

Connecticut Library Association Board Meeting
February 18, 2021
10:00 am Business Meeting via Zoom
MINUTES

1. **Call to Order:** President Tom Piezzo called the meeting to order at 10:02am.

2. **Approval of Minutes**

a. January 21st, 2021 meeting minutes:

A motion to approve the January 21, 2021 minutes was made by Mary Etter, and seconded by Kate Byroade and was approved by majority. Motion passed. Abstentions: None.

3. **Old Business**

a. **President's Report** – Trying to get librarians included in the Phase 1B. Thanks everyone for participating in the fundraising appeal. Thanks Council of Past Presidents for their pledge to match donations this month. New Conference 2022 co-chairs Kari Hamad (Wallingford) and Shannon Angelone (West Haven).

b. **Treasurer's Report** – Kristina Edwards: Planning for 2022. Budgets are allocated to individual sections. Does not include funding to CLA Conference – that comes out of Conference budget. Please let Kristina know if your section is doing something for the spring so she knows for planning purposes. Nothing is set in stone, but Kristina will be revising the budget request form in FY2022. She will also be looking over the Financial Plan with the Executive Board and the Sustainability Task Force. We're on target for our budget projection.

4. **New Business:**

a. PFMLA – Kate Ferar represents 20th District in West Hartford. Unions need to start getting this negotiated for their members. There is a whole group of librarians & staff that are excluded from this program because of Unions (State & Municipal). CLA will provide assistance and guidance as needed, have a tip sheet on how to deal with this.

b. Nominations – Lisa Karim: Nominations needed for VP/Pres Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer, watch for that email coming soon.

Committee/Section/Representatives Reports:

ACLB: Denise Stankovics: Planning to have more virtual programs and newsletter just went out.

ADA: Maria Bernier: No report

ACLPD: Ramona Burkey: Absent

ALA: Erin Shea: ALA Annual will be held virtually, same as ALA Midwinter. Moving from expense to revenue based budget.

Archivist: Gerald Seagrave: No report

Awards: Region Reps: Travis reported that no applications for awards have been received yet.

BCALA: Kym Powe & Robert Kinney: Kym reported that scholarship information should be up on their website by the end of this week or next week.

Bibliomation: Carl Demilia: Absent

Career Development: Janet Flewelling: Accepting scholarship applications to be awarded at annual conference.

Deadline is 5pm on March 1st. Evaluating applications

CAS-L: Barbara Johnson & Mary-Ellen Minichiello: Mary-Ellen reports that they will hold annual "NERD" camp on June

12th. Award nominations are open through March, more info on the CAS-L website. They have been working with CT Dept of Education Advisory Board on digital literacy to try to have the state support and endorse the AASL national standards. More programs listed on their website.

CLC: Jennifer Keohane: Jennifer reported that there is another Coffee Talk on Tuesday, Feb 23, on marketing during covid, shared link for a survey on CLC's Strategic Planning <https://conta.cc/372sSAZ>. Take Your Child to the Library was popular and will be sending out wrap up soon, can share out info to their mailing list. Former CLA member Priscilla Ubysz passed away last week-was at Pratt & Whitney and Otis Library.

Commission on Ed Tech: Colleen Bailie: Colleen reported that their next meeting is March 1st

CSL: Deborah Schander: Absent

Children's: Michele Kaminski & Cathy Potter: Michele reported that they need the Faith Hektoen information corrected on the website.

College & University: Lisa Thornell: Lisa reported that the section is looking for a new Chair due to her upcoming maternity leave. Let her and Tom know if you know anyone.

CLASS: Samantha Saliter: Absent

Conference 2021: Susan Ray & Chris Hemmingway: Chris reported that they got 35 proposals and committee is working on that now. Keynote speaker State Librarian Debra Schander. Pricing \$20 for members and \$30 for non-CLA members for all 5 days. No early bird registration. Proposed date to start registering March 22. A motion to approve the proposed pricing and date was made by Leslie McDonough and seconded by Mary Etter. All in favor. Abstentions: none.

