

VIRGINIA CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION



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The Virginia Conservation Association (VCA) promotes the care and preservation of cultural materials. The VCA offers education and training for those involved in conservation and provides a forum for discussion of pertinent issues and new developments in the field.

The VCA is open to anyone with an interest in the care and preservation of art and historic artifacts.

virginiaconservationassociation.org

Next Virtual Member's Meeting

**Thursday, March 25
6:30pm**

**Submission Deadline for
the May Newsletter**

April 21, 2021

Letter from the President

I just wanted to take a moment to thank the people who served on the VCA Board while I have been President. It is a thankless task and it takes a lot of time. Before the pandemic, we were all busy and had too much to do without adding the responsibilities of a Board position to our workload. When the pandemic started, I thought I would have more time to do other things, like VCA, and that has simply not been the case. I appreciate the other Board members who have stepped up to help out when I could not get things done.



Kate Ridgway, VCA President

I also appreciate the Board for being so flexible during the pandemic. There have been so many great ideas to come out of this situation and many of them will likely become permanent fixtures. The ideas that have allowed us to hold virtual meetings will also help in the future, allowing our far-flung membership the ability to attend meetings if they can't make them in person.

I am grateful to the Board for taking the time to go through the by-laws to make necessary updates and changes. There are not many people who would consider re-evaluating by-laws to be a fun time. Thank you to the Board for writing, editing, revising, and getting these changes to the membership for a vote.

For those of you who will be on the next Board, thank you so much for choosing to donate your time to the VCA. I hope that you can continue to improve this organization!

Upcoming Meeting March 25, 2021

The next VCA meeting will be held on March 25th at 6:30PM and will again be held via Zoom. A link for the Zoom meeting will be sent to VCA members in March.



The meeting will feature a presentation by Francis Lukezic, who works as an Objects Conservator at the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory. Lukezic will present on the treatment of an officer's cavalry helmet from the War of 1812. The helmet was worn by Sergeant Jacob Huyett, a resident of Maryland, and is now part of a military uniform assemblage that belongs to the Washington County Historical Society in Hagerstown, MD. The presentation will include details of the conservation treatment and the experience of partnering with the Historical Society.

We hope to see you there!

VCA Member's Meeting

Date: **Thursday, March 25**

Time: **6:30pm**

Look for an email with a
Zoom link to attend!



VCA Meeting Summary January 21, 2021

There was no business meeting for this past January's virtual meeting. One of our board members, Jackie Peterson-Grace, gave a presentation about her role in creating conservation-appropriate protocol for the textile collection at the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The museum is the memorial site of the S-21 interrogation and detention center of the Khmer Rouge regime, which fell in 1979. The museum's mission is to honor the victims who passed through the detention center and the collection includes paper and photographic archives, clothing, buildings and other items related to the detention and interrogation that happened at the site.



The museum had several conservators on site, but no protocol in place to care for their large textile collection. In 2018, Jackie became part of a conservation team that worked with the museum to find appropriate ways to document, store, and inventory their collection. In addition, the team held workshops in textile and preventive conservation to further support the museum's staff.

Call for Board of Directors Candidates

The VCA's annual election of members to the Board of Directors will take place in late spring. Have you considered volunteering to serve on the Board as a way to meet new people in the conservation community and gain professional experience? The VCA Board has a variety of positions to suit varied interests and skills. Below are short descriptions of each position - if you would like more information, are interested in being nominated for one of the positions, or know of someone perfect for the job you can reach out to the 2021 Nominating Committee at vp.vaconservation@gmail.com.

VCA Board Positions

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Education Chair
Membership Chair
Outreach Chair
Program Chair
Publication Chair
Refreshments Chair
Web Manager

Officers

President:

Two years for the first term and subsequent terms; remains advisor for one year after completion of term(s). The President is responsible for overseeing and directing the business and program affairs of the VCA - this includes planning Board meetings and running both Board and Member meetings as well as helping the Treasurer manage the VCA's finances. This person will delegate responsibilities to officers of the Board, standing committee chairpersons, and will appoint new committees as needed. Additionally, the President will have the authority to convene an Ad Hoc Disaster Response Team, and the team will act as a liaison between VCA members and museums, institutions, and collections to provide information and/or assistance in case of emergency.

Treasurer:

Two years first term and subsequent terms. The Treasurer will be responsible for sending out dues notices to the membership and to deposit such monies in a bank account in the name of the VCA. Other monies received as donations or fees for special services will likewise be deposited. Expenses authorized by the President and Board will be paid out of this account. The Treasurer will prepare an annual financial statement for auditing by a designated certified public accountant and will submit a report in May.

