

Connecticut Library Association Board Meeting

September 15, 2022

10:00 am Business Meeting via Zoom

Minutes

1. **Call to Order:** President Doug Lord called the meeting to order at 10:03 am
2. **Approval of Minutes:** August minutes
A motion to approve the August meeting minutes was made by Maria Bernier and seconded by Colleen Bailie. The motion passed with no abstentions.
3. **Old Business**
 - a. **President's Report** – See attached.
 - b. **Treasurer's Report** – Margaret reported we have some revenue coming in and some committees spending their budgets. The leadership institute brought in over \$1800. We have 28 more members than we did at this time last year. As a general reminder, if you have an reimbursement you need, it needs to be submitted to Margaret. Currently it lists last year, but they can still accept that until it is changed. If you need a speaker paid, you need to submit a W-9 form so the speaker can be paid. Everything is going on as projected.
4. **New Business**
 - a. Doug Casey Director of CET spoke about Digital Equity (Refer to PDF of presentation)
 - b. Approval of the conference rates Alessandra Casiello
Motion to accept with the addition of the 2-day speaker rate as discussed \$80 a day for two days. Motion made by Kate Byroade and second by Margaret Khan.

Committee/Section/Representatives Reports:

ACLB: Denise Stankovics: Still finalizing plans for fall workshops, watch website for further information on that and they will be sending out publicity when things are confirmed. They are working on their fall newsletter and one of the featured articles will be all of the book challenges within the state and country.

ADA: Maria Bernier: ADA is a committee of CLA which means they help to make your programs and workshops more accessible so reminder as you plan any workshop or webinar that you use the ADA page's language for your registration materials to encourage people to contact you if they need to request any accommodations. Live transcriptions in Zoom at a bare minimum. Working towards session at the Conference as the ADA committee.

ACLPD: Alyssa Bussard: Absent

ALA: VACANT

Archives: Jerry Seagrave: Please send Jerry brief report of summary of fall program for the archives.

Awards: Region Reps: Hoping to create a separate thing for awards this Conference instead of tacking on to the annual meeting.

BCALA: Robert Kinney: Absent

Bibliomation: Carl Demilia: Absent

Career Development: Sunnie Scarpa & Andy Forsyth: Had Library Leadership Institute, it went very well. They will be sending out a participant survey, but anecdotal survey has been very good. 51 registrants and sold over \$2500. They had sponsors of \$750 and the cost was \$1500. They worked with EveryLibrary to offer a registration bundle. They had 9 people take advantage so \$450 belongs to EveryLibrary. We have profited \$1365. NExt meeting in early November and they will start talking about workshops for annual Conference and their scholarships that they give out. Committee members working on the membership program and the internship availability list on the website.

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

CLC: Ellen Paul: Big week last week – received 15 responses to library technology bid last week on opening day. Moving on to evaluation, then award, then contract phase. Contracts will go live on January 1. Promoting new digital resources contract. Amanda Stern worked very hard to launch program director. There are 175 performers/lecturers in there. Be sure to check that out. As you work with programmers/performers, encourage them to make a profile on the directory.

Commission on Ed Tech: Colleen Bailie: No report

CSL: Deborah Schander: See attached

Children's: Alex Klaus & Sage Gentry: In-person winter conference which will be February 23 at the Farmington Libraries and October 21 at 11:30 will be their next meeting that will be virtual.

College & University: Matthew Sheehan: Absent

CLASS: VACANT

Conference 2022: Scott Brill & Andy Forsyth: Theme about reconnecting to the core of librarianship and mental well-being. Will be putting out a formal announcement on that soon. Also looking at bigger things other than presentations – interactive conference with take aways that you can be a part of. Award ceremony will have its own thing. They are open to suggestions.