CT Center for the Book: Lisa Comstock: Absent

Customer Service: Shelley Holley: Absent

Grants/Fundraising: Alessandra Petrino: Alessandra thanked all those who have shared or donated to our CLA appeal. Please continue to share with your personal networks on social media. Really want to get these out there to the public. \$3984 in less than a month, which includes the matching donation from past presidents. Some of the past Presidents have also offered to help with next fundraiser, statewide book fair for public libraries through Junior Library Guild. April 5-18. Still accepting June auction donations.

FOCL: Frank Ridley: Absent

Development & Planning: Carl Antonucci: Absent

Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI): Olivia Scully: Olivia reported that EDI may have a Spring program with a speaker. They are trying to pin her down for a Spring program or the CLA conference.

Intellectual Freedom: Sam Lee: Absent

LCI: Laura Horn: Absent

Legislative: Beth Crowley & Kate Byroade: Legislative will be hosting virtual regional town hall meetings with Debra Schander.

LGBTQ+ Section: Kristina Lareau & Shay Glass: Absent

LION: Joe Farara: Absent

Membership: Trish Tomlinson: Absent. Tom reported that membership is increasing.

NELA: Christy Billings: Absent

PEG: Mary Etter: No report

Publicity & Communications: John Casiello, Lauren Thompson, & Adam Wisnieski: John thanked those who have helped get everything switched over. The CLA Youtube channel is officially set-up and will be used by Conference and Committees/Sections. Get in touch if you want anything posted. Things can be posted public or unlisted. Everyone on the board will have access through Google drive.

Procedures: Peter Ciparelli: Absent

Public Library: Maria Zervos: Absent

Reference & Adult Services: Matt Earls: Absent

Resource Sharing: Vacant

SCSU: Arlene Bielefield: Absent

Technical Services: Steve Bernstein: Dana Hanford represented Steve, but had no report.

Technology: Genevieve Francis: Absent

Young Adult: Samantha Connell: Samantha reported that February 24th will be the YA Meet-up with Justina Ireland. They are working on having a program on Gather.town. Please get the word out to other teen librarians.

Region 1: Travis Feder: See attached

Region 2: Sarah McCusker: See attached

Region 3: Leslie McDonough: Leslie reported the region is dealing with annual tax stuff and vaccine sign-ups.

Region 4: Doug Lord: See attached

Region 5: Robbie Marshall: See attached

Region 6: Vicky Coffin: Vicky reported that The Bill Memorial Library in Groton received a Neighborhood Assistance Act Grant to update the lighting throughout their building.

Cragin Library in Colchester has been collecting origami cranes and have already collected 700 out of 1000.

Mary Richardson and Marissa Hicking from Avon have been doing Book Jam Podcast.

5. **Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn at 11:15am was made by and seconded by 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, Alessandra Petrino, Vicky Coffin, Robbie Marshall, Leslie McDonough, Sarah McCusker, Travis Feder, Samantha Connell, Dana Hanford, Olivia Scully, Chris Hemmingway, Lisa Thornell, Michele Kaminski, Cathy Potter, Jennifer Keohane, Mary-Ellen Minichiello, Janet Flewelling, Kym Powe, Gerald Seagrave, Erin Shea, Denise Stanckovics, Maria Bernier

Region One Report

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Travis S. Feder, Region One Representative

All

The Legislative Committee will hold a virtual town hall for Region One on March 9th from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. New State Librarian Deborah Schander will attend.

Beacon Falls

The Friends of the Beacon Falls Library are holding a stuffed breads fundraiser featuring 12 varieties of bread for \$12 each. Orders are being taken through March 22nd for pickup on Saturday, April 3rd.

Cornwall

The Cornwall Library continues its Cornwall Conversations series on Saturday, February 27th at 5:00 pm with a discussion of technology and artificial intelligence. Ed Greene and Frédéric Jenny will engage in a lively discussion moderated by Jane Bevans.

Kent

The Kent Memorial Library will host Dan Carr of Falls Village's Beavertide Farm for *Introduction to Beekeeping* on Tuesday, February 23rd at 7:00 pm.

Middlebury

The Middlebury Library is celebrating Library Lovers Month with a library bingo challenge for grades 6 through 12. The challenge runs until February 26th.

