

Connecticut Library Association Board Meeting
January 21, 2020
10:00 am Business Meeting via Zoom
MINUTES

1. **Call to Order:** President Tom Piezzo called the meeting to order at 10:03am.

2. **Approval of Minutes**

a. December 17th, 2020 meeting minutes:

A motion to approve the December 17, 2020 minutes was made by Mary Etter, and seconded by Colleen Bailie and was approved by majority. Motion passed. Abstentions: None.

3. **Old Business**

a. **President's Report** – Tom Piezzo: EveryLibrary Institute sent CLA its percentage of the CT registrations for LAFCON: \$417. They are working with Patrick Sweeney maturing publicity and financial growth initiatives and did cross promotion for EveryLibrary conference so they received money from that partnership. Tom welcomed Debra Shaunder- the new State Librarian. He has spent some time already talking with her, the Legislative committee. and Jen Keohane. She is interested in learning more about CT libraries and looks forward to forging a positive partnership and collaboration with the State Library. Tom welcomed new CLASS chair Samantha Saliter, who was recommended by Marie Shaw. He has already met with her several times to bring her up to speed and hear her ideas. Tom is working with VAMS/vaccine registration and is hoping that we will get some clear leadership from DPH and Governor's Task Force. The website link for training is: <https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Immunizations/VAMS-TrainingEveryLibrary>

b. **Treasurer's Report** – Kristina Edwards: About on our projected budget, a little bit ahead. A great place to be. Fundraising and committees are doing a great job. Conference committee is getting everything underway. Information for expense forms are all on website – under About/Financial Information, including Speaker Confirmation forms. If you need anything, reach out.

4. **New Business:**

a. Move region reps alphabetical under R in varying months to be fair. We will reverse the Agenda every other month, reverse Z-A and A-Z.

Committee/Section/Representatives Reports:

ACLB: Denise Stankovics: Planning upcoming sessions because fall sessions were successful. Videos from those sessions are on the website. Newsletter upcoming, including an article on self-assessment tool that was created last year. Please encourage boards to take a look at the tool and see how well they are doing. All information available on website.

ADA: Maria Bernier: There are upcoming programs with seats available. See website for details.

ACLPD: Ramona Burkey: Absent

ALA: Erin Shea: ALA Midwinter is starting tomorrow and will have lots of great speakers and guests. Council meetings are starting Sunday – mostly business as usual.

Archivist: Gerald Seagrave: No report

Awards: Region Reps: Travis asked that the website be changed and the award date be end of March. Tom agreed. Travis will work on a draft and send to Tom.

BCALA: Kym Powe & Robert Kinney: Kym reported that they will be rolling out a scholarship for someone in an ALA-

accredited program for \$1500. They would like to present with other CLA scholarships & awards. There is an event with Jennifer Smith, author of *The Child Bride* on February 25th 6:30 via Zoom. Information will be sent out soon. They are proposing an event with EDI for the Conference.

Bibliomation: Carl Demilia: Absent

Career Development: Janet Flewelling: They are currently accepting applicants for the CLA scholarship.

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

CLC: Jennifer Keohane: Keyboard calendars were sent out. If your library is in need of more, let Jennifer know. Take Your Child to Library Day events are upcoming. CLC is focusing quite a bit on wrapping up supplies bid and non-print media bid. Digital co-op will be launching for K-12 Academic Libraries. On Tuesday, there was a lively, fun Coffee Talk with Deborah Schander, the new State Librarian. Strengths and challenges/aspirations were shared.

Commission on Ed Tech: Colleen Bailie: No report

CSL: Deborah Schander/Maureen Sullivan: Absent

Children's: Michele Kaminski & Cathy Potter: Children's has sent out a call for Faith Hektoen nominations. Please submit to Children's.

College & University: Lisa Thornell: CT Info Literacy Conference Group is working on their conference with a March 12th due date. Conference will be June 11th.

CLASS: Samantha Saliter: CLASS is looking for people interested in joining the committee. Samantha put out a call to staff and to Directors to have their staff be involved.

