

Connecticut Library Association Board Meeting

November 17, 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.

Approval of Minutes: October meeting minutes

A motion to approve the October meeting minutes was made by Mary Etter and seconded by Sam Lee. Motion passed.

2. **Old Business**

- a. **President's Report** – See attached.

- b. **Treasurer's Report** – Updated expense form is now on the website. If you cannot find it, you can email Margaret for it. Margaret asks if you have the capabilities that you please fill out e-signed documents for ease of signatures. Nutmeg was already in the budget and has been sent off to the Nutmeg committee. YTD profit & loss reports will be coming out in the upcoming packets. On this month's report, we've received just under \$11,000 in membership dues. We are on a good track to meet our budgeted goal this year. We have 684 current members, 38 more than last year at this time. We have filed our taxes. Margaret thanked Bob for all his help with that.

3. **New Business**

- a. Doug Lord – discussion on omitting sections. These sections are: CULS, Customer Service, Development & Planning, and Technology. They have not had Chairs or Membership in quite some time. Doug shared the section in the bylaws stating it can be brought to the Executive Board to be dissolved. A motion was made by Leslie McCullough and seconded by Jackie Bush to remove these sections. Bob asked if there was an additional Policy & Procedure Manual in addition to the Bylaws and Doug and Mary clarified there is not. Maria worries that if we omit CULS it makes us more for public libraries and removed the inclusion. Mary and Doug proposed a friendly amendment to leave CULS and just remove Customer Service, Development & Planning, and Technology from the list. Bob noted that this would also affect the budget. Motion passed with majority. 1 opposed and 3 abstentions. Agendas will be modified moving forward.

- b. Reports

Representative Reports:

CT State Library: Deborah Schander: See attached

NELA: Vacant

ALA: Vacant

ALA EDI Assembly: Kristina Lareau: No report, first meeting is in January.

FOCL: Debbie Misiaszek: They had to cancel their fall conference due to lack of attendance so they just had a recent board meeting. They're going to try to have some regional meeting in its place.

ACLB: Denise Stankovics: Their fall letter recently went out. The lead article was about what people would prefer for conferences.

ACLPD: Alyssa Bussard: Absent

Region 1: Karin Goodell: Absent

Region 2: Shana Shea: See attached

Region 3: Leslie McDonough: No report

Region 4: Erin Dummeyer: See attached

Region 5: Allison Murphy: See attached

Region 6: Madhu Gupta: See attached

CLC: Ellen Paul: Take Your Child to the Library Day is coming up – the first Saturday in February. They've already gotten 60 libraries to sign-up at this point, which puts them ahead of where they are. Amanda has put together a large list of performers willing to do programs for the day at a discounted rate. They all came from the program directory. Hoping to launch a patron facing website, not just for librarians with facts about the day, why it is important, and interactive map, so the public can find where they can go. This program is coming up on 12 years after starting in Waterford. There are now about 1500 libraries who participate in it every year. The titles for All Connecticut Reads 2023 titles were released. Hoopla is working with publishers to get those titles at a discounted rate or free as free borrows. They are always looking for "People News" to publish on their website. Membership renewal letters went out along with new vendor catalog. More will be going out in the mail if you haven't received yours yet.

BCALA: Robert Kinney: Absent

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

Commission on Ed Tech: Colleen Bailie: No report

SCSU: Arlene Bielefield: Their MLIS program now has well over 100 students, which they are very pleased with, but they still have a small faculty. They are working on it. They are in the process of a search for an Assistant or Associate Professor to replace Brian Real, the Coordinator of the Internships. Dr. Christopher Clark is acting as the Interim Coordinator now.

Consortium Reports:

Library Connection: Laura Horn: Farmington is officially an LCI member.

Association Committee Reports:

ADA: Maria Bernier: No report

Archivist: Gerald Seagrave: No report

Awards (as needed):

Career Development: Sunnie Scarpa & Andy Forsyth: Lots of good ideas for Conference proposals at their last meeting two weeks ago. They were able to get a quote for expanding the number of positions for composition benchmarks so they are waiting for the quote for that and they are hoping to have that by the next meeting.

Conference 2023: Scott Brill & Andy Forsyth: Actively taking in program proposals. Committee met recently and discussed walk through at Marriot with another walk through in January/February. They are working on featured speakers and awards. They will be reaching out to region reps soon.

Grants/Fundraising: Alessandra Casiello: Alessandra Absent. John reported that there were 6 participants in the costume contest who raised \$90 in registration and with donations we made \$340 for a quick and easy event. The Boon Supply fundraiser will run November 1-December 31 of this year. Please encourage people to

use the link.