New Hartford

The Licia & Mason Beekley Community Library will host Professor Hamish Lutris for *Music in America: Somebody Bending the Note* on Saturday, March 20th from 1:00 to 2:00 pm.

New Milford

The search for the next director of the New Milford Library closes on Sunday, February 21st. Applications may submit a cover letter and resume to Jobeth Bradbury of Bradbury Miller Associates.

Prospect

The Prospect Public Library seeks volunteers ages 12 and up to record videos of themselves reading books for children. Those interested can contact the library for more information.

Plymouth

The Terryville Public Library is holding a naming contest for its soon-to-be-launched Maker Space. The winner will receive a \$50 Visa gift card. Each person is limited to two entries. Submissions must be emailed to Gretchen DelCegno by Wednesday, March 31st.

Salisbury

The Scoville Memorial Library will host Dr. Donna Fowler, docent at the Smithsonian American Art Museum, for a presentation about American painter George Catlin's paintings documenting the lives of Native Americans in the 1830s. The program will be held via Zoom on February 20th starting at 4:00 pm.

Sharon

The Hotchkiss Library of Sharon is seeking a part-time circulation assistant. Resumes and letters of interest may be sent to Gretchen Hachmeister via email.

Sherman

The Sherman Library will host *Digging for Venture Smith* on February 26th at 7:00 pm. Dr. Lucianne Lavin, noted archaeologist and Director of Research and Collections at the Institute of American Indian Studies will discuss the extraordinary life of Venture Smith, a 17th Century African-American leader and former slave. Born the eldest son of a West African Prince, Smith endured a life fraught with murder, abduction, enslavement, and discrimination to eventually become a land owner and businessman in Haddam, Connecticut.

Torrington

As of January 19th, the Torrington Library is open to the public for its regular operating hours. Face coverings are required, and patrons are asked to plan for short visits. Public restrooms, water fountains, and in-person meetings and programs remain unavailable.

Waterbury

The Max R. Traurig Library at Naugatuck Valley Community College has created an information literacy outcomes grid, aligning each level of library instructions to the ACRL's Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education. The document signifies the library's commitment to excellence in each class taught by librarians.

Woodbury

The Woodbury Public Library's Children's Department has reopened for all ages effective February 16th. Adult computer use will be limited to one hour and computers will be sanitized after each use. Building hours are Monday through Saturday, 9:30 am to 4:30 pm with extended hours on Tuesday until 8:00 pm. Masks and social distancing are required and restrooms are unavailable.

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Lynn Zaffino of the **Easton Public Library** reports completing a 5-year Strategic Plan and entering into a collaboration with the town's Park & Recreation and Community Center for a series of programs. We have done a Kahoot! Trivia Night and a Jukebox Bingo Night recently, and we have a Family Lip Sync Challenge scheduled for Thursday, 2/25 and are hosting a Comedy Night Fundraiser on Friday, March 12th. The link to purchase a ticket is [here](#). The cost is \$30 (save \$5 with promo code ILOVEEASTON through 2/28). Easton's One Book/One Town Community Read is Small Great Things by Jodi Picoult with a panel discussion on Saturday 2/27 at 2:00 pm and a community book discussion on Thursday, March 25th.

Beth Dominianni, Director of the **Mark Twain Library** in **Redding**, reports a partnership between the library and the Redding League of Women voters on a series of programs titled *Conversations on Race* to inform and encourage an open dialogue about racism and issues surrounding race within our community. The programs include author talks, book and film discussions, and lectures from local experts. The first program is scheduled for Thursday, March 4th as a virtual discussion with acclaimed historian Dr. Jelani Cobb and renowned philosopher Dr. Jason Stanley. The program will be moderated by award-winning journalist Tina Rosenberg and examines the underlying meaning of our democracy and how democracy can matter even when we have very different ideas about what it should look like. Beth is interested in partnering for publicity purposes with all area libraries and Leagues of Women Voters.