Conference 2021: Susan Ray & Chris Hemmingway: There are 15 program proposals so far with a deadline of January 31st. They are looking to lock in keynote speakers. The next steps will be formulating a schedule and special events. Chris agrees that March 31st is a good date for awards deadline.

CT Center for the Book: Lisa Comstock: Absent

Customer Service: Shelley Holley: No report

Grants/Fundraising: Alessandra Petrino: \$1200 was raised with the Boon fundraiser. She is working on fundraiser through funlibraries.org and asks for everyone to please pass around and spread the word via social. It runs through April 15th. She is also looking into doing an auction, possibly through Bidding Owl. If you have any items to use in the auction for fundraising, please reach out to Alessandra. She is also working on getting a trivia night set-up in the near future for anyone in CT to join. Beth Crowley commented that she enjoyed the Nora Baskin workshop and would love more of them.

FOCL: Frank Ridley: Last Saturday, FOCL held a series of video chats between CT Friends groups. All three were recorded and are on the website. They hope to do more chats like this in the future. If you have any topic ideas for these, please get in touch with Frank. FOCL has been discussing whether to go forward with awards this year or not.

Development & Planning: Carl Antonucci: Absent

Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI): Olivia Scully: Absent - EDI is working on planning proposals that will hit a range of interests for Conference.

Intellectual Freedom: Sam Lee: Sam reported that IF was excited to see a number of possible resolutions go through at ALA Midwinter including: Broadband as a Human Right and Facial Recognition Ban. As always, Sam is happy to provide support to libraries and librarians dealing with challenges, censorship and privacy issues. The committee is looking forward to the conference.

LCI: Laura Horn: Absent

Legislative: Beth Crowley & Kate Byroade: Beth had a phone call with both current & interim State Librarian and Jennifer Keohane about advocating during current budget sessions. There are no talking points ready yet, but they are meeting next week and will have more info.

LGBTQ+ Section: Kristina Lareau & Shay Glass: Absent

LION: Joe Farara: Absent

Membership: Trish Tomlinson: They are looking to have a Membership/Publicity Committee meeting with all their members, including Region reps, to come up with ideas. Look for more information in the upcoming weeks.

NELA: Christy Billings: Absent - Mary mentioned that NELA is progressing in the same way other professional associations are; confirming that virtual conferences are the way to go for the next year, though there is a board meeting tomorrow and they will be working on some new programs that will be offered during the year since they can't be together.

PEG: Mary Etter: No report

Publicity & Communications: John Casiello, Lauren Thompson, & Adam Wisnieski: The new logo has rolled out and Adam will send out a link to the board so people can use it. If you need it in a different orientation or size, let them know. They are working on website overhaul on the back end. They are also working on Publicity awards. They encourage people to use new logo in their own email signatures.

Procedures: Peter Ciparelli: Absent

Public Library: Maria Zervos: They are working on proposal for conference and the Passport to CT Libraries program. They are hoping to do something for April, but it depends on how things progress in the next month. If anyone has any questions or ideas for this, let her know.

Reference & Adult Services: Matt Earls: No report

Resource Sharing: Vacant

SCSU: Arlene Bielefield:

Technical Services: Steve Bernstein: They are working on program proposals for Conference.

Technology: Genevieve Francis: Absent

Young Adult: Samantha Connell: February 24th will be the YA Meet-up with Justina Ireland. They are working on having a program on Gather.town.

Region 1: Travis Feder: See attached

Region 2: Sarah McCusker: See attached.

Region 3: Leslie McDonough: Leslie reported that it is hard to help people with the vaccine registration with no guidance. She is also wondering if there is more information from the State in regards of tax help. Beth stated that Jim Polites is finalizing documents to send out and hopefully it will be coming out shortly.

Region 4: Doug Lord: See attached

Region 5: Robbie Marshall: See attached

Region 6: Vicky Coffin: Vicky reported that Christine Johnson is the new Library Director in Waterford, replacing Roz Rubinstein after her retirement. Christine previously was the director at the Attleboro Library in Massachusetts and the Mystic Noank Library prior to that.

