

Connecticut Library Association Board Meeting
February 15, 2024
10:00 am Business Meeting via Zoom
Minutes

1. **Call to Order:** President Sarah McCusker called the meeting to order at 10:07 am.
Approval of Minutes: January meeting minutes
A motion to approve the January meeting minutes was made by Doug Lord and seconded by Kate Byroade. Motion approved. No abstentions.
2. **Old Business**
 - a. **President's Report** – See attached.
 - b. **Treasurer's Report** – See attached.
 - c. **Technology Committee-** See attached.
3. **New Business**
 - a. Sustainability Committee: By-Laws Revision Draft- See attached.
 - b. Sustainability Committee: Institutional Membership and Enhanced Institutional Memberships- See attached.
 - c. Appointment by Vice President- See attached.

Representative Reports:

CT State Library: Deborah Schander: The State Library's budget hearing is this morning. We had requested something very simple which is take the money that you put here and move it here. Hopefully, it will be a good conversation with them and an opportunity to talk about library work more generally. Public hearings start at 2PM and Kate and Olivia have been working on some testimony for that so thank you to everybody who has been working on it.

NELA: Scott Brill: They are trying to reconfigure the NELLS program. What they will do this year is there will be a Tier 1 for emerging leaders in a hybrid program where there will be some zoom and in person. There will be a Tier 3 for those of us who have more than 15 years of experience and want to refresh their skills or talk with people who have been around. There will be more details on that as they emerge. It is very clear that they will not ask associations for money for those. We will still only be giving money for Tier 2, which is known as NELLS. We are also focusing on creating a better mentor program. We will have a meeting next week about all of this. It's a great experience for everyone who attends but we want to fit the mentors in a more proactive and cohesive way.

ALA: Kate Byroade: ALA LibLearnX was held in Baltimore. One of the biggest things is that ALA council voted and approved new membership pricing so those of you who are ALA members should pay attention. If you are at a library where your library pays for memberships, you should be aware. Individual 1 will be \$125. Individual 2 will be \$55. I don't have what those tiers mean at hand. Supporter will be \$70, and Student will be \$40. It will be much simpler and done with the hope that it will be easier for people to handle and budget. The International Relations Committee of ALA had developed a resolution on damage and destruction of libraries and other cultural institutions in Gaza. They called for Library Schools and cultural institutions not be the target of attacks as per Geneva convention. It was overwhelmingly supported. We voted to approve virtual council sessions as a permanent thing. The Freedom to Read foundation has been busy filing Amicus briefs and censorship related cases around the country and so far, things have been going well. As soon as things hit the Federal courts, the courts have been very consistent in striking down some of the weirdo laws that have come up. That's just a brief report but there is more on the ALA website. There was repeated urge for people to join and become personal members of the Freedom to Read foundation to carry out their very good and necessary work. Library and Information students can join the Freedom to Read foundation for free. We had our Core Values report and ALA felt it was time to revisit them. The number of them was reduced to 5: Access, Intellectual Freedom and Privacy, Equity, Sustainability, and the Public Good. We voted on those. We had just under 2000 attendees.

ALA EDI Assembly: Kristina Lareau: No Report.

ACLB: Denise Stankovics: Just want to remind everybody that on February 28th we are having a webinar on DEI, and I hope that you will encourage your board members to sign up. As you know, even though we are aimed at boards, anyone can sign up such as librarians and staff. We'd be happy to have you.

ACLPD: Alyssa Dansinghani: Absent. No Report.

America 250: Doug Lord: The 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence is coming up and I am a commissioner. The commission met on January 17th and received a lot of updates about things like the annual report to the governor and what other leading states like Virginia are doing in their efforts. My little committee is called Outreach and we met on February 8th. Both of those meetings have extensive discussions about idea incorporating elements of inclusion, equity, diversity, and access into all of the commission's activities. It's really the majority of the discussions at this point. It can get very nuanced, and they can be difficult to navigate given the different lenses of all of the people who are commissioners and how they want things to be shaped. But its important to this group because obviously many Americans have no connection to the Declaration of Independence or even see that document as a listing of harms that has been done to their culture. For what it's worth, the commission has developed and will continue to refine a rubric, toolkit, actions steps for ideas for inclusion and engaging folks on this very issue.it can sound as simple as "why the declaration is horrible to me as a person." We want that and welcome that. That rubric document is not yet public, but I will share it when it is. One month from now on March 15th, the commission is taking an opportunity to host a day long conference. It's free, there's lunch, coffee, and cookies. It's called Day 3 of Declaring Freedom. It's a themed conference and the most important thing that the commission has put together so far. I will put the link in the chat but it's important to know there are sessions and lots of things that you can learn about engaging your community as well as the groups in your communities that are important that the commission wants to reach. I'm always going to urge libraries to put yourself at the front and center of this effort. If you know any groups or people who are interested in this, let me know.

