

Connecticut Library Association Board Meeting
January 18th, 2024
10:00 am Business Meeting via Zoom
Minutes

1. **Call to Order:** President Sarah McCusker called the meeting to order at 10:02 am.
Approval of Minutes: December meeting minutes
A motion to approve the December meeting minutes was made by Lisa Karim and seconded by Kate Byroade. Motion approved. No abstentions.
2. **Old Business**
 - a. **President's Report** – See attached.
 - b. **Treasurer's Report** – See attached.
3. **New Business**
 - a. Discussion of Technology/Technical Services sections – Doug Lord/Sarah McCusker
 - b. Legislative Breakfast- Scott Jarzombek

Representative Reports:

CT State Library: Deborah Schander: No Report.

NELA: Scott Brill: Absent.

ALA: Kate Byroade: No report. ALA LibLearnX is this weekend and will be there to represent us.

ALA EDI Assembly: Kristina Lareau: No Report.

ACLB: Denise Stankovics: Absent.

ACLPD: Alyssa Dansinghani: Absent.

America 250: Doug Lord: We met yesterday, and a lot of the time was spent articulating a toolkit and rubrics and action steps and deep conversations about DEI concepts. We all know why they are so important, and we are trying hard to contextualize the outreach and appropriately message the fact that the commission is really interested in shedding light on stories about the histories of people from traditionally underrepresented groups. It's important work but we're still grappling with how to do it like 1776 doesn't mean anything to people who weren't on the winning side. So, we are trying to develop outreach tactics in order to not exclude anybody.

BCALA: Robert Kinney: Absent.

Commission on Ed Tech: Colleen Bailie: I'm sure everyone has seen the emails coming from Chris Gauvreau and Lauren Thompson about the Connecticut Digital Equity plan. There is still an open time frame to make comments about it; there are things in there about libraries and adult learners and the value we have in digital equity. The commission is working hard to get that out there within the next couple of months and move forward with that.

Communications Task Force: Doug Lord: No Report.

CASL: Mary Ellen Minichiello & David Bilmes: See attached.

CLC: Ellen Paul: In January, we were very pleased to launch a bunch of new discount contracts taking us up over 100 different vendors that we work with. As the CLA conference is coming up, we are encouraging all of our vendors to exhibit. Also, coming up in February is Take Your Child to the Library Day and Amanda has been doing some amazing work with this program. Almost every library in Connecticut is participating in Take Your Child to the Library Day. Amanda and Caitlin Augusta are presenting on Take Your Child to the Library Day at the

PLA conference in March in Columbus. We are very excited that Every Library has come on board as a strategic partner for Take Your Child to the Library Day and it is helping get the word out nationally about this program. Here in Connecticut, we are looking forward to that day. We are doing some paid promotion in the state encouraging people to visit their libraries. The Lieutenant Governor has indicated that she is interested in visiting a number of libraries on Take Your Child to the Library Day. We are using this opportunity to not just engage with our community but also with our legislators in advance of this legislative session. It's become a wonderful opportunity and thanks to all of the libraries across the state who are participating and showing our communities the importance of the library in the life of the child.

FOCL: Debbie Misiaszek: Absent.

Library Connection: Laura Horn: Absent.

Region 1: Heather Aronson: The Beekely Community Library in Hartford recently hired Melanie Ollett as the new director replacing retiring director Jeanette Francini and she took over January 1st.

Region 2: Shana Shea: Absent.

Region 3: Chonte Fields: Absent.

Region 4: Erin Dummeyer: In Monroe, at the Edith Wheeler memorial library, they had a new multi-touch collaborative game table set up. The table is located in the children's and teen department and is loaded with 18 interactive and engaging games designed for players of all ages. The multi-touch table's experiences are appropriate for any age group from any learners to 99+. Come test your trivia knowledge, match shapes, play pong and much more with friends and family. New Caanan library has named a new CEO. Kimberley McNally of the Berlin-Peck Memorial Library will be their new CEO and Director and will start February 1st.

Region 5: Emily Rush: See attached.

Region 6: Madhu Gupta: See attached.

SCSU: Cindy Schofield: Absent.

Sustainability Taskforce : Doug Lord & Alessandra Casiello: Doug- All the 4 areas are progressing really well in thanks to Alessandra. Bylaws, Financial Plans, strategic plan, which we just created a member survey which will be tested out to establish forward directions. StarChapter transition is under discussion. Alessandra- For strategic planning, we have created a member survey reflecting the goals we are hoping to move forward with, but we do want our members to feel like they have their voice in this. We are hoping for this to go out in February. We have a draft copy and are making edits right now. For the training committee, we are compiling guides that we can use this coming year when we do onboarding, coming up with the training onboarding and training schedule. StarChapter pricing will be increasing so we have now decided to look at other software to find comparison pricing. Glenn Grube was nice enough to take that on to get pricing for us from a few different types of software. For bylaws, we are nearly done. We are in the largest section right now which is sections and committees. We should have at least a draft of that for the board in February. We will need to get that out around April 1st so that the membership can vote at the annual conference. The financial planning committee is almost done with the financial plan. We wanted to check with a few attorneys on a few things so you should see that in February as well.

