

Connecticut Library Association Board Meeting

October 20, 2022

10:00 am Business Meeting via Zoom

Minutes

1. **Call to Order:** President Doug Lord called the meeting to order at 10:02 am.
Approval of Minutes: September meeting minutes
A motion to approve the September meeting minutes was made by Kate Byroade and seconded by Sam Lee. Motion passed.
2. **Old Business**
 - a. **President's Report** – See attached.
 - b. **Treasurer's Report** – Sponsorships for the Library Leadership Institute were received. Membership numbers are doing well. Spending is on track for where it should be for the year. Bob is working on getting our 2021 taxes prepared.
3. **New Business**
 - a. Reports

Representative Reports:

CT State Library: Deborah Schander: The biennial state budget process continues, and the State Library has finalized its submission to the Office of Policy and Management (OPM). Agencies were asked to not propose any increases to their budget lines, with the limited exception for inflation requests, so the State Library submitted a request to increase the CT Digital Library budget line to reflect rising costs. OPM's work to prepare the budget on behalf of the Governor will continue over the next few months. On October 5, Connecticut Libraries and Partners for Digital Equity hosted a successful and informative symposium at Hartford Public Library featuring Tracie Hall, ALA's Executive Director, as keynote along with a panel of community partners. On October 6, the State Library was among 20 "Game Changer" honorees, an initiative of CT Explored magazine celebrating its 20th anniversary. The CT in WWI project, led by Christine Pittsley, continues in 2023 with a new "Digging Into History" archeological dig in Bolton. Applications for high school CT students to participate will be released soon.

NELA: Christy Billings: Absent. Alessandra reported that NELA Conference is coming up, great programs- you can see the full line-up on the website.

ALA: Vacant

ALA EDI Assembly: Kristina Lareau: New representative

FOCL: Debbie Misiaszek: Absent

ACLB: Denise Stankovics: First Zoom webinar on 11/2 from 7-8:30 pm. Encouraging as many people to sign-up, all the information is on their website – it is on Strategic Planning with Maureen Sullivan. The other webinars they are planning will be up on the website soon, looking to earlier in 2023. Newsletter will be printed soon, including an article on challenges to library materials with the emphasis on Boards supporting their libraries when these challenges arise.

ACLPD: Alyssa Bussard: Absent

Region 1: Karin Goodell: See attached

Region 2: Shana Shea: See attached

Region 3: Leslie McDonough: Putnam was subject of First Amendment Audit group a few weeks ago. They hit every department of their town hall, but the library. Quiet Corner Reads just recently booked a nationally bestselling author – big announcement to come soon.

Region 4: Erin Dummeyer: Absent

Region 5: Robbie Marshall: See attached

Region 6: Madhu Gupta: See attached

CLC: Ellen Paul: Equipment and Technology bid went out, 14 awards were made – listed in their last newsletter. Working towards live contracts January 1. Also have a new feature in their newsletter that is “people news,” so you can email Amanda if you have any news about people in your library. Plans to continue working on advocacy and is happy with the work she has been able to do with Doug, Olivia & Kate, et al.

BCALA: Robert Kinney: Absent

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

Commission on Ed Tech: Colleen Bailie: No report

SCSU: Arlene Bielefield: Absent. See attached

CT Center for the Book: Lisa Comstock: Absent

Consortia Reports:

Bibliomation: Carl DeMilia: Absent

LION Joe Farara: Absent

Library Connection: Laura Horn: No report

Association Committee Reports:

ADA: Maria Bernier: No report

Archivist: Gerald Seagrave: No report

Awards (as needed): Meeting next Friday to discuss plans for the ceremony and an effort to get the forms out sooner, first thing in the new year.

Career Development: Sunnie Scarpa & Andy Forsyth: Committee will meet in November. They’ll be working on CLA program proposal. Looking back at Leadership Institute and taking in feedback from participants of that. They’ll be putting together the first part of their scholarship planning for the CLA scholarship upcoming, too.

