

Connecticut Library Association Board Meeting

July 21, 2022

10:00 am Business Meeting via Zoom

**Minutes**

1. **Call to Order:** President Doug Lord called the meeting to order at 10:01 am.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** June meeting minutes  
A motion to approve the June meeting minutes was made by Mary Etter and seconded by Colleen Bailie. Motion passed.
3. **Old Business**
  - a. **President's Report** – See attached.
  - b. **Treasurer's Report** – Margaret is having trouble logging in as admin for Citizens Bank and Bob is helping her work on that. Alessandra asked about the P&L Summary regarding the Conference deposit. Bob and Margaret clarified that it was a remaining payment from the 2022 Conference, not for the upcoming 2023 Conference. Doug said that we will vote on the 2022-2023 annual budget at the next meeting.
4. **New Business**
  - a. Vote to end the Institutional Membership for CLA – Trish Tomlinson.  
Discussion ensued of the pros and cons of ending Institutional Memberships. Kate Byroade said that this has been under consideration since 2018/2019. Mary Etter commented that we have had and not had Institutional memberships in the past. Maria Bernier is concerned it will disadvantage individual library staff that might not be able to afford conference rates. Maria would like some historical information on how often institutional membership is used for Conferences and workshops. Olivia Scully mentioned possibly starting group rates to help those who can't afford Conferences vs having the Institutional members. Bob stated that there are approximately 40 Institutional Memberships, which was more than Trish originally thought so this may change the direction. Trish will reach out to those Institutional Members and do some more research. Trish noted that she needs help with the Membership Committee since there is a lot to do. Anyone interested in helping Trish can reach out to her via email. The discussion was tabled until the future.
  - b. Vote on Conference 2023 Budget (and 2024 as the Committee will be doing a 2 year contract with venue to save some money). A motion to approve was made by Trish and seconded by Maria Bernier. Motion passed.  
Alessandra said that venue rental fee and venue deposit for the next year (2 year contract). They are hoping to do it with the Mystic Marriot as they were the most reasonable cost, which would save us \$13,000 after 2024 if we did this because each year, the pricing does go up. This is a preliminary budget.

Committee/Section/Representatives Reports:

**ACLB: Denise Stankovics:** In September, they will have a program on FOI – date upcoming. In upcoming they will be offering Board Basics by members of the Executive committee. They encourage new board members to participate. November 2, Maureen Sullivan will do a program on Strategic Planning. All these programs will be in the evening to encourage participating from those who work fulltime. Summer newsletter just went into the mail this week.

**ADA: Maria Bernier:** Even though we are deep in the heart of summer, Maria said that if there are any committees thinking of fall programming, please remember accommodation statements. Speak to Maria for more information.

**ACLPD: Karen Tatarka:** Absent

**ALA:** VACANT

**Archives: Jerry Seagrave:** No report

**Awards: Region Reps:** No report

**BCALA: Robert Kinney:** Absent

**Bibliomation: Carl Demilia:** Absent

**Career Development: Sunnie Scarpa & Andy Forsyth:** They are finalizing plans for the virtual Leadership Institute. Registration will open mid-August. Committee meeting in September.

**CAS-L: Barbara Johnson & Mary-Ellen Minichiello:** Absent.

**CLC: Ellen Paul:** There are 34 new companies on contract and over 100 new products. They are getting ready to go out to bid on August 8 for library equipment. They revamped their program directory that will be available starting this Monday, 7/25.

**Commission on Ed Tech: Colleen Bailie:** Doug will be coming to September meeting to discuss ways commission can help libraries in digital equity effort.

**CSL: Deborah Schander:** Governor Lamont signed Executive Order 22-2 on July 1, creating CT's "America 250" Commission. The Commission will be led by Former Secretary of State Merrill and Jason Mancini of CT Humanities and include representatives of many state agencies and organizations, including the State Library, CLA, and the Town Clerks' Association. The intent is to have a statewide, inclusive celebration and recognition of our nation's founding. The State Library's Public Records, Archives, and Preservation units are participating in a new task force, created by a special act last legislative session, to study the digitization of municipal building codes. Deborah recently had the pleasure of visiting several public libraries, including the Newfield Branch ribbon cutting event in Bridgeport, the groundbreaking of Booth & Dimock's expansion in Coventry, and a visit to the Pequot Library in Southport. The next State Library Board meeting is Monday, July 25.

**Children's: Alex Klaus & Sage Gentry:** They are working on fall conference – or possibly winter conference, depending on people's thoughts on if that would work.