<https://ct250.org/events/declaring-freedom-day-3/>

BCALA: Robert Kinney: Absent.

Commission on Ed Tech: Colleen Bailie: Absent.

Communications Task Force: Doug Lord: The communications task force is an effort to find new ways for members to find new ways for members and potential nonmembers of CLA to connect with colleagues in a deeper and more conversational way that's less about what happens on listservs which is more about announcements and requests for help. And that's not knocking listservs. We've set up a discord server and it's very exciting in a super nerdy way. We are testing it out and seeing what it can and cannot do and I think in about a month we will have more training under our belt with Discord 101. It will be ready to be released to the wild within a month or so.

CASL: David Bilmes: See attached.

CLC: Ellen Paul: I just wanted to remind everyone that CLC, CLA and FLAG are jointly sponsoring our "Reimagining our Advocacy Playbook" workshop with John Chrastka. It's coming up in 2 weeks in Stamford and have about 40 registrations. The link will be in the chat.

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

FOCL: Debbie Misiaszek: We will be having our annual FOCL meeting and award ceremony on June 15th in Avon. Our guest speaker will be Lynn Katz who wrote "The Magic 8-ball."

Library Connection: Laura Horn: Absent.

Region 1: Heather Aronson: Absent.

Region 2: Shana Shea: See attached.

Region 3: Chonte Fields: No Report.

Region 4: Erin Dummeyer: Absent.

Region 5: Emily Rush: See attached.

Region 6: Madhu Gupta: See attached.

SCSU: Cindy Schofield: No report.

Sustainability Taskforce : Doug Lord & Alessandra Casiello: There are 4 distinct heads of Sustainability, and all are moving ahead mostly with the pushing, shoving, and coaxing of Alessandra. I will go over 3 of the aspects since we already heard about bylaws. There's a strategic planning committee that finished preliminary work for members to fill out as well as nonmember survey. There's a financial planning committee that went through and cleaned out old financial documents and used the bones of that one with a clear vision of what needs to happen as well as structuring what happens now to plan for the next few years. That one needs to be cleaned up a little more, get some of you to read it, vote on it, and make a whole lot of money. There's a training and onboarding committee and you'll be relieved to hear that there's been selection criteria for new software if we are able to extract ourselves from StarChapter. There's also been a lot of brain dumps that will help with the onboarding process that will help new people and people like me who don't know what's going on most of the time. It's just to know what happens at this time of year and when you want to do this, you do this kind of thing. Alessandra-the nonmember survey has not gone out yet, but it should be going out within the next few days. And a reminder that the member survey will also be included with that.

Association Committee Reports:

ADA: Maria Bernier: No Report.

Archivist: Gerald Seagrave: Absent.

Awards: Region Reps: Nominations have gone out first to members through StarChapter and now through Conntech. If you know anyone, promote that we want nominations. Everyone is doing amazing work and we want to reward those people. Anyone can nominate everyone; it does not have to come from a director. Reminders will go out.

Career Development: Andy Forsyth & Amanda Stern: We have a number of things. The first one is that our updated compensation benchmarks are almost ready to be released. We had a little discrepancy that we were questioning so we sent it back to the drawing board and our committee needs to talk about it and then it will be rolled out. We wanted to let folks know that for both our mentoring program and scholarships, we are in the application period. Through the end of the month, we are accepting applications for both scholarships and mentoring programs. Reminders will be going out but keep in mind for scholarships, we are asking for all of your information to be submitted in advance of the deadline because there are usually cases where all of the information does not come in complete, and we have to track it down. We do not want people to miss the opportunity because of timing. Likewise with the mentoring program, Beth and I will be sitting down and making the matches next month with an April 1 start. If you are interested in having or being a mentor, please have them fill out the applications on the website. We are looking ahead to the conference and getting programs ready. We are starting planning for our Library Leadership Institute in the summertime and our committee will plan to meet again next month.