Vice President:

Two years for first term and subsequent terms. Responsible for assisting the President, presiding in their absence in the chairing of meetings and the conducting of the business of the VCA. This person will work closely with the Programs Committee on the organization of the programmatic content of scheduled meetings. The VP is also responsible for collecting and delivering paper copies of VCA newsletters and membership directory once a year to the Virginia Museum of History and Culture. Additionally, the VP is responsible for preparing the interim format of the by-laws and any final form as approved by the membership. The VP will chair the Nominating Committee along with two additional co-chairs to fill Board positions that are being vacated.

Secretary:

One year term. The VCA Secretary takes minutes at membership and Board of Directors meetings, retains a record of VCA communications, and sends out meeting notices to VCA membership.

Committee Chairs

Education: Two years first term and subsequent terms. The chairperson will be responsible for researching and developing education programs for attendance by the VCA members and other applicants.

Outreach: Two years first term and subsequent terms. The chairperson will be responsible for developing and implementing outreach activities with current or potential partner organizations and institutions, as well as fostering these relationships.

Publications: Two years first term and subsequent terms. The Publication Chair produces a newsletter containing meeting notices, informational material, and other information pertaining to the VCA. Updates VCA Facebook page.

Web Manager: No specific term limit. The Web Manager posts newsletters, information about meetings, and other items of interest to the VCA membership on the website. The VCA website is maintained by a professional company with a representative who is available to offer assistance with website problems.

Membership: Two years first term and subsequent terms. The Membership Chair receives and processes applications for membership, maintains updated membership lists, sends out messages on behalf of Board and VCA members.

Programs: Two years first term and subsequent terms. Along with a second co-chair, the Program Committee prepares draft programs for events at venues reasonably accessible to the members, usually in September, November, January, March, and May. Final decisions regarding speakers, program format, and expenses will be determined by the Board.

Refreshments: Two years first term and subsequent terms. The Refreshments Chair will organize refreshments to be available before or after in-person meetings. The cost for refreshments is paid out of the VCA account.

Virtual elections will be held in May and the board will be announced at the May member's meeting.

Reach out to the 2021 Nominating Committee at vp.vaconservation@gmail.com for additional information!

AIC Establishes Health & Safety Network Forum



H&S Network Forum – Our Purpose:

- To create a space dedicated to discussing health and safety topics, specifically for conservators and other persons associated with cultural institutions who have an interest in health and safety in museums, libraries, archives, and similar venues.
- To promote a safe space to discuss and ask questions about these issues without being judged or dismissed by those who do not think health and safety are legitimate concerns.
- To increase awareness of health and safety issues and resources.
- To act as a resource for interested conservators and allied professionals, and garner contributions to articles, collaborative projects, and Annual Meeting programming that the network officers manage.
- To keep the community updated on OSHA updates/new procedures that might be relevant to U.S.-based conservators and cultural institution professionals.
- To create a solid network of individuals with a strong interest in health and safety, with the end goal of making cultural heritage workplaces as safe as possible.

How Do I Join?

The forum is free to join for anyone interested, regardless of AIC membership status!

AIC Members and List Subscribers: To join the Network Forum, sign in at the AIC Online Community page and choose the **Communities** drop down menu. Choose **All Communities** from the menu. Scroll down until you find **Health and Safety Network Forum** and click on the "Join" button on the far right of the screen.

New to AIC: To join the Network and Forum, you will need to create an account in the AIC Online Community. If you have trouble signing up or joining the community, please send a message to contact@culturalheritage.org.

The committee recommends the **Daily Digest**, as it allows you to follow the discussions without bombarding you with emails.

The committee looks forward to seeing you online on the Forum! If you have any questions, please feel free to get in touch with Tara Kennedy at tara.d.kennedy@yale.edu.

Opportunities and Resources

Ki Culture Books

Ki Culture is an international organization committed to creating a sustainable future through the cultural heritage sector. They strive to create actionable steps to make cultural heritage a leader towards a sustainable future, and to help meet this goal they have created a series of free, downloadable e-books. Each book focuses on a theme to implement sustainable changes. The books currently available to download on the following topics: reduction of waste and materials, social sustainability, and energy reduction. They can be accessed through the organization's web site www.kiculture.org.

Conservators Combating Climate Change

Sponsored by AIC's Emerging Conservation Professionals Network, this new podcast series aims to explore the role of conservators in addressing climate change. The podcast is hosted by Emma Hartman and Natalya Swanson, who speak with their guests about actions ranging from changing daily habits to disaster planning. The first season can be found on podcast platforms and here: <https://anchor.fm/conservatorscombatingcc>.

