

Connecticut Library Association Board Meeting
September 21, 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: August meeting minutes- Could not be approved due to no quorum.
2. **Old Business**
 - a. **President's Report** – See attached.
 - b. **Treasurer's Report** – See attached.
3. **New Business**
 - a. CLA Conference 2024 Attendee Rate Vote (Alessandra) – See attached.
(SKIPPED due to no quorum)
 - b. CLA Conference 2024 Exhibitor and Sponsor Rates Reveal (Alessandra) See attached.
 - c. Public News Service (Scott J.)- See attached.

Representative Reports:

CT State Library: Deborah Schander: See attached.

NELA: Scott Brill: The NELA conference is October 15th, 16th, and 17th at Mass Mutual Center in Springfield, MA. A lot of our CT colleagues are speaking at it which is wonderful. Early bird registration is closed but you can still register to attend. Shout out to Alessandra for coordinating this conference as well and is doing a superior job.

ALA: Kate Byroade: Earlier this week, the ALA released an updated Advocacy Action Plan workbook. It is an excellent resource if you interested in advocacy. ALA has not yet release Banned Books Week numbers.

ALA EDI Assembly: Kristina Lareau: no report.

ACLB: Denise Stankovics: Last week we had our webinar on Intellectual Freedom. We had a wonderful presentation by Sam Lee. We had about 65 people attend with 130 signed up with the understanding that they would receive the recording. We were really pleased to get such a high attendance and to have it reinforce that a lot of people are really concerned about Intellectual Freedom. We will have more information on our website. We are planning for November to have another presentation on Board Basics. We present that regularly because we know new members are always joining boards. There will be more information about that forthcoming.

ACLPD: Alyssa Dansinghani: absent.

America 250: Doug Lord: We sent out via StarChapter information and resources on September 12th. I will be sending out a reduction of that to the listservs in the next few days. The commission is still active, and the committee meets on the 26th. I am happy to answer any questions on the Semi-Quincentennial.

BCALA: Robert Kinney: Absent.

Commission on Ed Tech: Colleen Bailie: Absent.

Communications Task Force: Doug Lord: We met on Monday and decided on a pilot phase to do a new form of communication that would broaden and deepen communications between colleagues and anyone who wants to join. We decided on either no moderation or minimal moderation with the understanding of the risks of that. We will be meeting in the next couple of

weeks to discuss more of the pilot itself including who and how to do the discord server. We are limiting it to CLA members first to see how it goes but by the October meeting we should have a recommendation that the voting members can ask questions.

CASL: Mary Ellen Minichiello & David Bilmes: Our focus has been on AI. We had a really good recent webinar last Monday by Shannon McNeice from West Hartford. She's a school librarian and put together an amazing google slide show on AI and the effects it could have as well as the positive parts to it and the concerns. CASL will continue this in terms of webinars. At Southern, Buley Library as a Lib Guide on AI that's for faculty and students and anyone who is interested.

CLC: Ellen Paul & Amanda Stern: In July, CLC launched a contract with amazon business to give all of our libraries free business prime and discounts to amazon products. We're having a webinar with them next week. This is open to CLA as well. Next week we are also hosting our first coffee chat with the employers association of the northeast. Again, in July we launched the partnership with them to offer HR support services to our libraries. This is an event just for CLC members and we are talking about Employee Handbooks. Coming up in November, we are bringing back school library profession development day. We're having Deborah Caldwell stone from the ALA's office of Intellectual Freedom speak about case law affecting school libraries and intellectual freedom; Pat Scales who is a columnist for school library journal, former school librarian, and former committee member on the Intellectual Freedom committee talk about policies in school libraries. We're also having Paul Freedman who is the superintendent of the Guilford Public schools, who's been an incredible champion for intellectual freedom in his school district. The week of November 14th, we are having an in-person vendor expo at Southern. We're going to have 20 CLC Vendors in attendance with breakout sessions from different vendors/exhibit hall. It's free to attend with a nice breakfast, a nice lunch, and swag bags.

FOCL: Debbie Misiaszek: We are getting away from the big fall conference due to the noninterest last year. We will try to do regional groups and I hope to have the first one in November and next month I will have all the details for you.

