

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

1. **Call to Order:** President Sarah McCusker called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM.
Approval of Minutes: A motion to approve the April meeting minutes was made by Lisa Miceli and seconded by Mary Etter. No oppositions or abstentions.
2. **Old Business**
 - a. **President's Report** – See attached.
 - b. **Treasurer's Report** – See attached.
 - c. **Beardsley Zoon Update-** Jennifer Sullivan
3. **New Business**

Representative Reports:

CT State Library: Deborah Schander: The appropriations committee chose to not propose a budget for the next fiscal year. So, all agencies will continue to operate under the existing budget. There is some indication of some no-cost changes that may be happening so our hope is that our requests may go forward but no final word of that. Our Outreach Van will be in the parking lot at the conference so if you have a little time, please feel free to pop out and see it. We are always available to come and visit your libraries and other events as well.

NELA: Scott Brill: NELA will have their conference in Portland, MA on October 20th- 22nd. They are still looking for proposals. NELA has a mentor program as well and is going to have mentor/mentee training in May. You can sign up through April 30th. <https://nela2024-vbls.glide.page/dl/245b4e>

ALA: Kate Byroade: Absent.

ALA EDI Assembly: Kristina Lareau: No Report.

ACLB: Denise Stankovics: We will have a table at CLA so our members will see you there. We've donated \$1,000 to a scholarship fund as we have done in previous years. Our newsletter is in production and hopefully people will be receiving it quickly. There is a summary of the webinar on DEI and there's an article about eBook bills encouraging trustees to contact their legislators and making the point that we need trustee support behind it. We are in the process of planning additional webinars which will be publicized through Conntech and other online resources as they are developed.

ACLPD: Alyssa Dansinghani: Absent.

America 250: Doug Lord: Absent.

BCALA: Robert Kinney: Absent.

Commission on Ed Tech: Colleen Bailie: No Report but a reminder that the CEN conference is coming up on May 8th and 9th with a preconference on the 8th and the regular conference on the 9th.

Communications Task Force: Doug Lord: Absent.

CASL: David Bilmes & Mary Ellen Minichiello: Absent.

CLC: Ellen Paul: We have a bid out right now for promotional supplies and promotional displays. This would be stuff you would have branded, give away, or sell. It's due May 7th so hopefully we will have some new contracts for you this summer.

FOCL: Debbie Misiaszek: Absent.

Library Connection: Laura Horn: No Report

Region 1: Heather Aronson: No Report

Region 2: Shana Shea: No Report

Region 3: Chonte Fields: Absent.

Region 4: Erin Dummeyer: Absent.

Region 5: Emily Rush: See attached.

Region 6: Madhu Gupta: Absent.

SCSU: Cindy Schofield: We will have water bottles at the conference. Our Spring interns are wrapping up. Our Summer interns are going to be starting soon. We take pictures and put them on our Facebook page and tag the libraries that they are at- feel free to tag us back. Let me know if you are interested in hosting an intern.

Sustainability Taskforce: Doug Lord & Alessandra Casiello: Alessandra: The only update is that if there are any things you'd like to discuss about bylaws revision, you can email my fundraising email <fundraising@ctlibraryassociation.org>. Whatever comments we get will be the discussion we have at the Annual Meeting at the conference on Monday morning at 9AM. Lisa will be sending out ballots for that on May 1st. The deadline will be May 10th.

Association Committee Reports:

ADA: Maria Bernier: Absent.

Archivist: Gerald Seagrave: No report.

Awards: Region Reps: (Alessandra) We have sent the awards in and those who have gotten awards were notified. Margaret is ordering the plaques right now and hopefully we will see you at the award ceremony on Tuesday morning at 8am. Congratulations to all our winners.

Career Development: Andy Forsyth & Amanda Stern: Andy: We are going to have a full committee meeting in the next week or so. We have three scholarship winners who will be at the conference. We have a small group reviewing the status of the compensation benchmark project and we will be reporting on that. We look forward to having a few different sessions at conference such as Resume Review. Our library leadership institute will be held on Friday, August 23rd at Middlesex Community College. The schedule will be determined shortly.

Amanda: We are under way with our 4th Mentoring cohort which will run from April to September. We are always looking for new mentors and accept mentors on a rolling basis. It's a great opportunity to share knowledge, gain knowledge, and make connections in the library world. If you are interested and you have questions, I am happy to answer them, and Beth Piezzo is happy to answer them.

