

# VIRGINIA CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION



May 2022 | Volume 31 | Issue 5

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](http://virginiaconservationassociation.org)

## Next Member's Meeting

(in person!)

**Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>**  
**10:00 am**

Submission Deadline for  
the September Newsletter

**August 18, 2022**

## Letter from the President

Hello VCA, whether you are Old Guard, New Guard, or somewhere in between!

It has been an eventful month, filled with great discussion and some long past due connections between members of this organization. As we've grappled with the identity of VCA and how it can best serve its members moving forward, I have truly appreciated the opportunity to get to know some of you better, and to have met others for the first time.

As I said at our most recent discussion, I know that the past and present stewards of VCA have all put forth great effort to respond to the needs of the group. The results of this effort may look a little different from one year to the next, but the heart of our organization has always been one of servant-leadership.

As most of you already know, Option 3: Downsizing the Board and Programming, won the vote in our recent poll regarding the future of VCA. Please find more details about this in the newsletter. In anticipation of the upcoming program year (2022-23) and the results of this poll, we have three important things to vote on, the details of which you can also find in this newsletter. This includes a **vote on the updated bylaws, a vote on the 2022-23 budget, and a vote for incoming board members!** Please vote by May 1!

Our board and programming may look a little different next year, but I think there is still so much potential for amazing programming and camaraderie. Even if the number of programs is downsized, it doesn't mean the content has to be! If you have anything you would like to present on, or know someone who is working on something that would be interesting to share, it's not too early, and never too late, to reach out to any of our board members. And please consider running for a board position next year, since this organization is only as strong as its member engagement. You are VCA!



*Paige Schmidt, VCA President*

Paige

## **2022 VCA Bylaws Update Highlights**

Based on the results of a poll put to membership in April 2022, the VCA Board will be downsized and programming reduced. The voted-in changes will take effect in Spring 2022 along with 2022-2023 budget approval, election of new Board members, and ratification of a new version of the Bylaws that will take these changes into account. To refresh your memory, the winning option from the poll stated: 'Before VCA Board elections in 2022, the positions of Vice President, Outreach, Education, Web Manager, and Refreshments would be abolished. The position of Programming would be reduced to one person. The remaining positions of President, Publications, Membership, Secretary, and Treasurer would remain to facilitate a newsletter, one meeting a year with a speaker, and one social gathering a year.'

Additional highlights of the updated Bylaws include a reduction in frequency of meetings of the Board of Directors, waiving of membership dues for volunteers that serve on the Board, and a redistribution of duties for remaining Board positions. The frequency of the newsletter will not change. Additional programming and educational opportunities will be organized as interest and resources allow.

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## **2022 – 2023 Board Member Elections**

The virtual ballot for open board positions will be sent to membership along with this newsletter. The election will close in early May and results will be announced at the next member's meeting. See below for the positions and candidates. Many thanks to our outgoing board members for their hard work!

Secretary: Sara Ludueña

Treasurer: Amy Byrne

Membership: Elizabeth Robson

Programs: Marla Curtis

Publications: Jackie Peterson-Grace

# 2022 – 2023 Virginia Conservation Association Proposed Budget

The ballot for Board elections will also provide the opportunity for the membership to vote to approve next year’s budget, as proposed below.

2022-2023 Virginia Conservation Association Proposed Budget			
	Credit Line	Budget	Notes
<b>Expenses</b>			
	Programs	\$700	
	Education	\$150	
	Refreshments	\$150	
	Web Management	\$750	
	Membership	\$40	
	Miscellaneous	\$100	
	Treasurer/Admin	\$450	
<b>Total Expected Expenses</b>		<b>\$2340</b>	
<b>Income</b>			
	Regular Membership	\$2250	Estimated at 75, does not consider the Paypal fee of \$1.17 per \$30 charge
	Student Membership	\$90	Estimated at 6
<b>Total Expected Income</b>		<b>\$2340</b>	