5. Adjournment: A motion to adjourn at 11:23am was made by Doug Lord and seconded by Sam Lee and was unanimously approved. Motion passed.

Present: Tom Piezzo, Beth Crowley, Danielle Valenzano, Lisa Karim, Colleen Bailie, Kristina Edwards, John Casiello, Mary Etter, Kate Byroade, Doug Lord, Frank Ridley, Travis Feder, Denise Stankovics, Vicky Coffin, Sam Lee, Kym Powe, Janet Flewelling, Maria Zervos, Cathy Potter, Jennifer Keohane, Samantha Saliter, Sarah McCusker, Matt Earls, Trish Tomlinson, Erin Shea, Samantha Connell, Chris Hemmingway, Michele Kaminski, Alessandra Petrino, Leslie McDonough, Robbie Marshall, Jerry Seagrave

Region One Report

January 21, 2021

Travis S. Feder, Region One Representative

Beacon Falls

The Beacon Falls Public Library has been operating with a reduced staff since January 4th, and expects to do so until January 25th.

Barkhamsted/Colebrook/Winsted

In addition to its lineup of virtual programming, the Beardsley Library has made its Smart Space and Community Room safely available for groups of ten or less.

Canaan/North Canaan

The Douglas Library is open for regular hours, excluding Friday evenings. Visitors are required to wear a mask, and library visits are recorded on a contact tracing sheet. Children under the age of two are not able to visit, and one computer is available for use for up to 20 minutes per user.

Cornwall

The Cornwall Library will host *Mind Health During Covid* on Wednesday, February 17th at 7:00 pm via Zoom.

Goshen

The Goshen Public Library will host Dr. Caldwell B. Esselstyn, Jr., clinician at the Cleveland Clinic, for *Addressing Cardiovascular Disease with Plant-Based Nutrition* on Friday, January 29th from 1:00 to 2:30 pm.

Harwinton

The Harwinton Public Library will hold *Artists' Gardens in New England*, a virtual garden tour on February 18th at 6:00 pm.

Kent

The Kent Memorial Library mourns the passing of author, foreign correspondent, and friend of the library Donald Connery on January 11th. Executive director Sarah Marshall told the Waterbury Republican-American that Connery “was a true friend to the library. He shared his talent and financial support over many years. He will be terribly missed by the whole town.”

Litchfield

The Oliver Wolcott Library has a robust lineup of virtual events planned,, including:

- Louise Erdrich Book Discussion Series: January 26th and February 23rd at 2:00 pm
- What Dogs Hear with author Janet Marlow: January 27th at 7:00 pm

- The Yorkshire Dales with Andrew Pighills: February 18th at 7:00 pm
- Jazz & the Civil Rights Movement: February 28th at 7:00 pm

Middlebury

The Middlebury Library is holding a “Flavors of Middlebury” cookbook fundraiser beginning Monday, February 1st. Cookbooks are \$20 and can be paid for by cash or check. Order forms are available on the library’s website.

Naugatuck

The Howard Whittemore Library is offering Whittemore Book Boxes, a monthly subscription of books tailored to patrons’ reading preferences as determined by a reader survey. Interested patrons can sign up online.

New Hartford

The Licia & Mason Beekley Community Library will host the next installment of its Celebration of Music series with *Sounds of Freedom and Folk Music* with Craig Davis on Thursday, February 4th from 7:00 to 8:00 pm. The event will be held via Zoom.

New Milford

The New Milford Library’s modernization project continues, with an expected reopening in January 2022.

Norfolk

The Norfolk Library is now open from Monday to Friday from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, and Saturday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Face masks are required, and porch pickup is still available for patrons who do not wish to enter the building.

Oxford

The Oxford Public Library has postponed its reopening for the near future. It is hosting *Dementia Care: Effective Communication Strategies* on February 10th at 6:00 pm. Rick Abbot and Maria Tomasetti from the Connecticut chapter of the Alzheimer’s Association will discuss how communication takes place when someone has Alzheimer’s and other forms of dementia, how to decode verbal and behavioral messages, and identify strategies to help connect in early, middle, and late stages of the disease.

