

Connecticut Library Association Board Meeting
August 17, 2023
10:00 am Business Meeting via Zoom
Minutes

1. **Call to Order:** President Sarah McCusker called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.
Approval of Minutes: July meeting minutes
A motion to approve the July meeting minutes was made by Colleen Bailie and seconded by Scott Jarzombek. Motion approved. No abstentions.
2. **Old Business**
 - a. **President's Report** – See attached.
 - b. **Treasurer's Report** – See attached.
3. **New Business**
 - a. **CLA Tagline (Sarah)-** The tagline on our website shows “leading the way since 1875.” A couple weeks ago Kate and I were in this meeting with ALA and one of the speakers of the Iowa Library Association happened to mention that they are the 2nd oldest library association in the United States. And That would mean we are the oldest. But we are not the oldest. The New Hampshire library association is the oldest. We asked Jerry and Mary for their knowledge and CLA was founded in 1891. We went back through the meeting minutes and the math checks out. My question is 1. Do we have any idea where 1875 came from and 2. Do we need to change that? Vote to correct year: 1. Mary Etter. 2. Doug Lord. No oppositions or abstentions.
 - b. ALA Discussion (Sarah/ Kate)- **Kate:** Emily Drabinksi- The brand-new ALA president tweeted something about being a Marxist. People decided that this tweet was weaponized against her and the ALA and the membership of the Montana State Library commission voted to withdraw their membership from ALA which made the news. The commission did not have an active membership at that time. Other elements around the country decided this is another way to go after the ALA. The World Library Association has formed (may not have actual librarians involved) and are proposing themselves as an alternative organization for librarians who wish to protect the children. A big meeting was convened for chapter leaders and there was a presentation from Iowa and how they are dealing with issues as a chapter. The Michigan Library Association has launched “MI Right to Read” which is their Freedom to Read site and advocacy. ALA council wanted to make a statement and because of procedures we cannot come up with a broad statement as an organization in support of Emily. There are people out there who are urging libraries and associations to withdraw from ALA and there is legislation being drawn up in some states along the lines of tax funded libraries cannot be part of this organization. We’ll have to watch this in other states. **Sarah-** if anyone receives any other letters from anyone, please let me know. We are not responding to the patron sending letters. The plan is to ignore the patron for now.
 - c. Discussion of moving admin services from NELA to CRC (Alessandra) (Executive session and vote required) Vote to go into Executive session 1. Kate 2. Scott. 10:39 AM Motion to come out of executive session. 1. Scott Jarzombek 2. Lisa Karim 10:48 AM Vote to approve the contract with Connecticut River Concepts, Inc. to provide administrative services to the CLA. 1.Kate Byroade 2. Margaret Khan. No oppositions or abstentions.
 - d. Discussion and vote for 2025 Conference Contract (Alessandra)- We were looking into our conference contract for 2025 as mentioned last month. We got an offer to extend our

contract from Mystic Marriott and Spa to change our 2-year contract to a 3 year contract. The rental fee would be \$6200. Hotel room \$179. It is a discount on the rental of \$800. The hotel booking is \$4. Everything else stayed the same, like our budget for food. There is no other contractual fees other than room rental. They would also allow us to pay on the same scale like last year in 2 fiscal years. We did talk about the fact that we are having the conference in the same place 3 separate years in a row. We do hear the concerns that it is too far. There is one central location which is the CT Convention Center. Other places either cannot accommodate us or no longer exist. We reached out to Convention Center to get a quote and the room rental fee with discount would be \$36,000. Food would be \$55,000 minimum compared to Mystic at \$66,000 but we always surpass this. AV is the same at both places at \$18,000. Convention Center has a \$10,000 administrative fee. The difference is about \$40,000 rental and administrative fee. Room rate of \$269 vs. Mystic of \$179. The whole estimate of their cost is \$139,000 which is more than we paid for our entire conference this year at Mystic which included lodging, speaker fees, and deposit. Unknown if CT Convention Center has bail out clause. Mystic contract states we can pull out of contract, but we would lose deposit fee. We do have 60 days to pull out and not lose deposit. We paid \$5,000 deposit of \$7,000 so \$2,000 left to pay. There is a clause that we can reschedule if there is a pandemic. New Bristol convention center only has 3 conference rooms and cannot accommodate us. Parking in Hartford Vote to approve for mystic: 1. Margaret Khan 2. Doug Lord. No oppositions. No abstentions.