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

**CLASS:** VACANT

**Conference 2022: Scott Brill & Andy Forsyth:** Scott and Andy thanked the other Conference committee members for all help and work. They are welcome to all ideas for the Conference, please let Scott & Andy

know if you have any thoughts. They are getting ready to sign the contract and the dates for the 2023 Conference will be April 30-May 2 (once they sign, which is upcoming).

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

**Customer Service:** VACANT

**Grants/Fundraising:** Alessandra has been working with Sam & Lindsay on their first large fundraiser – banned bands during banned books week. Two events that week – first weekend they are hoping to be somewhere in Fairfield County and second weekend they will be back in Manchester. She has been working on getting some sponsors for Career Development Leadership Institute. If you know of any businesses or organizations that may want to be a sponsor, send them Alessandra’s way.

**FOCL: Debbie Misiaszek:** No report

**Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI): Kym Powe & Sam Connell:** Sam reported that they are regrouping from low interest in people holding office. They are considering joining forces with LGBTQ+ section. They are currently planning a fall workshop and would love help in the section, if anyone is interested!

**Intellectual Freedom: Sam Lee:** Sam spoke at Stowe’s Salon on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. She has been helping with the Colchester/Coventry challenges. There is Materials Challenge Training next Tuesday at 2pm and it will be recorded. She has been planning for a Fall Conference, but has been distracted by all the challenges. They will be doing Rapid Response Team recruiting. Their next meeting is August 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2pm.

**LCI: Laura Horn:** Absent

**Legislative: Kate Byroade & Olivia Scully:** They have no meetings scheduled for over the summer. They are hoping to see eBook bill revived in the new year.

**LGBTQ+ Section: Mary Richardson:** Absent

**LION: Joe Farara:** Absent

**Membership: Trish Tomlinson:** No report

**NELA: Christy Billings:** Absent

**PEG: Mary Etter:** Mary reports that PEG is still recognized for grants for continuing education. She has had an inquiry recently.

**Publicity & Communications: John Casiello:** John has some new help on the committee. He is updating the board page with all the new changes. Some people are not currently members – make sure you update your membership and your picture and please scale it down if you can. Keep any information coming to John that needs to be fixed/updated.

**Procedures: Lisa Karim:** Absent

**Public Library: Jennifer Sullivan:** Absent. Doug reported for Jennifer that there were nearly 600 passports. The winners have been notified and gift cards mailed - Manchester & Bristol had winners from those who visited all the stops. Plumb Library and Farmington Libraries had winners of the random drawings. Thanks everyone for participating and supporting the program.

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

**Resource Sharing Matt Earls:** Absent

**SCSU: Arlene Bielefield:** Absent. Arlene reported that they have a new Internship Coordinator, Dr. Christopher Clarke, who will begin work for the Fall semester. Dr. Clarke has a PhD in Religious Studies and is finishing up his MLIS at the end of this summer. He is a native of Connecticut but spent many years working in California and has now returned to our state. He will be reaching out and meeting with the Board soon.

**Technical Services: Steve Bernstein:** Absent

**Technology:** Vacant

**Young Adult: Jackie Bush & Stephanie Smith:** Stephanie reported that they are planning an in-person workshop for the fall. More details upcoming.

**Region 1: Karin Goodell:** Absent

**Region 2:** VACANT

**Region 3: Leslie McDonough:** No report

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

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

**Region 6:** VACANT

5. **Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn at 11:27 was made by Alessandra Petrino and seconded by Sam Lee. Motion approved.

**Present:** Lisa Karim, John Casiello, Deborah Schander, Leslie McDonough, Andy Forsyth, Scott Brill, Mary Etter, Margaret Khan, Erin Dummeyer, Ellen Paul, Colleen Bailie, Sarah McCusker, Debbie Misiaszek, Sam Lee, Sam Connell, Maria Bernier, Trish Tomlinson, Christie Mitchell, Sage Gentry, Kate Byroade, Bob Scheier, Danielle Valenzano, Doug Lord, Robbie Marshall, Denise Stankovics, Jerry Seagrave, Alex Klaus, Alessandra Petrino,

President's Report, July 2022  
Doug Lord

Membership and the Board have seen the various censorship efforts and challenges going on in the state; please know that efforts at censorship by the few will continue to make news and cause upset in your communities. As time goes on please remain vigilant and aid your colleagues when you can. Please consider joining the the Intellectual Freedom Committee led by Sam Lee and Lindsey Delligan. These attacks are personal, not fair to the professionals leading libraries, and quite upsetting.

I am very glad to the appointment of Shana Shea as Region 2 rep. Shana works at the Barney Library in Farmington, a the branch of the Farmington Libraries. Welcome, Shana, and to all know we are still looking to fill these positions on the board: ALA Rep, Region 6 Rep, Support Staff liaison (CLASS), and Technology.

