

Connecticut Library Association Board Meeting

January 19, 2023

10:00 am Business Meeting via Zoom

Minutes

1. **Call to Order:** President Doug Lord 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 Kate Byroade and seconded by Mary Etter. Motion passed. No abstentions.

2. **Old Business**

a. **President's Report** – See attached.

b. **Treasurer's Report** – We have received 14K from Membership with 621 members. Bulk of our budget will be picking up closer to Conference date. Refunds will be available for Intellectual Freedom Conference, date has changed. 65.5 cents per mile as of the beginning of the year. Form on the website will be updated.

3. **New Business**

a. Reports

Representative Reports:

CT State Library: Deborah Schander: See attached

NELA: Heloise Nana: Mid-career between 3-15 years NELLs 2023 applications will open soon.

ALA: Kate Byroade: Still getting her footing as the new ALA rep. Hoping to have more to report in February.

ALA EDI Assembly: Kristina Lareau: Absent

FOCL: Debbie Misiaszek: June 10 at the Avon Community Center for their annual meeting

ACLB: Denise Stankovics: They will be meeting early in February and hope to schedule remaining Zoom presentations. Hoping to have more to report next month.

ACLPD: Alyssa Bussard: Hoping to meeting in February. Check out the DLD 2022 wrap up, everything is in there.

Region 1: Karin Goodell: See attached

Region 2: Shana Shea: Absent. Plainville Library welcomes Susan Mansfield as part-time circulation associate, and Jennifer Michella as full-time reference librarian.

Region 3: Leslie McDonough: New director Ann Harper, many libraries facing requests to cut budgets for the coming year – there is some concern about that, especially in the light of inflation, impacting some capital projects, too.

Region 4: Erin Dummeyer: See attached

Region 5: Allison Murphy: See attached

Region 6: Madhu Gupta:

CLC: Ellen Paul: Ingram has come on as a sponsor for Take Your Child to the Library Day which will allow paid, targeted social media ads in the hopes that they push more people to CT libraries on that day, they will also be taking out some small ads as a form of advocacy and for the day. They have also sent out targeted press releases to all the newspapers in CT. Also going to do some TV ads with the hopes of advocacy and to push

more people to the libraries. Also reached out to public officials, have heard back positively from every office. Getting new supply bids. Sending reminders and invites for vendors to attend CLA Conference to exhibit. Celebrating the 20th anniversary of CLC this year (2003-2023). They have put together a committee of board members and librarians from around the state to organize at least one celebration – more to come on that. Ellen would expect something this summer.

BCALA: Robert Kinney: Absent

CAS-L: Barbara Johnson: Absent

Commission on Ed Tech: Colleen Bailie: No report

Library Connection: Laura Horn: No report

SCSU: Arlene Bielefield: 20% enrollment increase each year.

Association Committee Reports:

ADA: Maria Bernier: No report

Archivist: Gerald Seagrave: No report

Awards (as needed): Everything is up to date on the website so people have plenty of time to get nominations in by end of March.

Career Development: Sunnie Scarpa & Andy Forsyth: Scholarship application is up on the website for 2023, the deadline is March 7. They will be sending out announcement emails through ConnTech and CLA membership. You can forward that to any students you might have in your library – it is open to all students in the field, not just MLIS. They have a meeting on Tuesday.

Conference 2023: Scott Brill & Andy Forsyth: Finalizing details on events at Conference, especially bigger events. Scott and Andy attended the CLC administrators meeting this month, emphasis for the Conference is on practical take-aways. Hoping to have early bird registration go up on January 31 or February 1 so look out for that, as well. Bob Scheier wanted to double check venue is all set on insurance. Alessandra will check with our contract. Bob reminded to get the certificate insurance now.

Intellectual Freedom: Sam Lee & Lindsay Delligan: Had their IF network meeting that they have quarterly with the other IF chairs from across the country. Sam reports there are some very concerning bills in other state legislatures. New banned books campaign called “United Against Banned Books,” which includes a PDF downloadable toolkit. It’s an advocacy network: <https://uniteagainstbookbans.org/take-action/> Sam encouraged everyone to sign-up. Sam renewed our Freedom to Read Institutional membership. CLA members are still able to get trainings. Let Sam know if interested. Alessandra asked if Sam knew the details on CLA becoming a United Against Banned Books partner. Bob will reach out with the email and form to Doug or Alessandra to let them know to be recognized as a partner.

Attended Quarterly State Intellectual Freedom Network meeting yesterday. We’re not Texas, but there’s some very concerning legislation popping up elsewhere.

United Against Book Bans - <https://uniteagainstbookbans.org/>

Renewed CLA’s institutional membership to Freedom to Read Foundation

Pink Slime Journalism - <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/252727/bishops-disavow-link-politically-oriented-catholic-tribune-newspapers>

Grants/Fundraising: Alessandra Casiello: Boon Supply fundraiser made about \$435. Still working on doing a programmer's auction as well as looking for donations for the silent auction at Conference. Also going to have some type of after hours/night before fundraiser at Conference, still working out logistics.