Representative Reports:

CT State Library: Deborah Schander: See attached.

NELA: Scott Brill: Absent: Early registration for the conference in October is open and there are applications up for NELA scholarships to attend the conference. It is not limited to first year attendees any longer.

ALA: Kate Byroade: The first outline schedule for what used to be called the ALA Midwinter Lib Learn X came out and will be held in Baltimore in January.

ALA EDI Assembly: Kristina Lareau: Absent.

ACLB: Denise Stankovics: On September 12th there will be a zoom program on Intellectual freedom that Sam Lee will be doing for us. It's open to board members and anyone in the library world. We will have more information coming out soon. Our next newsletter will be out in October with a summary of the 3 programs that we've done so far this year.

ACLPD: Alyssa Dansinghani: Absent.

America 250: Doug Lord:

BCALA: Robert Kinney: Absent.

Commission on Ed Tech: Colleen Bailie: The committee met on 8/8 with an all day retreat to talk about strategic planning with advisory members and commission members. I was there on behalf of CLA and Dawn LaValle on behalf of the State Library. The 5 key points that we are looking at for the strategic process was open education, digital equity, artificial intelligence, digital literacy, and data privacy. Education is not just for the school systems. It's for adult learners and senior learners as well and looking at those in society who don't have access to digital material. The report should be coming out soon for that.

Communications Task Force: Doug Lord: We met in June and missed getting onto the July agenda made up of about 25 CLA members. Our general purpose is to look at options that provide a platform for broader and deeper latitude of communications beyond what current listservs everybody uses and view. We are looking to enrich and extend amplify discussions among colleagues. This group is going to ask for a vote for a CLA endorsed time limited task force to further explore an initiative that would provide and financially sponsor an independent listserv. If approved, this group would meet and make

recommendations and use Star Chapter to notify membership and solicit more participation. I move and am looking for a second and a vote on the executive board endorsing a time limited task force to explore an initiative and provide an independent listserv. 1. Doug Lord. 2. Kate Byroade. 2 oppositions. No abstentions. Motion passes.

CASL: Mary Ellen Minichiello & David Bilmes: Absent.

CLC: Ellen Paul: Absent.

FOCL: Debbie Misiaszek: Absent.

Library Connection: Laura Horn: Absent.

Region 1: Karin Goodell: Absent.

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.

America 250 CT: Doug Lord: The full commission met on 7/12 and we received a lot of updates on CT efforts and what's going on around the country. CT seems to be firmly in the middle of the pack in terms of the efforts of national efforts with other states. Some states like Virginia are way ahead and some states don't have commissions. The CT commission has no real separate budget apart from coordination and technical assistance from CT Humanites. This agency is doing the lion's share of the organization, gathering, information and admin tasks. There are 5 larger subcommittees of the commission and all of them subscribe to mission and values, statements with a big focus on inclusivity and all committees seem to be struggling with roll out and how to best obtain buy-in and participation from residents. Public libraries are going to be able to be of greater service and look great to residents and the commission as we solidify this effort. I will be sending more information soon as it applies to CLA and getting more involved. America 250 effort in CT is purposefully decentralized. It's difficult to consider the different angles and aspects all at once. We do have time a lot of time left and the commission would like all CT communities to be involved.

SCSU: Arlene Bielefield: Absent.

Sustainability Taskforce : Doug Lord: We met and broke into 4 subcommittees. Strategic planning, financial planning, bylaws, and training and software. The next full meeting is 9/26 by which time the subcommittees will have met a few times and made some progress.

Association Committee Reports:

ADA: Maria Bernier: Absent.

Archivist: Gerald Seagrave: No report.