Library Connection: Laura Horn: Absent.

Region 1: *Vacant.*

Region 2: Shana Shea: Region 2:

Berlin – Has started Strategic Planning. They're offering two opportunities in October for community to give ideas and feedback on Thursday October 12 at 6:30 pm, and Saturday October 14 at 10:30 am.

Bloomfield – Their temporary location BPL at the Atrium is now open.

Suffield - Reference Librarian Kate Jarest has been promoted to Associate Director. Director Julie Styles has resigned; last day is 9/15/23. Farmington has a new director who has started September 5th.

Region 3: Chonte Fields: Absent.

Region 4: Erin Dummeyer: Absent.

Region 5: Emily Rush: Huntington Branch Library, Shelton: At the Huntington Branch Library in Shelton, they are looking for a new fulltime Children's Librarian and a part-time Library Assistant. Both positions are posted on the CLA Jobline.

Region 6: Madhu Gupta: See attached.

SCSU: Arlene Bielefield: With the departure of Chris Clark, a new internship coordinator has been named: Cindy Scofield.

Sustainability Task Force: Doug Lord- The big group has not met yet-that should be next week. There are 4 small groups: one to work on bylaws, one to create a strategic plan for CLA, one was to create

training documents and one to work on finances in terms of securing long term viability. Alessandra: three of the committees have met so far. We have started revising bylaws last week. We do ask that each section send us their most updated bylaws. Each section should have bylaws. You can check the website for the bylaws we currently have. Strategic planning is going well as well. We started revising the training documents. We have not had a finance meeting yet but everything is going well so far.

Association Committee Reports:

ADA: Maria Bernier: Absent.

Archivist: Gerald Seagrave: Absent.

Awards: Region Reps: Alessandra: Some of the awards committee met with the conference committee. The awards will be moved to the first day of the Conference so Monday, April 29th at 8am. Breakfast will be available for those in attendance for the awards.

Career Development: Andy Forsyth & Amanda Stern: Absent.

Conference 2023: Alessandra Casiello: Planning is going well. Vote will be held next month for rates. Vendor rates will be shown here first but don't have to be voted on. Next week we will be sending out for the program submissions for sessions. Our vendors will be getting their full rate packages next week and with registration opening in November.

Grants/Fundraising: Alessandra Casiello: Our 2 fundraisers are coming up. The first one is Freedom to Rock, October 1st 3-6 at Brewery Legitimis. We just got confirmation for our guitarist, Jefferey Howard who will be there on October 1st. The week after, on October 7th from 4-8 we will be at Labyrinth Brewery with guitarist Kevin Crane. We will be doing silent auctions there and giveaways and t-shirts. We now have a few different shirts available for sale on our website.

Intellectual Freedom: Sam Lee & Lindsay Delligan: Sam- Lindsay has been fielding challenges across the state with the beginning of the school year. We are seeing an organized increased effort for challenges in schools. Please support your school librarians. The Freedom to Read foundation is partnering with the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights to do a presentation on September 26th at 3pm Eastern. This is included in our institutional freedom to read foundation membership. If other folks are interested in registering, please reach out to me. It is limited to the first 1000 attendees.

Legislative: Kate Byroade & Olivia Scully: The big thing coming up is the Connecticut Lobbying Conference which will be hosted by Gallo and Robinson on October 26th. It's going to be an all day event from 8:30am to 4pm in Hartford. Early registration ends on October 6th. We are very grateful for CLA to provide partial registration for up to 5-member registration which we have hit. There is still time to register at the early bird or group rate. This is an excellent opportunity to learn about how to do advocacy with legislators. It's extremely informative and there's a ton of practical information that you'll be able to use right away.