Conference 2024: We did close registration early because we have a large number of people. Over the 2 days, we are expecting 935 different people including 600 different attendees over the 2 days and 90 vendor reps. We are still getting inquiries about registering but it is not possible. We exceeded what we expected to make but we still have some people who are outstanding in their payments. We do have some extra events on Monday. Cocktails with vendors after the conference at 4:50-5:15. Then we have a trivia fundraiser that Kristina Lareau and John Casiello are doing from 5:15 – 7 about all the things we didn't expect we would do as librarians. It is called "Other Duties as Assigned." It is \$25 at the door and comes with a drink and appetizers. After that, Sarah and Mary Richardson are going to be hosting a casual Stich and Bitch, so join us for that. Tuesday is our award ceremony. There is a Presidents Reception on Sunday Night from 7PM – 9PM. You'll be able to continuously sign up for Resume Review. Thank you to

those who have been taking our sustainability pledge. We have adopted a sustainability pledge for CLA this year; if it's bringing your own water bottle, coffee cup, lanyard, everything helps. We have so many speakers and over 90 sessions over 2 days. Take a look at the program on our website and schedule your day.

Grants/Fundraising: Alessandra Casiello: Our last fundraiser for the year is the trivia fundraiser and we have the penny social auction. You can buy auction sheets at the exhibits table. We have really cool library items and CLA branded shirts, Intellectual Freedom shirts, Jedi Shirts, our Freedom to Read shirts. We accept cash and cards.

Intellectual Freedom: Sam Lee & Lindsay Delligan: Lindsay: Sam and I have been busy planning for the conference. I will be speaking on new types of IF challenges in 2024 and Sam will be speaking on the legal foundations of IF and how we can combat it using existing laws. We are still continuing to see challenges across the state of Connecticut, so it is not over. We have been working hard trying to provide advice and support for the libraries experiencing the challenges.

Legislative: Kate Byroade & Olivia Scully: Our legislative breakfast went well with thanks to Scott J. for coordinating efforts. Mary, Kate, and Lisa for support and logistics. We estimated that there were roughly 50 or 60 people in attendance with 20 legislators. There were good conversations with other organizations including the ACLU. It was a great way to make connections and we will be planning to do this again next year. We are planning to have some meet and greets with legislators this December. We are aiming for that timing because legislators will be newly elected, but they won't take office until January. We have a bunch of conference sessions including an informal legislative update during Monday's breakfast. FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel will be speaking during Monday's lunch. In terms of this legislative session, we are in some of the final weeks. We are hoping the bills will get called to the floor this week. HB5312 an eBook bill did go to the floor but was sent back to the judiciary committee. Both eBook bills have made it out committee and are in the process now waiting to be brought to the floor of their respective chambers or brought back to their respective chambers. One cool thing that went under our radar until recently is the Attorney General's office submitted a very strongly worded letter in support of the eBook bills and have promised to zealously defend the law if it is enacted. That's wonderful support to see for the bill. There is a link to read it (below). The school library bill HB5417 was also moved out of committee. CASL members met with representative Curry and his lawyer a week or so after the public hearing to work on the language. It did pass out of committee but haven't heard much since then. There is also apparently an opposition website (<https://noalacontrol-ct.org/>). Our next regular meeting will be May 14th.

<https://cga.ct.gov/2024/pddata/TMY/2024SB-00148-R000221-Perry,%20Joshua,%20Solicitor%20General-Office%20of%20the%20Attorney%20General-Supports-TMY.PDF>

Outreach: John Casiello: I will share a link for anyone who would like to be at the membership table. It's a great opportunity to meet the 400 plus people who will be there. You can do some shameless self-promotion of your committee, section, or whatever you are doing. It's a great way to meet the members and get them involved. Other than that I am working on the program, award ceremony, and all the good things.

PEG: Mary Etter: I sent a message to Regional Reps this morning about a budget presentation about our gift to the association that came in this winter. Going forward, I had some ideas for

how we might invigorate the PEG program. Hopefully we will have a meeting soon and talk about the whole program.

Procedures: Lisa Karim: No report.

Section Reports:

Children's: Sage Gentry & Alexandra Remy: Absent.

CLASS: VACANT

College & University: Rob Walsh: Absent.

JEDI: Mary Richardson & Sam Connell: No Report.

