

Connecticut Library Association Board Meeting
October 19, 2023
10:00 am Business Meeting via Zoom
Minutes

1. **Call to Order:** President Sarah McCusker called the meeting to order at 10:02 am.
Approval of Minutes: August & September meeting minutes A motion to approve the August & September meeting minutes was made by Doug Lord and seconded by Olivia Scully. Motion approved. No oppositions or abstentions.
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.
 - b. CLA Conference 2024 Exhibitor and Sponsor Rates Reveal (Alessandra)-See attached.
 - c. Public News Service (Scott)- See attached.
 - d. Nutmeg Money Request on Behalf of the CLA Children's Section (Sage)- See attached.

Representative Reports:

CT State Library: Deborah Schander: Two Event Announcements: Today at noon is our Third Thursday program and this is in recognition of Archives Month which is in October of every year and today's program talks about the use of oral history and storytelling to preserve and share the histories of Connecticut's indigenous peoples. Also, Next Wednesday, the State Library and CLC are cohosting an open house at the Middletown Library Service Center, and this is for new directors to come and learn about services and resources through our two partner organizations. Registration is open until Monday and hopefully you'll be able to join us and see our new Outreach van.

NELA: Scott Brill: The NELA conference was really a wonderful 3 days. It was in a huge space and there was a wealth of information and vendors. people seemed to have a really great time. I'm very proud of the conference. Next years conference is in Portland, ME. We had a lot of Connecticut speakers there and we were able to speak to other New England librarians. I highly encourage people to attend NELA.

ALA: Kate Byroade: The big news is that the executive director of ALA Tracey D. Hall has resigned. They expect it to be a year to a year and a half before they have a new Executive Director in place. They expect this person to be a change agent. ALA on its governance side has worked hard in reimagining itself but as a organization ALA has some work to do. ALA Midwinter conference (LibLearnX) will be held in Baltimore. Registration is now open. It is \$395 for ALA members until November 6th. I encourage to look at what's being offered because the Annual is being held in San Diego.

ALA EDI Assembly: Kristina Lareau: Absent.

ACLB: Denise Stankovics: We are about to have our fall newsletter go to the printer so in the next few weeks library directors and board chairs should be receiving theirs. The issue is filled with recaps of our last two webinars: Freedom of Information and Intellectual Freedom. On November 29th, we will be repeating Board Basics. On February 28th, we are doing a webinar on diversity, equity, and inclusion. There will be more information on those on Conntech and our website.

ACLPD: Alyssa Dansinghani: Absent.

America 250: Doug Lord: As a reminder it is the Semiquincentennial of the signing of the declaration of independence. CLA gets a seat at the Connecticut Table called American 250 CT. There are 5 subcommittees and all met to hash out action plans. The full commission met yesterday to start a plan for 2026 and what that looks like for Connecticut. We had a presentation by David Adams from an agency called Urban Assembly on recommitting to democracy. (Link below. We also saw the rebranding of Connecticut. 250CT also has a new logo.

<https://ct250.org/>

<https://www.hartfordbusiness.com/article/ct-unveils-15m-rebranding-marketing-effort-aims-to-boost-home-state-pride>

https://twitter.com/dadams_sel?lang=en (David Adams)

BCALA: Robert Kinney: Absent.

Commission on Ed Tech: Colleen Bailie: Absent.

Communications Task Force: Doug Lord: No report.

CASL: Mary Ellen Minichiello & David Bilmes: Absent.

CLC: Ellen Paul & Amanda Stern: Two things from us- November 14th we are having a Vendor expo at Southern in their Student Center. We have more than 20 vendors. It's not just walk-through the halls of an exhibit hall- it includes breakout sessions where you get to hear directly from vendors. They have all been tasked with showing how their products and services can meet the needs of you and your patrons. It's a full day event with breakfast and lunch and swag bags for the 1st 200 people. Second is this afternoon at 2pm we are holding our Take Your Child to the Library Day kick off meeting. It's a quick 30-minute meeting to showcase what is new and exciting for this year. We encourage every library to participate.

FOCL: Debbie Misiaszek: No report.

Library Connection: Laura Horn: No report.

Region 1: Vacant:

Region 2: Shana Shea: No report.

Region 3: Chonte Fields: No report.