We were very happy to welcome CASL president Jenny Lusier at our last meeting. We are very excited to work more closely with our school library colleagues on legislation that obviously can benefit all of us. There were the recent interaction with the meetings and the interactions with the public that were mentioned with the lieutenant governor. Kate was recently on an hour long talk show to discuss the ongoing intellectual freedom issues facing libraries. We're trying to start ramping up our advocacy campaigns so keep an eye out for Connecticut right to read. In the next few months we will have our fall legislative events, 1 in Fairfield and 2 in new haven county, dates to be determined. We are also beginning to organize a suite of education materials so look out for hopefully a more unified approach as we lead up to the upcoming legislative session from February 7, 2024 to May 8, 2024. To briefly mention our legislative agenda, we are hoping to get

our eBook bill across the finish line. There are a couple of pieces of legislation that are on our radar: Connecticut Act 23-123. It's aimed at online predators of children and would criminalize grooming. It is very well intentioned but because of vagueness and wording, it could be used against libraries, publishers and book sellers so we are trying to learn more about it. It has been signed into law and we are trying to figure out a way to approach that. The kids online safety act: it's a federal piece of legislation that is raising similar concerns but we are still gathering information on that. Our next meeting will be Tuesday October 10th, and Tuesday, November 14th at 3pm. Also, as part of our advocacy campaigns, we came up with an advocacy request support form. One of the things we wanted to start doing is having a more unified approach to challenges and offer support to those going through those challenges. The form will be going up on our website with those other campaigns.

Outreach: John Casiello: Board members have to be members so please remember to keep your membership active. 2nd, our tagline has been changed. It has been changed in many places and we are not since 1875, we are since 1891. If you see 1875 anywhere, please let me know. If you need access to the new logos, please request it.

PEG: Mary Etter: no report but you're going to be at NELA conference, we invite you to stay for NELA games and participate as a member for the CT team.

Procedures: Lisa Karim: Thanks to the JEDI section for getting me their bylaws and to reiterate what Alessandra said for all sections to check bylaws on the website and if you need to update them, get them to me. If you don't have bylaws, get me bylaws so we can get them incorporated into the new and improved bylaws.

Section Reports:

Children's: Sage Gentry & Alexandra Remy: We have a meeting on October 18th, Shana Shea will be talking about marketing.

CLASS: *Vacant*

College & University: Rob Walsh: I am actively trying to recruit participants to renew this section. My hope is as the rhythm of the academic semester and people begin to settle in, I can start to get some interest, we can hopefully meet late October, early November.

JEDI: Sam Connell & Mary Richardson: We are going to have a general meeting on November 15th. We are trying to figure out our direction and talk about conference proposals.

Public Libraries: Jennifer Sullivan: Absent.

Reference & Adult Services: Christie Mitchell: No report.

Resource Sharing: Matt Earls:

Technical Services: Vacant

YA: Stephanie Smith:

Present: Sarah McCusker, Scott Jarzombek, Margaret Khan, Deborah Schander, Scott Brill, Kate Byroade, Kristina Lareau, Denise Stankovics, Doug Lord, Mary-Ellen Minichiello, Ellen Paul, Debbie Misiaszek, Shana Shea, Madhu Gupta, Arlene Bielefield, Alessandra Casiello, Sam Lee, Olivia Scully, John Casiello, Mary Etter, Lisa Karim, Sage Gentry, Alexandra Remy, Rob Walsh, Mary Richardson, Christie Mitchell.

Announcements

President's Report- Sarah McCusker

Last month we talked about the contract with NELA for administrative services. We have signed the contract with CRC.

I was asked to speak at a rally in Southbury for book banning. It went really well and there were a lot of people from different organizations at the rally who were interested in having some members of CLA attend various things around the state to talk about this. I have a couple people who have reached out to me and I will do what I can but I will reach out to some of you are interested in going to some of these things.

We were reached out to by the Lieutenant Governor's Office for two events: one at Cragin and one at the State Library. Both were for National Literacy Day or National Read a Book Day. I couldn't attend but Kate held down the fort at Cragin and Scott went to CSL. I think it's great that they are thinking of us for these things now and asked by many organizations to be present and visible.

I want to acknowledge a bunch of our various committees have been hard at work. I want to thank everybody for all that you're doing. I appreciate now how much work on top of your day job that CLA is and it doesn't go unappreciated.

Karin Goodell has resigned as the Region 1 rep so anyone knows anyone in region 1 interested in taking that on, please let me know.