Public Libraries: Jennifer Sullivan: Absent.

Reference & Adult Services: Christie Mitchell: No Report.

Resource Sharing: Matt Earls: Absent.

Technical Services: Ann Victor & Christine Rinaldi: We just want to report that we have a round table coming up on May 10th. It will be our first one and in person so we can meet people, what people expect from our group, and what we are doing going forward.

Technology: Kate Sheehan and Christopher Knorr: No Report.

YA: Stephanie Smith: No Report.

Adjournment: 10:35 AM Motion to adjourn by Mary Etter 2. Scott Brill.

Present: Sarah McCusker, Scott Jarzombek, Margaret Khan, Shannon Angelone, Deborah Schander, Alessandra Casiello, Amanda Stern, Andy Forsyth, Ann Victor, Christie Mitchell, Christine Rinaldi, Christopher Knorr, Cindy Schofield, Colleen Bailie, Denise Stankovics, Ellen Paul, Emily Rush, Heather Aronson, Jerry Seagrave, John Casiello, Kate Sheehan, Kristina Lareau, Laura Horn, Lindsay Delligan, Lisa Karim, Mary Etter, Mary Richardson, Olivia Scully, Sam Connell, Samantha Lee, Scott Brill, Shana Shea, Stephanie Smith, Bob Scheier.

President's Report

Sarah McCusker

We will have a lot of conference updates today. Thank you to everyone who has been working on it. I think its going to be a great time, but I am really looking forward to it and seeing everyone in person. Last month, I brought up the idea of our June meeting in person. I would still like to do that in a hybrid option for those who can't make it. I did have people reach out to say they can host it but if there is someone who can commit to it, please send me an email. It will be on June 20th. That's all for me for now.

Treasurer's Report

I have some updates. We are doing well for this year. Our income for the conference so far is \$168,125 which exceeds our budgeting projected income of \$158,000. So, we're about \$10,000 ahead of where we thought we would be for conference this year. Our other two big sources of income are membership and donations. Membership is at \$28,000- almost at our year end projection of \$30,000. We projected an income of \$7,000 for donations and we are at \$6,700. Across the board our income is doing really well. The other thing I have is that section and committee budgets are due tomorrow. If you haven't submitted that to me, please be sure that you do so. It is expected of all sections and committees. If you do not have a budget, you can either send the form saying 0 or send me an email saying 0 but I do need to hear from everybody. If I don't have anything from you, next week I will be sending follow-ups.

CLA Region 5 News: April 2024

James Blackstone Memorial Library, Branford

- Blackstone Library is planning its annual Mini Golf @ Blackstone Library and Mini Golf: After Hours events. It's a weekend of fun for everyone, May 18 & 19. During the day on Saturday and Sunday, all ages play happens at \$5 per player. On Saturday night, May 18, the adults come out to play at the After-Hours event, featuring lite fare and wine, beer and spirits tastings, plus silent auction. Tickets for After Hours are \$30 per person (age 21+ only).
- We are about to begin a repair to our garage/utility building roof. There is a huge metal chiller screen that has slowly been rusting, and the roof has leaked for years. We are going to rehab the chiller screen and lay a new silicon coating over the roof.

Derby Public Library / Milford Public Library

- Scott Brilll will be leaving his position as Director of the Derby Public Library to become the new Library Director of the Milford Public Library in May, 2024. Scott says, "I am thrilled to be returning to helm the library in which I previously worked for 5 years. I look forward to working with the dynamic team at Milford Public Library, both those I have worked with before and staff I have yet to meet."

Scranton Memorial Library, Madison

- Our Adult Programming Librarian, Jesse Bernier, has been awarded a grant that will fund Scranton's participation in the Library Speakers Consortium. This program allows us to host a series of authors who will talk about their work to our patrons via Zoom. It's an exciting opportunity for our community to meet and learn from lots of authors.

Case Memorial Library, Orange

- Case Memorial Library is fine free as of April 1, 2024.
- Jonathan Wiener is retiring as of June 30, 2024.

Shelton Library System

- In Shelton, The Huntington Branch is finishing up a renovation project that will completely change the design of the library.
- We are also in the process of hiring 5 Part Time Library Assistants.

Wallingford Public Library

- Wallingford's Board just approved a small, internal renovation so that we can create 3 new staff offices and a staff conference room, plus two new/larger study rooms for patrons.

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