

Connecticut Library Association Board Meeting

March 16, 2023

10:00 am Business Meeting via Zoom

Minutes

1. **Call to Order:** President Doug Lord called the meeting to order at 10:03 am.

Approval of Minutes: February meeting minutes

A motion to approve the February meeting minutes was made by Trish Tomlinson and seconded by Lisa Karim. Motion approved. No abstentions.

2. **Old Business**

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

- b. **Treasurer's Report** – Membership is doing well. Conference is in full gear now. We are receiving income from that through our early bird registration and now we are on regular registration, as well as through vendors. Margaret has been working closely with Alessandra to make sure everything is going smoothly. Budget request forms are due on April 21. The form is online. If anyone has any questions or needs to meet with Margaret regarding getting the form done, let Margaret know. Please adhere to the deadline.

3. **New Business**

- a. NEMLA presentation with Emily Colucci – For more information on NEMLA, Emily shared:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1EN3_r3FxlKXgdIDBB6R47TmRUh26bqQPbSO8DpxC/NBw/edit

- b. Legislative Update – See attached

- c. Reports

Representative Reports:

CT State Library: Deborah Schander: The State Library has been meeting with legislative committees over the last several weeks to discuss the agency's FY24-25 budget. Discussions center around a proposed inflation increase to support the Statewide Digital Library appropriation and proposed bonding support for a renovation of the Middletown Library Service Center as well as more general conversations about the Connecticut Library for Accessible Books and support for school and public libraries. Biennial budget negotiations between the legislature and the Governor office will continue over the next several months. On March 13, a Colt Whitneyville-Walker revolver stolen from the Museum of Connecticut History in 1971 was repatriated to the State Library after years of effort on the part of federal and state law enforcement officials working on behalf of 17 different cultural institutions who had objects stolen. Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz provided introductory remarks for the State Library's Third Thursday program on March 16. The program featured a speaker from the CT Women's Hall of Fame discussing the roles women throughout our state's history have worked for social justice.

NELA: Heloise Nana: NELA will be having a meeting at the end of the month. NELA is looking for candidates for open positions: Vice President, Member-at-Large, and Treasurer. If you are interested, you can nominate yourself or someone else. The nominations close on April 1 and elections will be this summer.

ALA: Kate Byroade: No report

ALA EDI Assembly: Kristina Lareau: See attached

FOCL: Debbie Misiaszek: FOCL meeting will be on June 10.

ACLB: Denise Stankovics: They have 3 programs planned. Mid-May Library basics date is TBD. Their final meeting for the year will be 9/12 at 7pm with Sam Lee, Intellectual Freedom 101 for Library Boards.

ACLPD: Alyssa Dansinghani: Absent

Region 1: Karin Goodell: Absent

Region 2: Shana Shea: Absent

Region 3: Leslie McDonough: Absent

Region 4: Erin Dummeyer: See attached

Region 5: Emily Rush: See attached

Region 6: Madhu Gupta: See attached

CLC: Ellen Paul: Amanda Stern reported for Ellen. Opening Supplies bid today. Consultants directory will be released in the next month or so for everyone to use. They have three great product trainings coming up – one on Beanstack, one on Luxor One and their Smart Locker solutions, and one on RFID automation.

CAS-L: Mary Ellen Minichiello & David Blimes: David reported that either he or Mary Ellen will be reporting for CAS-L. Their Spring Fling meetings and awards will be on June 1. CAS-L will have a table at CLA Conference. The President & Vice President will also present a panel on Monday morning at Conference on how to support your school media specialists. Elections are opened for ALA. Barbara Johnson, immediate Past President of CAS-L, is running for ALA Councilor at Large.

Commission on Ed Tech: Colleen Bailie: CEN Conference registration is up now.

Library Connection: Laura Horn: Absent

SCSU: Arlene Bielefield: Absent. Report: Southern's MLIS program is thriving. They have a wonderful and growing student body. Many of our students are attending the program full time, having just received their Bachelor's degree. Their students are service oriented and believe librarianship is a career that will allow them to fulfill that goal.

Association Committee Reports:

ADA: Maria Bernier: No report

Archivist: Gerald Seagrave: No report

Awards (as needed): They will be sending out one final reminder about awards, get them in by March 31.