Treasurer's Report-Margaret Khan

We have received over \$8500 in membership funds this year. Membership numbers are lower so far this year but revenue is doing well for that.

We put the deposit down for the conference venue.

In regards to the expense form, if you are submitting packets including the expense form, W9, or a receipt for reimbursement, it would be really helpful if you can send the expense form as its own separate PDF. That way I'm not having to download all of the supplementary materials and then send them out for signatures. It is helpful since we are doing everything with e-signatures.

CLA Conference 2024 Exhibitor and Sponsor Rates Reveal (no vote required)

We had to increase the added lunch cost for vendors if they want an added lunch from \$75-\$100

We increased the quarter page from \$125 to \$150.

We reinstated our Diamond level sponsorship which is \$10,00 level. There are 4 sponsorship levels. Diamond: Platinum (previously diamond) : \$2,500 Silver went up by \$25

Our nonprofit went up \$25 just to pay for lunch that it comes with each day. Same with our standard which is \$875 from \$825. We now have premium level and standard plus. Standard plus includes lunch and electric to make it less confusing for vendors. Premium gives them 2 lunches for vendors that have multiple reps as well as a half page ad which is \$1500.

Announcements

New Business #1-Alessandra (Skipped for now)

New Business #2- Alessandra (Skipped for now)

New Business #3- Public News Service- Scott J.

They reached out to us a couple of months ago and did a story on back to school which turned into book banning and it was picked up by a few sources. They are an interesting model where they don't work for a news source, they generate articles, and they send those articles out. You become a member of their organization. It would generate an interest in CLA. They would do 5-6 stories a year if we became a member and they would send them out. They would meet with us and tell us what people are interested in and we can send them information and press releases. It's mostly audio: it's going out to community radio stations and small websites such as the New Haven Sentinel. My goal next year as president is to figure out how to get more media savvy and get more media coverage. I'd like to get the message out there other than us fighting book banning. Look over the prospectus and see if it's something we are interested in doing. The cost would be \$5,500 but it would depend on our budget since it's on a sliding scale.

State Librarian Report: Deborah Schander
September 2023

We were very pleased to participate in two press conferences with lieutenant governor and CLA for those events to help promote and raise awareness on these issues. We just completed our biennial onsite visit from the national library service. This is a program out of the library of congress that we partner with on the Connecticut Library for accessible books. This is our first visit for the time I've been here and since covid that we've had an onsite visit with them. They were very pleased to see how CT lab has been integrated into DLD and the work that Matt is doing with the HUB libraries. It was a great visit.

Today, at noon, our third Thursday program is about creating library programs for LatinX communities.

Tomorrow we are having the unveiling of our new outreach van. At 11 o'clock at the Middletown Library Service Center. Come and see our new sprinter van which is like a mini state library. There are many aspects of our physical building that have been replicated in this van. We will be able to take our programming on the road to fairs, events, senior centers, schools, parades. If you have interest in someone from museums, state archives, DLD, we will be able to bring that programming from the road.

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Region 6 Libraries

Mystic and Noank Library- had a successful fundraiser with Richard Russo who was on a book tour for his latest book, *Somebody's Fool!*

Public Library of New London- Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration was held at PLNL on Sat, Sept 16 from 1-3 PM.

Cragin Memorial Library- The Library welcomed Lieutenant Governor Susan Bysiewicz last week. She was here to celebrate the role libraries and librarians play in supporting literacy, ahead of National Read a Book Day on September 6th and International Literacy Day on September 8th.

The event was covered in the RIVereast News Bulletin, see page 16:

<https://glcitizen.com/archives/2023/9-8-23%20new.pdf>

State Librarian Deborah Schander also joined the event and spoke about the role libraries play in our communities.

Otis Library:

- Will be circulating toys through the Traveling Toys program. The toys have started to arrive and are in the process of being cataloged.
- Is partnering with Slater Museum to provide an arts-themed storytime for 3-6-year-olds on the first Friday of every month to coincide with Norwich's First Friday arts events.
- Is partnering with the American School for the Deaf to have a monthly storytime for little ones 0 - 3 years.
- Have begun circulating magnifying sheets to help people who need the print to be a bit bigger. They have the same loan rules as books.