Conference 2023: Scott Brill & Andy Forsyth: Conference Monday and Tuesday May 1st and 2nd at the Mystic Marriott. Theme and information on the Conference is on the website. They recently have a logo. Thank you to John Casiello – logo will be revealed shortly. Program submission requests recently went out. They’ve gotten interest from a number of speakers. More info will be coming soon to the website.

Customer Service: VACANT

Development & Planning: VACANT

Intellectual Freedom: Sam Lee & Lindsay Delligan: Sam warned that people are not only challenging books, but coming into libraries and demanding their donations be accepted into the collection – books are not reviewed, often times propaganda. Sam encourages everyone to review their collection development policy, especially when it comes to book donations. They are in the midst of planning a workshop with Legislative and information will be forthcoming.

Grants/Fundraising: Alessandra Casiello: Made \$1,050.00 through two Banned Band events – a special thank you to Sam & Lindsay for helping to lead the event and thank you for everyone who attended. Next event is the book character contest currently running the voting on Facebook – pick your favorites. Hoping to get

more traction for this next year. Starting in November, Boone Supply fundraiser will run until December 31. **Legislative: Kate Byroade & Olivia Scully:** Met on Tuesday, 10/11. Working to coordinate Legislative breakfast throughout the state. Olivia gave a shout out to Ellen for arranging Legislative meetings. Great takeaways from Lobbying conference. Gearing up for next Legislative session from January-end of May (roughly). Ebook bill major area of focus. Joint winter workshop with Intellectual Freedom. Legislative goals survey is still open to CLA members.

Membership: Trish Tomlinson: No report

PEG: Mary Etter: They are welcoming applications, but there have been none.

Publicity & Communications: John Casiello: There are new people who have joined the committee. If anyone else has any interest, please let John know. Shared the new CLA Conference Logo with the Board.

Procedures: Lisa Karim: No report

Section Reports:

Children's: Alex Klaus & Sage Gentry: Alex asked for annual \$500 donation to the Nutmeg Committee. Alessandra gave background on how Nutmeg Book Award runs. Lisa mentioned in the past, it has been budgeted for. It was not on this year's budget. Doug asked for a movement to donate \$500 to the Nutmeg Book Award. Lisa moved to give the full amount and Mary Etter seconded it. Motion passed. Section meeting will be October 21 via Zoom.

CLASS: VACANT

College & University: Matthew Sheehan: Absent

Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI): Sam Connell: Absent

LGBTQ+: Mary Richardson: No report

Public Libraries: Jennifer Sullivan: No report

Reference & Adult Services: Christie Mitchell & Rachel Leff: They are moving along with their fall programs on low literacy, consumer protection, and food insecurity.

Resource Sharing: Matt Earls: Matt has been in pursuit/researching not weeding the last copy of a book. He has learned there is an alert in Evergreen (Bibliomation) when you delete the last copy in the system. He said Bibliomation leaves it turned off for their own ease.

Technical Services: Steve Bernstein: Absent

Technology: VACANT

YA: Jackie Bush & Stephanie Smith: They have been working on the fall workshop, they have about 23 people registered so far. Please encourage people to register. It will be at the Cheshire Public Library. Full line-up is available on the CLA site.

1. **Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn at was made at 11:02 am by Kate Byroade and seconded by Jackie Bush. Motion approved.

Present: Leslie McDonough, Robbie Marshall, Lisa Karim, Deborah Schander, Colleen Bailie, Karin Goodell, Shana Shea, John Casiello, Ellen Paul, Maria Bernier, Sunnie Scarpa, Sam Lee, Kate Byroade, Jackie Bush, Sarah McCusker, Alessandra Casiello, Andy Forsyth, Stephanie Smith, Christie Mitchell, Madhu Gupta, Doug Lord, Danielle Valenzano, Jen Sullivan, Mary Etter, Jerry Seagrave, Denise Stankovics, Kristina Lareau, Laura Horn, Margaret Khan, Olivia Scully

President's Report - October 2022

Doug Lord

Congratulations to Alessandra Casiello and her crew of criminals for two really successful Banned Bands events during September. Fun, informative, and it even raised a few sheckles.