Helene Murtha from the **Fairfield Public Library** reports on the massive success of the virtual event *An Evening with Chef Jacques Pepin*, a conversation about his newest cookbook *Quick & Simple*, and his experiences working on his Emmy Award winning PBS television series with Julia Child, and his favorite meals and experiences as a chef. 400 attendees. Fairfield is also hosting taxes by appointment, which is proving very difficult with social distancing guidelines.

Elaine Tai Lauria, Director of the **Wilton Library Association**, reported that WLA is doing a book group on the title *Memorial Drive: A Daughter's Memoir* by Natasha Trethewey.

Brenda McKinley reports that the **Ridgefield Library** is working with AARP volunteers to provide appropriate tax season assistance.

Director Sheri Szymanski from the **Stratford Library Association** reported that the library worked with AARP tax assistance volunteers to coordinate efforts with Stratford's South End Community Center and their VITA volunteers to arrange for 100% drop off remote tax preparation assistance. The library is a distribution point for the intake forms and the South End Community Center manages scheduling and collection of materials for the volunteers in order to maintain safe, social distancing.

Karen Tatarka, director of the **Weston Library**, announced that WL returned to building appointment access on 2/16. Contactless curbside pickup for requested items continues uninterrupted and WL also plans to move forward with several State Library Construction Grant funded projects shortly, including a renovation of the Children's Library. Attendance at virtual programs continues to be very strong.

Megan Dean of the **Bethel Public Library** reports continuation of curbside pickup, the Bag of Books program, and technology appointments. Bethel hopes to return to Lobby Services in the next few weeks and is working with AARP to set up low contact tax aid assistance for Bethel residents. Town budget meetings have begun and the library's budget request for a flat budget has been well received thus far.

The **Bridgeport Public Library** is doing a book discussion of *Dust Tracks on a Road* by Zora Neale Hurston with Elaine Braithwaite, City Librarian on Thursday, February 25th at 7 pm. Free & open to all. Click [here](#) to register.

The **Westport Public Library** is hosting an Environmental Book Discussion on the title *Bringing Nature Home* on Wednesday, February 24 @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm with community partner Earthplace, a naturalist team to explore links between native plant species and native wildlife. Register [here](#).

Lorna Rhyins, library director of the **Edith Wheeler Memorial Library**, reports that EWML is participating in Fairfield County Giving Day, has been helping the Monroe Health Department in getting seniors signed up for vaccines, and that the Children's Department created very popular Family Movie Night Bundles to circulate. Baskets are filled with themed DVDs and books plus coloring pages, activity sheets, small prizes, and individually packaged snacks.

Yvonne Cech, Library Director of the **Brookfield Library** reports working with the First Selectman's office and the Brookfield Health Department to determine possible reopening, targeting sometime in March. We had a very well received Q & A Zoom session with a representative from our Health Department and local public health expert to answer questions about how to sign up for VAMS with a second session on vaccine efficacy and availability with a public health expert and a local physician. Apart from that, we are doing the same things you are all doing -- reinventing ourselves every day! Along with budget season, the library has had a lot of retirements so we have a lot of staff movement and new hires.

At the **Ferguson Library** in Stamford, Yelena Klompus is coordinating a lot of Zoom conversation classes for speakers whose first languages were not English and the library did a Black History Month Kids' Book Discussion on Zoom this past Tuesday on *The Parker Inheritance* by Varian Johnson.

The **Danbury Library** is hosting *An Evening with the Cast of Dear Evan Hansen* tonight, February 18th @ 7pm on Zoom where people can meet the stars of this award-winning Broadway musical.

The **Perrot Library** in Old Greenwich has an upcoming virtual discussion and cooking demonstration with Lindsay-Jean Hard, author of *Cooking with Scraps* on Wednesday, March 3rd at 7 PM. Perrot is open for curbside only.

The **Greenwich Library** and its branches are available for no contact pick up, librarian services, and computer appointments on a limited basis.

The **Darien Library** is offering in-person services in addition to enhanced virtual offerings. It is open to visitors for quick 30-minute browsing and computer access. Holds are available for pick-up in the Community Room and the Children's Library is open by appointment.

