

Connecticut Library Association Board Meeting

August 18, 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 July meeting minutes was made by Alessandra Petrino and seconded by Sam Lee. Motion passed.
3. **Old Business**
  - a. **President's Report** – See attached.
  - b. **Treasurer's Report** – Margaret reported deposits for the Conference for 2023 and 2024 have been paid for with a discounted rate. \$2200 revenue from membership. Things are just getting started for the fiscal year, P&L comparable to last year. Margaret asked for any questions on the reports. Bob reiterated to Margaret if she needs any additional needs/reports, to let him know.
4. **New Business**
  - a. Approval of 2022-23 budget. Motion to approve was made by Mary Etter and seconded by Colleen Bailie. Motion passed. \$4,000 for legislative might be an over-budget, but wanted to cushion it in the event that Legislative needs more support this year. Realistic budget and Margaret thanks all the committee chairs for letting them know what was needed and thanks the Executive Committee for help with getting this together. Alessandra reported that this is the first year that Fundraising and Career Development are working together to have a keynote. They did raise money on sponsorships, too. Fundraising will continue to work with Career Development to help make back money each year on the keynote. Olivia Scully noted there are a lot of Legislative issues coming up so they are appreciative of the higher budget.

Committee/Section/Representatives Reports:

**ACLB: Denise Stankovics:** Finalizing their fall plans in the next few weeks.

**ADA: Maria Bernier:** No report

**ACLPD: Karen Tatarka & Alyssa Bussard:** Absent

**ALA:** VACANT

**Archives: Jerry Seagrave:** No report

**Awards: Region Reps:** No report

**BCALA: Robert Kinney:** No report

**Bibliomation: Carl Demilia:** Absent

**Career Development: Sunnie Scarpa & Andy Forsyth:** Leadership Institute is 9/13 and 9/14. They are hoping to send everything out tomorrow. They have a committee meeting next week to work out the rest of the details. They are working with Fundraising who found they sponsors to cover their keynotes. They are

expecting to make some income from the registrations. Working on getting quotes for expansion on Benchmark study to include more roles.

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

**CLC: Ellen Paul:** Out to bid on Library equipment, promoting new digital resources contract – all new vendors are having webinars.

**Commission on Ed Tech: Colleen Bailie:** Doug will be speaking at meeting in September.

**CSL: Deborah Schander:** Absent

**Children's: Alex Klaus & Sage Gentry:** Absent

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

**CLASS:** VACANT

**Conference 2022: Scott Brill & Andy Forsyth:** Working on theme for Conference trying to focus on reconnection – not just with each other, but with the profession. Also looking for speakers and on track with everything else.

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

**Customer Service:** VACANT

**Grants/Fundraising: Alessandra Casiello:** First fundraiser lined up with Intellectual Freedom committee for Banned Bands. They are doing two fundraisers. First 9/18 at 440 Line Restaurant & Bar in New Fairfield, CT. Second one is 9/24 at Labrynth Brewery in Manchester, CT.

**FOCL: Debbie Misiaszek:** Absent

**Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI): Kym Powe & Sam Connell:** No report.

**Intellectual Freedom: Sam Lee & Lindsay Delligan:** Sam reported she is excited about banned bands. She is getting reports about First Amendment Auditors so please make sure you know what to do if this happens to you. They are forming a subcommittee so please look for more information on that. ALA's Intellectual Freedom has a vacant position for challenge support. She encourages everyone to check in with your colleagues and develop your rapid response team so you are not dealing with challenges alone or caught unawares.

**LCI: Laura Horn:** No report

**Legislative: Kate Byroade & Olivia Scully:** Tuesday, 9/13 at 2:30 is their next meeting with issues of federal funding and ebook publishing. Still working on a survey.

**LGBTQ+ Section: Mary Richardson:** Nothing to report

**LION: Joe Farara:** Absent

**Membership: Trish Tomlinson:** Lining up a membership strategic plan, working on drafting letters for membership with Doug. Having a joint meeting with the marketing committee in September, including pulling in region reps. Anyone presenting a program to take time to mention becoming a member. Trish plans to reach out to each member and new member to ask what CLA can do for them?

**NELA: Christy Billings:** Absent

**PEG: Mary Etter:** No activity with PEG so far this month, but attempting to go over the description on the website and she'd like to tune up the wording and description of how PEG operates.

