

Connecticut Library Association Board Meeting

June 16, 2022

10:00 am Business Meeting via Zoom

**Minutes**

1. **Call to Order:** President Colleen Bailie called the meeting to order at 10:01 am.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** April 21<sup>st</sup> meeting minutes  
A motion to approve the April 21<sup>st</sup> meeting minutes was made by Tom Piezzo and seconded by Sam Lee. Motion passed. Abstentions: Alex Klaus.
3. **Old Business**
  - a. **President's Report** – Colleen “passed the gavel” of Presidency to Doug Lord for the upcoming 2022-2023 year. See attached for President's Report.
  - b. **Treasurer's Report** – See attached.
4. **New Business**
  - a. Christine Gavreau with CEN – work hard to not have conferences or adjacent conferences next year. There are a number of library workshops there and it is of great interest to libraries. A place to influence the state broadband infrastructure. Motivate the idea that we should under that the CEN Conference is critical for libraries. CEN scheduled for May 11, 2023. Alessandra commented that the idea behind restructuring the committee is to try not to overlap. She also mentioned that the conference does have to happen April 15-May 15 due to certain restrictions.

Committee/Section/Representatives Reports:

**ACLB: Denise Stankovics:** In the process of planning 3 Zoom programs for the fall, possibly having them live with live streaming. Topics looking at: FOI, Board Basics & Strategic Planning. Came up with these topics from the survey they had sent out. Working on their summer letter which she is hoping will be out in the next few weeks.

**ADA: Maria Bernier:** No report

**ACLPD: Karen Tatarka:** Absent

**ALA: Erin Dummeyer:** ALA coming up June 23<sup>rd</sup> and it will be Erin's last time reporting on ALA.

**Archivist: Gerald Seagrave:** If you have an annual report, please send Jerry a copy.

**Awards: Region Reps:**

**BCALA: Robert Kinney:** Absent

**Bibliomation: Carl Demilia:** Absent

**Career Development: Janet Flewelling & Sunnie Scarpa:** Virtual institute and looking to team up with Every Library. Submitted their updated benchmarks to the Publicity team. Once it is posted, will send an update. After this month, it will be Sunnie and Andy Forsythe from Ridgefield. Janet's last meeting.

**CAS-L: Barbara Johnson & Mary-Ellen Minichiello:** Absent. Kym reported on CT Nerd Camp in person and Kym thinks it was possibly recorded because it was a hybrid event. It is for librarians and educators.

**CLC: Ellen Paul:** Sent out teaser emails last week on the 35 new contracts that will go live in 2 weeks on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Ramping up for that. There are a lot of companies you will know like NY Times and Beanstack, along with new companies. They saw more diverse vendors in this bid that they've ever seen. Looking forward to saving money on day 1 of the contract. CLC is doing a slack channel for anyone going to ALA so that those from CT can meet up while there. Feel free to join if you are attending ALA: [https://join.slack.com/t/ala-2022/shared\\_invite/zt-1992zo10y-J7hPiikAzHksibICJPeJkg](https://join.slack.com/t/ala-2022/shared_invite/zt-1992zo10y-J7hPiikAzHksibICJPeJkg)

**Commission on Ed Tech: Colleen Bailie:** A lot of grant opportunities coming up for libraries. Colleen spoke to Doug about attending one of their meetings in the next few months.

**CSL: Deborah Schander:** Continuing to move forward with the eBook Legislation next session. Board approved the new plan. Welcomed Sherri Syzmanski to a long vacant board position. Thank you to Kym Powe for putting together a fantastic list of books for the Governor's reading challenge. Had the pleasure of attending the FOCL meeting last Saturday. Joined the statewide hospitality task force. Also had a conversation with the Secretary of State about the America 250 Commission and spoke about the importance of collaboration.

**Children's: Cathy Potter & Alex Klaus:** Cathy's last board meeting with CLA.

**College & University: Matthew Sheehan:** Absent

**CLASS:** Vacant

**Conference 2022:** Kari Hamad & Shannon Angelone: Sam Lee is joining as Exhibits co-chair for 2023. Kari and Shannon thanked everyone for all their help. Overall, there was a positive response for Conference 2022. They are looking forward to next year. Colleen thanked Kari & Shannon and appreciated all their hardwork. Alessandra will be Events Coordinator. Kym & Sam as Exhibits co-chair. Conference co-chairs Scott Brill & Andy Forsythe.

