

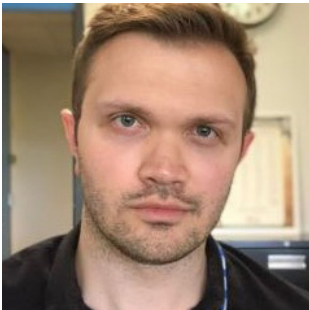


# 2021 Nominations

## Vice President/President Elect

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### Travis Feder



I am truly honored to be nominated for CLA Vice President/President-elect. I have worked in Connecticut libraries for about ten years, starting out as a teen services assistant at Coventry's Booth & Dimock Memorial Library before working as a reference librarian at the Farmington Libraries and becoming the head of Technical Services for the West Haven Public Library system. Along the way I also had the opportunity to work as an adjunct instructor at Kent State University's iSchool. Presently, I am the systems librarian at Naugatuck Valley Community College in Waterbury, where I have the privilege of collaborating with librarians across the CSCU library consortium. I have been an active member of CLA's LGBTQ+ Section, and for the past two years have served as the representative for CLA Region One.

Library workers provide services that patrons rely upon more than ever, and I believe CLA is uniquely positioned to advocate for all members of our profession. If elected, I would work to expand CLA membership, particularly among academic and school library staff. It would be an honor to continue working alongside CLA's dedicated volunteers to advance the interests of library workers across Connecticut.

## Assistant Treasurer

### Margaret Khan



Margaret Khan has been the director of the Booth & Dimock Memorial Library in Coventry for three years. While an undergraduate student at Eastern Connecticut State University, Margaret worked at the University Archives where the incredible staff there mentored and helped

her get into library school.

Margaret graduated from Simmons University with a concentration in Archives Management, but found herself drawn to the public library setting after working at Babcock Library in Ashford as Assistant Director. Margaret also held the positions of Reference Lecturer at Eastern Connecticut State University and Library Director at Guilford Smith Memorial Library in South Windham.

Margaret became a librarian to fuse her immense love of learning with her desire to help people. A Northeast Connecticut native, Margaret has spent her career serving her local community. In her spare time, Margaret enjoys playing the piano, going on walks and hikes, and baking cookies.

### Deborah Smith



Thank you for this opportunity to run for the position of Assistant Treasurer. I am the Executive Director of Essex Library Association and began my career as a page in high school. I earned my MLIS from Kent State University in 2018 and am active with CLA as a member of the Intellectual Freedom Committee. I currently serve on LION's Board of Directors and Future Trends working group, the Connecti-



# 2021 Nominations

## Assistant Treasurer (continued)

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cut State Library's Digital Inclusion Taskforce, and ALA's Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship.

When my family moved to Connecticut in 2001, I worked part-time in circulation for several years at the West Hartford Public Library, Wethersfield Public Library, and the University of Hartford's Mortensen Library. I then held full-time roles in fundraising and educational administration. Prior to joining Essex Library in 2019, I was institutional project manager for the first all-women artist benefit auction at Sotheby's, which raised a record \$3.9M.

Like CLA, Essex Library is a member-supported organization, reliant on revenue from membership dues. At Essex, I craft and steward an annual budget of \$550k with endowment assets of \$3.5M. I am proud to say that the library, which receives half of its support from municipal funding, is on solid financial footing during a time of extreme economic turmoil. Under my leadership, the library has realized the largest six-figure bequest in its history. We have also more than tripled our annual appeal mailing list, offered a multi-part series of financial literacy programming, and launched a Library of Things. This year Essex Library was the first library in Connecticut to be awarded an ALA Libraries Transforming Communities grant, which is funding a discussion series on income inequality. During the pandemic, I have strategized ways to maximize the library's grant revenue and obtained forgivable EIDG, first draw, and second draw PPP federal stimulus loans.

The post-Covid years will be financially challenging. The continued success of CLA in serving the state's libraries depends on sound fiscal management. Even in these tough times, I believe the association has strong opportunities to increase revenue while continuing to keep an eye on maximizing value for dollar. I would be honored to roll up my sleeves and contribute to this work as Assistant Treasurer. Thank you for your consideration and vote.

**Keep reading for Secretary  
& Region Representatives...**



# 2021 Nominations

## Secretary

### Danielle Valenzano (incumbent)



I have worked at the Milford Public Library for almost 12 years, starting out as a Library Aid, then a Library Assistant in the Children's Department, and after I received my MLIS, I was promoted to the Young Adult Librarian where I've been having a blast since January of 2020!

I've been involved with CLA since 2015 serving as the Children's Section Chair, Procedures Chair, and Recording Secretary over the past two years. I saw firsthand how supportive CLA is towards students while in graduate school when I was fortunate to receive several scholarships along with meeting many mentoring colleagues along the way! Being involved with this organization has allowed me to get to know so many different librarians and library staff from varying libraries and on all levels throughout Connecticut and New England. I love my job and the community I serve, where I also live. I take great pride in bringing up my two young daughters to know the importance of libraries just as my mother, who was a school librarian in New York for 25 years, taught me!