Intellectual Freedom: Sam Lee & Lindsay Delligan: See attached

Legislative: Kate Byroade & Olivia Scully: Trying to get dates and locations down for regional breakfasts. There is no rigidity about where you go for librarian/library staff. If it is easier for you to get to one instead of the other, just show up and fill the room. They had a successful presentation with Intellectual Freedom and CLC/Ellen Paul at the NELA Conference. They are planning on featuring non-librarians to speak about library programs in Manchester and Meriden for their Conference proposal. They have recently had working groups about what Association Libraries need, headed by Laura Horn. Session coming up and they will see what Governor's budget has in store for CT library services. They had a good meeting with Blumenthal & Murphy recently. They thanked Ellen Paul for helping to arrange those meetings. Mary reported that they are still looking for a Region 1 Library to host the regional breakfast. If you are interested, please get in touch with Mary Etter or Karin.

Membership: Trish Tomlinson: Absent

PEG: Mary Etter: No report

Publicity & Communications: John Casiello: Looking into updated signage, as well as working on Conference things. If you have any suggestions, please let him know.

Procedures: Lisa Karim: Absent

Section Reports:

Children's: Alex Klaus & Sage Gentry: Absent. Per Sam Lee, Children's is workshop on February 23 at the Farmington Library

CLASS: Vacant

College & University: Matthew Sheehan: Absent

Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI): Sam Connell: They would like to combine EDI with LGBTQ+ section. Looking to streamline governance. Once that is underway, they'd like to plan their winter workshop.

LGBTQ+: Mary Richardson: Waiting for the two groups to combine so that they can move forward with planning.

Public Libraries: Jennifer Sullivan: Absent

Reference & Adult Services: Christie Mitchell & Rachel Leff: Absent

Resource Sharing: Matt Earls: Putting together working groups to talk about resource sharing for programs. Please contact Matt if you're interested in being involved.

Technical Services: Vacant

YA: Jackie Bush & Stephanie Smith: They had their YA Workshop and they felt it was successful. They had around 50 people. Thank you to Ellen Paul for her presentation that she did with Kate & Sam at NELA. They did get one proposal idea to sponsor for the Conference. They are trying to plan another Conference proposal. Looking into having a Zoom YA meeting in January. They also thanked Kym Powe and Doug for coming to the Workshop, as well as the other speakers.

4. **Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn was made at 11:04 by Kate Byroade and seconded by Sam Lee. Motion passed. No abstentions.

Present: Douglas Lord, Sarah McCusker, Jackie Bush, Stephanie Smith, Matt Earls, Mary Richardson, Sam Connell, John Casiello, Kate Byroade, Olivia Scully, Sam Lee, Lindsay Delligan, Andy Forsyth, Sunnie Scarpa, Jerry Seagrave, Maria Bernier, Danielle Valenzano, Laura Horn, Arlene Bielfield, Colleen Baillie, Ellen Paul, Madhu Gupta, Allison Murphy, Erin Dummeyer, Leslie McDonough, Shana Shea, Denise Stankovics, Debbie Misiaszek, Deborah Schander, Kristina Lareau

CT Library Association | President's Report | November 2022

Librarians from Connecticut represented the state admirably with presentations at October's New England Library Association conference. This included an excellent best-practices session by three CLA leaders on how to respond to those who would censor books. Ellen Paul (CT Library Consortium), Kate Byroade (Cragin Memorial Library, Colchester) and Sam Lee (Enfield Public Library) conducted a one-hour session for dozens of attendees; the session's Q&A period extended far past the allotted time with librarians polling the wisdom of the librarians.



Reminder: submit your conference programs and proposals by the deadline.

The Association completed a member survey regarding budgets and legislation to determine concerns and action items. While top concerns include challenges to freedom to read and the costs of eBooks, the first-ranked advocacy/legislation-focused priority among members continues to be delivery of physical books between libraries via DeliverIT.

Members have met with the staffs of Sen. Blumenthal and Reps Courtney and Murphy in an effort to raise priority levels.

Thursday, December 1st will be a legislator breakfast at the [Weston Public Library](#), others will be happening around the state as well. Stay tuned.

The Grants/Fundraising Committee has continued its excellent work at fundraising in innovative ways to keep the Association healthy. One of these small fundraisers was a very-well attended, day-long event for Young Adult librarians held 11/1 by section co-chairs Alex Klaus (Durham) and Sage Gentry (Farmington).

The 2023 Conference Committee continues its hard work towards a successful event in Mystic in April and May.

Respectfully submitted,
Douglas Lord
President, Connecticut Library Association

CT State Library Report - November 2022

Deborah Schander

The State Library has been invited to participate in this year's Red, White, and Blue Schools program, a K-12 civics education initiative of the Secretary of State's Office, Department of Education, Democracy Center at the Old State House, and other state-wide organizations. This year's theme is Exploring Founding Documents of Government. A kick-off event was held on November 15, and State Library staff will be presenting a webinar on useful resources to support teachers in January. The final Third Thursday program of 2022 was held on November 16. In recognition of National Veterans and Military Families Month, author Ron Farina spoke about his book *Out of the Shadows: Voices of Women Soldiers*. The first meeting of Connecticut's "America 250" Commission was November 18. The Commission is tasked with planning and supporting the state's celebration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 2026.