Ebooks will again be the major push for the Legislative Committee this year and it seems as though we have an actual opportunity to move the dial -- provided we get participation from CLA members. If you are interested, please let me know.

Please make sure that your sections have the correct contact information on the website, and consider adding a photo to humanize us to members.

I'm looking forward to coordinating the CT 250th celebration under the direction of Secretary of State Denise Merrill and while we have some interest from some really skilled people we can always use help.

Today we will take a look at conference 2023 and 2024 with a peek at its budget. This will take the form of a two-year contract with Mystic that saves money overall and makes gains in year 2. we will also discussing Institutional Memberships.

Region 4 Report, July 2022

Erin Dummeyer

The Stratford Library continues the celebration of its 125th Birthday, with events throughout the year. On July 16th, they hosted our Birthday Bash, which featured a day of fun activities, games and entertainment in the Library Courtyard. Special performances included: Senegalese Dancing & Drumming with Abdou Saar, Dancing with Ballet Folklorico Dominicano, & Hudson Shakespeare Company's "Much Ado About Nothing". The day featured three food trucks, and other activities such as birthday hat decorating, stomp rockets, penny farthing demonstrations, a photo booth and of course, Birthday Cake!.

The CH Booth Library in Newtown has finally signed a contract to repair the slate portion of the library roof. CH Booth also has a new IT Librarian whose name is Jon Barker who hails from the Schoenbaum [Sheern-baum] Library at the University of Charleston.

Region 4 will have no report for a few months due to Erin's maternity leave.

## Region 5 Report: July 2022

### Robbie Marshall

#### Programs and Announcements:

- **Cheshire:** Cheshire Library's AV STUDIO is a fully equipped digital media lab for audio and video creation as well as digital conversion. The Studio can be booked for 2-hour increments.
- **Clinton:** Henry Carter Hull library has instituted an Old-Fashioned Chautauqua Series. Popular in late 19th and early 20th century—the Chautauqua (*Shaw-taw-kwa*) was a series of community programs featuring noted speakers, music, poetry, and storytelling. They were held under tents, and brought civic-minded dialogue to rural towns. The name comes from the Iroquois word describing the lake in upstate New York where the movement began. It is held every Wednesday from 6:30- 7:30.
- **East Haven:** The roof repairs (CT State Library Grant) had a few issues which were resolved. The contractor and Town signed the contract last week and work should start at end of July and be completed by the end of August. On Friday, August 19th, there will be an after-hours (5:30 pm - 8 pm) Coffee House for teens. It will be in the original Community Room which has a stage. Teens will perform and enjoy food and coffee. These have been held in the past and can draw 30-60 teens - so it is a very popular program!
- **Madison:** Scranton Library is offering: *Summer Mindfulness Meditation* every Thursday, and a *Seascape Photography* workshop ending with a field session at East Wharf Beach. They also have a new mobile library called the Book Caddy which is situated in the Madison Earth Care Garden Center parking lot every Tuesday 3-6.
- **Portland:** has set up a Letterboxing Challenge with the Middlesex Land Trust to hide 9 children's book-themed letterboxes on Land Trust properties in Portland and Cobalt. For letterboxing all that is required is a notebook, a rubber stamp and a sense of adventure.
- **Wallingford:** is presenting "Entangled & Ingested: Combating Plastic Pollution through Art" on Tuesday, July 26th, 7:00-8:00 p.m. onsite and Zoom. Dr. Katharine Owens will demonstrate how she uses the arts to communicate about the pervasive problem of plastic pollution. A researcher and artist, Dr. Owens has spent the last year creating a series of 46 life-sized portraits of animals harmed by marine debris. She creates the pieces by sewing film plastic onto canvas, but the largest pieces (including 3 life-sized whales) are being co-created with the public. Dr. Owens is a Professor in Politics, Economics, and International Studies and Director of Interdisciplinary Studies at the University of Hartford. *The ABCs of CBD: The Health Benefits of Cannabidiol* is being presented on Tuesday, July 19th, 7:00-8:00 p.m. onsite and Zoom. Hemp has been around for centuries but CBD only became legal in the U.S. in 2018. Many people do not know what CBD is or what it does. Vannesa Moreno, owner of Your CBD Store North Haven will cover the basics, including: what CBD is, where it comes from, how CBD is different from THC, its benefits and what to look for in high-quality products.

- **Westbrook:** The new director is Michelle Centore who began on June 7<sup>th</sup>.
- **West Haven:** the city has agreed to fund a Digital Navigator project, where they will be providing laptops and instruction for up to 75 families.

Respectfully submitted,

*Robbie Marshall*