CT Center for the Book: Lisa Comstock: Absent

Customer Service: VACANT

Grants/Fundraising: Alessandra Casiello: Banned Bands on Saturday 9/17 in New Fairfield, following Saturday 9/24 Banned Bands in Manchester. Visit the website for more information. Silent auction baskets & merchandise, talking about intellectual freedom and banned books week, door prizes for suggest donation of \$10. Costume contest for book character costumes through October to be voted on through social media. Small entry fee to enter to send in picture and then an Amazon gift card prize. November 1-December 31st Boon Supply fundraiser. Winter & spring looking at getting speakers to speak about library fundraiser and then looking at new ways to fundraise in person.

FOCL: Debbie Misiaszek: Fall conference 11/5. Visit website for more information.

Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI): Kym Powe & Sam Connell: They are preparing a proposal to integrate with LGBTQ+.

Intellectual Freedom: Sam Lee & Lindsay Delligan: Reiterated what Alessandra reported about fundraisers, They are continuing to offer training on legal implications of challenges and how to handle them, working on

planning winter workshop on CT Open Meetings Law. Mentioned new narrative of “Freedom to Read” vs “Banned Books”

LCI: Laura Horn: No report

Legislative: Kate Byroade & Olivia Scully: Meeting held last Friday. They are about to launch a survey to check in with membership about their legislative priorities. Organized a meeting with Matt Ritter’s legislative staff to familiarize them with what is happening. It was a useful conversation. Hoping to see an eBook bill introduced this fall with revised language. Supporting attendance at the lobbying conference which is 10/6-if anyone is interested and would like to be reimbursed, please reach out to Kate and she will coordinate. They can support up to 5 people. They have \$500.

LGBTQ+ Section: Mary Richardson: Working on merging with EDI.

LION: Joe Farara: Absent

Membership: Trish Tomlinson: Had a great meeting with Publicity and Communications yesterday. Working to get letters out to members. Asking people who join or are thinking of joining what do you want to get out of this experience. Trish would like Section/Committee Chairs to take a more active role in getting their members doing things.

NELA: Christy Billings: Absent

PEG: Mary Etter: No report

Publicity & Communications: John Casiello: Absent

Alessandra & Doug reported: John could use a hand with the work – if you are interested in helping him, please reach out. Publicity has been working with the Conference Committee trying to come up with a logo and updating the Conference website. If you need anything, send John an email.

Procedures: Lisa Karim: No report

Public Library: Jennifer Sullivan: No report

Reference & Adult Services: Christie Mitchell & Rachel Leff: Planning their fall programs for October and November.

Resource Sharing Matt Earls: Absent

SCSU: Arlene Bielefield: Absent

Technical Services: Steve Bernstein: No report

Technology: Vacant

Young Adult: Jackie Bush & Stephanie Smith: Absent

Region 1: Karin Goodell: Absent

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: See attached

5. **Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn at 11:46 was made by Kate Byroade and seconded by Maria Bernier. Motion approved.

Present: Robbie Marshall, Danielle Valenzano, Douglas Carey, Denise Stankovics, Debbie Misiaszek, Jerry Seagrave, Lisa Karim, Alessandra Cassiello, Lindsay Delligan, Ellen Paul, Doug Lord, Margaret Khan, Maria Bernier, Sarah McCusker, Scott Brill, Christie Mitchell, Mary Richardson, Samantha Connell, Sunnie Scarpa, Alex Klaus, Olivia Scully, Trish Tomlinson, Steven Bernstein, Jen Sullivan, Colleen Bailie

President's Report | September 2022

Congratulations to Sunnie Scarpa (E.C. Scranton Memorial Library, Madison) and Janet Flewelling (Wallingford PL) of the for a fantastic Leadership Institute during early September, and also to immediate past CLA President Colleen Bailie (West Haven PL) for a phenomenal opinion piece, co-written with Chair of the Connecticut State Library Board Maureen Sullivan, which appeared in the New Haven Register on 9/8.

Section and committee chairs have been asked to describe plans for the year in the hopes that these are not only a conference program but also a workshop or symposium of interest to the general CLA membership and other librarians in the state.