I truly believe that CLA is such important organization and I would be honored to continue serving as Recording Secretary.

### Jessica Miller



My name is Jessica Miller and I have been the Library Director at the Somers Public Library in CT for almost five years now. I am a co-chair of the New Directors Roundtable through the CT Library Consortium. I am a member of NELA and was on the NELA Conference Committee for the last two years.

Outside of my day job, I run a #bookstagram account, and

as someone with a healthy audiobook obsession, I am an annual judge for the national Audie Awards, and I review audiobooks for AudioFile Magazine.

I am running for the position of CLA Secretary as I would like to become more involved in library leadership within our state and feel that the advocacy work that CLA does on the behalf of libraries is exceedingly important. I want to be part of the team that helps libraries grow as we continue to move into the future.

### Jen Sullivan



Libraries are Jennifer Sullivan's second career, after working in marketing for a book publisher. In July, she'll celebrate her fifth anniversary at Woodbridge Town Library; her third as Head of Adult Services. Jen is responsible for communicating the library's messages to Woodbridge and beyond

via newsletters, emails, and social media. She also assists the Town of Woodbridge with community events. Her first 2 years at WTL were spent planning and executing nearly 2 adult programs a week, and building relationships with local artists and other area groups.

Jen's library experience also includes Guilford Free Library, Levi E. Coe Library in Middlefield, and Yale University's Sterling Memorial Library. In 2019, she attended the New England Library Leadership Symposium (NELLS) and uses what she learned, not only as a department head, but also as informal mentor to those new to the library world. She would love to share her experience and knowledge with the rest of Connecticut through more involvement in CLA. Jen received an MLS from SCSU and a BA from Providence College. Growing up in Branford, she spent many hours at Blackstone and Willoughby Wallace; she lives in Northford where she is either gardening or planning her next outdoor project.

Two more candidates! Continued...



# 2021 Nominations

## Secretary (continued)

### Alyssa Johnson



Throughout my progressive experience in libraries around the state, I've noticed a common thread: libraries connect. The jobs we perform, the books that we buy, the services we provide, and the partnerships we create connect the people in our communities together.

In June 2011, I started at the Wallingford Public Library as a summer intern where I now work as a full-time children's librarian almost 10 years later. While I've always maintained my connection with the Wallingford Public Library, my library journey began 14 years ago as a page at my hometown library. I would have never expected my first job to be the launching point into such an inspiring, rewarding, and exciting career. When I'm not at work, I'm a mom to an adventurous toddler who inspires me to be a better librarian every day.

I love being a children's librarian. Yes, we are quirky and silly, but we are also creative, can pivot at a moment's notice, and have the ability to juggle the needs of clientele of all ages and backgrounds. This makes children's librarians invaluable in leadership positions and I am thrilled by the possibility to use my skills as the Recording Secretary of the CLA Executive Board.

Just like the library is the heart of our communities, CLA brings Connecticut librarians together to innovate, advocate, and connect with one another. By learning, growing, and standing together we contribute to the cultural, economic, educational, and social well-being of our communities and our state as a whole. I would be proud to serve on the CLA Executive Board to keep our Connecticut libraries connected and move forward together.

### Steven Mazeau



Accurate meeting minutes are one of the cornerstones of a successful organization. Steve Mazeau has served several organizations in the Secretary role and has come to understand the importance of taking clear and accurate minutes. They provide a record of why, how and when Board members reach

decisions, they identify action items and help to move decisions forward, and they serve as a lasting record of past decisions as leaders and stakeholders change. Steve is also a good listener and has the ability to sort pertinent facts from conversation.

Steve's experience includes the following:

- Old Saybrook Conservation Commission, Sept., 1990 to June, 1995, taking meeting minutes and distributing them as "clerk"
- High Hopes Therapeutic Riding Volunteer Committee, Oct., 2012 to Aug., 2015, taking meeting minutes and creating event flyers
- Connecticut Valley Driving Club, Nov., 2013 to present, Club Secretary, taking BOD minutes, creating flyers, correspondence
- Connecticut Association of Square Dance Clubs, June, 2018 to present, Secretary, taking minutes for BOD meetings, distribution
- Niantic Toastmasters, July, 2019 to present, Vice President of Education, creating bi-monthly meeting agenda, sending reminders

Steve lives in Westbrook, Connecticut with his wife Jan and has been a volunteer reader at the Daisy Ingraham School since 2008.



# 2021 Nominations

## Region 1 Representative

### Karin Taylor



Karin Taylor became the Director of the Beardsley Library, serving the Towns of Barkhamsted, Colebrook, and Winchester, Connecticut, in 2011. Prior to that she served as the Head of Children and Youth Services at Beardsley, as the Community Technology Center Coordinator for the New Britain Adult Education program, and as a School Readiness Coordinator and Program Director for several Early Childhood facilities in Connecticut and Florida.

