

Connecticut Library Association Board Meeting

April 20, 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: March meeting minutes
A motion to approve the March meeting minutes was made by Kate Byroade and seconded by Sam Lee. Motion approved. No abstentions.
2. **Old Business**
 - a. **President's Report** – See attached
 - b. **Treasurer's Report** – See attached
3. **New Business**
 - a. **Publicity/Membership Committees Merge** – Trish Tomlinson & John Casiello. A motion was made to merge the two committees by Alessandra and seconded by Olivia Scully to merge the sections. Motion passes unanimously.
 - b. **Reports**

Representative Reports:

CT State Library: Deborah Schander: The Appropriations Committee released their response to the Governor's budget, which included the proposed inflation increase to the CT digital library line so they are hopeful that conversation will continue and reach a successful conclusion. There were two additional proposals added in their budget – one was for \$500,000 to go to three different outside Literacy groups and the other was a proposed inclusion of \$225,000 to restore incentive grants to public libraries. These will need to continue to be monitored.

NELA: Heloise Nana: No report

ALA: Kate Byroade: No report

ALA EDI Assembly: Kristina Lareau: No report

FOCL: Debbie Misiaszek: June 10 is their awards and annual meeting.

ACLB: Denise Stankovics: Absent

ACLPD: Alyssa Dansinghani: Absent

Region 1: Karin Goodell: Absent

Region 2: Shana Shea: See attached

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: They will be added several new vendors hopefully, including Lakeshore Learning and Amazon. They will be launching a new consultants directory, similar to their program directory. They are excited for Conference and a lot of their equipment vendors will be there. Ellen and CLC is looking forward to seeing everyone in person.

CAS-L: Mary Ellen Minichiello & David Bilmes: They just finished their awards committee for all their awards, which will be done June 1 when they have their final meeting of the year.

Commission on Ed Tech: Colleen Bailie: May 10 is the CEN Conference.

Library Connection: Laura Horn: No report

SCSU: Arlene Bielefield: Their program continues to receive applications and grow. She will see everyone at the Conference.

Association Committee Reports:

ADA: Maria Bernier: Absent

Archivist: Gerald Seagrave: No report

Awards: Region Reps: Please join your colleagues at the Awards ceremony. It is right before the Annual meeting and breakfast will be served.

Career Development: Sunnie Scarpa & Andy Forsyth: Working on plans for the Library Leadership Institute. They are looking into expanding their compensation benchmarks. They are recommending expanding the benchmarks, adding four new positions (Supervisor, Assistant Director, Director Municipal and Director Association) \$4,600. They have to renew the contract next year anyway so it would be probably about an extra \$1,100 (last time was about \$3,500).

Conference 2023: Scott Brill & Andy Forsyth: Full schedule PDF is up at the website now

(<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1IyiSf3QJhfGT6UEFeMt8QkLDVhKvqjW/view>). Alessandra reminded everyone to please mail in your payments for Conference by 4/25. Today is the last day to register so if anyone hasn't registered, please remind them today is the last day. They will accept walk-ins, but it does make it harder budgetwise. 512 total people registered. 826 people over the two days. Monday is heavy with 463 people. Tuesday is 363. That does include the vendors, 70 different booths with 90 representatives there, too.

Intellectual Freedom: Sam Lee & Lindsay Delligan: We are planning the fall conference – stay tuned for developments and announcements.

Julie Bartley and Jennifer Sullivan are doing awesome work with rebranding CT's banned books week. If you're interested in working on it, reach out to them!

Formerly quarterly state of the states meeting of IF chairs across the nation are now monthly meetings due to the heightened climate of challenges across the country.

There are developing challenges across the state – please be there to provide support to your colleagues and share the IF committee's information. Cases to keep in mind for school librarians: *Island Trees School District v. Pico* by Pico, 457 U.S. 853 (1982) and *Case v. Unified School Dist. No. 233*, 908 F. Supp. 864 (D. Kan. 1995). Students have first amendment rights at schools and school boards cannot remove library books because they don't like them and school boards have to follow their reconsideration policies/procedures.

Lindsay is busy taking the show on the road. In the next couple of months she'll be doing professional development for staff and mutual aid training with community groups.

Grants/Fundraising: Alessandra Casiello: Last set of fundraisers for the year at Conference, but they've already surpassed the fundraising goal for this year. They will have a penny social auction – lots of different items, craft projects, paintings, jewelry, etc. There will be a merch table with etched glasses and three different t-shirt designs. JEDI section will also be bringing some shirts with their new logo. Alessandra thanked

everyone who contributed to the auction.