Prospect

The Prospect Public Library is collaborating with the New Haven Free Public Library to host a joint book chat with author Gregory Maguire about his book *Wicked*. The chat will be held via Zoom on January 21 from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

Plymouth

The Terryville Public Library is open by appointment only. Notary services are available by appointment, and curbside pickup is still available.

Salisbury

The Scoville Memorial Library, in collaboration with the Salisbury Association Land Trust, will present *From New England to Global Climate Change: Impacts and Responses* presented by Dr. William H. Schlesinger, President Emeritus of the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies. The event will take place on January 23rd from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

Sharon

The Hotchkiss Library of Sharon is accepting submissions of literature-inspired knitting projects. Photos may be posted to social media using the hashtag #librarylitknits or emailed to programs@hotchkisslibrary.org. Prizes will be awarded for the best adult and child (14 and under) entries. The submission deadline is Wednesday, March 31st.

Sherman

The Sherman Library will host *Appalachian Trails: a Personal Story of Discovering the Wild East* by author Rob McWilliams on January 27th at 7:00 pm via Zoom.

Southbury

The Southbury Public Library will host lecturer Toni McKeen for a Zoom discussion of Nobel Prize-winning author Toni Morrison on Thursday, February 11th at 3:00 pm.

Thomaston

The Thomaston Public Library will host *Genealogy 101* with Marian Burk Wood via Zoom on Thursday, January 28th at 6:30 pm. The event is sponsored by the Friends of the Thomaston Library.

Torrington

The Torrington Library is hosting an *Among Us* tournament for teens every Thursday in February at 4:00 pm via Zoom.

Washington

The Gunn Memorial Library will host *Fall of the Berlin Wall*, presented by retired journalist and Woodbury resident Jonathan Kapstein on Thursday, January 28th from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Mr. Kapstein is a graduate of Brown University and Columbia's Graduate School of Journalism, and served as a Lieutenant Commander in the U.S. Navy.

Waterbury

The Silas Bronson Library will hold *Celebrate Local Authors* on Thursday, February 25th at 5:00 pm via Zoom. Local children's authors Chemay Morales-James, Chase Taylor, London Carter Williams, Shelby Davis, and more will answer questions about their work.

Watertown

The Watertown Library has started limited browsing for up to 15 browsers at a time. Public bathrooms are not available, and visits are limited to 30 minutes.

Woodbury

The Woodbury Public Library reopened to the public on January 11th with Phase Two precautions in place. Per the First Selectman's office, patrons over the age of 12 will be allowed inside the building, while the Children's Room remains closed.

Several libraries have reached out inquiring whether we are likely to be receiving any guidance or training from DPH or another agency to help up field vaccine-related questions from patrons.

Avon Free Public Library

At Avon, we recently digitized our 10,000th item for the CTDA. See more details here:

<https://www.courant.com/community/avon/hc-news-avon-library-digital-archive-20210114-5c3mxogpsfhilccv2vaxldnxca-story.html>

Also, we released the inaugural issue of *Imagine Avon*, a literature and arts magazine with contributions by students in grades 5-12. The magazine was funded with grants from the Avon Education Foundation and People's United Bank.

East Hartford Public Library

Seven staff members at the East Hartford Public Library have joined the East Hartford health department's COVID-19 vaccine clinic team as administrative/clerical support. The first clinics ran this week, and are expected to run at least once/week for the next few months. Full-time staff members Cathy Potter (head of children's/teen services), Jason Pannone (head of reference/cultural assets), Rolande Duprey (adult services librarian), and Julissa Carrero (administrative assistant) are joined by part-time staff members Vinny Brown (Makerspace), Nancy Larson (outreach), and Lori Bradshaw (reference). We are very proud to be supporting the vaccination efforts in East Hartford! As volunteers at the clinics, all seven had the opportunity to be vaccinated this week.