Legislative: Kate Byroade & Olivia Scully: See attached

Membership: Trish Tomlinson: Trish will be sending out an email asap to switch your email when you switch jobs.

PEG: Mary Etter: Remind your staff to apply for PEG.

Procedures: Lisa Karim: Absent

Publicity & Communications: John Casiello: Ongoing quest to remove our old logo from everywhere except Archives. New signage and new SWAG at Conference.

Section Reports:

Children's: Alex Klaus & Sage Gentry: No report

CLASS: Vacant

College & University: Vacant

JEDI: Mary Richardson & Sam Connell: No report

Public Libraries: Jennifer Sullivan: Jen has been approached by several people for a new way to celebrate banned books week without calling it "banned" books. They will have an informal discussion/meeting next month, 2/15, on Zoom. Jen will send out an email. It will be virtual so people can come together and talk out what they want to do moving forward.

Reference & Adult Services: Christie Mitchell & Rachel Leff: No report

Resource Sharing: Matt Earls: No report

Technical Services: Vacant

YA: Jackie Bush & Stephanie Smith: Excited to hear back about Conference proposals. Having a virtual get together at end of February/beginning of March – informal.

4. **Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn at 11:05 was made by Kate Byroade and seconded by Mary Etter. Motion passed. No abstentions.

Present: Douglas Lord, Danielle Valenzano, Alyssa Bussard, Margaret Khan, Erin Dummeyer, Alex Klaus, Mary Etter, Kate Byroade, Andy Forsyth, John Casiello, Jerry Seagrave, Debbie Misiaszek, Karin Goodell, Sunnie Scarpa, Denise Stankovics, Deborah Schander, Laura Horn, Madhu Gupta, Ellen Paul, Oliva Scully, Allison Murphy, Heloise Nana, Sam Lee, Colleen Bailie, Sarah McCusker, Sam Lee, Bob Scheier, Stephanie Smith, Rachel Leff, Arlene Bielfield, Alessandra Casiello

Legislative Update

The Legislative Committee with occasional special guest stars worked on two pieces of legislation that addressed member concerns, specifically with funding and pricing of eBooks.

Importantly, there are advocacy/meet & greets scheduled for each of the six CLA Regions and I encourage all to attend these if at all possible. The process of rebooting these advocacy sessions, dormant for a few years, is an important one.

Takeaways are twofold: 1.) You don't ask, you don't get; and 2.) This is not complicated. Programs are what librarians *do*. Bringing legislators, Friends, municipal electeds and appointeds, and trustees together to meet each other and inform them about issues is something we can all do in groups or individually. These sessions can serve as models.

Board Update

Heloise Nana (Ferguson Library) has agreed to become interim NELA Representative.

Vacancies include College & University Libraries section, CLASS, and the Technical Services section. Check the bylaws for duties of these positions.

America 250 CT Update

CLA has been invited by Governor Lamont to participate in the July 4, 2026 semiquincentennial celebration of the signing of the Declaration of Independence from the demonic British Empire.

The current thinking is that it is best for CLA to have a persistent person present with a team or committee in support instead of changing the person in that role annually with each new presidency.

I indicated interest in one of the four committees – Community & Organizational Engagement - and volunteered to be Secretary of that committee.

I'm happy to report that many on the CT250 Commission have a high respect quotient for libraries and recognize the work that we do in calling our communities together.

One overarching goal of the Commission is for strong participation in all CT communities; thus there are roles for librarians and our allies locally as well as in helping the Commission itself. The other committees are Tourism & Marketing, Governance/Bylaws, and Education.

Kudos

Grants and Fundraising Chair Alessandra Casiello held yet another successful fundraiser. CLA continues to owe Alessandra its gratitude for consistent, successful work stewarding us towards financial health.

Legislative co-chairs Kate Byroade and Olivia Scully for tireless, time-consuming, and timely work on legislation. State Librarian Deborah Schander for her work on the eBook legislation. Andy Forsyth and Scott Brill for their work on the 2023 annual conference. CLC Executive Director Ellen Paul for ceaseless advocacy and energy.

Very truly yours,

Douglas Lord

The Governor’s proposed budget is expected to be released by February 8. Several proposed bills directly or indirectly impacting the State Library have been filed and referred to committee including: moving the Royal Charter to the Senate Chamber, requiring public higher education libraries to lend materials to public libraries, the creation of a Dolly Parton Imagination Library program, ebooks, land recording format and more. Committee leadership will now be reviewing these proposals to determine which, if any, of these proposed bills move forward. The State Library will continue monitoring these and other bills and establishing dialogue with legislators on them.

CT Library Association

Region 1 Report

January 2023

I asked Region 1 libraries to share highlights from 2022 and if they have any big plans for the New Year. A few responded.