Region 4: Erin Dummeyer: I wanted to share that Lisa Oldham after 10 years in New Canaan library is retiring at the end of this year. The position is open and the search is underway and more details are on New Canaan's website. I wanted to share that Stratford Library has installed a 12 foot skeleton called Billy Bones and has his own library card. You can go up to Billy Bones and share what you are reading and they share their patrons video on their Facebook page.

Region 5: Emily Rush:

East Haddam Library System

The East Haddam Library System is working on its first-ever strategic plan. We have been hosting Community Conversations with various facets of the community, staff, and library board. We've also been working on creating a town-wide survey. The strategic plan committee is also focused on updating the library's mission, as well as formulating a vision and values statement. The strategic plan will be completed by the end of December.

Scranton Memorial Library, Madison

We'll be accepting applications for the Adult Services and Programming Librarian position through Friday, October 20th. Also, our staff is working hard to maintain a seamless transition process as the search for a new director is underway.

West Haven Public Library

We will be filming a documentary about library services and West Haven on Thursday, October 19th that will air on PBS in December/January on the show Viewpoint with Dennis Quaid.

Region 6: Madhu Gupta: Absent.

SCSU: Cindy Schofield: I am taking over for Arlene. I am new to CLA and am also the internship coordinator. As an update on the MLIS program- we had a graduate open house last week and about 15 students left us their info and interest in the program. When we restarted the program in Fall 2016 we had 38 students and this fall we have 132 students. We have a very high percentage of employment after graduation. That means we have brought on new faculty members and initiated new programs. We just received approval for a new concentration of an Academic Library career. We now have a public library concentration, School Library Media Specialist concentration, a Digital Library concentration, and now an Academic Library concentration. One course that is in the pipeline is libraries in the makerspace movement. We've also got a new professor who came from the University of Kentucky who will be leading our special projects course. Helene Murtha is in her second year with us.

Sustainability Taskforce: Doug Lord: Sustainability is one large committee of about 12 people and 4 subcommittees. Strategic Planning finished a document with goals and objectives. Financial planning met to update and fully advance a framework of the last financial plan (2018) and get the next one moving. Bylaws is a committee that meets to untangle a lot of the tangles and get the bylaws specific to sections for refinement. If you are a section, please get your bylaws to us. Training & Software is the committee that is going through who trains who on what. It will help with board members and members overall. The overall committee will be asking to discussion about institutional membership rates in December. We are compiling information in order to increase those rates but keep it as an option.

Association Committee Reports:

ADA: Maria Bernier: Just a reminder as we head into meeting season, if you are planning a gathering a meeting for a committee or section and you are meeting online, please enable the transcripts and captioning feature. We all enjoy reading along and being able to catch up if we step away for a minute. That may require you update some of your settings to make sure you as a host are turning them on or that attendees can request to turn them on. It's an incredible universal feature and I encourage you to roll that out in your libraries as well as any CLA function. If you have accessibility questions, I am here and able to help with anything you need.

Archivist: Gerald Seagrave: No report.

Awards: Region Reps: N/A

Career Development: Andy Forsyth & Amanda Stern: We had a meeting yesterday and the big action item that came out of that is that we are expanding our mentorship program. We are specifically looking for mentors. Any position or level in your library who has enough experience that you think could be a good mentor. We are looking for people who have been in the field for 5 years or more; academics, school librarians; and also, people of a non-director level. If you are interested, the application is on the CLA website. We accept mentorship applications on a rolling basis. If you have questions, you can ask Amanda or Beth Piezzo.

Conference 2024: Andy Forsyth & Allison Murphy: We have released the session proposal form last month so if you have an idea for a session, you can find it on the conference website. It is open until December 1st. On October 25th, we are opening our vendor registration, everything is moving along and thank you all for voting on the rates today.