Region 4 Report | Connecticut Library Association | January 21, 2021

Bethel has reopened its technology lab by appointment as of January 11 for computer use, scanning, printing, faxing, and copying.

The **Bridgeport** Public Library's City Librarian Elaine Braithwaite is leading a book discussion on February 25 on the Dust Tracks on a Road by Zora Neale Hurston.

The Burnham Library in **Bridgewater** is partnering with the Gunn Memorial Library in Washington on a virtual RPG Club and is having a virtual book discussion of *Island at the Center of the World* by Russell Shorto on 1/28.

The **Brookfield** Public Library is hosting *Living Art Antenna*, a virtual open mike night, tonight at 6:30 featuring Brookfield's poet laureate Atom Rush.

Danbury is reopened for curbside service and doing virtual children's programs.

Darien is still on the 30-minute "grab-and-go" model for which it has become famous, and on Tuesday January 26th will be hosting Dr. Simran Jeet Singh speaking on *Representation Matters: What Being Seen Means to the Marginalized*.

Lynn Zaffino, Director of the **Easton Public Library**, reported that the library is still open to the public - almost back to pre-COVID hours - and that they are also doing a Lawn Sign Exhibit called Voices of Diversity with quotes by famous diverse voices (inspired by Stratford Library). Additionally, a local artist is holding an art show fundraiser here in our Community Room - 50% of proceeds will benefit Library.

Fairfield Public Library is open daily 2-4 and has chosen *Punching the Air* for its One Book One Town featuring authors Ibi Zoboi and Yusef Salaam doing an author talk March 2nd.

The **Greenwich** Library is featuring Doris Kearns Goodwin doing a virtual author talk on her book *Leadership in Turbulent Times* on January 28th.

Kevin McCarthy reported that the **Perrot Library** of Greenwich, though open for curbside pickup, is still closed to the public.

Lorna Rhyins of the Edith Wheeler Memorial Library in **Monroe** reported coming up with a safe process to assist those needing assistance with vaccine forms.

Lisa A. Oldham, Executive Director of the **New Canaan Library**, reports hiring Dajana Martinez to the children's department with a freshly-minted MLIS and that NCL has plans for a new library project which will be in front of NC's Planning/Zoning board for approvals in March. This project is going to plan! and on track for ground breaking by mid-year.

New Fairfield is still closed but still offers pickup of reserved materials.

Director Douglas Lord reported that the **C.H. Booth Library** in Newtown is facing a Selectman's cut of \$50,000 to its budget request for 21-22. December saw checkouts at 95% of 'normal' compared to last year, and the library also has a significant EDI effort underway for internal examination of policies and user experience as well as for public programming.

The **Norwalk** Public Library is hosting two webinars of interest on Thursday January 28: Nature-Friendly Gardening at noon and a performance of *Lady Capulet* at 6:30PM.

The Mark Twain Library in **Redding** stuck with curbside.

Brenda McKinley reported that the **Ridgefield** Library's PPP loan was forgiven.

The Ferguson Library in **Stamford** recently hosted a virtual forum on the safety of the COVID-19 vaccine by the CT Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity & Opportunity.

The **Stratford** Library Association is hosting a Harry Potter Trivia night on Thursday the 28th a recently celebrated its 125th anniversary.

The **Trumbull Library System** is still doing curbside pickup and is hosting a teen game night called Jackbox Party.

Karen Tatarka reports that the **Weston Library** returned to contactless curbside pickup of materials on January 11 and closed the building to the public due to an increase in cases after the holidays as well as a strong recommendation to reduce services from Town Hall. Curbside will be in place through January 23 when they will reevaluate. The Library has had its first two budget meetings with the First Selectman and Town Administrator, both receptive to a general increase in funding to the Library's budget, especially in relation to materials. Weston has experienced a significant increase in eBook use since the start of the pandemic, and no significant decrease in print circulations, so in order to maintain both collections, the Library will need additional funding. Virtual program attendance also continues to be strong, especially for Children's programs, and the FY21-22 budget also included equipment to maintain virtual and hybrid programming post-pandemic. The Friends of the Library have supplemented the program budget more than normal to keep the community engaged and we have requested additional programming funds from the Town as well for the coming FY. We will not know until late February the outcome of the current budget discussions, but we remain optimistic for additional funds in key areas. We are appreciative of the community's continued support and use of the Library's services throughout the pandemic.