**Publicity & Communications: John Casiello:** Absent. John will be working with membership. He is also working with the Conference committee and putting together the Conference website, which should be up by 9/1 with save the date information.

**Procedures: Lisa Karim:** No report

**Public Library: Jennifer Sullivan:** Absent

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

**Resource Sharing Matt Earls:** Absent

**SCSU: Arlene Bielefield:** Absent

**Technical Services: Steve Bernstein:** No report

**Technology:** Vacant

**Young Adult: Jackie Bush & Stephanie Smith:** They're still working on dates for their fall workshop. Looking for a library to use with a large meeting room and hoping to lock down one of their two dates soon.

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

**Region 2: Shana Shea:** See attached.

**Region 3: Leslie McDonough:** Absent

**Region 4: Erin Shea Dummeyer:** Absent

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

**Region 6: Madhu Gupta:** No report

5. **Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn at 10:54 was made by Sunnie Scarpa and seconded by Mary Etter. Motion approved.

**Present:** Lisa Karim, Danielle Valenzano, Doug Lord, Karin Goodell, Trish Tomlinson, Alessandra Casiello, Kate Byroade, Steven Bernstein, Jerry Seagrave, Jackie Bush, Robbie Marshall, Mary Etter, Laura Horn, Denise Stankovics, Andy Forsyth, Sarah McCusker, Margaret Khan, Ellen Paul, Maria Bernier, Robert Scheier, Madhu Gupta, Scott Brill, Christie Mitchell, Sunnie Scarpa, Colleen Bailie, Shana Shea, Olivia Scully, Mary Richardson, Sam Lee, Sam Connell, Robert Kinney

Intellectual freedom and privacy concerns continue most recently pointed out by Lynn Zaffino, director of the Easton Public Library, in an email regarding a potentially disruptive First Amendment auditor.

September will see some key meetings and initiatives kick off on the multiple large issues that libraries face. While we have opportunities given the legislature's long session, it will take clear communication on defined goals and hard work by members to move these needles. The Legislative Committee can not be expected do this alone. For change to occur we need sections, committees, executive board, and members all pulling together. It is not difficult work, these are simple, everyday tasks that involve a little bit of learning and focused communication.

I encourage each section to take a page from Intellectual Freedom's book to try to make teeny amounts of money for programs when possible. A variety of funding resources make up a healthy nonprofit and that's big stuff like conferences and memberships and little stuff like bake sales and workshop fees. Even a \$10 workshop fee can generate a teeny bit of income without placing a financial burden on members; and member rates vs. non-member rates are a best practice.

I'm happy to report that a new Region 6 Representative has been appointed: Madhu Gupta from the Public Library of New London. In other committee news we are a bit closer to getting an ALA rep and need volunteers for: Development & Planning, Technology, and CLASS.

In September Membership (Trish Tominson, Plainville PL) and Publicity (John Casiello, Ridgefield PL) will be organizing a joint membership/marketing and communications meeting to discuss how CLA can be more consistent and effective in outreach. Expanding the committees with added volunteers and/or region reps is a good idea.

The September meeting will be more conference-heavy **and** as a post-business meeting treat we will have a 'beginner's session' for those new to the board. This will cover topics such as how to use Starchapter, how to send out mailings, info for in-person meetings, expectations of new board members, etc. after the business meeting. So as they said in the 1940's, be there or be square!

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas Lord

President 2022-2023

**CT Library Association**

**Region 1 Report**

**August 2022**

Raechel Guest, Director of the Silas Bronson Library in Waterbury, was happy to welcome a new Librarian 4 in charge of Adult Services, Jessica Svedrovic, in July. The position has been vacant for two years!

The Hotchkiss Library of Sharon broke ground this summer on its renovation and expansion project. They are “overjoyed that construction is underway, funded by the community’s generosity.” The library is temporarily operating out of the American Legion Hall in Sharon until construction is completed.

The Beardsley Library in Winsted is the latest library to join Bibliomation. Previously on a stand-alone ILS, they are thrilled about the expanded access to shared resources with other libraries across the state.

The Cornwall Library had one of its most well-attended Books and Blooms fundraising events this past July. Over 300 people purchased tickets to attend the garden talk and tour the gardens and over 50 local businesses and individuals sponsored the event.