Also huge recognition goes to Ellen Paul, Executive Director of CLC, for her efforts at effectively herding kittens for advocacy efforts.

Today we will be hearing news and notes from Legislative Committee, the Conference Committee has been doing great work, and there are upcoming meetings and workshops including the Children's and YA Sections.

A note regarding challenges and what many are terming 'fascist' opposition to Americans being able to read whatever they want – it's still going on here in CT. If I may, please remember to reach out to the school librarians in your work and home communities. These are librarians who often lack a support system and the nastiness that they either face or potentially face is just too awful to bear. Lend them support, even if it is just knowing that you are there and part of their support system. Whether they are CLA members or not, it means a lot. Our profession is filled with interconnected agencies.

Federal Legislative Alert I hope everyone saw the Right to Read Act introduced earlier this month. There are two articles (one, two) and a press release that you can read to inform yourselves. It is a good development that attaches funding to protecting and recruiting school library media specialists.

Respectfully submitted, Douglas Lord

CT Library Association

Region 1 Report

October 2022

The word from Region 1 is that most libraries are beginning to see statistics close to pre-COVID levels in terms of circulation. Door count numbers are lagging a bit still, but getting there.

One of the biggest issues facing many libraries, and I know it's the same at others besides Region 1, is not being fully staffed. Some libraries are really struggling with that, especially as they get busier.

Construction projects are moving along at several region 1 libraries, including the ongoing renovations at New Milford and Hotchkiss Library in Sharon. The Hotchkiss Library is set to be completed in May of 2023, and they are optimistic that they'll actually be ready to move back in by then!

The Cornwall Library is launching a new fundraising event on November 12th at 4:00. The Literary Benefit will be a celebration of the life and works of Georgia O'Keefe for her 155th birthday. Roxana Robinson, author of a new bio on O'Keefe, will be there for the presentation and book signing.

Submitted By:

Karin Goodell

Region 1 Representative

Region 2 Report

Shana Shea

Avon – *“Connecticut U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal and Connecticut State Representative Eleni Kavros DeGraw visited the Avon Free Public Library today (10/17/22) to congratulate them for their 2022 Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Save America’s Treasures Grant. This grant, in the amount of \$50,016, will cover a two year project, beginning in November 2022.”* Below is the link to rest of the press release about a \$50,000 IMLS grant Avon recently received.

<https://www.avonctlibrary.info/2022/10/17/avon-library-receives-a-save-americas-treasures-grant/>

Victoria Kiszka was recently promoted to Technology & Technical Services Manager.

Canton - I wanted to report on our summer reading program. Our summer took the form of a Million Page Challenge – we challenged the community to read a million pages between Memorial Day and Labor Day. We had record numbers of participants (especially adults!) and we ended the summer with 1,312,491 pages read and logged! We encouraged participants to collect pledges for their reading efforts which we would direct to the Canton Food and Fuel Bank, and we were able to raise over \$1800 through these optional donations. We celebrated our achievement with a giant outdoor party on September 17 – a concert by the KC Sisters, face painting, a touch-a-truck, ice cream, popcorn, lawn games, and more. Several hundred people attended and it was a great return to the sorts of big events we haven’t had since before Covid.

Wethersfield - Due to a recent water main break and the need for extensive repair, cleanup, and other associated work, the lower level of the Wethersfield Library will be closed until further notice. This has negatively impacted not only the Children's Department operations, but also the Friends of the Wethersfield Library, as well as our ability to host any in-person meetings, programs, or training. Unfortunately at this time, we do not have a timeframe as to when the work will be completed.

We have started to move a portion of the children's collection to a temporary location on the first floor of Library so that children and their families will have at least some access.