Grants/Fundraising: Alessandra Casiello: We had our two Freedom to Rock fundraisers on October 1st and 7th. Our goal was to raise \$1,250 and we surpassed that goal by raising \$1,620. That included online sales, buying t-shirts online. You see the numbers mostly reflected in next month's report because we had checks deposited just this week and an online donation that was given. Thank you to Intellectual Freedom for all their work. Thank you to our entertainment: Jefferey Howard and Kevin Crane. Special shout out to Glenn for helping set up the new location at Brewery Legitimus. We will continue to do something there in the future and with Labyrinth who has supported us for many years now. Our next fundraiser will be online with Meadow Farms that will replace Boone Supply. Boone Supply had to revise their way of selling things, so we moved to Meadow Farms. It is still a 40% profit on most items and 30% on others. It is all online selling so you can get things for the holidays. That will be coming in November. It is almost that time for Giving Tuesday on November 28th. I am reaching out to our companies that were our matching companies. If you want to be a matching company, let me know. I will reach out to those who matched up last year first. I did forgo doing the Halloween fundraiser this year because of too much going on, but I will find other ways to make up those couple of hundred dollars that we made last year. (T-shirts are on sale on our website- for JEDI shirts-contact Alessandra).

Intellectual Freedom: Sam Lee & Lindsay Delligan: Thank you to Alessandra and Sam Lee for their help in coordinating the Freedom to Rock events. Thank you to John for helping to set up and Alessandra for all the swag. Overall, a huge successful event and we are working on coming up with plans for fall programs. Sam- Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights was doing a workshop with our Freedom to Read Foundation and talking about how book ban challenges are civil rights issues in schools.

I've gotten an update from Office of Intellectual Freedom: there are lawsuits going forward now in various Florida school districts where students are suing school districts for creating a hostile educational environment when they are targeting LGBT and BIPOC books and the Office for Civil Rights is investigating. We will see how that goes.

Legislative: Kate Byroade & Olivia Scully: The CT lobbying Conference is coming up in one week from today. We have a large group of CLA members registered to attend the conference and are grateful to CLA for helping to fund a portion of those registrations. If you're interested in attending, it is not too late to register. If you'd like the CLA discount code, please get in touch with Kate for that. We have a number of Legislative events that have been scheduled throughout the state: Fairfield Public Library on November 13th, Avon on November 27th, Beardsley and Winstead on December 14th, we also have a tentative from North Haven and Groton for December and we should have a complete list by the end of the month. We are going to aim to present more eBook bill information sessions in January before the Legislative session begins so more details to come on that. We are continuing to put together our suite of communications like flyers, one-sheets, graphics. We have a small working group meeting every other week to keep us on track and well prepared in advance of the Legislative session. Just a note that the Legislative session will convene on February 7th 2024 and adjourn on May 8th. It is a shorter session so we will be packing in a lot in a short amount of time. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, November 14th.

Outreach: John Casiello: As you're looking at the website and bylaws and find any mistakes or omissions, please let me know. As you are planning workshops, let me know so I can attend or give a membership talk or hand off some language to say at the start of your meetings to encourage not just overall CLA membership but membership in your committees and sections to help spread the work.

PEG: Mary Etter: No report.

Procedures: Lisa Karim: Just to remind everyone, please send me your bylaws if you need to update them, put them out in your workshops and vote on them and then get them to me by January so we can incorporate them into all of the rest of the bylaws.

Section Reports:

Children's: Sage Gentry & Alexandra Remy: We had a meeting yesterday and we are in the midst of planning our February workshop so keep an eye out for that.

CLASS: VACANT

College & University: Rob Walsh: Absent.

JEDI: Mary Richardson & Sam Connell: No report.

Public Libraries: Jennifer Sullivan: No report.

Reference & Adult Services: Christie Mitchell: No report.

Resource Sharing: Matt Earls: We have a resource sharing meeting in Westport on November 6th which we have been trying to do for a while.

Support Staff: VACANT

Technical Services: VACANT

YA: Stephanie Smith: No report.

Adjournment: 1. Alessandra Casiello 2. Margaret Khan @11:20 AM

Present: Sarah McCusker, Scott Brill, Margaret Khan, Shannon Angelone, Deborah Schander, Scott Brill, Denise Stankovics, Doug Lord, Amanda Stern, Debbie Misiaszek, Laura Horn, Shana Shea, Chonte Fields, Erin Dummeyer, Emily Rush, Cindy Schofield, Maria Bernier, Gerald Seagrave, Alessandra Casiello, Sam Lee, Lindsay Delligan, Kate Byroade, Olivia Scully, John Casiello, Mary Etter, Sage Gentry, Alexandra Remy, Mary Richardson, Sam Connell, Jennifer Sullivan, Christie Mitchell, Matt Earls, Stephanie Smith.

