

Connecticut Library Association Board Meeting
January 16, 2025
10:00 am Business Meeting via Zoom
Minutes

- I. **Call to Order:** President Scott Jarzombek called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM.
- II. **Approval of Minutes:** December meeting minutes approved by Sam Lee. Seconded by Olivia Blake. Two abstentions.
- III. **Old Business**
 - a. **President's Report** – See attached.
We will be doing our legislative breakfast on March 13th from 9am – 11am. If anyone wants to volunteer to come early at 8:30 and after 11 to clean up. Sam did a great draft of the flyer. If we could get a lot of people there, that would be great. We will be asking everyone from CLA to reach out to their legislators and invite them. Please come if you can make it and let me know if you have any questions.
 - b. **Treasurer's Report** – We are halfway through the year and in good shape. For our revenue, we have received over \$2,500 in donations and fundraising, over \$18,000 in membership and \$30,000 in conference. We are in a really good position right now and expenses are normal. Just a reminder to all of our sections and committees for any conferences or workshops you are doing, please let me know if you have any expense forms or anticipated revenue for that so we can keep up to date. All of our committees and sections should be doing at least one workshop throughout the year. The IRS has updated their mileage reimbursement to \$.70 per mile in 2025. I will get that updated on the website and please keep that in mind if any speakers need mileage reimbursement. Not specific to treasurer but my email for my library has changed to a .gov email. I no longer get any forwarded emails so if you are not getting any responses from me, please use my .gov email or my CLA treasurer email.
- IV. **New Business**

Representative Reports:

CT State Library: Deborah Schander: Absent.

NELA: Scott Brill: This is the year for NELS II and will be from May 12th- May 15th at the Vonn Trap Family Lodge in Stowe, Vermont. If you or anyone in your library are interested, you can visit nelib.org.

ALA: Kate Byroade: LLX, the rebranding for Midwinter, is being held next week in Phoenix and I will be going to that. Usually, I start seeing council documents around this time, but I am not seeing them, so I am thinking there won't be a lot of business. Usually there's a big flurry of stuff going on the week before. I do not know what is going to be on our agenda, but I will report in February when I am back.

ALA EDI Assembly: Kristina Lareau: No report.

ACLB: Denise Stankovics: Our newsletter will be going in the mail shortly. It has a recap of the two programs we had in the fall and our next webinar will be at the end of March. It will be about hiring a library director. There will be more publicity on that closer to the time.

ACLPD: *Vacant.*

America 250: Margaret Khan: We are about 530 days away from July 4, 2026. We had a full commission meeting yesterday. It was productive meeting: we reviewed our work over the last year, prepared our report for the governor, and reviewed our goals for 2025 which includes engaging the public and reinforcing the 4 themes of Connecticut 250. Those themes are: Doing History, power of place, for the common good, and telling inclusive stories. There will be a conference on March 21st at UCONN that will be open to the public. We will be talking about how we can do history and how municipalities and libraries and other community organizations can recognize the event. The community engagement subcommittee is continuing to help municipalities develop their own local committees and seek out organizations to become affiliates of CT 250. Libraries are welcome to become affiliates. It is a very low effort to become an affiliate. You are just agreeing to become a partner and if you hold an event, you will need to report to 250 but there is nothing specific you need to do to become an affiliate. The community engagement subcommittee has been talking about how libraries can reinforce their involvement in this event. Some things we have been talking about are incorporating America 250 into summer reading or summer programming, developing a booklist. We have a meeting next month and we will be talking more about that.

BCALA: *Vacant.*

Bibliomation: Alessandra Casiello: Jessica Woolford is in charge in my absence and the staff are working hard to roll out our Evergreen update which will happen in February.

Commission on Ed Tech: Colleen Bailie: Our last meeting was on December 2nd. We had some representatives from the Department of Education and did a little presentation talking about online citizens. I'm pleased to hear they had school librarians taking part in that which was great to hear trying to talk about making sure everyone has some digital awareness going on. They will be doing a lot more than that. There's a lot of talk going on about AI and schools and libraries and how they can use it. The commission is not ready to make any formal recommendations about it, but they are looking into it. There are two different committee councils within the subcommittees of the council: the infrastructure and the digital advisory. They did ask me to be the cochair for the infrastructure council so I will be doing that too. Our next meeting will be in March.