Career Development: Sunnie Scarpa & Andy Forsyth: Committee members are busy scoring scholarship application essays. They will be able to award 4 scholarships for \$1,000 each. They are also offering resume review sessions. They still have some slots open for volunteers from the Board to commit to a 2 hour session, people can sign up for 20 minute sessions each. Sign-up if you're interested:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1KBdq3uU6bzqsajp7U3esq2TikiwK3km8AfNC_ydypMI/edit They will also be planning for the next Leadership Institute at their next meeting, 3/28.

Conference 2023: Scott Brill & Andy Forsyth: Regular registration is open through April 21. The Committee did a venue visit on March 2. They are now meeting twice a month. The schedule can be found on the website or here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1U5WahamfA33DTux7qJGczPG44s6MH75C/view> A big shout out to Alessandra Casiello on all her hard work, especially with the schedule. Alessandra reports we are on target to

hit our registrant goal and our vendor goal and thanked Bob, Michelle, and Margaret.

Intellectual Freedom: Sam Lee & Lindsay Delligan: See attached

Grants/Fundraising: Alessandra Casiello: There will be a couple of fundraisers (see Conference page to sign-up). They also got a sponsor to create t-shirts that can be sold at Conference (3 designs, plus JEDI will have 1 design). They will also have their regular silent auction.

Legislative: Kate Byroade & Olivia Scully: See attached

Membership: Trish Tomlinson: People were getting memberships in before early bird registration ended. Trish has been working with Bob Scheier on clearing the database. Membership is healthy, but Trish is looking to up it some more.

PEG: Mary Etter: Mary said there was a question from a member as to whether or not PEG could apply to Conference registration and asked the board for discussion. Alessandra commented that she felt that was whatever in the budget. She said the Conference chairs have always put it in the registration and she isn't sure if they've gotten requests for it or not.

Procedures: Lisa Karim: No report

Publicity & Communications: John Casiello: Probably around April meeting, they will be looking to merge with the Membership committee. Please send info from each section of who to connect with for the section if people are interested in joining – what it is you do, what new members might be able to do, etc.

Section Reports:

Children's: Alex Klaus & Sage Gentry: They had their Children's Conference and it was successful, they had about 44 people attend. They are looking forward to Conference.

CLASS: Vacant

College & University: Vacant

JEDI: Mary Richardson & Sam Connell: They are trying to push and promote their workshop on 3/29, virtual, from 10-3. The information is up on the site. They have a very exciting line-up of authors and a panel discussion: <https://ctlibraryassociation.org/meetinginfo.php?id=529&ts=1678231909>

Public Libraries: Jennifer Sullivan: Absent. Report: Public Libraries is sponsoring a session at conference: Pop Up Libraries. Brainchild of Maria Bernier who did all the groundwork and organizing, now I am doing the last leg of prepping everyone for conference. Come hear about libraries who have taken their physical presence “on location” and a few are actually bringing their “vehicles” with them to the hotel for a touching/looking session.

Also, Julie Bartley of PGN Library Old Lyme and I are back for round 2 of Reinventing Banned Books Week, continuing planning and discussion after a SUPER enthusiastic and productive meeting last month. Please join us to get involved. Meeting on Thursday, March 23 at 2:30 pm via Zoom—sign up on CLA site. Come see Doug do his “Yay for CLA” performance!

Reference & Adult Services: Christie Mitchell & Rachel Leff: They will be looking into holding some regular section meetings in the coming year to brainstorm with other Adult Services librarians.

Resource Sharing: Matt Earls: Absent

Technical Services: Vacant

YA: Jackie Bush & Stephanie Smith: They are getting ready for Conference. Jackie will be stepping down from the committee at the end of the month. Doug thanked Jackie for her service.

4. **Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn at 11:23 am was made by Kate Byroade and seconded by Trish Tomlinson. Motion passed. No abstentions.