Legislative: Kate Byroade & Olivia Scully: Ebook bill had a fiscal note attached that seriously underestimated the amount spent by libraries on digital materials. They estimated about \$150,000 a year for municipalities, which is way off, so Legislative has been reaching out to leadership to get that addressed.

Membership: Trish Tomlinson: Excited to work with John and the Publicity Committee. Trish thanks the Scheiers for assistance with cleaning up the CLA database. Wild Apricot demo is upcoming with feedback in the next meeting. Each committee chair should have received a roster of everyone in the committee. From now on, Trish will forward the new members who sign up for each section. She will do that for Region Reps as well.

PEG: Mary Etter: They haven't received any requests for funds.

Procedures: Lisa Karim: Absent

Publicity & Communications: John Casiello: They are looking forward to the merger.

Section Reports:

Children's: Alex Klaus & Sage Gentry: They are looking forward to Conference the giving the Faith Hektoen Award.

CLASS: Vacant

College & University: Vacant

JEDI: Mary Richardson & Sam Connell: They are happy with how their workshop went. They had about 30 people. They will see everyone at CLA. They will have a table.

Public Libraries: Jennifer Sullivan: Absent.

Reference & Adult Services: Christie Mitchell & Rachel Leff: Christie thanked Trish for her work with membership. They are working on reaching out to the members in their section. They're looking forward to the Conference.

Resource Sharing: Matt Earls: No report.

Technical Services: Vacant

YA: Stephanie Smith: The Young Adult Services Award winner has been selected. She is looking for a co-chair.

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

Present: Douglas Lord, Danielle Valenzano, Bob Scheier, Arlene Bielfield, John Casiello, Shana Shea, Jerry Seagrave, Emily Rush, Sam Lee, Kate Byroade, Heloise Nana, Margaret Khan, Laura Horn, Ellen Paul, Colleen Bailie, Madhu Gupta, Matt Earls, Deborah Schander, Sarah McCusker, Erin Dummeyer, Trish Tomlinson, Alessandra Casiello, Debbie Misiaszek, Sage Gentry, Mary Minichiello, Sunnie Scarpa, Mary Richardson, Christie Mitchell, Steven Bernstein, Olivia Scully, Stephanie Smith, Mary Etter

Only a couple of weeks until Conference 2023!

Today's meeting will have a comprehensive update from the Legislative committee and we will also be considering combining the Publicity & Communications committee with the Membership committee.

CLA has a preliminary plan to present some educational programs at the CT Conference of Municipalities conference in November.

A brief update on **America 250**, the celebration of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The next months will see a wider rollout of this program designed to attract public attention. I'll be working up some materials specific to libraries that introduce the program and offer suggestions about getting all CT communities involved. The America 250 effort is purposefully decentralized; CT Humanities is stewarding the overall effort for CT.

My commendations go out to the team behind the 2023 conference. It is packed with good offerings, is profitable, and represents a whale of a lot of work --

Andy Forsyth | Scott Brill | Kymberlee Powe | Alessandra Casiello | Sam Lee | John Casiello

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas Lord
President 22-23

Treasurer's Report - Margaret Khan, April 2023

The last month has been busy with conference preparation.

Received \$73,000 in conference registration, \$42,525 in exhibitor fees, and over \$13,000 in sponsorships. We have met our budgeted revenue of \$130,000 for conference. I have been working with the conference committee to make sure all vendor payments are ready to process in time for the event.

Membership is doing very well. In March alone we received over \$10,000 in membership dues. We budgeted \$30,000 in income for membership and as of the end of March received \$31,000.

Section and committee budgets are due tomorrow, if you haven't already please submit those by the end of the day tomorrow. Review of the section and committee budgets will start next week and I will be preparing a draft budget for our executive committee to review.

Region 2 – Shana Shea, April 2023

Canton –

The Canton Public Library received a very generous grant from the Canton Community Health Fund to start a memory care collection and will be unveiling it in the next couple of weeks. They gave us more money than we asked for (quite a bit more!) so we were able to buy quite a large, comprehensive collection and are excited to share it with the community.

East Hartford –

The Wickham Memorial Library in East Hartford will soft open for limited hours starting Friday, April 21.