Westport Library welcomes Tony La Russa, MLB Hall of Famer and Chicago White Sox manager, on Tuesday, January 26th for an open program.

The **Wilton** Library Association has expanded the hours of its popular window service.

Region 5 Report: January 2021

Closing News:

- Chester Library reverted back to curbside pickup on December 28th.
- Henry Carter Hull in Clinton is also only offering curbside as of the end of November.
- Deep River's protocols include: 30-minute visits, provision of gloves and sanitizer, and the Children's room is open to one family at a time. Toys were removed.
- Madison's Scranton Library closed for Walk-in service on January 11th.
- As of January 14th, the City has recommended that Plumb Memorial Library in Shelton close until further notice. The Huntington Branch Library remains closed.
- Due to the new Covid variant, Wallingford closed to the public as of January 11th.

Programs and Announcements:

- Haganan in East Haven received money from the CSL Everybody Learns Grant. HVAC repairs were made, touchless faucets installed, computer cabling completed to all public pc's, 2 circuit breaker panels installed in the 1928 building, and electrical outlets were added for laptops. In February, 2 self-checkout units will arrive. The grant has made a difference in what the Library can do to reopen.
- West Haven Library also received the Everybody Learns Initiative Grant.
- Essex Director Deborah Smith is delighted to share the following staff promotions: Ann Thompson - Assistant Director for Public Services and Diane Simoneau- Manager of Cataloging & Donor Services.
- Essex Library received an ALA grant - Libraries Transforming Communities (LTC): Focus on Small & Rural Libraries. They are the only library in CT that received one. It is a grant for small libraries to get funding to help address community issues. Participating libraries receive training in leading conversations through an ALA e-course on facilitation skills; host at least one conversation with community members; and receive \$3,000 to support community engagement. Grant funds may cover expenses like: staff time, collections, and technology purchases. For their grant, Essex Library will host book discussions that examine income inequality, culminating with the One Book, One Community model. They chose income inequality because it is identified by ALA and LION as a trend of concern. ALA has 450 more grants for Round 2. Applications close March 4. Feel free to get in touch with Essex regarding their application process. You can also email publicprograms@ala.org.
- Blackstone Library in North Branford will be celebrating their 125th Anniversary in the spring. They've created a special webpage with photos & facts dating from 1896.
- Derby has issued an Adult Winter Reading Challenge: 5 out of 15 choices must be completed. These include: an audio book, settings like an imaginary world or different time and place, a graphic novel, learning something new, made into a movie, etc.
- Hamden's libraries are holding their annual Thornton Wilder writing contest, open to all of New Haven county with prizes up to \$500. Deadline is March 5th.
- East Hampton welcomes a new Adult/Teen Librarian, Stephanie Smith. Stephanie will spearhead programming, outreach and collection development! This position has been vacant and unfunded for the last 18 years. The Library thanks the East Hampton Town Council for restoring funding for this much needed position, which was the result of a survey.
- The Milford Library's Children's Department is readying to reopen! The temporary Children's space closed January 11 so they can move into the renovated department.
- Acton in Old Saybrook is running their 27th annual poetry contest.

- Portland will be hosting The Portland Forum Thursday January 28th. The Forum is a new partnership with the Portland Social Justice Coalition; in support of the Portland Solidarity Proclamation to 'stand committed to peace, justice and freedom'. They will host a series of discussions focusing on representing the faces of diversity.
- Woodbridge is offering a Poetry Craft kit program every 2 weeks using poems from "The Proper Way to Meet a Hedgehog."

Respectfully submitted,

Robbie Marshall