**CT Center for the Book: Lisa Comstock:** Absent

**Customer Service:** Vacant

**Grants/Fundraising:** Alessandra Petrino: Made a little over \$2,000 with the Move-a-thon. \$1817 after Every Library's portion came out. Conference fundraisers went well – Mini-golf and Silent Auction, made \$1225! Will be reported in next months' P&L.

**FOCL: Debbie Misiaszek:** Thanked Deborah Schander and Doug for attending their meeting. Starting to plan for a November meeting.

**Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI): Kym Powe:** Sam Connell will be the new EDI chair. Making plans for going forward.

**Intellectual Freedom: Sam Lee:** Lindsay Delligan is coming on as co-chair. The next IF committee meeting is Wednesday, July 6th at 2pm. Sam will be speaking at the Stowe Salon on Thursday, June 23rd at 7pm.

Registration: <https://www.harrietbeecherstowecenter.org/programs-learning/salons-at-stowe/salon-1-teaching-race-history-and-reading-banned-books-conversations-on-intellectual-freedom/> They are getting

ready for a fall workshop and welcome ideas. If librarians are concerned about their personally identifiable information online, please reach out for anti-doxing training. Banned books week is coming!

**LCI: Laura Horn:** Absent

**Legislative: Kate Byroade & Olivia Scully:** Had their June meeting recently, Deborah talked about eBook legislation. Please continue supporting this. More information will come in the fall. There are several subcommittees working on various tasks: one on Library Association and their governance with a goal of producing a toolkit for directors, a group working on a toolkit for inviting and hosting elected officials. Also hoping to revive a tradition of legislative breakfasts and/or potluck events.

**LGBTQ+ Section: Mary Richardson:** They had a great time at Conference. Looking at fall workshops and looking and collaborating a lot more with EDI.

**LION: Joe Farara:** Absent

**Membership: Trish Tomlinson:** Absent

**NELA: Christy Billings:** Absent

**PEG: Mary Etter:** No report

**Publicity & Communications: John Casiello:** Absent, Alessandra reported Working on getting all the minutes from 2018-present on the website. Still missing 2018-2019 minutes. Working on putting up things that have been sent to him. If anyone knows of a co-chair or someone to join the publicity committee, let John know.

**Procedures: Lisa Karim:** Absent

**Public Library: Jennifer Sullivan:** Absent. Public Libraries passport winners will be announced soon.

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

**Resource Sharing Matt Earls:** Absent

**SCSU: Arlene Bielefield:** 130 MLIS students in the program with 23% minorities.

**Technical Services: Steve Bernstein:** Absent

**Technology:** Vacant

**Young Adult: Jackie Bush & Stephanie Smith:** No report

**Region 1: Karin Goodell:** See attached

**Region 2: Sarah McCusker:**

**Region 3: Leslie McDonough:** Mansfield Library recently received a \$3,000 grant for digital inclusion. They will be hiring a digital navigator librarian for a few years. Dan Packette posted links to a great video about the Willamantic Library so check that out.

**Region 4: Erin Shea Dummeyer:** See attached

**Region 5: Robbie Marshall:** See attached

**Region 6: VACANT**

Conversation ensued on Zoom meetings vs in-person meetings option. The consensus was that the August orientation meeting could be in person and the June meeting when the gavel is passed. Doug said the July meeting will be virtual and the August on-boarding meeting will tentatively be in person.

5. **Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn at 11:22am was made by Kate Byroade and seconded by and seconded by Mary Etter. Motion approved.

**Present:** Colleen Bailie, Doug Lord, Tom Piezzo, Danielle Valenzano, Kristina Edwards, Sam Lee, Robbie Marshall, Erin Dummeyer, Leslie McDonough, Sarah McCusker, Karin Goodell, Jackie Bush, Stephanie Smith, Arlene Bielefield, Mary Richardson, Mary Etter, Christie Mitchell, Rachel Leff, Kym Powe, Debbie Misiaszek, Kate Byroade, Olivia Scully, Alessandra Petrino, Kari Hamad, Shannon Angellone, Deborah Schander, Cathy Potter, Alex Klaus, Lindsay Delligan, Ellen Paul, Janet Flewelling, Sunnie Scarpa, Gerald Seagrave, Maria Bernier, Denise Stankovics

## CT Library Association | President's Report | June 2022

Thank you to all for your contributions to CLA during the past year and I look forward to a productive year ahead.

Announcements Sarah McCusker, Canton Public Library, is appointed Vice President / President Elect. Next month we will be appointing others to fill vacancies.

Bank signatories are set to meet next week for the account change over. 501c3 paperwork is submitted pursuant to a change in CLA's designation to a nonprofit organization.