Farmington –

The Barney Branch launched our Seed Library in March. We received seeds from Sow Right Seeds, Seed Savers Exchange, Hudson Valley Seed Company and the UConn Master Gardener Program.

Glastonbury -

Amy McCue is the new director of the Welles-Turner Memorial Library in Glastonbury. Amy was formerly the director of the Granby Public Library.

Granby-

Jennifer Crosby is the new library director of the Granby Public Library.

Suffield –

Hosted Sam Lee on Tuesday, March 21 the talk touched on how reading is a celebration of the freedom of speech, from its historic and constitutional foundations to its modern library incarnations informed by case law and legal precedent.

Windsor Locks –

Lois Crozier, is the new director of the **Windsor Locks Public Library**

Region 4 – Erin Dummeyer, April 2023

The Edith Wheeler Library in Monroe is hosting a Maker Space open house on Saturday, April 29th from 10-12.

The Easton Public Library just acquired and will be loaning out three hotspots.

Stratford Library is the recipient of a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) which will enable them to get their front entryway stairs replaced and the ramp repaired.

They are very excited to be serving as a CT LAB (CT Library for Accessible Books) regional hub, providing information and guidance for individuals who want to learn more about the CT LAB (formerly Library for the Blind). These materials are for those who have difficulty reading physical books (due to physical or cognitive issues) and Stratford's staff is trained to provide orientation and training for individuals who will be working directly with CT LAB to borrow materials.

The C.H. Booth Library's Douglas Lord spoke at a Newtown Board of Ed meeting where many very impassioned parents were opining on two titles - Blankets by Craig Thompson and Flamer by Mike Curato. Afterwards an invitation was extended to help update the BOE's policy, one hopes for the better.

Also, they persuaded the author of Blankets, Craig Thompson, to hold a book talk and discussion on May 4.

Norwalk Public Library is excited to announce a new program series for Norwalk's senior citizens. This series, called "Especially for Norwalk Seniors," promotes fun, safe and healthy aging with crafts, armchair travel and seminars that range from caregiver strain and housing options to estate planning. It began April 11, 2023.

The Mark Twain Library won a Libraries Transforming Communities (LTC): Accessible Small and Rural Communities grant in the amount of \$10,000 to create memory kits and host special programs for people experiencing memory issues and their caregivers.

CLA Region 5 News: April 2023

Plumb Memorial Library in Shelton

- A 5-year renovation at the Plumb Memorial Library in Shelton is completed, with an Open House scheduled for Saturday, April 22nd. The project was done in 4 phases and funded entirely by Library Board Endowments. The renovation included the Meeting Room, Children's Dept, the 1895 Historic section of the original library and the Adult Main Library.
- Children's Librarian Maura Gualtiere will receive the Faith Hektoen Award for special programming.

Portland Public Library

- Janet Nocek will retire on May 5 after 20.5 years as Director of Portland Library. She will miss the camaraderie and dedication of her colleagues and intends to find a way to continue to be involved with public libraries!
- Jennifer Billingsley will begin as the new Library Director for the town of Portland the first week of May. For the last six years they have been serving as the Director of the Youth and Family Learning Department at the Russell Library in Middletown.

Henry Carter Hull Library in Clinton

- Matthew Capece is the new Tech Guide for the Library's Tech Connection program and was recently named *Person of the Week* in the local paper. Tech Connection – a collaboration between the Library and Clinton Human Services - is a brand-new program that aims to increase digital literacy within the community.

New Haven Free Public Library

- The NHFPL will be hosting a series of programs related to Disability Justice in partnership with the International Festival of Arts & Ideas and the NEA Big Read. This month the Wilson Branch hosted a panel discussion on the state of special education.

East Haddam Library System

- The Library has been running a four-part series on Alzheimer's Disease called Alzheimer's and Dementia: You Are Not Alone. The series has focused on the effects of Alzheimer's on the patients and family members, as well as legal & financial planning for the future. There have been over 100 attendees at each session.

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

CLA Board Meeting
April 20, 2023 Meeting
Region 6 Libraries

Madhu Gupta

Mystic and Noank Library: Petting zoo was very popular. Also, they hatched 6 eggs in the library, then sent the chicks back to Rent a Chicken.

Cragin Memorial Library- Launched the MeeScan app for the public along with a self-check station that allows patrons to check out their own books.

Public Library of New London-Celebrating STEAM month at the Library with STEAM activities for all age groups. Meeting Rooms are in demand. Friends of the Library book sale will be held during the month of May.