Communications Task Force: John Casiello: Working on some SOP and Q&A/FAQ for CLA Discord (and any other acronyms people may need), to be shared with Board by next meeting and hopefully launched to membership after that, to be pushed in advance of in support of Annual Conference.

CASL: Gina Wiese: NERD camp will be taking place at Winthrop Elementary school in New London, on March 1st and registration is now open. We are also going to be announcing the winner of the Rosen award shortly. Now that the legislative session has begun, CASL is really excited about the freedom to read bill.

CLC: Ellen Paul: Two short updates for you. If you've been following along with emails, you'll know we've had some changes to the book contract. If you buy from Baker & Taylor or Ingram, we strongly suggest you send a representative from your library to understand what is going on with those contracts. The second thing is that we are about 3 weeks away from Take Your Child to the Library Day. We have launched new merchandise, and Amanda was really instrumental in getting the artwork done. We have new posters, bags, and stickers. We are super pleased with the participation around Connecticut. We've got huge nationwide participation from our vendors and sponsors helping to get the word out. We've paid for an advertisement on CT News Junkie which legislators are looking at every day. They are being reminded that libraries exist which is

important for children and important for us at the start of the legislative session. We will also start paying for online social media ads to promote Take Your Child to the Library Day to encourage more people to visit your library on that day.

FOCL: Debbie Misiaszek & Pamela Monahan: Our leadership roundtable has been moved to sometime in March due to unforeseen circumstances. I will update you next month with the exact date.

LION: Joe Farara: LION participated in the beta testing of Sierra 6.3. LION implemented LibraryIQ as a collection analysis tool. LION is in the process of configuring CapiraMobile for its members, with a projected launch date of 13 March 2025.

Library Connection: Laura Horn: Absent.

Region 1: Heather Aronson: Southbury: We are in the process of moving into the Heritage Hotel as a temporary location. We hope to do light browsing and hold pick up. We have more access to the library and will resume delivery of items. We are not doing holds just yet, but we are getting the backlog from Bibliomation had from Yankee Courier in about a week and then Deliver It will resume with 3 bins in/3 bins out. It will take us awhile to get the backlog absorbed. If anyone has any questions, let us know but we will be putting it out there when we do start to increase our services. We are very appreciative of everyone's patience with us. We know it's been rough.

Region 2: Lisa Miceli: See attached.

Region 3: Chonte Fields: Absent.

Region 4: Brenda McKinley: See attached.

Region 5: Emily Rush: Absent.

Region 6: Madhu Gupta: Absent.

SCSU: Cindy Schofield: The semester begins next week on Tuesday. Some of you will have interns working with you this semester and we really appreciate that. I'll be reaching out to you to start placing interns for Summer and Fall.

Sustainability Taskforce: The Bylaws Committee is working on wording for a CLA/CASL joint membership along with a rate and the rate increases for our other membership levels. We hope to have this to the board for February for a review and vote so we can get it out to the membership in time for a vote at the annual meeting.

Association Committee Reports:

ADA: Marilynn Lewicki: We are having our meeting next week and are talking about having a workshop soon.

Archivist: Gerald Seagrave: Absent.

Awards: Region Reps: John Casiello: Award nominations are open. Website and forms have been updated. Email went out on CLA listserv last night, hopefully ConnTech later today. Everyone feel free to share and promote this to your library people so we can get all the recognition of the amazing work all the libraries are doing around the state!

Career Development: Amanda Stern & Rory Martorana: Scholarships are open, and we are giving away 3 \$100 scholarships. All of the information is available on the website as well as the application, instructions, and materials. The application period is open until the end of February. We are encouraging those who are applying to apply early. Materials have to come in from different places and we need to make sure there is enough time to match all the pieces together.