The 2023 Conference Committee consisting of Andy Forsyth (Conference Co-Chair, Ridgefield), Scott Brill (Conference Co-Chair, Derby), Kym Powe (Exhibits, CSL), Alessandra Petrino (Event Coordinator, Weston) Sarah McCusker (VP, Canton) and myself are working towards a successful event.

News and Notes CLA's upcoming year will continue its rebuild and getting on firm financial footing, assist our colleagues around the state with book and title censorship challenges, and grow as an association by attracting new members from academic, school, and special libraries. My hope is that we can grow the Intellectual Freedom Committee to assist those colleagues in need.

There is also legislative work to do to control the costs of eBooks and electronic resources along with that is the need for appropriate funding for core services from the state library and appropriate funding for the CT Library Consortium. These agencies cannot do their work alone, this is an interconnected profession, and we need these agencies to thrive and survive.

Two roles that really stand out for our profession are as centers of excellence for EDI work and as the only realistic option for patrons to receive free, high quality digital navigation from professionals who care about them.

I hope to hit all section meetings at least once; the only thing I ask is that you please copy me on correspondence and invites so that it is clear to me when and where those are.

Respectfully,

Douglas Lord

Treasurer's Report, Kristina Edwards  
June 2022

Kristina is working with the Executive Board to make a trip to the bank to make the necessary changes and updates to our account at Citizens. She is also working with Bob and Michelle to make sure that ongoing charges are not affected by the changeover. Because which each Treasurer, a new debit card needs to be issued it might be necessary to have discussions in the future about an association credit card that can be used just for ongoing expenses like QuickBooks, G Suite, and the insurance. Currently the bank account has 62K in it; we have about 6K that is outstanding to be paid to wrap the fiscal year. Kristina reviewed the profit and loss as of today for FY2022. She outlines the shortfall of the conference but believes that for the first in person event the conference had other successes to be considered when looking at this year's conference as we plan for next year's conference. Kristina also mentioned that there were a few operating expenses that she underestimated but would be accounted for in the next year's budget. The FY2023 budget is currently being worked on, we are looking to get conference budget to finalize the budget. Tom Piezzo shared that we have been discussing putting funds aside for Kardi Larson work moving forward. Margaret and Doug will be working on the budget to hopefully be finalized for the July meeting.

**CT Library Association Region 1 Report  
June 2022**

Several libraries in our region are kicking off their summer reading programs in the upcoming weeks.

Oceans of Possibilities is the theme of choice for many of the libraries in our region.

On Saturday, June 25, the Beardsley Library in Winsted is welcoming Curious Creatures/Crawling Critters from 11 am – 12 pm

The Norfolk Library is kicking off on Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, with a performance by the Caribbean Vibes Steel Drum Band on the library lawn from 5 -6 PM.

This summer the Hotchkiss Library of Sharon and the Scoville Library in Salisbury are collaborating for their summer reading programs. The kickoff party is Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, at 11 am, and will feature a performance of “Pirates Lost at Sea” by Talewise.

On a completely different note....

The Goshen Library will present a program via Zoom on Green Burial: Environmental Options for Body Disposal on Monday, June 27<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM.

Submitted By: Karin Goodell  
Region 1 Representative

Region 4 Report, Erin Dummeyer

June 2022

Easton PL is now fine free!

The C.H. Booth Library in Newtown is having some success with Community Conversations About Race; the series is moderated by two local educators and each features panelists. One had 4 leaders from the local clergy, another had local municipal leaders (the first selectman, the president of the bank, chair of the BOE etc.) and one had four nonprofit leaders (e.g., the Lions, the Rotary, etc). All discussed race and racism as it applied to their sphere of influence. As presented the programs are educational in nature which makes it difficult for opponents to take issue. The library has also received an appropriation of \$200K to repair its slate roof and some badly deteriorated shutters.

The Norwalk Public Library once again is very grateful to the Connecticut State Library--Gail Hurley and Maria Bernier--for their assiduous service and support of Connecticut libraries. The office/study pod, purchased with the ARPA grant, is finally put together. It was originally delivered with the wrong size door. The correct door was delivered last week and it was worth the wait.

The capital request for South Norwalk Library repurposing was approved.