Bridgewater at the Burnham Library had an array of programs, both for adults with their Back to School Social and Read ‘em and Drink Summer Reading Program; and for children with Camp Sparkler, a free virtual camp put together in partnership with the CT State Library Division of Library Development.

Mark Twain Library in Redding celebrated their Pudd’nhead prize winner, Samantha Bee! They have also continued their monthly Music Circle, where patrons are encouraged to sing, play, and enjoy.

C.H. Booth Library introduced its Digital Navigators program and is offering open sessions every week for patrons looking for technological help and to further digital literacy in the community.

Wilton Library Association hosted their first ever Casino Night fundraiser, with exciting games, open bar and delicious hors d’oeuvres.

The New Milford Library hosted Medicare 101, with Licensed Insurance Representatives Sean Condon and Deirdre Virgalla.

Ferguson Library had their inaugural Historic Walking Tour of Downtown Stamford, led by Historic Preservationist Wes Haynes, which was a great success.

Fairfield Library now has solar charging stations! These stations provide power for smartphones, tablets, and more. Made possible by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the ARPA. This year was also Fairfield Reads’ best Summer Reading Challenge yet, with over 1,700 participants in the children’s department alone!

New Canaan Library has begun installation on their Quiet Co-Working Area that will serve as a sunny, quiet space for remote work with access to public computers and more once complete.

The **Bethel Public Library** recently renovated their Teen space and expanded their Project Lab for the community. They will have a ribbon cutting ceremony with Representative Raghob Allie-Brennan (D-2) and the Friends of the Bethel Public Library to celebrate this renovation.

The **Bridgeport Library** is excited to announce that the Beardsley Branch Library is close to completion! It will offer a variety of materials to check out, as well as plenty of computers, study rooms, podcasting studios and other emerging technologies for the public to use.

The **Brookfield Library** has a new floorplan, designed to improve accessibility, along with a brand new website to make it easier for patrons to find what they need.

The **Danbury Library**'s Department of Education, Training & Outreach participated in Random Hacks of Kindness Junior Kids Coding for A Cause Hackathon where they shared their mission and work with the students to create a prototype smartphone app for the Women's Center.

The **Darien Library** held a Junior Gardeners program this summer with great attendance from their young community.

The **Easton Public Library** hosted Connecticut's Kid Governor and Piglet, the puppy, to hear about Makhi Ettienne-Modeste's Protecting Our Pets platform.

Greenwich Library is extremely excited to announce that they will no longer charge fines for overdue books and materials!

Norwalk Library is helping their patrons find jobs by connecting them with a free online job coach.

The **Ridgefield Library** celebrated five community partners who participated in their Battle of the Books 2022 competition, where non-profits each received a share of the evening's proceeds.

The **Stratford Library** is excited to announce that they are now circulating Chromebooks that patrons can take home for 21 days.

Trumbull Library has a number of great writing programs this year, one of which is Phiction Writing with Kim Kovach, a 10-week virtual course that is open to all writing levels.

The **Weston Library** and the Connecticut Bar Association and Statewide Legal Services of CT, Inc. provided an opportunity to register for a free, 30 minute virtual consultation with a Connecticut attorney to obtain legal advice and information in a variety of legal areas.

Westport hosted its fifth year of StoryFest, a Celebration of reading, writing, ideas, and community—and the largest literary festival in Connecticut!

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas Lord, substitute Region 4 Representative

Region 5 Report: October 2022

Programs and Announcements:

- **Bethany:** Their storywalk is updated to reflect the seasons. A Halloween Storywalk features "Pig the Monster".
- **Branford:** The Blackstone Friends' book sale on the Branford green (September 22-25) was a huge success, bringing in over \$63,000. Plus, they signed up new members. The Friends group is a dedicated, well-oiled book selling machine and the library is very grateful for their hard work. To support the book sale, the Friends rent a warehouse for sorting, organizing, etc. Their rent will be going up Oct 2023, almost doubling. They don't have space in the library, and were wondering if anyone had Friends groups that came up with any creative solutions for year-round book storage. They need about 2500 sq. ft!
 - November 7-18, hosting a special display from the CT Women's Hall of Fame – "Rise Up, Sisters" is a 6-panel banner display about the history of women's suffrage from 1830-1920.
 - On November 13, they are featuring Boston-based Ensemble Aubade (piano, flute, viola), featuring chamber music spanning many styles and centuries.
- **Cheshire:** The scarecrows are once again installed around town and the location map and photos can be viewed on the library website. Check them out!
- **Derby:** On Wednesday, October 26 at 6:30 PM a ghost hunt/paranormal inspection of the 1902 Derby Library building will be conducted by ParaConn producer and author, Charles Rosenay and Nick Grossman, the lead Ghost Hunter for The Connecticut based paranormal group, Ghost Storm.
- **East Hampton:** EHPL hired a new part-time Public Service Associate, and are in the process of filling one more PT opening. October includes the following programming highlights: a Reading Merit Badge program for Scouts, Making Seasonal Flower Arrangements for adults, a Food Explorer's Sensory Storytime for children, and an All Hallow's Teens Halloween event.
 - Thanks to the Friends and pumpkin donations by Paul and Sandy's Garden Center, EHPL was able to host a Family Pumpkin Decorating Contest.
 - EHPL expanded its main computer area to offer additional PCs for patrons.
 - The Friends will be hosting a Book Sale November 4th and 5th. Book donations will be accepted from October 29-November 3.
- **Essex & Brainerd Libraries** are sponsoring a Candidate Forum for State Representative and State Senator positions on Tuesday, November 1st at 6:30pm at Valley Regional High School in Deep River.

- **Hamden:** is collaborating with the High School's Main Stage Ensemble performance of an adaptation of *Pride and Prejudice*. In the weeks leading up to the play, the library will offer programming related to the clothing of the era, a viewing of the 2005 movie, and a raffle of items related to the story and time period.
- **Milford:** Friends of the Library are hosting their annual "Party in the Stacks" Saturday, October 22. This is an adult only, after hours event with: specialty hors d'oeuvres and drinks, music/dancing, silent auction, trivia, and a costume contest. Costumes optional. This year's theme celebrates the magic of children's storybooks, "Where Dreams Come True". It is a really fun event. Information on their website.

Respectfully submitted,

Robbie Marshall

CLA Board Meeting

October 20, 2022

Region 6 Libraries – Madhu Gupta

Bill Memorial Library in Groton won a Neighborhood Assistance Act grant for \$150,000 to replace/restore windows.

Slater Library and Fanning Annex has two great programs coming up- The Nutmeg Nose, a virtual tour through Connecticut's wine and learn about our state's 40+ wineries. THE GREATEST SITCOMS OF ALL TIME. Both programs are "After Hours" presentations for an Adult/Teen Audience.

Mystic and Noank Library- On October 17, the members of the Eastern CT Paranormal Society came to Mystic & Noank Library to discuss paranormal investigations, including one that they did at the Mystic & Noank Library a month ago.

Bill Library- Allison Lang joined the team as a new Assistant Librarian. Allison will be completing her Masters in Library and Information Science program in a few months.

East Lyme Library- East Lyme Library will be starting up East Lyme History Museum with the historical society in 2023.

Public Library of New London- Roof repairs are going on in the original part of the building. Adopt-a -Book fundraiser will be kicked off on November 10. PLNL is seeking a Digital Navigator for 10 hours a week for a grant funded program that ends on Dec 31, 2023.

SCSU Report – October 2022

Arlene Bielfield

SCSU reports that there are now 120 students in the MLIS (Masters in Library and Information Science) program. 40% of our students are full time. Almost all of our applicants are fully admitted since their undergraduate GPAs are over 3.0. This week we had one applicant who just graduated from UConn, Storrs, with a 3.97! Once in while we get someone applying whose undergrad GPA was lower than 3.0 and in those cases we sometimes admit them conditionally. The condition usually requires them to get at least a 3.0 for their first semester in the program.