Awards: Region Reps: N/A

Career Development: Andy Forsyth & Amanda Stern (absent): Andy-We met on 7/25 and have some new members. On 8/2 we had a mentoring info session getting our next cohort ready and this initiative is led by Beth Piezzo and Amanda Stern. On 8/11, the library Leadership Institute at Middlesex community college. It was the first time this has been held in person since 2019. We had 42 in attendance and a lineup of terrific speakers. A big thank you to our colleagues who appeared on the panel of "Ask a seasoned profession". They brought a lot of great insight and support and information to other colleagues. We've received great feedback and support for having a full day in person event. The whole committee will meet again in October to start pulling together programming ideas for the annual conference.

Conference 2023: Andy Forsyth & Allison Murphy: Andy- We are in a holding pattern until our committee meets next week. Alessandra- Our vendors received their save the dates thanks to our exhibits team. The next thing to look for is that proposal will open in September.

Grants/Fundraising: Alessandra Casiello: We are working on getting our Banned bands events up and running. We will have 2 events this year. We are still trying to nail down the dates, but we have 2 places: Labyrinth brewery in Manchester and Brewery Legitimus in New Hartford. Thank you to Glene Grube

who is working to get a date for Brewery Legitimus and should know next week. Thank you to Intellectual freedoms Sam Lee and Lindsay Delligan for our connections with Labyrinth Brewery. Thank you to Kristina Lareau for giving me the logo for JEDI which sold out at the conference. We will be ordering more JEDI shirts and people have preordered them already. That will go up around early September. We have our fall fundraisers already set up so look out for those.

Intellectual Freedom: Sam Lee & Lindsay Delligan: Lindsay- We are working on the Banned Bands events and are aiming towards October 7th for the event in Manchester at Labyrinth Brewery. Sam- Kevin Crane has agreed to perform again at Labyrinth Brewery.

Legislative: Kate Byroade & Olivia Scully: We are changing our meeting times. We will still meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of the month but moving the time from 230 to 3 so we can have CASL and our school librarians be able to participate in our meetings. Our next meeting will be 9/12. We are working on getting some legislative events together for the fall. We are working on some online advocacy tools and will soon be launching our first campaign, Freedom to Read CT. We will be coordinating with Intellectual Freedom so we can get the word out there and get support for CT Libraries in advance of next year's legislative session.

Outreach: John Casiello: Thanks to Bob & Michelle for sorting out the email address for the Outreach Committee. It is outreach@ctlibraryassociation.org. If you send things to the old email they will still get to me. We will start promoting the new email address. I would like to attend any workshops, especially online to promote membership. It would be great to have chairs spread the word or what membership means and why it's beneficial to be a member.

Sarah- September will be the inaugural newsletter that I have been talking about. My goal is to get it out around Labor Day. If you have any information to share, please send it to me.

PEG: Mary Etter: I will be in touch with the regional reps suggesting that if we have a lineup of fall programs that people might want to apply for PEG funds.

Procedures: Lisa Karim: The first meeting of the bylaw revision group will be meeting September 14th.

Section Reports:

Children's: Sage Gentry & Alexandra Remy: No report.

CLASS: VACANT

College & University: Rob Walsh: No report.

JEDI: Mary Richardson & Sam Connell: No report.

Public Libraries: Jennifer Sullivan: No report. If anyone is interested in joining public libraries, please reach out.

Reference & Adult Services: Christie Mitchell: No report.

Resource Sharing: Matt Earls: Absent.

Support Staff: VACANT

Technical Services: VACANT

YA: Stephanie Smith: No report. If there are any teen librarians who are interested in being co-chair please pass it on. Congratulations to all librarians who have made it through summer reading.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn: 1. Kate Byroade. 2. Doug Lord. Adjournment at 11:28 am.

Present: Sarah McCusker, Scott Jarzombek, Doug Lord, Margaret Khan, Shannon Angelone, Kate Byroade, Shana Shea, Emily Rush, Sage Gentry, Rob Walsh, Sam Connell, Mary Richardson, Jennifer Sullivan, Christie Mitchell, Stephanie Smith, Jerry Seagrave, Andy Forsyth, Alessandra Casiello, Allison Murphy, Samantha Lee, Lindsay Delligan, Olivia Scully, John Casiello, Mary Etter, Lisa Karim, Robert Scheier, Michelle Scheier, Denise Stankovics, Colleen Bailie, Deborah Schander.