Throughout Karin’s career as a librarian, educator, and community leader, she has dedicated herself to ensuring access to education, technology, and literacy for people of all ages. She has been actively involved in the Connecticut library community by serving as the Chair of the

Northwest Corner Library Director’s Roundtable, allowing her to form valuable connections with other librarians in the State as they collaborated together to develop and improve their services to their patrons. Karin is a strong advocate for strengthening awareness of the essential role of libraries through outreach, engagement, and maintaining an open dialogue with the community as a whole.

## Region 3 Representative

### Leslie McDonough (incumbent)



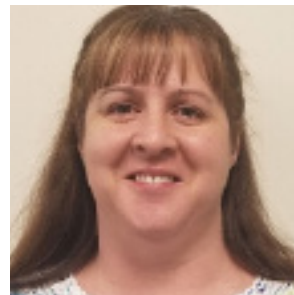
I am the director of the Mansfield Public Library, Region 3 Representative for CLA, Board President of Library Connection, and Treasurer for Quiet Corner Reads.

Previously, I worked as a public library director in Rhode Island, serving for six years on the State

Library Board, as well as stints on the State Standards Committee, Statewide Disaster and Preservation Planning Task Force, and the RI Library Association Executive Committee. A member of the Small Libraries Group, I was involved in the successful effort to enroll all RI public libraries into a single circulation/catalog system, including the creation of a special multi-year state grant to enable the smallest libraries to afford the leap into electronic access. I am proud of that effort, and happy that all residents in RI have been afforded equal access to quality library services in their own home towns.

I am eager to continue working to improve library service in Connecticut, believing that we work best with a mutual vision and shared plans to move forward. We need to address inequities in services by creating new paradigms built on existing need and future possibilities. To quote Thomas Kuhn, “...during revolutions scientists see new and different things when looking with familiar instruments in places they have looked before...What were ducks in the scientist’s world before the revolution are rabbits afterwards.” We need some rabbits.

### Jennifer Johnson-Marius



I have worked in the public library setting for 17 years. I began as a circulation clerk and soon realized that I found work that I was passionate about. I attended Clarion University of Pennsylvania and received my MLS and have since held a number of jobs from Children’s Librarian to Adult and Youth

Services Managers, and now serve as Director of the Rockville Public Library in Vernon CT. No matter where I have worked, I have strived to create an inclusive organizational culture where staff can share their ideas and opinions. When not working on library-related projects, you can find me in my garden, walking through the woods, or spending time with my family.

Public libraries are the heart of a community - they are a place to create connections, collaborations, and help people find common ground. I believe working with other librarians across the state can provide the same opportunities. I would cherish the opportunity to work with other leaders in our library community to continue to push our organizations forward and remain innovative.

I’m excited about the opportunity to bring my perspective, talents, and commitment to excellence to the Connecticut Library Association.



# 2021 Nominations

## Region 5 Representative

### Robbie Marshall (incumbent)



I have enjoyed my 2-year tenure as Region 5 representative; being in touch with and learning about the 35 libraries in the region.

I hold an MLS from Texas Woman's University and an MA from CCSU in Community Psychology and am a firm believer in lifelong

learning. For 20+ years I have worked in libraries and am the Assistant Director at Brainerd Memorial Library in Haddam, where everyone is encouraged to contribute and collaborate! I enjoy being a member of the Friends of BML, assisting in our book sales and various fundraising endeavors.

I have gained an increased appreciation for how our libraries fulfill community needs during the past year as a result of the hardships and restrictions placed upon them due to the pandemic. I've been so impressed with the way CT libraries responded to the crisis and provided creative solutions and programming to meet residents' needs.

I hope to continue as liaison to the CLA; disseminating information and providing diligent representation of the 35 Region 5 libraries, by presenting their concerns, successes, events, and plans at the monthly CLA meetings – sharing and experiencing the best of our profession!

### Kimberly Rose



Kimberly is a teacher librarian with a Masters in library information/ technology science from Long Island University . Kimberly never has to think about who she is or who she wants to be because the answer is from her heart. Kimberly is a person with great passion for researching all

information to help her students/patrons and community reach their highest potential to successfully achieve their future goals.

She credits all her successful years to her three successful children, great training as an experienced teacher librarian / information specialist and a reference librarian for a public library, Kimberly's professional journey is super rewarding because she is the resource! Gathering information and problem solving is her passion. Kimberly focuses on creating purpose and she shares how being passionate about your choices can birth success in all areas of interest.

Kimberly designs documents, creates innovative children programs, grant-writing, and is currently writing her first children's book "Chad Hoover". In the summer you will find Kimberly at the Riverwalk in Shelton reading her storyboards to the community or at Wells Hollow Creamery bringing the community together with her "Story to Art" program. Kimberly is also a member of the CLA.