Section and committee chairs are reminded to check StarChapter for updates as to whether a member has selected your committee as an interest. There has been renewed discussion of the Association migrating to a different software product, we're hearing good things about Wild Apricot. We will need a specific committee for this, it is a long and arduous process.

Regarding membership, the Association has been stable in past years at roughly 700-750 members. The difference between that and, say, a thousand members would be vast. Yes the institution would be better served with more membership equating healthier finances. Funding aside, Connecticut is blessed to have thousands of skilled librarians and staff doing exciting things; as a group we are tight on time and heavy on talent. More members brings the potential of more meaningful workshops and learning sessions and a stronger annual conference.

Federal Legislative Alert Rekindling advocacy for library building projects at the federal level is important. CLA endorses ALA's messaging about the first dedicated federal funding for library facilities in 26 years. The federal proposal is modest, but important. Use the language in [this link](#). Help by contacting your legislators; click [here](#) to determine who they are.

- Best – a mailed letter on letterhead. This is gold.
- Better – Email
- Good - Call
- OK – The internet form via ALA right [here](#).

[Here](#) is language written by ALA that you can use to use to support the legislation – it is in the FY2023 Appropriations Bill.

Respectfully submitted,
Douglas Lord

Region 2:

Avon – Avon Library will be having a grand opening for our new Memory Care Collection next week:

<https://www.avonctlibrary.info/event/in-person-memory-care-collection-grand-opening/>

Also, we were thrilled to have Stephanie Smith (formerly of the East Hampton Public Library) join the AFPL team as our new full-time teen librarian over the summer.

Bloomfield – Held a super successful (and first ever) BPL BookCon event on July 29, 2022.

“We were able to send approximately 180 kids and teens home with bags of new and used books (and some extra goodies.) Our goal was to foster literacy and pleasure reading for kids of all ages, and give them books to help build up their own home libraries.

[...the] Bloomfield Public Library Book Conference - or "BookCon" - was a chance for kids, tweens and teens to select and go home with FREE books of all kinds (and a variety of extra goodies!): Advanced Read Copies of chapter books and graphics from publishers; Like-new books from BPL's donations; Gently used books and graphics; Bookmarks, buttons, bags, and more! To participate, kids and teens just had to visit the in-person BookCon event on July 29th (held at a large conference space at our leisure services building), and then select the free things they'd like to take home...simple as that!

We provided everyone with an event-branded cotton tote bag to fill up with the goodies. We had an amazing response from publishers, who sent us boxes upon boxes of ARCs, bookmarks, posters, etc. Some of our publisher partners were Bayard Press, Chronicle Books, Candlewick Publishing, Disney Publishing, Hachette Book Group, Owl Kids Publishing, Page Street Publishing, Rightstufanime.com, Scholastic Publishing, and Skybound Entertainment.

We hope to have this event every 2-3 years. Because our focus was on letting kids find books for themselves, we also made it clear that kids needed to be there to do the selecting – parents couldn't come and pick up items on their behalf. We wanted kids to experience the joy of selecting their own pleasure reading. The feedback from our community was amazing. We had a simple box and notecards by the exit for attendees to leave feedback in, and the kids themselves left most of the feedback. Many gave us versions of “this event was awesome!” I particularly loved the feedback from several kids, who said they were excited to try new kinds of books that they might normally not have selected for themselves. Parents were also super excited and said they can't wait for the next event.”

Canton - Our Summer Reading program was a community-wide Million Page Challenge – we challenged the community to read 1,000,000 pages between Memorial Day and Labor Day. We reached the goal on August 12 and ended the summer with more than 1,300,000 pages read by about 550 participants. We also encouraged participants to collect pledges for the Canton Food and Fuel Bank and raised over \$1,000 which will go directly towards helping vulnerable community members.