It's almost time for the new mentoring cohort. That application will open at the beginning of February for new mentees. If you are somebody who is ready to think about what is next in your career and think having a mentor is a good thing. We are so excited for all of the opportunities through the mentoring program. If you are interested in passing your knowledge along, mentor applications are accepted on a rolling basis, and we are accepting applications now. All information is available on the CLA website under Career Development. We are specifically looking for mentors who might not be at a director level, 5-10 year experience. If that is something you feel called to do, we'd love to welcome you. We do ask for a six-month commitment. We are also moving along with planning our Leadership Institute. We are targeting a Friday at the end of August. We will get you more information when we have it.

Conference 2025: Registration for attendees will open January 29th and will include a tentative schedule that is now available on our conference website

here: <https://www.claconference.info/tentative-schedule>. We will also once again include a tentative food menu. In December we announced our keynote through email. We currently have over 30 vendors and 5 sponsors and have taken in over 35k in funds so far. Hotel reservations can now be made through our link, which is on the conference site and will be included in registration. The schedule includes a preconference legislative workshop as an add-on ticket for Sunday as well as an add-on ticket for Mondays fundraiser "closet runway." We will also have a free Presidents reception on Sunday evening, and we are bringing back our free Stitch n bitch on Monday evening after the fundraiser in conjunction with a craft supply swap.

We ask that any library that has some craft supplies they would like to donate to the closet runway fundraiser let us know so we can arrange drop-off.

Development: Alessandra Casiello: Our next fundraiser is our Performer Auction, which is online bidding and will run from February 10-14. We have 30 performers/programs being auctioned and you can have a preview of them here: <https://event.auctria.com/5b1bdc1d-7be0-496e-982a-2c38f06bdaba/aa6cd270-8751-11e9-a741-3fcfcb35cbb0> an email will go out January 25 announcing this and we will have subsequent mailings and social media posts as it gets closer. Thank you to all our donors for sponsoring this event by donating their time and talents.

We will have our closet runway fundraiser at the conference on Monday, April 28 from 5:15-7pm. We will need craft supplies, so if you have some please email me. We will also have our Penny auction so if you have any Christmas gifts you received and don't need, consider donating them for the auction and let me know.

Intellectual Freedom: Sam Lee & Lindsay Delligan: Our regional intellectual freedom helpline is moving forward but it is a slow-moving machine since we are coordinating with 6 other state associations. Anyone who is interested in providing help or resources, please let us know. I want to point out a story about Amanda Jones. She was a school librarian in Louisiana who filed a defamation case against her critics for speaking up during a public library board meeting. The Supreme Court of Louisiana revived her case after initially dismissing it. This is exciting news because the Supreme Court has essentially said this could be a defamation case so it's up to the defendants to prove that she was supplying pornography to 11-year-olds which was part of the defamation case. They need to provide evidence which they are not going to find so this will be an exciting development. She is seeking damages of \$1 and an apology. That's a case to watch and hopefully we will hear more about it. As we are watching cases across the country settle out, especially book banning cases in Texas and Florida, we are seeing a lot of judgements where towns who are book banning are paying for legal fees for the plaintiffs. Right now, we are looking at numbers in hundreds of thousands of dollars. When it comes to book bans and

challenges, if the conversation about defending democracy and preserving freedom of speech and the right to read, make dollars and cents count. It costs a lot of money to bring these cases forward and more often than not, they lose.