Sarah Marshall, Director of the Kent Library, noted that in '22 they held a Green Energy program with PACE (People's Action for Clean Energy) that brought lots of vendors and environmentalists together to talk about real world solutions to energy conservation, and they also had an amazing story time/signing with THE Seth Meyers. Their biggest news is they worked really hard getting materials and supporters together and will be starting a capital campaign (shhhhh, just the silent phase!)They have big plans to be announced, and 2023 will be a wild ride!

Jeannette Francini, Director of the Beekley Library in New Hartford, let me know that they spent about 6 months weeding and shifting and separating sections – and now have made a small dedicated space in a corner of the library for teens! And it is being used too. Their BookFriends are in the process of changing the fiction spine labels and correcting the call numbers in the catalog. A huge project.

Most of our Region 1 libraries are just very pleased to see their circulation and library visitor numbers on the rise again.

Submitted By:

Karin Goodell

Region 1 Representative

Region 4, January Report – Erin Dummeyer

In Newtown, the municipality approved \$900K for an hvac renovation project at the CH Booth Library beginning in 2023-24

In Easton, their One Book/One Town Community Read program is underway. The selected title is *A Snake Falls to Earth* by Darcee Little Badger (a Fairfield County resident). The author will speak at the Library on March 18 at 2pm. They will also be hosting Beth Regan and Bruce Bozsum from the Mohegan Tribe on February 28 at 7pm. They will discuss the history and culture of the tribe, as well as share some music/dance.

Easton is also partnering with a local church to present a 4-part Racial Justice Film Series, beginning with the film *13th* on February 9.

Stamford is now the second city in the country to be designated as a Book Sanctuary City.

New Canaan Library at long last plans to open the doors on its new library in February!!

They welcome Tara Key to the role of Manager of Reference and Instruction and Megan Hutto to the role of Teen Librarian.

Norwalk Public Library hosted a program to celebrate Ukrainian Christmas on Jan. 8 by the Library's Greater Norwalk Literacy Volunteers (GNLV) in the Main Branch on Belden Avenue.

CLA Region 5 News: January, 2023

- Benjamin Sodergren is the new Director of Killingworth Library. Welcome, Ben!
- West Haven Public Library reports that they added a Toy Library in November thanks to a grant from Traveling Toys. The program has been a resounding success and includes board games, kitchen sets, Nintendo switches, and more.

Maria Tonelli is our new Branch Manager at Ora Mason Library. Maria started in her position in December.

- Scranton Library is hosting a Turtle Travels museum exhibit for children through May. The grand opening will be held on Saturday, January 21st from 10am – 1pm. All are welcome, with special gifts for the first 100 visitors!
- Jane Fisher at Wallingford Library recently celebrated 10 years as their Director. Congratulations, Jane!

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Murphy

Region 5 Representative

Scranton Memorial Library

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Region 6 Libraries

Waterford Public Library- Head of Youth Services, Jenna Bivona, and Library Director Christine Johnson are excited to be participating as one of the pilot libraries for the State Library's Building Equity Based Summers initiative. Local funding match is in place for CT State Library Construction grant. The grant was formally approved at the December 8 State Municipal Bond hearing. The work to replace the library's HVAC system should begin in the next few months.

Ledyard Public Library- Matt Novosad started as the New FT Assistant Librarian I at the Bill Library this week.

In addition, Ledyard Public Library changed domain names. Their website is now: <https://ledyardlibrary.org/>

Staff emails have also changed to end with @ledyardlibrary.org rather than @ledyard.lioninc.org. Library Director, Jen Smith's updated email address is jsmith@ledyardlibrary.org.

Public Library of New London- Digital Navigator program is very popular. The best part of the program is that patrons have the assurance that they can come back if they have more questions.

Teen volunteer program has started at the Library. Five volunteers have been working around 15 hours per week, who are helping with everything from checking missing lists to shelf reading to preparing Take & Make kits.

Hotspots and notary service continue to be popular services.

Regional Legislative breakfast will be held at the PLNL on Wed, Jan 25 at 8:30 AM. This drop-in event will be both a networking event for legislators, librarians, and members of the community, with a brief overview of the work libraries are doing across the state.

What's up with CASL?

January 2023 Edition – Barbara Johnson

- CECA (CT Educators Computer Association) has become a subcommittee of the organization. Known as the CASL-TUG (Technology Users Group) will focus on Computer Science and Technology Integration.
- CASL has become an ISTE Affiliate and will be sending representatives to Affiliate Assembly at ISTE Live 23
- CASL/CECA Conference held 11/4/22 at Southern CT State University attracted over 275 in-person attendees and another 75 online. Venue was well received, but small for the amount of interest.
- Barbara Johnson is running for [ALA councilor-at-large](#), voting begins in March. Hoping for state-wide support! One other CT candidate: Vivian Bordeaux Head, Technical Services, Bridgeport Public Library
- nErDcampCT March 2024 and then on ONLY even years moving forward