Region 2 – November 2022

Shana Shea

East Hartford - East Hartford Public Library will be reopening the Wickham Branch Library (closed since 2015) in December following a \$4.5 million ARPA-funded renovation. Grand opening festivities are tentatively scheduled for early January.

Farmington – Has officially joined LCI!

We have an opening for a part-time Lending Assistant at the Barney Branch, that position is listed on our website.

Plainville -

Part-time Circulation Associate Xavier Maldonado Morales has been promoted to part-time Adult Services/Reference Librarian.

Part-time Adult Services/Reference Librarian Shianne Goodfield has been promoted to Head of Youth Services.

We have an opening for a full-time Reference Librarian. (Job announcement will be posted next week.) Application window will close at 4:00 pm on Monday 11/28.

Region 4 Report – November 2022

Erin Dummeyer

Easton Public Library has been having trouble with Network Solutions, so they are switching their email provider to Wix.

They have just chosen their One Book/One Town Community Read for Winter 2023. It is a YA book entitled A Snake Falls to Earth by Darcie Little Badger, a Fairfield County resident.

Norwalk Public Library has added evening hours, Sunday hours (again finally!), laptop kiosks, and Westport Country Playhouse passes.

New Canaan Library is nearing completion of their brand new building.

They likely will close to the public sometime in December to empty the current building of everything and then shift the collections to the new building for (hopefully) an opening in February.

Additionally they are doing a bit of recruiting for roles they've been holding open during the past 6 months, getting ready for the new building.

At Mark Twain Library, we have been approved for the Use of ARPA funding of up to \$200,000 to support an outdoor patio project which we are hoping will be complete next summer.

Region 5 News: November 2022

Clinton: The Henry Carter Hull Library

- All-Ages Pizza & Puzzle Night on Monday, 11/21 from 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM.
- Mohegan Outreach Program for Teens & Tweens, 11/22 from 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM
- Weekly Writer Drop-In, Saturdays during November from 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM
- TED Talks at HCH Library: “Dealing With Anxiety”, 11/16 at 10:30 AM

Branford: Blackstone Library

- [Rise Up Sisters!](#) display from 11/7 – 11/18. The display highlights the history of women’s suffrage in the US from the 1830’s to 1920.
- Mozart and More, performed by the Ensemble Aubade on 11/13 from 2:00-3:00
- Women and War, presented by the CT Women’s Hall of Fame (virtual event) on 11/16 from 6:30-7:30

Cheshire Public Library

- Good, Cheap, and Healthy Cooking Demo with Chef Nadine on 11/15 from 6:30-8:00
- Caregiver Support Group on 11/16 from 12:00-1:00
- Concert for Violin and Piano with Emil Altschuler and Mana Tokuno on 11/19 from 2:00-3:15

Essex Library Association

- League of Women Voters: Navigating the Legislative Process on 11/18 from 12:30-2:30
- Eastern CT Ballet Nutcracker Creative Movement for children, 11/19 from 4:15-5:00
- Family Movie and Centerpiece Event on 11/19 from 3:00-4:00

Guilford Free Library

- Witness to History: Slavery in Guilford Webinar on 11/17 from 7:00-8:00
- Sunday Concert Series: Joe Flood on 11/20 from 2:00-3:00
- Invasive Aquatic Plants: Connecticut’s Lakes and Rivers in Peril with Greg Bugbee, 11/30 from 7:00-8:00

Madison: Scranton Memorial Library

- Season of Giving Library Food Drive, from 11/15-12/20
- Ukulele Club, Mondays from 11:00-12:00 and Thursdays from 6:30-7:30
- Telling Your Story Through Memoir: A Workshop with Orlene Gallops on 11/12 from 10:00-11:30
- Cookbook Club, “Half-Baked Harvest” on 11/14 at 6:30

Region 6 Libraries – November 2022 Report

Madhu Gupta

Mystic and Noank Library- Hosted a program on mushrooms (attendance: over 200 people) and paranormal program (attendance: over 100 people).

Public Library of New London- Roof repairs complete. Adopt-a -Book fundraiser kicked off on November 10.

The Digital Navigator position is full.

Intellectual Freedom – November 2022 Report

Sam Lee

Reports of challenges still coming, especially from school libraries. Please continue to check in with your school librarian counterparts to see if they need support.

In an effort to increase the bus factor, I'm sharing again the recording from Freedom to Read Foundation's training from last year: **Managing and Addressing Book Challenges in Your Community: Law, Policy, Advocacy** https://ala-events.zoom.us/rec/share/14o_DFr5W4vmNb3gn82MShM6bNsH0rIGwFQ7AasW1J06En5eVqyO6ov7zd7BNEU.wrvcsztCR61cXPLx Access Passcode: **FTRF120921!** I routinely refer to my notes from this training when consulting libraries and librarians through challenges.

An interesting project out of Chicago Libraries is <https://www.booksanctuary.org/> as a way to reclaim and reframe the conversation and censorship. It includes a toolkit with graphics and images to use to declare your library a book sanctuary.