Region 5 Report: September 2022

Programs and Announcements:

- **Branford:** The Friends of Blackstone Library hold their annual Book Sale on the Branford Green September 22-25. It's a HUGE sale under the big tent, with tens of thousands of books. This is their biggest fundraiser of the year, and they are looking forward to another great turnout. For more info: <https://www.blackstonelibrary.org/2022booksale/>
 - They are also participating in an art treasure hunt from somethingprojects.net. A local artist, Jen Payne, has a display in the library with clues to her 'treasure'. Patrons can solve the clues to find it. Lucky seekers will find a copy of her latest zine, plus a map of their trees and shrubs, to discover their own found object in nature. Artists have created these geocache art installations all over the state.
- **East Hampton:** Keri Blanda was promoted from Public Service Associate to Adult/YA Librarian and the Library is in the process of interviewing candidates for Public Service Associate vacancies. The Library Advisory Board will be reviewing proposed policy updates that will clarify Library services. During September, the Library will receive \$1 for every reusable bag sold at the East Hampton Stop & Shop.
- **East Haven:** Hagaman Memorial has some fine musical programming scheduled for September: Classical Saturday, Sept 24 at 2pm, Bach Violin Solo Concert Performed by Albanian-American violinist Brunilda Myftaraj. She has drawn critical acclaim for her masterful musicianship in Albania, Italy, Greece, France, Morocco, Austria, Switzerland, Poland, Israel, and the US. On Wednesday, September 28 at 6:30pm, a Trio from Surcari (a combination of Suramérica & Caribbean), an award-winning performance group from Chile, Venezuela, and Puerto Rico, will perform songs to celebrate Latinx Heritage Month. They will bring instruments for children to play during the performance.
 - The roof repairs were drowned out by the rain earlier this week, but were started in earnest with the tearing off and replacement of the flat roofs. All of this should be done by next week, followed by the slate tile repairs to the 1928 building. Water proofing the brickwork to the 1928 building will be done concurrently.
- **Haddam:** Brainerd Memorial announces its 2nd annual Fallfest Saturday, Oct 15th. Along with book, plants, & bake sales it will feature: music and line dancing, scary gardens & pumpkin decorating, autumn treats, a fall wreath raffle and wood carving demonstration.
- **Ivoryton:** will be changing up their approach to the annual Scarecrow Festival. This year they will display decorated brooms throughout the village, while the scarecrows will be in Centerbrook and Essex. There will be a presentation on creating a broom that survives the elements on Wednesday, September 21st at 7pm.
- **New Haven:** is partnering with the Pride Center to celebrate Pride New Haven with the community. PRIDE New Haven is an 8-day festival celebrating the culture, art, and history of New Haven and Connecticut's LGBTQ+ community. It features: film screenings & social

events, creative projects, and more at NHFPL the week of September 11-18. The library will have a booth at PRIDEfest, on Saturday, September 17 on the New Haven Green.

- **West Haven:** will be hosting their 3rd annual Scarecrow contest in October. Families can sign up to pickup a scarecrow to decorate, which will then be displayed on the front lawn. Prizes will be awarded after the voting in an online poll at the end of October.
- **Woodbridge:** Re-opened on Saturdays [from 10-5] on Sept 10th with an artists' reception and crafts.

Respectfully submitted,

Robbie Marshall

Report – Madhu Gupta
Region 6 Libraries

One Book One Region

This is the twentieth anniversary of One Book One Region, and book selected this year is *Being Heumann* by Judith Heumann.

This is the seventh year that Connecticut College has partnered with One Book One Region to bring community members and the college community together to discuss ideas, broaden our appreciation of reading and break down barriers among people. The titles and their authors change every year, but those goals remain the same.

Author Judy Heumann will speak at Connecticut College's Palmer auditorium on Thursday, September 22 at 7:00.

The event is free and seating is first come, first served.

Salem Free Public Library

Salem Free Public Library is planning a Holiday Concert on December 3. They are having work done on their HVAC system, generator (tests) and lighting.

Public Library of New London

PLNL celebrated the opening of the Toy Lending Service. A wide selection of toys are available for checkout for three weeks using a library card.

PLNL will be partnering with Child and Family Agency of Southeastern CT to place a community navigator at the Library to offer mental health resources to New London residents experiencing crisis.