libraries, forward in a progressive and productive manner. My goal will be to have every Virginia library team member wake up after a weekend and say "Oh, good, it's Monday!"

### **Susan Paddock**

**Susan Paddock's Biographical Information:** Susan Paddock is the Library Manager of the Bayside Area & Special Services Library in Virginia Beach. She has worked in Virginia Beach Public Libraries since 1994, and until 2007 was an Information Specialist at the Central Library. Susan was promoted in 2007 and to Assistant Circulation Supervisor, at Central Library. In 2009 she transferred to the South Rosemont Youth Library & Bookmobile, and nine short months later received the promotion to Library Manager.

Susan is an active member of several professional organizations, including ALA, ASCLA, National Library Service Southern Conference, and VLA since 1995. Her first experience with VLA was as a first-time attendee to the VLA Paraprofessional Forum (1995). She was so impressed with the quality of sessions and the enthusiasm of the Forum members, she joined the VLAPF Board. Since that time, Susan served on numerous VLA committees including the VLA Foundation Committee, Snapshot Day, VLA Conference Committee, Scholarship Committee, Finance Committee, and Executive Committee. She chaired the VLA Paraprofessional Forum from 2000-2001; served as VLA Secretary from 2002-2004; served as the Virginia delegate to ALA's COPE III (Council on Professional Education – Paraprofessional Staff, 2004) and from 2005-2008 served as the VA State Chapter Councilor to ALA. Additionally, Susan has been a part of the VA delegation to ALA's National Legislative Day.

Susan's education includes a B.A. (Biology) from Hood College and an M.S. in Information Science from the University of South Carolina. In 2008 she won the VLA Clara Stanley Paraprofessional Scholarship.

**Susan Paddock's Candidate Statement:** VLA was my very first experience in a professional organization and quickly became a forum for contributing to the library profession. The mentorship I received through VLA inspired me to pursue my MLIS and I earned my degree in 2009. I came to know VLA through many activities and positions of leadership, and will put that accumulated knowledge to work as your Vice President/President Elect. VLA is a strong organization and a crucial participant in the future of all Virginia libraries. I recognize VLA's vital role in portraying today's libraries, advocating on our behalf and promoting actions that keep our libraries vibrant and valuable within our communities. I am honored to be nominated to run for this office and would be privileged to serve as such.

### **Secretary**

### **Cindy S. Church**

**Cindy S. Church's Biographical Information:** Cindy S. Church is the Continuing Education Consultant at the Library of Virginia, a position she has held since 2006. She earned her B.A.

from Radford University and her MLS from North Carolina Central University. Prior to her position at the Library of Virginia, she worked in government, corporate and academic libraries. She has twenty-seven years of experience in the library and information field.

Cindy's duties at the Library of Virginia include development and implementation of high quality programs and services for libraries in Virginia by coordinating, developing, providing continuing education programs for library administration, staff, trustees, etc. She has served on a variety of Library of Virginia committees and work groups, most recently on two Library of Virginia Strategic Planning Committees and the Inaugural Library of Virginia Staff Day Task Force. She was recently selected to represent CE (Continuing Education) coordinators on the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies' (COSLA) Coordinating Committee for the CE Connector Function. In this role, she represents the interests of state libraries and facilitates outreach to peers by actively soliciting guidance and feedback on key issues.

Cindy has been a member of ALA, SLA, and VLA throughout her career. She is a former member of the ALA Learning Round Table and in previous years was active with NMRT and ALCTS. She advised the VALLA group on planning and implementing the first Library Leadership Academy and served on the VLA Continuing Education Committee. Her current VLA role is Library of Virginia Liaison on the VLA Council. Her past activities in SLA include President of the Virginia Chapter of the Special Libraries Association.

**Cindy Church's Candidate Statement:** I would be honored to serve the association and its membership as secretary, and I would put my communication and organizational skills to good use as I record and distribute the minutes and agendas of VLA Council and the Executive Committee meetings and serve as a voting member of the Executive Committee. I have worked as a professional librarian in Virginia for more than 25 years. My experience working in different types of libraries has given me insight into the challenges facing libraries of all kinds. In addition to my varied experiences I have built an extensive network of contacts in the library profession, both in and out of Virginia. If I don't know the answer to something I will usually know who to ask to get the answer! VLA is only as strong as we all make it. No matter which candidate you vote for – and be sure that you do – please consider supporting the association in whatever way you can!