Conference 2024: Alessandra Casiello: Registration opened a few weeks ago. We have about 75 registrations. If everybody pays, we have about \$14,000 in registrations so far. Speakers have all gotten their contracts and they are rolling in. Along with the registration, you will see a preliminary schedule and survey went out so we can see where people are spending their time at the conference in case we need to move things around. There's also a preliminary menu to help people who have dietary restrictions. For our exhibits, we have 33 vendors, 8 sponsors, and about \$36,000 from them already. We normally see registration skyrocket right before our early bird deadline so that number will rise. The same happens with our vendor registration because they get a fee if they register after the April 1 deadline. We will be seeing those numbers rise in the next month. The committee is doing great work and have gotten a lot of very positive feedback. One thing I want to point out one positive feedback is with the preliminary schedule. We got a really nice email from a director who said they were happy to see the preliminary schedule so early to help directors and staff make decisions. I'm proud of the committee and it's all going very well.

Grants/Fundraising: Alessandra Casiello: Our fall winter fundraiser from Meadow Farms, we raised \$365 from our virtual store fundraiser. February was a big month because we had our first virtual library

programmer auction. We had 25 performers and 20 of them got bids up until the last second at midnight. As things were coming in, there were bidding wars and we raised \$3,200 with that. It was great for presenters and libraries that got things. Our final fundraiser of the year will be at the conference. If anyone wants to donate an item for the silent auction, let me know. We also have trivia hosted by John and Kristina and is "Other Duties as Assigned."

Intellectual Freedom: Sam Lee & Lindsay Delligan: IF has been busy consulting on 3 different challenges but can't really disclose what is going on. Suffice it to say, check in with your library colleagues and school librarians, sometimes these challenges pop up and need support but don't know how to ask. Make sure you develop those relationships with new Library Directors and new School Librarians. They might not always know the best way to deal with a challenge so be there with your expertise and support.

Legislative: Kate Byroade & Olivia Scully: The CT State Library has an administrative change they are asking for today. They are asking to move Incentive Grants out of the Operating Budgets and into Grants. If you haven't signed up to give spoken testimony, you can still send a letter. I will drop information in the chat. The news we've all been waiting for: we do have a Bill number for eBooks. Planning and Development has been the first to raise our eBook Bill. It's Senate Bill 148. AN ACT MAKING CERTAIN TERMS IN ELECTRONIC BOOK AND DIGITAL AUDIOBOOK LICENSE AGREEMENTS OR CONTRACTS UNENFORCEABLE. Here's the link to track the bill:

https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&bill_num=SB00148&which_year=2024

Current text of bill: <https://www.cga.ct.gov/2024/TOB/S/PDF/2024SB-00148-R00-SB.PDF>

Stay tuned for updates at <https://ctlibraryassociation.org/Advocacy>

Find out how to take action at <https://ctlibraryassociation.org/speak-up>

Just a bit more context about that: It's been confirmed that Planning & Development has a public hearing scheduled to start at 1:30 PM on February 21st. The agenda is

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2024/pddata/pha/pdf/2024PHA00221-R001330PD-PHA.PDF> for that hearing.

We will be giving more instructions for signing up on our website. But you can sign up to give testimony by clicking one of the appropriate links at the top of the agenda. We have templates for testimonies and letters that are linked from our speak up page: <https://ctlibraryassociation.org/speak-up>. We have not heard anything yet from the Government, Administration, and Elections. They had been talking about introducing the same legislation there, but we are getting down to the wire in terms of the time frame for those committees to introduce bills so that's a big question mark right now. If there are going to be any additional hearings, you can expect those between February 22nd and March 15th. Kate: GAE hasn't met yet, so we don't know what's happening with that committee. They've got early voting on their docket so they must meet. Olivia- as soon as we have information about that we will be updating the website. We are trying to go all in this year and ask your legislators to support and co-sponsor the legislation. The more names we can get signed onto this, the better. Especially if we can work across the isles and get folks from both the democratic party and republic party to support this legislation, we really need to make it a bipartisan effort. The other legislation we are hoping for the education to committee to introduce is for school libraries but we are not sure where that stands. We had our eBook info session last month and had 73 people registered. The video for that is posted on the advocacy webpage. We are forging ahead of the legislative breakfast scheduled for March 14th at 9AM. Ellen mentioned the Advocacy Playbook session with John Chrastka at the Ferguson in Stamford, Tues. Feb. 27, 1-4 PM. You can sign up here:

<https://www.ctlibrarians.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=1816242&group=>. Our next meeting will be March 12th at 3pm. Talk to everyone about supporting the Senate Bill. If you don't know who your own legislators are, that's fine. We have a couple of links on our website to help you with that. There is also a form that will walk you through submitting a letter to your own legislator. We do ask that you check out the templates before you send that form. They hate getting form letters. Please use personal stories or statistics from your own libraries. That form will direct your form to your legislators. If you know a patron who loves eBooks, talk to them now because patron stories are important. You can reach out as a

CT resident and as a library worker where your library is located. As a library worker we are working toward the same goals: supporting the community so that's an argument they can get behind.

Outreach: John Casiello: Not too much to report, just a lot of behind-the-scenes stuff going on. Looking forward to the conference and looking forward to filling volunteer spots at our membership table.

PEG: Mary Etter: No Report.

Procedures: Lisa Karim: Absent

Section Reports:

Children's: Sage Gentry & Alexandra Remy: We have our children's annual meeting workshop next Thursday and currently have 39 registrations so far.

CLASS: VACANT

College & University: Rob Walsh: Absent.

JEDI: Mary Richardson & Sam Connell: We have our winter workshop coming up called "Beyond Everyone is Welcome: Inclusion and Belonging in the Library." It is on February 28th at 11. It is a virtual conference. We are thinking about bringing new members on board to be on the leadership team. So, if anyone knows anybody or is interested in being a co-chair let us know, because we are looking for new leaders.

Public Libraries: Jennifer Sullivan: Passports" we have almost 50 libraries signed up so far. I did bump up the prices of the prizes to \$200 each to make it a little more interesting and incentivizing. There is one thing I was talking to Dawn LaValle about last night. I've been getting reports from libraries that there have been some reciprocal borrowing issues and people were making out of town residents get library cards. So, I'm going to be reminding people of the reciprocal borrowing, one card, one state rule.

Reference & Adult Services: Christie Mitchell: No Report.

Resource Sharing: Matt Earls: No Report.

Technical Services: Ann Victor & Christine Rinaldi: No report.

YA: Stephanie Smith: Absent.

Adjournment: 11:36 AM Motion to adjourn by 1. Kate Byroade 2. Scott Jarzombek.

Present: Sarah McCusker, Scott Jarzombek, Doug Lord, Margaret Khan, Shannon Angelone, Deborah Schander, Alessandra Casiello, Alison Murphy, Amanda Stern, Chonte Fields, Christie Mitchell, Christine Rinaldi, Cindy Schofield, David Bilmes, Debbie Misiasek, Denise Stankovics, Doug Lord, Ellen Paul, Emily Rush, Jennifer Sullivan, John Casiello, Kate Byroade, Kristina Lareau, Madhu Gupta, Margaret Khan, Maria Bernier, Mary Etter, Mary Richardson, Matt Earls, Olivia Scully, Sage Gentry, Samantha Lee, Scott Brill, Shana Shea.

President's Report

Sarah McCusker

We are coming into the busy part of the year as you know with conference coming up and the legislative session starting earlier this week. I know pretty much everyone in this meeting is heavily involved in at least one of those things so thank you all for all of your hard work you've been putting in. I think we have some exciting things coming down the road and it's going to be a lot of work. I have been in the last month or so, I've had several meetings with representatives from other organizations like CT humanities and LGBTQ advocacy organizations about working together on advocacy issues and creating a bigger block of organizations that have similar interests. The current plan is that we've made these connections with these organizations and once the session is over we will talk about what we can do proactively prepare for next year's long session and ways to support each other. Also last month I mentioned I recorded a TV spot, and they did finally air the interview.