Association Committee Reports:

ADA: Maria Bernier: No Report.

Archivist: Gerald Seagrave: No Report.

Awards: Region Reps: N/A

Career Development: Andy Forsyth & Amanda Stern: Andy: The committee met on January 8th and scholarship applications are open and live on the website. The submissions are due by February 29th, but we really encourage applicants to get everything in a week early by February 22nd, because some things are missing or need to be checked. We have got sessions at the conference, as we received our acceptance letters yesterday and we are really looking forward to it. Amanda is bringing some stuff that I think will be helpful for anyone at any point in their career. We are starting to do some brainstorming for this year's leadership institute. Amanda: we are scheduling a mentoring program info session for the beginning of February. The date we are still working on but the application period for the next cohort is the month of February. Matches will be made for a March 1st start. If you are somebody or know of somebody who needs or wants a mentor, this is your chance to get in.

Conference 2024: Alessandra Casiello: As Andy said, the program chairs sent out acceptance letters yesterday, we have about 85 programs accepted over the 2 days. Registration is set to go out next week. Hopefully, nothing else comes up that I'm conflicting with. We have 7 sponsors right now, 23 exhibitors and have taken in about \$26,000 from them. We'll hopefully be seeing numbers go up as registration starts. We've confirmed the after-hours event as our fundraiser, which I will talk about as well. Something new we are doing this year when registration opens is giving people the menu so they can plan for if they have allergies as well as providing them with a short survey after they sign up to see what sessions they plan to attend so if we have to adjust what room that session is in, we can adjust ahead of time. We're plugging away. If you would like updates, it's always on the conference website. For those people in here who are speakers, you'll notice when you register, you will get a different link. If you are an institutional member, you will have a special link as well. It's easier than doing coupons and tracking them. This will all be listed in the registration.

Grants/Fundraising: We finished up our December fundraiser. I should be getting reports on our earnings later this month. I've been working hard on our next fundraiser which is our performer auction. I'm going to drop a link in the chat a preview of the auction website. Please, if you can, look around it and email me feedback before this goes live next week. You'll notice under the auction part, that's where our performers are; the bid button will not show up until we go live. All bids start at \$100 except for the ones that are monthly subscriptions that are offering more. They are in increments of \$1 and all have a buy it now price, but they are all for less than what they would normally charge. So, if you are looking for performers for summer or any other time of the year, this is a good way to do it. All the money goes back to CLA. We have 25 performers who have offered their services. The final fundraisers of the year are at the conference. This is my time of the year to ask you for auction items for our penny auction. If you have anything you want to auction, please email me, and let me know. Our interactive fundraiser is going to happen Monday night at the conference from 5:15 pm – 7:00 pm. It is Other Duties as Assigned: Trivia Edition. There will be tickets in registration as well as at the door. That will be the final fundraiser of the year. <https://fundraiser.bid/CLA2024PerformerAuction>

Intellectual Freedom: Sam Lee & Lindsay Delligan: The Connecticut bar association reached out to us to talk about libraries and book selection. I am teaming up with our friends from CASL, Jennie Lussier and Barbara Johnson and we will be presenting to the Connecticut Bar Association at the end of February. That is a good avenue to explore. They specifically said that they worked with school boards, school districts. It will be nice to reinforce that information and

remind them that we do not sit around and read books; we do a lot of stuff like preserving the freedom to read and preserving the first amendment. So, we are looking forward to that in February.

Legislative: Kate Byroade & Olivia Scully: We are quickly approaching the legislative session which will begin on February 7th and run until May 8th. A few general updates first: the Connecticut Democrats were putting their heads together to support libraries. We weren't exactly approached on this so thank you Sarah for getting us in on that conversation. We are anticipating eBook legislation to be reintroduced. We have a couple of legislative champions who are very interested in getting that across the finish line. Other issues that we are looking at for this legislative session or potentially for the next session, preventing book bans in schools and protecting school librarians, increasing the number and effectiveness of school librarians, and increasing direct state aid to public library. In terms of that last point, this legislative session would be more about priming that idea because the short session isn't really for budget issues. Other things we are working on are our communications: template testimonies, op eds, letters, graphics, one sheets, all coming together so please keep your eyes open and brace yourselves for updates as the session draws near. We are excited because we have a small team that are taking up EDI related funding incentives and libraries as a civil right. This has been on our radar for a couple of years and because this is more budget related, we will expect that to ramp up in the next session, which is the long session. Upcoming events: we have Connecticut eBook information sessions for Connecticut Library Workers which will take place on Tuesday and Wednesday. The links will be in the chat. It will be the same material in both sessions. We are excited that John Chrastka will be coming to the Ferguson in Stamford thanks to Alice Knapp and the efforts of FLAG, CLC, and everyone coming together to bring him and his work to Connecticut. I will add a link in the chat to register. Scott already mentioned save the date for the Legislative Breakfast on March 14th. Upcoming meetings: The legislative committee will be holding an internal capacity building discussion session next week. Our regular meetings will be Tuesday, February 13th and Tuesday, March 12th at 3pm.