The **Burnham Library** in Bridgewater has an online, tabletop RPG club for 2nd to 5th graders which meets a couple of times a month through May.

The **Trumbull Library System** is still doing virtual programming and is not available for in-person browsing or checkouts.

The **C.H. Booth Library** has been incrementally opening for more hours per week and is at 88% of normal. Limited, distanced, in-person programs for the very young continue, and the children's department is branching out to other venues in town like the Community Center and Edmond Town Hall to hold programs. Digital circulation is +28% compared to January of 2020, and a significant equity, diversity, and inclusion programming effort is underway.

The **New Canaan Library** is open to visitors for quick 30-minute browsing and computer access and is not accommodating individuals working at tables in the library (all tables and seating have been removed). Director Lisa Oldham was recently recognized as part of *Women Leaders of New Canaan: Celebrating the Legacy of the 19th Amendment*, an initiative by the New Canaan Museum & Historical Society. Video [here](#).

The **Norwalk Community College Library** is offering Films on Demand, a web-based digital video delivery service that allows patrons to view 25,500 streaming videos from Films Media Group's educational titles. Features that include bookmarking, sharing playlists, & personalizing folders.

The **Housatonic Community College Library** is open conditionally. Through its Grab-n-Go program patrons can request books and DVDs online for outside pick up and patrons can text or communicate by live chat.

Region 5 Report: February 2021

Closing News:

- In consultation with the town of Guilford's Health Director, the Library is temporarily suspending all 1-hour appointments for computers or seating inside. The building will remain open for 15-minute browsing or to pick up holds in the lobby. They will continue to monitor the situation and reassess services.
- Ivoryton library is closed for drop-in visits. 25-minute appointments are available for browsing or brief computer use. Only 1 person/family at a time. Porch Pickup continues.
- Middlefield's Levi E. Coe library reverted to Park 'n Pick Up on January 25th.

Programs and Announcements:

- Reminder: The ALA grant – "Libraries Transforming Communities (LTC): Focus on Small & Rural Libraries" application deadline is March 4th.
- Clark Memorial Library in Bethany's Storywalk returned with a [winter craft and booklist](#).
- Blackstone in Branford, Ivoryton, and Essex Libraries are developing a "Library of Things" for check-out. Blackstone just the "Kill a Watt" energy monitor from Eversource to it.
- East Hampton went "Fine Free, Forever" on January 26th per their Town Council.
- Killingworth, Portland, & Brainerd Memorial in Haddam, are 3 of the 18 libraries in Middlesex County that received a \$1000 Peach Pit Foundation grant to "create more fun during a time replete with challenges."
- At Brainerd the Renovation construction continues despite right-of-way and supply delays, and we are hopeful that by Spring the library will have a certificate of occupancy for the new parking lot, new accessible lower level entrance, and new ADA-friendly rest rooms.
- The Guilford Teen IRIS Club [Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services] run by GHS students meets at the library. Their mission is to help refugees and immigrants by holding events supporting IRIS, a non-profit organization in New Haven. Free and open to students in grades 7 to 12. Meets every third Thursday of the month.
- North Haven library announced 2 interesting history programs "Creating Connecticut" [Feb 9th] by the State Historian and "New Haven's First Pizzerias" by Colin M. Caplan [New Haven native, architectural designer, historian, etc. and pizza guru] on March 10th.
- West Haven offers "Blind Date with a Book" for teens: whereby the title is a surprise and a QR code in the book is used to provide a critique and enter a raffle.
- Finally, Henry Carter Hull in Clinton is providing "Wellness to Go: Hygge at Home," (pronounced hue-guh) kits. The Danish and Norwegian concept of a cozy and charming feeling or atmosphere requires nothing more than being present and celebrating small joyful moments every day – a challenge during the cold, dark, winter months. The kits, designed to encourage this approach, will include items like: a winter spice aromatherapy simmer, Lindt truffle hot cocoa, candle meditation and access to printouts, a tutorial video, and list of resources. For more insight into the hygge lifestyle "*A Little Book of Hygge: Danish Secrets for Happy Living*," is available to borrow in different formats.

Respectfully submitted,

Robbie Marshall