Treasurer's Report- Margaret Khan

Not much to report this month but as Sarah said, we are getting into the busy season. We are bringing in some revenue already from conference exhibitors and getting the ball rolling with membership remaining steady. We have 50% of our projected revenue as of the end of January. Revenue from donations is doing well- we are at 87% of our projected revenue at about halfway through the year. The biggest thing here is that budget request forms for the 2025 budget year will be due on April 19th. The form is on the website, and I will drop it in the chat. If you have any questions about your section or committee, let me know. Every section and committee should submit one of these forms even if you don't anticipate having anything, please submit a form with 0.

<https://ctlibraryassociation.org/Finance>

Old Business

C. Technology Committee- Doug Lord:

Earlier in January, there was discussion of creating a technology section for the association that requires 15 signatures of members in good standing. I obtained those signatures and sent an email to Sarah and the executive committee requesting that this matter be brought before the executive board for a vote. I'm also happy to report that I have 42 signatures total. This requests a vote of the executive board for a technology section that will be developed with chairs or co-chairs in the coming months.

1. Alessandra Casiello makes a motion to reinstate the Technology Section
2. Mary Etter seconds the motion.

Sarah- my one comment would be can we rename it so as not to confuse it with Technology vs. Tech Services confusion.

Doug- I will let the potential chair know that we are looking for a new name that is not technology/ tech services.

All in favor of reinstating a to be named technology section. No oppositions or abstentions. Motion Passes.

New Business

a. Sustainability Committee: By-Laws Revision Draft

Doug- There are 4 different heads to the sustainability committee-Bylaws went through the existing bylaws and Alessandra created a draft document putting them all together.

Alessandra- The bylaws draft was included in the meeting packet. We have completed going through the bylaws. There are a lot of changes- many grammatical but there are a few larger changes particularly with the types of membership section as well as a few removals and inserts within the sections and committees. There were some sections and committees that were not accounted for, some name changes, so we wanted to send this out to the board as a completed draft. You can see the markups, and this is what would be presented to the membership for the final vote at the annual meeting in April. We are asking that the Executive Board members take a look at this draft and if you see anything that you have questions about, if you can bring it to the next board meeting or email myself or Doug so we can look it over. We need to send the revision out March 29th, a month prior to the Annual meeting, giving people enough time to look it over before the vote. We are just presenting it to you and asking you to look through the changes and see if you have questions or concerns before we present it to membership.

b. Sustainability Committee: Institutional Membership and Enhanced Institutional Memberships

Alessandra- one thing we did put into the bylaws was membership tiers. We do have 2 proposals for what we currently have as institutional memberships which are done through a form that people send in through their institution- usually directors. It is supposed to be based on the operating budget. Every year when conference comes around, I send out coupon codes to get membership rates. This year, we did it a bit differently and I saw that some institutions were signing up at the lowest operating budget which makes it very difficult to believe that institutional membership is a good thing. Instead of a library with a million-dollar budget and paying a \$150 rate, they were paying \$50 and saying they had a \$50,000 budget. It wasn't just one library which is concerning. We do have an idea of keeping institutional memberships because we know it's important for libraries that need to use them to get their staff into professional development trainings and being part of CLA. But we are hoping to come up with a different way to do this tier in which it is not based on operating budget. One option was based on full-time equivalent staff number, and other options were based on city population referenced by state statistics. If we do stay with operating budget, we would refer to the state statistics. But we do feel that possibly the full-time equivalency or population may be a better way for us to do the tiered memberships rather than operational budgets. The other part of this is that we want to do a new tier called institutional enhanced membership in which the library would pay a larger cost in order to have all of their staff would be members- they would send us a list of their staff. So, we do want to add that into the list of changes that we make with institutional membership as well. We want to hear everyone's concerns and ideas about institutional membership. Olivia will put in the chat where we got this idea from, and other states are doing this. <New Jersey Library Assn: <https://www.njla.org/enhanced-institutional-membership-info>>

Scott Brill- As a library director, there are other things where I pay for an organization because of my budget. What the form does though, its already filled out and tells me what I am paying.

Alessandra- That's what I mean by we would be cross-referencing the state statistics- it would be what we want to cross reference and those are the 3 options: the operating budget, the full-time equivalent staff, or the population.