## VCA Meeting Summary March 18, 2022

The March meeting featured Kate Ridgway, State Archaeological Conservator at Virginia Department of Historic Resources, discussing the excavation and conservation of two time-capsules from 1887 buried under the statue of Robert E. Lee in Richmond. Ridgway began by discussing the Black Lives Matter movement, and how that led to the removal of the Robert E. Lee statue. She also discussed the difficulties those working on the project faced, from those



*Kate Ridgway and Sue Donovan working before cameras and members of the press.*

*Image credit: Sarah Rankin/AP via <https://www.npr.org/2021/12/28/1068582638/virginia-richmond-time-capsule-robert-e-lee-statue>*

opposed to the removal of the statue. Ridgway also discussed functional problems that occurred, including limited funding, limited planning time, and difficulty finding contractors.

Ridgway went on to discuss the boxes themselves, one of which was unexpected and turned out to have been placed in secret by the project engineer when the statue was erected. The second, while referred to as a time capsule, was in fact a cornerstone box which was not meant to be opened but was part of a masonic ceremony. The difficulties and pressure of opening and stabilizing the boxes and associated objects with press and live feed watching was highlighted. Finally, Ridgway noted that for more detailed information on the objects found in the boxes, the DHR is writing blog posts, which can be found at <https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/>.

Kate Ridgway shared several links related to her presentation, click below to see the additional content.

[DHR Guidance document on Confederate monument removal](#)

[The Cornerstone Contributions blog articles about the artifacts](#)

[Devon Henry, contractor who removed the Confederate monuments, interviewed for NBC](#)

[Mike Spence from Team Henry, who led the team that disassembled the Lee Monument, speaks on the removal of the pedestal for Richmond Public Libraries](#)

# Upcoming VCA Meeting

For the first time in over two years, the VCA will hold its Spring Field Trip in person! On Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> VCA members will gather for a tour of Fort Monroe and the Casemate Museum. The tour will include a look into the storage facilities and preventive measures taken by the staff, a tour of the fort, and possibly a peek into the archaeological lab. The tour will last for two hours, so bring your comfortable walking shoes!

The tour will be followed by a casual lunch at Oozlefinch Beers & Blending for those who are interested.

Please RSVP via [SignupGenius](#) if you haven't already!

## **VCA Member's Meeting**

Date: **Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>**

Time: **10:00 am**

Location: **Fort Monroe and  
Casemate Museum**



*Fort Monroe and the Casemate Museum.*

*Images courtesy of the National Parks Service and Library of Congress.*



**FORTRESS MONROE, OLD POINT COMFORT AND HYBEIA HOTEL, VA**



## 2021 – 2022 Board Members

Paige Schmidt president.vaconservation@gmail.com	President
Tina Gessler vp.vaconservation@gmail.com	Vice President
Sutton Hastman secretary.vaconservation@gmail.com	Secretary
Keri Ragland Spangler treasurer.vaconservation@gmail.com	Treasurer
Debbie Linn education.vaconservation@gmail.com	Education Chair
Elizabeth Robson membership@virginiaconservationassociation.org	Membership Chair
Ann Cuss outreach.vaconservation@gmail.com	Outreach Chair
Laurie King programs.vaconservation@gmail.com	Programs Co-Chair
Jennifer Myers 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

### VCA Student Scholarship

VCA offers two annual scholarships of \$250 each to be used for furthering education in the field. Use of funds may include conference or class fees or other professional-development expenses. Applicants must be VCA student members to apply. Applications are accepted throughout the year and will be evaluated during the April and December Board meetings.

To apply, submit 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

### Contact Us

#### Virginia Conservation Association

P.O. Box 7032  
Richmond, VA 23221

[www.virginiaconservationassociation.org](http://www.virginiaconservationassociation.org)  
[www.facebook.com/VaConservation/](https://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 September Newsletter is August 18**