Present: Douglas Lord, Danielle Valenzano, Trish Tomlinson, Emily Colucci, Debbie Misiaszek, Alessandra Casiello, Lisa Karim, Olivia Scully, Jerry Seagrave, Mary Etter, Emily Rush, David Bilmes, Colleen Bailie, Sam Lee, Amanda Stern, Sarah McCusker, Allison Murphy, Margaret Khan, Maria Bernier, Andy Forsyth, Deborah Schander, Robert Scheier, Sage Gentry, Heloise Nana, Denise Stankovics, Erin Dummeyer, Christie Mitchell, Kate Byroade, Kristina Lareau, Samantha Connell, Jackie Bush, Sunnie Scarpa, Mary Richardson, Stephanie Smith, Scott Brill

Thank you to Maria Bernier (ex CT State Library) and Jackie Bush (Stratford Library Association) for their service to the Association.

Thanks to New England Music Library Association's representative Emily Colucci for attending the meeting and sending along [this document](#) so that members can learn more about NEMLA. NEMLA hopes to both collaborate with and support CLA.

eBooks The push for fairness in eBook pricing continues, this was the CLA issue that received the most traction in the legislature. I'm happy to be involved with the effort which features the work of such a great legislative team with Olivia Scully, Kate Byroade, Ellen Paul, Deborah Schander, plus others. Be on the lookout for a StarChapter email about getting every community in CT to send their state legislators letters and calls for support for the effort.

Sanctuary Libraries The Association's work on the Sanctuary Libraries bill received some very nice press in [Library Journal](#). I'm surprised but gratified that legislators listened as deeply as they did as it is this thankless collection development work which we do every day that is so often misunderstood and underappreciated.

Say 'No' to Neutrality We know that libraries are trusted more than any other municipal service and it is fascinating that both Republicans and Democrats found ways they could support various aspects of libraries during the recent hearings.

This board is the body that knows how important it is to move our profession forward. The lesson that I have learned during the legislative efforts this year has been that anyone and everyone sees the logic, the value, and the intrinsic worthiness of libraries of all kinds from lots of different viewpoints.

Moving the profession away from neutrality can only help our respective agencies. Librarians are leaders in JEDI work, and I think we need to make that more obvious despite any potential repercussions. We can work to move towards "alternatives to neutrality rhetoric and provide dialogue opportunities to discuss" (ALA). CLA's JEDI committee is full of leading minds on this work, and Connecticut has much to offer the profession in terms of making progress.

Respectfully submitted,
Douglas Lord
President, 2022-2023

March 2023 Legislative Updates

eBook Legislation

Quick recap: [House Bill 6800](#) from Planning & Development (P&D), and [House Bill 6829](#) from Government Administration & Elections (GAE), are the same bill, to set fair licensing terms for library ebooks. This is a good thing - ultimately if they both go forward eventually they'll be reconciled, but right now we need to show our support for both.

More background info here: <https://ctlibraryassociation.org/Advocacy>

Public hearings took place for both bills last week (Mon. 3/6 in GAE and Fri. 3/10 in P&D)! We've had excellent showing from CT librarians - if you testified last week, thank you!! It went really well. Check out what your colleagues are saying here:

https://ctlibraryassociation.org/2023_eBook_Bill_Testimony

Legislators are listening.

An Op-Ed written by Laura Irmischer, director of the West Hartford Public Library and signed by Elizabeth Lane of Bloomfield, Sarah Morgan of East Hartford, and Bridget Quinn of Hartford appeared in the March 11th issue of the Hartford Courant. <https://www.courant.com/2023/03/11/opinion-connecticut-needs-fair-e-book-pricing-and-terms-for-libraries/> This is an excellent resource to share with the public and especially Library Boards and Friends' groups.

But we cannot stop here. This is the quiet time, a waiting time, but we need to make sure there's plenty of support if and when this goes to the floor for a vote.

Please, we need you to send a letter to your own local legislator. If you submitted testimony, you can reuse that same text, with appropriate edits. If you need inspiration, again, check out testimony given last week in support of the bills. And, visit our action-oriented Speak Up page for talking points, more background info, and more: https://ctlibraryassociation.org/speak_up

We also MUST expand our scope. Please, we need you to ask 3 people to ALSO send a letter to their local legislators. If everyone asks a board member, a Friends member, and your most avid reader patron, we can really build a head of steam on this.