Tuesday, Jan. 23 (3:30 PM) -

<https://ctlibraryassociation.org/meetinginfo.php?id=569&ts=1704210713>

Wednesday, Jan. 24 (10:00 AM) -

<https://ctlibraryassociation.org/meetinginfo.php?id=570&ts=1704210642>

Advocacy Playbook session with John Chrastka at the Ferguson in Stamford, Tues. Feb. 27, 1-4 PM

<https://www.ctlibrarians.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=1816242&group=>

Outreach: John Casiello: thinking ahead to conference, as registration goes out and thinking about what sessions you want to attend, I would love to have this board and members be willing to sit at the membership table and promote the work that your sections and committees are doing. It's a great chance to talk to our members and encourage them to join and share the work we are doing. I'll send out a request to the board to volunteer to sit at the table. Other stuff will be coming up so keep your eyes open.

PEG: Mary Etter: I have received the reimbursement information for our PEG awardee. She also provided us with a report on the marketing and PR programming which she attended in November. It's great material and a great promotion for the PEG program.

Procedures: Lisa Karim: No Report.

Section Reports:

Children's: Sage Gentry & Alexandra Remy: Continuing to plan for their February event. Details are on the CLA website.

CLASS: VACANT

College & University: Rob Walsh: Absent.

JEDI: Mary Richardson & Sam Connell: Kristina Lareau- we have our winter workshop schedule for February 8th at 11 am. It will get to StarChapter on Monday. We are having Dr. Sandra Hughes-Hassell and Dr. Amelia Gibson talk about their article "Maybe She's Just Strict to Everybody": Race, Belonging, and Surveillance in the Library." We are bringing in Kym Powe for our panel discussion after. Sam and Mary will be reaching out to other people to join that committee for a robust discussion after. It will most likely be a 2 to 3-hour discussion.

Public Libraries: Jennifer Sullivan: Absent. This is a passports year, and the program will take place again in April. I am working on getting things together for that, including possibly increasing the prize dollar amounts to make it more lucrative!

Reference & Adult Services: Christie Mitchell: Absent.

Resource Sharing: Matt Earls: No Report.

Technical Services: Ann Victor & Christine Rinaldi- If any section needs any help prepping for the conference or if you don't mind us shadowing, we would love the experience.

YA: Stephanie Smith: No report.

Adjournment: 10:47 AM Motion to adjourn by Kate Byroade. Seconded by Doug Lord.

Present: Sarah McCusker, Scott Jarzombek, Doug Lord, Margaret Khan, Shannon Angelone, Robert Scheier, Deborah Schander, Kate Byroade, Kristina Lareau, Colleen Bailie, David Bilmes, Ellen Paul, Heather Aronson, Erin Dummeyer, Emily Rush, Madhu Gupta, Maria Bernier, Jerry Seagrave, Andy Forsyth, Amanda Stern, Alessandra Casiello, Sam Lee, Olivia Scully, John Casiello, Mary Etter, Lisa Karim, Matt Earls, Ann Victor.

President's Report

Sarah McCusker

I am very pleased that in the last month we have gotten several requests for media that has been happy stuff rather than just book bans. I had entirely too much fun compiling the list of top books in the state. It was surprisingly difficult in a way I shouldn't have expected because of the different ways the numbers all go. I asked everyone for their top 5 or top 10 and I should have asked for more than that. Demon Copperfield which was top 5 statewide, was not in LCI in the top 10 but without LCI's numbers, I would not have been able to pull them. Anyway, thank you to everyone who replied to me about it and I think it might be something we want to do annually.

Supposedly, this Sunday, WFSB will be airing a segment I recorded a couple of weeks ago about all of the great things you can find at your library. It was preemptive because of the snow a couple weeks ago and as we know when it snows, everything halts. It should be on the morning program on Sunday, CE24, and they should put it on their website and YouTube.

Everything else that is going on will come up later in the meeting so that's all I have for now.