Museum Pests Public Presentation Session

The MuseumPests Working Group annual meetings include short presentations to update members on new developments, active research, and areas of topical concern. The public presentation session of this year's meeting will be held virtually over Zoom and Facebook Live on **March 11** between 2:00 and 4:00. The session will consist of a series of 10-minute presentations on a range of topics. Additional information and registration information may be found [here](#) or on the MuseumPests Facebook page.

The VCA Student Scholarship

The VCA offers a scholarship to our student members to assist with costs associated with furthering education in the field. Two annual scholarships of \$250 each are available to be used towards fees for classes, conferences, or other professional development opportunities. Applications are accepted throughout the year and will be evaluated by the VCA Board during the December and April meetings. Successful applicants will be notified within one week of the Board meeting, and presented with a check within the following 30 days. Recipients will be required write a VCA newsletter article summarizing their experience.

Applications must include a one-page proposal for use of funds that specifies how the scholarship will assist in the pursuit of a career in conservation or a directly related field. To apply, email our Education Committee Co-Chairs or mail paper applications to the VCA, P.O. Box 7023, Richmond, VA 23221

AIC Self-Study Resources

The American Institute for Conservation (AIC) has compiled a series of webinars and resources that have taken place over the past year. These recorded webinars are available to both AIC members and non-members for free online [here](#). Topics range from developing negotiating tactics to address salaries and benefits to risk assessment and disaster preparedness and the decolonization of collections with an emphasis on prioritizing community partnerships. These resources are available alongside the AIC-sponsored in-person and online professional development events that occur year-round.

VCA FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Virtual Board Meeting - February 11, 2021

ATTENDEES

Kate Ridgway, Tina Gessler, Keri Ragland, Elizabeth Robson, Chelsea Blake (Kreiner), Laurie King, Caroline Shaver, Jackie Peterson-Grace, Christy Altland

Call to Order: President Kate Ridgway called the meeting to order at 6:04pm

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (KATE RIDGWAY)

Kate reported that there are several board positions available. The board is working on finding new candidates for nomination.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT (TINA GESSLER)

Tina suggested potential candidates for the open board positions, and several possible candidates were discussed.

TREASURER'S REPORT (KERI RAGLAND)

Keri reported the budget is on track for this year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Programs Committee (Laurie King and Caroline Shaver)

The committee reported presented potential options for upcoming member meetings, including a speaker for the March meeting. The possibility of a virtual lab tour was discussed for the May meeting, including brainstorming the logistics of such an event. The committee also suggested an unconventional end of year meeting to replace the traditional field trip, and will continue to research options.

Education Committee (Ariel Clark, Stacey Rush)

No committee members were present to report.

Membership Committee (Elizabeth Robson)

Elizabeth reported that VCA now has 71 members registered.

Publications Committee (Jackie Peterson-Grace)

Jackie reported on the newsletter deadline.

Outreach Committee (Chelsea Blake)

Chelsea suggested that the VCA hold another cemetery clean up Helping Hands event in April or May. She will get in contact with the cemeteries and Keri will assess potential funding sources.

Meeting adjourned by President Kate Ridgway at 6:40pm



2020 – 2021 BOARD MEMBERS

Kate Ridgway president.vaconservation@gmail.com	President
Tina Gessler vp.vaconservation@gmail.com	Vice President
Christy Atland secretary.vaconservation@gmail.com	Secretary
Keri Ragland Spangler treasurer.vaconservation@gmail.com	Treasurer
Stacy Rusch education.vaconservation@gmail.com	Education Co-Chair
Ariel Clark education.vaconservation@gmail.com	Education Co-Chair
Elizabeth Robson membership@virginiaconservationassociation.org	Membership Chair
Chelsea Blake outreach.vaconservation@gmail.com	Outreach Chair
Laurie King programs.vaconservation@gmail.com	Programs Co-Chair
Caroline Shaver programs.vaconservation@gmail.com	Programs Co-Chair
Jackie Peterson-Grace publications.vaconservation@gmail.com	Publications Chair
Lorraine Brevig webmanager.vaconservation@gmail.com	Web Management
Vacant	Refreshments Co-Chair
Vacant	Refreshments Co-Chair

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Contact Us

Virginia Conservation Association

P.O. Box 7032
Richmond, VA 23221

www.virginiaconservationassociation.org
www.facebook.com/VaConservation/

Contribute to the Newsletter!

Are you working on an interesting or challenging treatment? Have you made exciting research discoveries, come across valuable resources, or attended an inspiring professional development event? We want to hear from you!

Our all-volunteer publishing team regularly calls for content and any VCA member is welcome to contribute. If you are interested in writing for the newsletter but would like some advice and guidance, please get in touch with our Publications Chair to discuss your ideas.

The deadline for the May Newsletter is **April 21, 2021**