The Stratford Library, with support from the Stratford Rotary Club has refurbished two garden spaces on our property, using native plants in support of Pollinator Pathway initiatives here in Stratford. When completed, our garden spaces will include informational signage and will be listed as a site on the Pollinator Pathway website. <https://www.pollinator-pathway.org/>

The Pollinator Pathway program got its start in Wilton, CT in 2017, and to date, pathways have been established in more than 200 communities in CT, MA, NJ, NY and PA

At the Burnham Public Library, they branded their all-age summer program as Your Summer @ Burnham. From storytime and family hikes to their second annual Burnham Beer Garden, they have fun covered! Their summer launch "unofficially" begins on June 24th with Music on Main. A free event with headliner (and Bridgewater favorite) The Overdue Band and free Ice Cream Emergency. Bring a picnic and listen on the lawn! Then on Saturday, June 25th registration opens for programs and reading challenges for all ages as well as featuring World of Harmonica. Also, from June 25 to August 6 they will present a Tiny Art silent auction.

## Region 5 Report: June 2022

### Programs and Announcements:

- **Branford:** The Blackstone 125<sup>th</sup> Birthday Bash will be held Saturday, June 25, rain or shine. Special events and activities include: storytelling, picnic lunches, live music, lawn games, and then fireworks on Branford Point. This historic occasion marks a 125-year legacy of Blackstone enhancing Branford living. Director, Karen Jensen, retired on June 14<sup>th</sup>. The new director is Katy McNichol.
- **Cromwell:** The Belden Library has taken over the Cromwell Community Garden and has big plans for the "Bee happy Children's Garden" on Evergreen Rd. They started seeds, have been transplanting the seedlings, and are inviting patrons to participate.
- **Haddam: Brainerd Memorial:** On June 4<sup>th</sup>, the library held their 4<sup>th</sup> annual Agricultural Day, with 28 exhibitors, food, music, activities & events and animals, including: donkeys, ponies, rabbits, goats, snakes, and ducks, plus a bounce house, antique farm machinery and logging demos. The Friends held a book, bake and plant sale. The day's highlight was a reading appearance with illustrations and book signing by children's "Tractor Mac" author, Billy Steers. Over 230 persons from around the region attended this free all-ages celebration of the local agricultural and environmental identity.
- **Ivoryton:** is welcoming summer with Hula: Thursday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 3:30. This family program will be held in the Children's Garden to kick-off Summer Reading! Tiare Kahana

Bourget brings the Spirit of Aloha through interactive Hawaiian dance and storytelling, inspiring audiences to adopt the Hawaiian value system of love, gratitude, and recognizing the connectivity of all beings and our surroundings. Thanks to the Peach Pit Foundation and Community Fund of Middlesex County.

- **Middlefield:** Levi E. Coe is asking the community to build book related fairy gardens to be placed in their Shakespeare Garden and displayed from June 25 – July 9<sup>th</sup>.
- **Middletown:** Lots of fun things for summer at Russell Library! Children up to 12 can register for summer reading and pick up a beautiful "Trail Tracker," to complete activities. One activity is GeoMission; like "geocaching" but without using GPS coordinates. There will be 12 GeoMission locations. The first family to find the box each week receives a prize. The box contains a notebook, a stamp and a variety of stones. Each family signs their name, stamps their trail tracker, chooses a treasure stone, and puts the box back. Adults and teens may sign up for Summer Reading and earn points on Read-Squared towards a Downtown Middletown gift card. Teens may also sign up for volunteer opportunities. "Book Yak on a Kayak" returns for 2 book discussions in kayak or canoe on Crystal Lake; July 16<sup>th</sup> & August 13<sup>th</sup> at 10AM. Participants may attend the end of summer party at Crystal Lake Saturday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, from 1-3.
- **Milford:** Assistant Director Nancy Abbey is retiring and will be honored at an open house Wednesday, June 29<sup>th</sup> from 12-3.
- **Old Saybrook:** Acton is hosting a "Make Music Day" on June 21<sup>st</sup> to celebrate the annual world-wide event on the summer solstice.

- **Shelton:** is entering the 4th phase of renovation at Plumb Memorial. It is being funded entirely by the Library Board endowments, and this will complete the renovation of the entire library - it has taken 4 1/2 years! The main adult collection of older books and media are not available at this time, but the Reading Room, Reference and Children's Dept are all open, as is the Huntington Branch. Completion by the middle of the summer.
- **Wallingford:** The library is celebrating the Town's 350th + 2 Jubilee with a community art project. Local artist Rashmi Talpade will lead the creation of a mural across from the Circ Desk. Rashmi has taught art programs at the library and is known for the Wallingford Townscape Collage in the front hallway. For this anniversary mural, she will paint a giant tree and help residents create decorative "leaves" with images of themselves.

Respectfully submitted,

*Robbie Marshall*