Announcements

President's Report- Sarah McCusker

Some board members got an email from a woman who wants CLA to detached themselves from ALA. The letter was about Emily Grabinski is a self-identified Marxist and ALA is suspect & should not be affiliated with at all. The State Library Commission of Montana has withdrawn from ALA. I received a message from ALA letting us know that some Anti-intellectual freedom groups have been joining library listservs in an effort to infiltrate the lists and collect data, get admitted into zoom meetings and record them and share the recordings with legislators who are amenable to their cause. The email was to encourage us to keep an eye out on our public facing mailing lists and who we let in. I did forward it to Dawn who has assured me that ConnTech has 3 people on the back end to check who is subscribing and that they are Connecticut librarians.

Another thing brought to my attention was the passage of a bill this year. This is a bill that is meant to put further definitions on grooming. Current CT State law did not really address grooming behaviors as a crime. This passed entirely unanimously. Concerns were raised during the legislative process about it because the definitions in the bill are very vague. The concern is that normal courses of business (libraries) can be construed as offensive or inappropriate. The issue is that the definitions are vague. Ex. Harmful to minors. If you put out a book list that you recommend and one happens to have an LGBTQ characters, and somebody's parent takes offense to this and says "You're grooming my child by recommending this book from this list." There is a possibility that a lawsuit will be brought against the state on 1st amendment grounds.

Kate will speak more on it.

Kate Byroade: The concern has been raised by publishing and media. They are concerned about normal marketing- If a teenage signs up for a marketing list from a publisher and it includes nonfiction books about LGBTQ or sexuality etc. and because this is an ongoing thing, this could be defined as a relationship and therefore they could go after they can go after the people sending out these recommendations. It has expanded that idea to librarians and is addressing online behaviors- any librarians answering reference questions or book recommendations via online or social media. The concern was raised that this law should be challenged, and ALA came to us with their concerns. Some of our legislators voted for this bill. They were focused on online predators and specifically changed the proposed language was adults 21 and over and raised to adults 25 and older to remove college ages. We said to ALA that we are going to talk to our legislators of ways to tweak this bill. We are not necessarily looking to sign on as CLA but our Freedom to read foundation may sign on and look for CT members of Freedom to Read. I don't think there is any intention in CT of going after any librarians or booksellers but there is concern that it can be weaponized or legislature like this elsewhere could be weaponized. That's why they want to bring the case to CT because if it gets struck down here and rewritten, the language is clearer.

Sarah: It is up in the air right now, but it is circling around. If this does become a lawsuit, we will most likely be asked as an organization to sign on as a party. I don't think that's a conversation we are ready to have just yet. We will keep you updated on how this is going. I've reached out to our state representative, Eleni Kavros DeGraw but I haven't heard back from her yet. Once we get input on it, we will go from there.

The West Hartford Public library went Fine Free and managed to get a Hartford Current article written about it. They contacted me for comments on the trend of going Fine Free. Hopefully it will help some of our libraries who have not gone fine free.

We found that ALA is running a 2-day advocacy training bootcamp in December for chapter leaders and fly us out to Chicago.

Mary Etter's retirement party was a couple weeks ago, and I presented her with a replica NELA games trophy. Our actual CLA gift was delayed but it has arrived. In appreciation and recognition for everything you have done and are continuing to do for CLA over the course of your long career.

Treasurer's Report- Margaret Khan

We are just a month into our fiscal year so not a whole lot to report on right now. Membership is steady and the sole source of our income right now. Our budget was adopted last month and we made a couple small changes to the budget lines on the admin side but no changes to the content of the budget. But we fine-tuned the organization of the budget will help us going forward. A new fiscal year expense form should be updated on the website shortly but in the meantime please continue to use the one on the website. I will let everyone know when the new one is on the website. If you have any questions on how to fill out the expense forms, please do not hesitate to reach out.

CT State Librarian's Report- Deborah Schander

Our digging into history with On the Road with Rochambeau was conducted from 7/12 -7/24. This is the second round of our experiential public history program in partnership with the Seicheprey region of France. This year we had 19 CT high school students joining with 13 French students working on an archaeological dig in Bolton. This was a program in partnership with the Office of State Archaeologist, the Friends of the State Archaeologists, the State Historic Preservation Office, the Town of Bolton, the Bolton Historical Society, the Connecticut Heritage Foundation and many others. We were very excited to offer this program for students and see the impact it had on those thinking about heading into the history field.