Announcements

President's Report

I just returned from NELA and we had a number of Connecticut people speaking at NELA which was terrific to see. We've been continuing to be in high demand as speakers but I want to highlight Sam Lee, Doug Lord, and Mary Richardson talked about Graphic Novels (link below). That's really all I have right now.

<https://www.ctpublic.org/show/where-we-live/2023-10-16/graphic-novels-though-increasingly-popular-are-prime-targets-for-book-ban-lists>

Treasurer's Report

We are still pretty early in the year so we haven't picked up too much in any spending. We have 621 total members as of the end of September and have received over \$10,000 in membership dues for the year- about a third of our anticipated revenue of \$30,000 for the fiscal year. The leadership institute by the career development committee made over \$3,000 and it was a great event. For sections and committees who are doing any fall workshops, if you need any help with that or have questions on your budget, please reach out to me.

New Business:

4a. CLA Conference 2024 Attendee Rate Vote - Alessandra Casiello

What will come up on the screen is the past 6 or 7 years of rates so that you can see comparisons. I am advising that we increase the rates to about \$20- \$25 dollars (\$20 for members and \$25 for non-members). The reason for this is because food costs have gone up and I don't want us to be shocked if the cost for food goes up this year. They cannot guarantee any food costs until 3 months prior to the conference. Right now, it's just an estimate that I've put in which is about 10%. Secondly, I know we have already approved to have the 2025 conference in Mystic in hopes that we can put away some money so we can go back to Hartford. When we do go back to Hartford, we will have to increase the attendee rates and I don't want people to be shocked by a \$50-\$100 increase. (Shared screen with all rates) Rates are \$20-\$25 dollars more. Our rates are still lower than other conferences in the New England area. This also includes food, drinks and snacks during breaks, and we do not charge parking. Rates clear up issues with Speaker rates so they are receiving a deal for wanting to be a speaker and still attend. Proposal to increase prices to \$5 increments. Many agreements to increase to \$5 increments.

Sarah made Motion to Approve 2024 Conference rates: 1. Kate Byroade. 2. Scott Jarzombek.

4b. Public News Service - Scott Jarzombek

There's a news service that we have one story with that are basically a collective that will work with us to do X number of stories and send them out to small news outlets around the state. They gave us a quote of \$5,000 to join. After looking at our budget, it looks like this would cost about \$3,500. They would craft one story a month and they would send it out and we can use them as press releases as well. I think it's something to be interested in and we may want to look at it during our next budget cycle. Our 501c3 status won't affect the price since it is based on our budget which is why it has dropped the price down to \$3,500. Right now, I think we are getting on a good financial footing, so I think its good to include in the next years budget. If we receive extra money from a fundraiser, it may be something to come back to this fiscal year. I want to keep an eye on them and the quality of news stories they release.

4c. PEG Committee Recommendation- Mary Etter

As PEG chair for the last 4 years, we have not had a single application. And I must admit that this took us through the times in which CLA was having a hard time financially, we weren't questioning it. During the past month, we had an application, and it was questioned because we realized the changes we had put it when I became chair took changing my name as contact person except on the application itself. The contact person was listed as Peter who had passed away a few years ago. So, the way PEG works is the grants for projects that are not connected to a library degree at any level. The limit on the grant is \$400 and the applicant agrees to write up and spread the information for the program they have requested for funding. The committee that considers the application consists of Region Reps, CLASS chair, and the PEG chair. This was a wonderful opportunity to have a conversation with all the reps. We went over the application as submitted and the applicant is applying for a Library Marketing and Communications conference. The request is for \$400, and the committee has approved the request and how it matches the goals of the program. We do recommend passing and awarding this grant.

Motion to approve PEG Grant: passed without opposition and abstentions.

4d. Nutmeg Money Request on behalf of the CLA Children's Section (Sage)

This is the traditional \$500 donation to the Nutmeg Award committee that we do yearly. It goes towards awards. This was a planned expense and already added to the budget.

Motion that the executive board vote to fund the nutmeg request on behalf of Sage and the children's committee for \$400 for the Nutmeg Award. 1. Doug Lord. 2. Shana Shea