### **Kareemah Hamdan**

**Kareemah Hamdan's Biographical Information:** Kareemah Hamdan is the Branch Manager of the Clover Hill Library in the Chesterfield County Public Library system. She earned her BFA from Virginia Commonwealth University and her MLS with a focus in Cultural Heritage Information Management from The Catholic University in Washington DC.

Starting as Library Associate in the Circulation department, Kareemah has been with the Chesterfield County Public Library since 2007. She became a Reference Librarian at the LaPrade branch in 2009 and Assistant Branch Manager for the Ettrick-Matoaca and Enon branches in 2011, earning a further promotion to Branch Manager on 2013.

Some of the many success projects she has been involved with at Chesterfield include the highly popular Annual Teen Read Week Masqued Ball from 2009 to 2013, the CCPL Digital

Collection, and the blockbuster 2013 and 2014 Chesterfield ComicCons. Currently, Kareemah is involved in developing CCPL's Makerspace concept and is working with colleagues to design and build a robot.

Kareemah served on the VLA 2013 Conference Committee concurrent session selection subcommittee, the entertainment planning subcommittee helping to develop the first VLA Battledecks competition, and helped out at the information booth during the conference. She also presented a well-received session on planning successful teen programs based on the CCPL TRW Annual Masqued Ball.

In late 2013 Virginia Libraries published an article written by Kareemah Hamdan and Kate Denwiddie entitled 'We Put On A Comic-Con (and so can you!)'. The article discussed the steps recommended for planning a successful comic book based event. Kate and Kareemah have been gratified to receive several communications from libraries and writers wanting to know more about how to present a successful ComicCon.

Outside of her work with Chesterfield County Kareemah works with a small group of volunteers and the Fairfield Foundation to digitize and preserve the mercantile records of the Ware Neck general store in Gloucester, VA that date back to the 1870's. All of the work is done gratis and using the participants own computers and scanners. Kareemah Hamdan and Cameron Koch co-presented a paper at the 2013 Virginia Forum on the project entitled "Preserving a Mercantile History: Digitizing document artifacts of a Ware Neck general store".

**Kareemah Hamdan's candidate statement:** It is an honor to be nominated as a candidate for the position of VLA Secretary. It will be an exciting and rewarding experience to work closely with VLA Council, the Executive Committee and the general membership. Getting to work with, and know more of, my library colleagues at conferences and meetings will afford great professional growth and experience. I hope that I, in turn, will be able to help my colleagues expand their professional network. I will bring my extensive experience and excellent communication skills used on deadline driven projects to the role of secretary in support of the critical mission of VLA and libraries. I look forward to being a more active part of the future direction of VLA as a voting member of the council.

### **ALA Councilor**

#### **Craig Amos**

**Craig Amos's Biographical Information:** Craig Amos is the Head Librarian at the Historic Triangle Campus of Thomas Nelson Community College (TNCC) in Williamsburg. He holds a Master of Science in Library Science and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, both from the University of Kentucky. He previously held positions at the TNCC Hampton campus as the Head of Public Services, Norfolk State University Libraries as an Instruction Librarian, and the University of Kentucky Libraries, where he served in various capacities including distance learning library support, ILL, reference, circulation, and document delivery. In addition to his work in academic libraries, Mr. Amos has served as the chair of the Virginia Library Association Professional Development Endowment Committee, chair of the Virginia Library Association College and Research Libraries (ACRL) chapter, and has been an active member of the ACRL division of the American Library Association since 2006.

**Craig Amos's Candidate Statement:** The American Library Association (ALA) has provided leadership, networking opportunities, education, and advocacy for libraries, library professionals, and library users since it was founded in 1876. The library profession has changed dramatically since then, as have the opportunities available to and the challenges facing those who work in the profession. Many library professionals and users struggle with the demands caused by budget cuts, fast-paced technological advances, and a rapidly evolving need for new and different user services. I believe we need to embrace the changes that must take place to preserve the valuable services libraries provide to our communities and to the process of lifelong learning.

ALA's commitment to diversity, equity of access, education and continuous learning, intellectual freedom, and 21<sup>st</sup>-century literacy reflects what many of us work hard to provide every day. I believe libraries are complex organizations that are essential to users worldwide and that it is a privilege to work with those who have chosen the library profession and with our users, who come from all disciplines and walks of life. Through collaboration and the leadership provided by organizations such as ALA, I believe we have a golden opportunity to continue to enhance learning and provide information access to all.