DLD is partnering with the CT Democracy center which is at the old state house to offer civics kits. Those of you familiar with the Kid Governor program which is something the dem center offers to 5th grade students. We are going to be providing books and discussion questions that focus on leadership, civic engagement, and government for any public library or school library to borrow through the Middletown Library Service Center.

You'll be seeing an official announcement shortly that we have received 6 National Endowment for Humanities grant to support 2 more years of the Connecticut Newspaper Project and will be continuing to contribute Connecticut content to the Chronicling America program at the Library of Congress.

We received an IMLS leadership grant to design and implement a replicable regional Digital Navigator sharing program. This will be building on the work we've done with the Digital Navigator programs and partnering with 6 public libraries across the state particularly focusing on allowing smaller libraries to participate in this in a collaborative and regional way.



CT Association of School Librarians

COLLABORATING TO ADVANCE STUDENT LEARNING

CLA Updates

Update August 2023

- June 1 we celebrated CASL award winners at our annual Spring Fling.
- New CASL President - Jenny Lussier and Vice-President Val DiLorenzo
- Barb Johnson and Jenny Lussier attended the CLA Legislative committee meeting in July to continue to work together.
- The American Association of School Librarians National Conference is in Tampa in October. At ALA in June, delegates discussed the importance of supporting our Florida colleagues.
- Barbara Johnson, CASL's Immediate Past-President and librarian at Jack Jackter School in Colchester has been elected AASL's Director-at-large for 2023-24
- A number of schools in CT have signed on to [BookBreak](#) - a partnership that brings author talks to elementary schools. It launches in September.
- CASL's Barb Johnson hosted MakerMeetUp 2023 - Crafter's Edition at her school library on August 10! Lots of fun was had!
- Planning has begun for the 2024 CASL conference in November 2024.

CLA Region 5 News: August 2023

James Blackstone Memorial Library, Branford

- The Blackstone Library has had some infrastructure updates this summer. We had a new sound system installed in our auditorium, thanks to a gift from our Friends of the Library. We also replaced our 25-year-old phone system with a new one, adding an all-phone paging capability.
- We are preparing a CT State Library Construction grant application for a project to enclose our auditorium balcony, creating two new meeting rooms for public use. This was an add-alternate project from the last renovation that was unable to be completed.
- We've also been expanding our Library of Things, adding a wide variety of items and making them available to borrow through LendingKey. Thanks to a gift from the Friends, we've been able to purchase additional lawn games, which are hugely popular, plus a metal detector, tool kit, bird watching kit, and more. We'll be adding musical instruments in the near future, and have received donations for additional nature kits from our local environmental commission group.
- We are planning an end of summer celebration called Lawn-A-Palooza, with a live cover band sponsored by the David J. Hughes Memorial Fund, and our lawn game collection. An Italian ice vendor will also be on-site for families to get a sweet treat. Lawn-A-Palooza happens Saturday August 19 from 10 am – 1 pm. Everyone is invited for a fun day on our park-like grounds!

Durham Public Library

- The Durham Public Library is hosting an Open House on Saturday, August 26, 2023 from 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to celebrate the completion of a remodeling project.
- Welcome and remarks from Connecticut State Librarian Deborah Schander and Library Board Chair Robert Booz will open the event at 10:00 am, followed by refreshments and a chance to tour the space. Snacks, children's crafts, and activities will be available all day.
- The Library Renewal Project improved accessibility, computer access, and improved study spaces and community gathering spaces. The Durham Public Library was awarded a grant for the library renewal project in the amount of \$146,957 by the Connecticut State Library Board. Additional funding is provided by the Town of Durham, The Peach Pit Foundation, and the generous contributions of library supporters.

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

Margaret Khan- Booth & Dimock Library

The Booth & Dimock Library in Coventry is coming to the completion of their renovation and the ribbon cutting ceremony will be held on September 8th at 5:30pm. Formal invitations will be finalized and sent out at the end of the week.