Treasurer's Report

Margaret Khan

This report is from the end of December, so we are halfway through our year. We are looking to be in pretty good shape. Our membership is lacking a little behind. We received \$13,000 as of the end of December of our budgeted \$30,000, so slightly behind there but otherwise everything is going well. Expenses are as of expected at this point in the year. We're gearing up for the conference and donations have been great. We've received \$6,000 of the \$7,000 that we anticipated for the whole year. Sections and committees, if you have any questions about your budget for the year, since we are half-way through, please let me know; anything regarding workshops and conferences that you might be doing. Also, the budget request form for the 2025 fiscal year is on the website now. Section and committee chairs, the form will be due on April 19th, which is the day after our April meeting. In the meantime, if you have any questions on things you've expensed in the past, how to fill out the form going forward, please do not hesitate to reach out to me and I'd be happy to assist with that.

<https://ctlibraryassociation.org/Finance>

New Business

- a. Doug Lord- Technology Section- no updates
- b. Scott Jarzombek & Sarah McCusker-Legislative Breakfast- So we have the date of the meeting- March 14th, but I will be reaching out again to get a quote for the breakfast which is what we are waiting on.
- c. Sarah McCusker/Ellen Paul/Legislative Committee- Erica Byrne- as we've been talking about this, it has led us down a rabbit hole of looking into lobbying regulations. Before we move forward with anything, we need to make sure we are in line with state ethics rules with lobbying. We're doing much more lobbying this year than we have been doing previously, so before we move forward with anything related to this, particularly with spending money, we want to make sure we are on the up and up. SO that is something that has just come up in the last couple of days and I will keep everyone up to date on what we are doing. But that is putting the brakes on this for the time being. Ellen: It's a complex issue that we're trying to work through now that we're doing a lot more work in this area. So, while we work through, we are going to put things on pause.

CASL- CLA Updates

Update January 2024

- NerdcampCT 2024 [registration](#) is open! The event will be March 2 at Sedgwick MS in West Hartford.
- Janine Johnson and her principal Tim Salem had an [article](#) published. Association for Middle Level Education.

<https://www.amle.org/collaboration-and-connections-how-to-transform-the-school-library-into-a-vibrant-learning-hub/>

The banner features the CASL logo on the left, which includes a map of Connecticut. To the right, the text reads "CT Association of School Librarians" in a large, blue, serif font, with "COLLABORATING TO ADVANCE STUDENT LEARNING" in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font below it. The central focus is a white rectangular area with a blue border, containing the text "REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!" in red, "MARCH 2, 2024" in large black font, "SEDGWICK MIDDLE SCHOOL IN WEST HARTFORD" in smaller black font, and a logo for "nErDcampCT" featuring a book with eyes. Below this, it says "EVENT FOR ALL LOVERS OF LITERACY!". At the bottom left of the banner is the CASL logo and name, and at the bottom right is a QR code.

CASL CT Association of School Librarians
COLLABORATING TO ADVANCE STUDENT LEARNING

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!
MARCH 2, 2024
SEDGWICK MIDDLE SCHOOL
IN WEST HARTFORD

nErDcampCT

EVENT FOR ALL LOVERS OF LITERACY!

CASL CT Association of School Librarians
COLLABORATING TO ADVANCE STUDENT LEARNING

CLA Region 5 News: January 2024

Scranton Memorial Library, Madison

- The Children's Department celebrates the grand opening of *Leonardo's Labs*, a museum exhibition from the Ithaca ScienCenter that explores the inventions, art, and ideas of the original Renaissance man, Leonardo da Vinci. The exhibition is made possible by a grant from The Schumann Foundation.

Shelton Library System, Huntington Branch

- We are pleased to announce that we have a new Children's Librarian at our Huntington Branch in Shelton - her name is Mary Lamothe, and she replaces Jessica Prutting, who was recently promoted to Branch Librarian.

Wallingford Public Library

- We're excited to announce that Wallingford residents can now access Playgarden Prep for free! Filled with videos, music, do-it-yourself projects, and live classes, this comprehensive online preschool program is designed to help children get ready for kindergarten.
 - Playgarden is a NYC based preschool focused on creating educational and developmental programs for the youngest children. Through the expertise of certified Montessori teachers, physical and cognitive therapists, special needs educators, and visual and musical artists, they have developed educational programs for children ages 18 months to 5 years. We're thrilled to be their first library partner, assisting them in the development of this new subscription-based model (and good news for Library Directors - it's not that expensive! We swapped our underutilized Muzzy subscription for this and initial feedback from families and educators has been great!)

Respectfully submitted,
Emily Rush
Region 5 Representative
E.C. Scranton Memorial Library

January CLA Board Meeting

Region 6 Report

The Public Library of New London will serve as a warming center for the upcoming intense cold weather in the area for the next few days.

PLNL has collected over 50 hats/gloves and scarfs from the community to be donated to the Homeless Hospitality Center.