Scott- I think that the budget is probably the best option because as we know, you can have a place that only has 12,000 people but is the richest library in the state- the population doesn't always represent the wealth of the library. I would still go with the budget and tell them which tier.

John Casiello- Scott, to one of your points, StarChapter does not allow us to put that data in, we are essentially using that request for institutional membership as the start of the conversation. We have to do that in a follow-up conversation.

Alessandra- one thing that was also brought up was that instead of doing an institutional membership on any one of these things, do an institutional membership where the institution is just paying for a certain number of memberships. If you wanted 2 memberships, you are paying for 2 memberships. It was an option but that's why we moved towards enhanced institutional membership.

Olivia- I couldn't remember for the enhanced membership, didn't we also talk about tiered enhanced membership?

Alessandra- Yes, I think that's where it came into play that we said it was hard because libraries have such a range of people. We have 38 workers here and the highest tier would be paying \$900 but that's not paying for 38 members. We don't want CLA to lose money here, but we do want more people to want to be members and make it more affordable to be members. If we did an enhanced membership, would we do it by the number of people you want to pay for?

Sarah- One of the things we talked about too was that the CLASS section is currently vacant, and I think one of the reasons is because it is likely the library will pay for the director's membership and full-time staff but not anyone else. Basically, by having CLASS, we are asking people to pay out of pocket which is a bit of an inequitable way to do it. That's why institutional membership appealed to me is that A. that gives the support staff the opportunity to be involved and B. its hard to justify paying multiple memberships rather than one institutional membership.

Ellen- I was in the meeting when we talked to New Jersey, and I thought it was a great idea. I did think about New Jersey compared to Connecticut and it is different. The New Jersey state library is a lot less active than the CT State Library is and they have a CLC equivalent called New Jersey Library Links, but they don't charge membership dues. It's important to remember that New Jersey is a different playing field than Connecticut is. CLC does use the state report for figuring out dues, so I think that is a good way to make it fair for everybody. But New Jersey doesn't have anything else that requires paying membership dues.

Alessandra- We are also paying membership dues regardless, but its about going about how to pay those membership dues.

Margaret- I did just want to talk about the ways we are accessing this and in an ideal world, library operating budget would be the best way to gauge this, but I do have some concerns about how it's reported in the statistical profile. There could potentially be some discrepancies between municipal and association libraries. A lot of municipal libraries couldn't have utilities or benefits included in their operating budgets whereas my library includes everything. So, it might not be a fair comparison there. Some libraries include major components like utilities and benefits whereas some libraries are exempt from that. Population is something that is nonnegotiable but as Scott said, some small towns may have big budgets.

Mary Etter- it occurs to me that the full-time equivalents on the state grants reports might be the most consistently accurate representation. The one thing I thought of was that rather than supplying the names of staff at the beginning, I would go for some sort of certification from the director.

Alessandra- One thing we can't do is not define the members. That is where we run into a problem now. The current institutional membership application does say that the director is supposed to sign up for the membership and sign up the people to go to workshop. I've had people sign up as institutional

membership thinking it was individual membership and that library had no idea, they were institutional members or did anything wrong. It will be something that regardless of which way we go, will have to be given to us at the start of their payment and who they want to be institutional members. It's hard to figure out institutional members when the instructions are not being done correctly. I think what are going to ask for now would just be a motion for us to put together a Tiered proposal of Institutional and Enhanced Institutional for the board that would then be voted on at a later date. If this is something we want to consider, then I think Outreach and sustainability can put together some numbers about what this would look like.

Sarah- We did talk about this not happening instantaneously and letting current memberships expire prior to us making changes, which would also allow for libraries to account for it in budgeting process if it did involve cost changes.

Motion 1. Doug Lord 2. Olivia Scully. Motion Passes.

c. Appointment by Vice President- Scott Jarzombek

I have the pleasure of appointing to the Exhibits co-chair Olivia Blake and for program co-chair: Kristina Lareau.