Submitted By:

Karin Goodell

Region 1 Representative

## **Region 2 August Report**

**Shana Shea**

**Farmington** - The Farmington Libraries will be rejoining LCI in mid-November and going fine free in mid-October leading up to the migration

**Suffield** – Kent Memorial Library in Suffield has a new director. Julie Stiles, formerly the Assistant Director of Public Services at the Hartford Public Library, starts her directorship on Monday, August 29. Send her good vibes!

## Region 5 Report: August 2022

### Programs and Announcements:

- **Bethany:** Clark Memorial held their 3<sup>rd</sup> annual art exhibit on August 14<sup>th</sup>. They updated the cupola with fresh paint & lighting and the Children's room is being renovated.
- **Branford:** The Blackstone Library hosted CLA Intellectual Freedom Chair Sam Lee at an August in-service session for library staff. They learned about the principles of intellectual freedom and had the opportunity for Q&A. Sam was a fantastic presenter and the staff feels more confident and empowered should they be faced with book challenges.
  - Blackstone has an ongoing call for artists to exhibit in the upstairs rotunda gallery. The current artist, Yvonne Gordon-Moser, wraps up her display the end of August. They are accepting applications; interested artists can visit the art gallery webpage.
  - This summer, Youth Services, purchased a fish tank with a gift from the Friends. They held a naming contest for the fish, 60 families voted, and the names are: Maximum Mayfield Blue (Max), Bob Ross, Banjo, Barnaby, Bloop, Briney, Bubbles, Bruno, Einstein, Dr. Sushi, Kevin, Swimmy Jimmy, Swimmy Timmy, Swim Shady, & Trevor. Everyone is invited to stop in and read to their new fish friends.
- **Cromwell:** Seed starting for the Community Garden kicked off Aug 16<sup>th</sup> with storytime and free ices. Botanical Mocktails is next on Thursday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6, at which using herbs and botanicals in drinks will be explored. Recipes & herbs provided.
- **East Hampton:** is in the process of finding a new full-time Adult/Young Adult Librarian and EHPL will be accepting applications for a part-time Public Service Associate. EHPL recently held a touch-a-truck firetruck storytime for 118 attendees. The library has a busy slate of summer programs that have been well-attended. EHPL will host its End of Summer Reading event later this month.
- **East Haven:** The roof repairs had an overly optimistic projection. However, the contractor plans to begin in the next few weeks with: power washing & water proofing the brickwork; then replacing 3 flat roofs and repairing the 2 sloping slate sections to the 1928 building.
- Cindy Gwizada, [Community Services] and Chris Hemingway, [Reference and Local History] Librarians, introduce a new program: *Great Decisions Foreign Policy Discussion Group* Tuesday, September 27, 6–8pm. Great Decisions is a national, civic-education program sponsored by the Foreign Policy Association that: encourages learning about U.S. foreign policy and global issues, discusses multiple viewpoints, & takes part in a national opinion survey. Established in 1918, the Foreign Policy Association is a non-profit, education organization. Discussion topics include Changing Demographics, Outer Space, Climate Change, Russia and the U.S., Biden's Agenda and more! The group leader is David Thomas, a retired lawyer with PhD's in Religion and Political Science.
- **Hamden:** Hamden's good news is that their Digital Navigation grant has been extended by 2 months, ending in September. They have held over 500 appointments with clients in

need of computer instruction and assistance applying for the Affordable Connectivity Program, and have given away 60 devices [laptops and tablets].

- **Killingworth:** The library has been holding children's model boat building sessions and racing them against other libraries.
- **Westbrook:** The Community Potluck and Picnic will be Thursday, August 25th 5-6:30 pm. Residents can bring a contribution to share or just enjoy a picnic on the back lawn. Free copies of the Kindness Cookbook will be available (thank you to everyone who donated a recipe!) Afterwards, is the Indoor Movie Night. Campfire Excitement is Friday, August 26th from 1 to 3. Downstairs in Community Room, they will make s'mores and an indoor campfire craft. Spongeball Skirmish is Saturday, August 27th from 12 to 1. They will make spongeballs, then pull out the water pails, join teams, and battle!

Respectfully submitted,

*Robbie Marshall*