It is an honor to be nominated for the position as an ALA Councilor. If elected, I look forward to collaborating with all those who work to make Virginia's libraries outstanding information resources, the VLA Executive Committee, and our colleagues at the national level in an effort to advance libraries everywhere.

### **Rebecca K. Miller**

**Rebecca K. Miller's Biographical Information:** Rebecca K. Miller (not to be confused with Rebecca T. Miller, the Editorial Director for *Library Journal* and *School Library Journal*) is the Information Literacy Coordinator and College Librarian for Science, Life Sciences, and Engineering at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, VA. Prior to joining Virginia Tech in 2010, she served as the Digital Technologies & Information Literacy Librarian at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, LA. She holds a BA from the College of William & Mary, an MSLS from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and recently completed an MAEd in Instructional Design & Technology at Virginia Tech. Through her work as a College Librarian and a leader in Virginia Tech's information literacy program, Rebecca discovered a true passion for enhancing teaching and learning in higher education. As both an instructional designer and a librarian, Rebecca works with colleagues at Virginia Tech to constantly assess and strengthen the library's information literacy program. Rebecca also serves as the library liaison to six different departments, with responsibilities ranging from collection management to collaborating with faculty on developing courses to assisting undergraduate and graduate students with their research in one-on-one settings.

In addition to her responsibilities within the library, Rebecca is very involved with various professional groups at Virginia Tech and within the library profession. At Virginia Tech, Rebecca serves on the Faculty Senate and the Advisory Board of VT Women Connect, a group dedicated to promoting women's leadership in higher education. A 2012 ALA Emerging Leader,

she holds committee and advisory board positions with the Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL), and currently serves as the Co-Chair of the Virginia Chapter of the Association of College & Research Libraries (VLACRL) and the Membership Chair for VLA. She also served as Co-Chair of the 2013 VLA Conference Committee and founded the VLA New Members Round Table Forum in 2011 with co-conspirator Megan Hodge, for which they were awarded a VLA Presidential Citation in October 2012. More information about Rebecca is available: <http://www.rebeccakatemiller.com/>

**Rebecca K. Miller's Candidate Statement:** Since I returned to the Commonwealth of Virginia in 2010, it has been my complete pleasure and privilege to become actively involved with the Virginia Library Association. Virginia Tech's motto is *Ut Prosim*, or "that I may serve," and I have taken this motto as my own. I have had many wonderful opportunities over the past few years to build relationships with fellow VLA members and contribute back to the profession through service to VLA. Most of these contributions to VLA have been geared toward strengthening VLA from the inside, including building VLA NMRT Forum as a place for new and emerging information professionals, working toward retaining and recruiting VLA members, and leading efforts to offer high quality professional development opportunities, like VLA annual conferences, to all information professionals in the state.

When I was approached about running for the position of Virginia's ALA Councilor, I was humbled, honored, and tremendously excited to think about serving VLA from a different angle. This is an opportunity to advocate for VLA on a national platform and to communicate our successes as a vibrant and growing state chapter. Before becoming involved with VLA, I was never really interested in serving on ALA Council or any sort of national-level governance. However, after serving on VLA Council with Jessie Scalph for the past three years, I have realized the importance of this role on both a state and a national level. The ALA Councilor must be a cheerleader inside the state, and a proud representative of Virginia in national forums. Ms. Scalph has excelled at both pieces of the ALA Councilor role and I look forward to working my hardest to fill her (figuratively) very large shoes if I am elected. Specifically, I look forward to continuing the advocacy work with which Ms. Scalph was involved. Ms. Scalph seriously approached her responsibilities to educate and seek input from VLA members about national issues related to budgets and funding, intellectual freedom, access, outreach, and technology. I am committed to maintaining this open communication among ALA Council, VLA Council, and VLA members, and would consider it a true privilege to do so.

VLA is full of committed, enthusiastic, and smart professionals. I would love to be able to serve this group as Virginia's ALA Councilor, but I also know that whoever is elected will fulfill this role admirably. Regardless of the outcome of the election, I look forward to many more years of service with VLA, and to the many friendships and opportunities that will come with them.