Things are going well, but there's no guarantee of victory. We have to work for it, and the reward will be so worth it!

“Sanctuary Libraries” Legislation

As a direct result of one of our regional events, one legislator was very moved by the threats of book bans & censorship libraries are facing. Sen. Ceci Maher introduced language as part of [Senate Bill 2](#) from the Children’s Committee, that is intended to support libraries, collection management, and freedom to read. The language that was introduced includes a potential codification of “sanctuary libraries” as well as potential funding to principal libraries throughout the state.

A hearing was held Fri. 2/24, during which several library supporters spoke. Opposition suggested that children could have access to obscene materials in libraries - this is patently false, and we encourage librarians to state, in no uncertain terms, the fact that obscene materials and pornography as defined in the CT General Statutes Sec. 53a-193 simply are not in their collections.

We met with Sen. Maher to discuss changes to the language to avoid backlash and unintended harm, as well as to draw attention to an existing state budget line item for incentive grants, which has been zeroed out since 2016 and which we would like to see re-funded.

CLA Conference

We will present one session focused on local community support for two recent building projects in Meriden and Manchester. We have a lot of panelists, so we need a big audience!

ALA Fly-In Event

Colleen Bailie and Ellen Paul were flown to Washington DC last week to meet with our congressional delegation to call for support for Library Construction funding and support for IMLS. Communities hoping to expand their libraries should take particular note of this effort and reach out to their Congressperson and both Senators.

“Illegal alien” headings timeline

Change the Subject film regarding this: <https://www.library.dartmouth.edu/digital/digital-collections/change-the-subject>

- 2014-Dartmouth College Students demand changes
- December 2021-Revisions applied
- <https://www.ala.org/news/member-news/2021/11/ala-welcomes-removal-offensive-illegal-aliens-subject-headings>
 - Aliens->noncitizens
 - Illegal aliens→illegal immigration + noncitizens
- PROBLEM WITH CHANGE: Requested “illegal alien” to be “Undocumented immigrant” but illegal immigration is now available to be applied as a subject heading to refugee stories//populated in WorldCat and OCLC which is what most libraries use for their own copy cataloging
- Survey local fixes:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScImGhygPxA3CUUnKzpVoVOOHjv6BsjMhxUCK6AvD9XLvCuxw/viewform>

For contacts: aboutness@gmail.com, violetfox@gmail.com

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JC3LQPI2Y0I>

<https://www.bklynlibrary.org/books-unbanned>

*****Intellectual Freedom and Social Justice

MUST READ: ALA resolution and exploration on neutrality: [ebd 10.0 IF_SJ Final Report 7.12.2022.pdf](#)

Intellectual Freedom and Social Justice Breakout Room

- We know there are other groups and individuals working on intellectual freedom and social justice within ALA, and we also know there’s more work to be done. Let’s discuss!
 - Two of the recommendations most relevant to our assembly:
 - The Executive Board should identify existing groups within the Association to continue exploration of the three proposed frameworks and their potential impact on ALA policies and guidance. These groups could be existing committees such as the Committee on Diversity, the ODLOS Advisory Committee and the groups represented therein, the Committee on Professional Ethics, and the Intellectual Freedom Committee.
 - The Association should continue to provide dialogue opportunities to the profession on this topic.

- Discuss any or all of the following questions in breakout rooms:
 - What connections exist between intellectual freedom and social justice? What tensions are there?
 - <https://lapl.org/zines/policy> as an example of real time decisions and the difficulty
 - LC archives in communities and updated and reflected more accurate reflection of history
 - What do each of these concepts mean to you in the context of librarianship, intellectual freedom, and social justice?
 - Neutrality
 - Radical Empathy
 - Trauma Informed Response
 - Cultural Humility
 - What work have you or the group you represent done around the intersection of intellectual freedom and social justice at ALA? How can other groups collaborate or learn from you or your group's work as they consider the intersection of intellectual freedom and social justice?

ALA EDI Assembly Affiliate Updates: [Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion \(EDI\) Assembly Affiliated Group Updates: March 2023](#)

ALA EDI Assembly Collaborative Notes: [Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion \(EDI\) Assembly 2022-2023](#)

Connecticut Library Association | Publicity Committee

The Publicity committee plans to have space for trifolds for each CLA section/committee to promote themselves.