Region 2 Update – February 2024

Granby - The F.H. Cossitt Branch Library is closed and undergoing a transformation to become The Cossitt Creation Station. Find out more <https://www.granby-ct.gov/500/Cossitt-Creation-Station-FAQs>

Hartford – The Downtown Library is still mostly closed from the damage that occurred in December 2022. Some spaces reopened in the fall, but fully restored services are not expected until Summer/Fall 2024. More information https://www.hplrestoreandrenue.com/files/ugd/fd57c4_f31045df19354c39b7fd5da155031d76.pdf

Plainville - The Friends of the Plainville Public Library are raising money with the purchase of reusable Community Bag's from Big Y for \$2.50. After purchasing, visit MyBigYCause.com, enter the code on the bag, and search "Friends of the Plainville Public Library" this will donate \$1.00 for each bag purchased directly to supporting the library.

Simsbury – Given the recent 'controversial meeting' scheduled at the Simsbury Library, the library issued a message to the community https://myemail.constantcontact.com/A-Message-to-Our-Community.html?soid=1101183871695&aid=tcFzM5fqN0s&fbclid=IwAR0IU_2JBmS99VnnG8fbnm0nUjukqAHZ4KmMrtuoGiYTb2DmkiUCaDgs-B0

South Windsor – South Windsor Public Library is now a town department. <https://www.ctinsider.com/journalinquirer/article/ct-south-windsor-library-town-department-18658589.php>

CASL State Library Board updates

- CASL awards are open until March 1. [Link here.](#)
 - Spring Fling - Save the Date! May 9 at Central CT State University - Come celebrate and network!
-

CLA Region 5 News: February 2024

James Blackstone Memorial Library, Branford

- Blackstone Library hired a new Children's Program Specialist, Laura Gunneson. She'll focus on storytimes and programs, but is encouraged to help with tween/teen programming, too.
- In collaboration with the Town of Branford, we established the honorary position of Branford Poet Laureate, and selected Dr. Judith K. Liebmann as the first poet to hold that role. She brings decades of experience to the post, and we held a welcome reception for her in late January. Our First Selectman spoke, as did Representative Robin Comey, and over 50 people came out to celebrate Judith. We're looking forward to seeing how she'll raise the profile and appreciation of poetry in our town. It has also been a great way to create new collaborations with various organizations in town.
- I met with Jameson Foulke from US Senator Chris Murphy's office. He is visiting various libraries in the state to hear about how libraries are helping fight the epidemic of loneliness, something Chris Murphy is concerned about. I talked about all the things we do to connect people in town to each other and provide spaces that give people a place to come and not feel alone. I also mentioned the proposed eBook legislation and the challenges libraries face from unfair licensing practices – I figured it was an opportunity to raise awareness!

East Hampton Public Library

- The East Hampton Public Library welcomes Dylan Waddington as our new Children's Librarian. Dylan has previously worked at libraries in Lebanon, Windsor, and Willimantic.

Essex Library Association

- Elizabeth Reinhart, MLIS, has joined the Essex Library staff as Adult Services Librarian.

Brainerd Memorial Library, Haddam

- We are conducting a search for a new director.
- We are hosting a Prom Dress Night on March 8th at which attendees will try on donated dresses and enjoy treats and prizes.
- Our Take Your Child to the Library Day's theme was a Mario party at which we had 170 attendees! Our most successful TYCTTL Day ever!
- Our yoga class series [in partnership with Social Services] is back for February & March.

Russell Library, Middletown

- Deb Barberi retired as Head of Digital and Emerging Technologies. Shannon Barillari is the new Head of Digital and Emerging Technologies. And Gary Brown is the new Librarian II in Digital and Emerging Technologies.
 - Bonnie Knapik has joined our staff as Librarian I in Youth and Family Learning.
 - We are embarking on Phase II of a feasibility study and capital planning process, which will entail heavy community engagement efforts as we plan for the next iteration of public library facilities in Middletown.
 - Debby Irving, author of "Waking Up White" will be speaking in Middletown on Saturday, April 20. Subscribe to the Russell Library newsletter at www.russelllibrary.org for more details as the event approaches.
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CLA Board Meeting- Region 6 Libraries

- Ledyard Public Library has a few new staff members joining the Ledyard team. Alyssa Drake is our new Assistant Librarian I – Adult Services and Jadzia Childs is our new Library Technician II – Youth Services.
- Public Library of New London- is celebrating Black History Film Festival every Friday evening in February. The movies are curated by local Black History Film Historian, Lonnie Braxton.