These would feature

- That committee's focus
- The work they've done this year
- Upcoming schedule
- Anything else that could help inform potential committee members

The opportunity for person-to-person interaction is a good one, these are essentially poster sessions for the sections with some kind of sign-up opportunity which would help chairs to follow up afterwards. Something between a business-card-in-the-fishbowl and a QR code.

Publicity has new members and John will be looking to increase the work that we have been doing in terms of ideas and information. Social media will be stepped up starting at Conference and in the near future we will likely use the board meetings as the source for items to feature.

Region 4 March 2023

Erin Dummeyer

The Bethel Public Library welcomed Rick Magee, the Poet Laureate of Bethel, and a group of his students last night for a program called "Poets and Madmen" where he used Irish poems and the Irish landscape as pathways to think about writing and mental health.

Kate Soboleva is the new deputy director of the Greenwich Library. She assumed new role on February 20th.

Ian Parsells is the new Director of Weston Library. He is coming from the Derby Neck Library. He started at the beginning of March.

CLA Region 5 News: March 2023

Brainerd Library in Haddam

- Brainerd Library in Haddam held a successful *Trans 101* transgender awareness program with Claire McCarthy on March 1st, maxing out registration.
- The Brainerd Library signed with architectural firm Silver/Petrucci to complete construction documents for Phase 2 of our extensive interior renovation, with work slated to begin this fall.

Killingworth Library

- The Killingworth Library held a Seniors Day on March 15th, to provide a fun introduction to what the library has to offer Seniors in the community. They gave tours of the collection and an overview of online offerings. The seniors tried out the Cricut machine and registered for library cards.

Meriden Public Library

- Recently, the Meriden Library hosted a press conference with Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz, Meriden Mayor Kevin Scarpati, and members of the Meriden Legislative Delegation to raise awareness of the free tax help for low-to-moderate-income individuals at Voluntary Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites across the state.

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

CLA Board Meeting
March 15, 2023 Meeting
Region 6 Libraries

East Lyme Library: East Lyme is undergoing a feasibility study to better understand our ability to expand in upcoming years.

Public Library of New London-Local Author Fest will be held in-person this year on Saturday, March 18. April will be STEAM Month at PLNL.

Ledyard Public Library- Matt Novosad joined as Assistant Librarian I. In addition, Erin Quada was promoted from a Library Assistant to Library Technician II – Youth Services.

OTIS Library- Otis Library is partnering with the CT State Library and Libraries Without Borders US (LWB), the American branch of the global NGO Bibliothèques Sans Frontières, which delivers materials and information to communities in crisis. We are one of six libraries in the state to join the partnership. Each library will identify the needs of its community and work with LWB to design outreach to meet those needs.

April is Harris Sisters Month. The Library has decided to dedicate a month to honoring Sarah and Mary Harris, two Norwich natives who were among the first Black students at Prudence Crandall's Canterbury School. There will be programs and displays throughout the month for all ages to celebrate the bravery and achievements of the Harris sisters.

The StoryWalk has been in place for about a month now along the path surrounding Spaulding Pond at Mohegan Park. The first book is *What a Wonderful World*, a song written by George David Weiss and Bob Thiele, made famous by Louis Armstrong, and beautifully illustrated by Ashley Bryan. The Library has several boards of activities and fun facts to go along with the book that we change out periodically to keep it fresh. A new story will go in at the end of the month. They've been getting wonderful feedback!

Intellectual
Sam

Freedom

March

2023
Lee

Sam Lee will be doing a training/presentation to CT Association of Public School Superintendents – The Freedom to Read in School Libraries.

Signal Boosting for Jennifer Sullivan and Julie Bartley’s program Thursday, March 23rd at 2:30pm to talk about Banned Books Week Part 2

Sam will be on WNPR’s Where We Live on Thursday, March 23 to talk about banned books.

And on April 12th I’ll be with other Library Freedom Project advocates presenting at Fair Housing and Civil Rights Conference on “Library Services and a Democracy in Crisis.” To register: <https://fhcrconference.com/>