Legislative: Kate Byroade & Olivia Scully: We have wrapped up our legislative meet and greets. Thank you to those who have hosted. As I understand it there were definitely some really good conversations with those legislators who attended. I just wanted to remind folks that those conversations are super important. In 2023, those conversations led directly to the inclusion of language that was very favorable to libraries in SB2 or Public Act 23101 which among other things, restored that funding to the budget line that had been zeroed out since 2016. It really does work talking with our legislators. In that vein, save the date for the morning of March 13th, there will be a legislative breakfast in Hartford. More information will be going out about that and posted on the website. We are hoping to invite legislators through a variety of different channels, so hopefully we can get a really good turnout for that. We have a team working on the eBook bill. There are also national efforts still going on- a lot of states are introducing legislation around this and there has already been a bill introduced. Senator Tony Wong introduced this bill and so far, it's very short but we expect that hearing will probably be in February the language will be expanded. Keep an eye out for that. We're going to keep rolling on that. We have a team working on CT State Budget ask. This year is most likely going to be a year of getting that conversation started and getting legislators to start thinking about better funding for libraries. It's likely to be a few years before we see really tangible gains on that front. We have a team working on school library legislation and there seems to be a lot of support from legislators on this. We're likely to see something introduced in the education committee and possibly other committees but there already has been a bill introduced that includes language around the right to read and protecting the profession. This is another placeholder bill. SB 523. The purpose of this bill is to protect state residents by prohibiting public and school libraries from censoring books and providing librarians and other library staff members with legal protections including immunity from criminal and civil liability for carrying out work related duties in accordance with state law. The legislative committee is sponsoring a preconference at CLA annual. It will be on the Sunday before the conference begins at 2:30 PM. It's only \$25 to add it onto your registration. You can come and learn from some experts on how to speak up for your library and libraries in general. It's called "Ready, Set, Advocate. I encourage you to check that out. We also have a few other sessions that will be held at conference. There is a really cool workshop coming up in February: "Leadership Landscape of Librarianship." This promises to be very interesting as well and it's supposed to be very concrete advice on working with the law in terms of libraries, which I think with this incoming administration, this kind of practical advice will be very helpful. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, February 11th at 3PM. It's always the second Tuesday of the month.

Kate: The session kicked off last Wednesday and will go until early June. Hearings will start in the next few weeks in February and into March. I know that it can be both bewildering and frustrating to find out there is going to be a hearing on a bill you are interested in and would like to support, only a week before, and this is not our fault. This is the legislature's fault. Things get scheduled and unscheduled, so when we put out word, we put it out widely and broadcast it, it's not the kind of thing you can look at and think, ill get to it in a couple of days. You have to respond very quickly. The legislature moves at its own pace, which is very fast and always sort of in panic mode. If you are interested in possibly supporting a legislative initiative in some way and you are uncertain about it or would like more information, please reach out to me now

because I can prep you and then I can say its go time. You can testify remotely, and I can text people and let people know you're coming up within the next hour or so. These hearing often go for 6,7, 8 hours with all kinds of different topics. Please bear with us as we won't have hearing information until at most a week before.

Olivia- even though we only find out up to a week in advance, it doesn't hurt to have something prepped in advance so that when we find out, we are ready to go.

Scott- If you have something personalized and local so that when you are providing your testimony, there's enough CLA reps to present a statewide picture. The reps really like to hear about statewide and local. If you can get a member of your board or your friends to come and testify, we need civilians, non-library people to testify. This was repeated to me by one of our reps in the past.

Outreach: John Casiello: Working on swag and prizes for the Annual Conference. Always looking for ideas to inform and promote section membership at Conference, so reach out if you have any ideas. It's a great opportunity to try and get more involvement since we have a big audience, but sometimes it is hard to come up with passive activities that encourage engagement. Also working on updates to membership with Sustainability.

PEG: Mary Etter: No report.

Procedures: Lisa Miceli: Through the sustainability committee we are working on membership and the membership levels and the cost of membership to update that. To you, it's time to start working on nominations, so I will reach out to you and Sarah about that.

Section Reports:

Children's: Alexandra Remy & Chonte Fields: Absent.

CLASS: Vacant

College & University: Rob Walsh: Absent.

JEDI: Mary Richardson: No report.

Public Libraries: Jennifer Sullivan: Absent.

Reference & Adult Services: Christie Mitchell: No report.

Resource Sharing: Matt Earls: Absent.

Technical Services: Ann Victor & Christine Rinaldi: We are having a zoom meeting on February 28th at 11am. It is open to anyone who wants to join us.

Technology: Kate Sheehan & Christopher Knorr: We are in the early stages of planning a preconference in person thing for technology about virtual reality. If folks are doing cool stuff with VR, let us know. I have tapped a few people to come and do a show and tell about the programs they are launching for their patrons. We are talking about CEN ideas as well.

YA: Stephanie Smith: Absent.

Adjournment: 10:53 AM Motion to adjourn by Kate Byroade and seconded by Scott Brill.

Present: Scott Jarzombek, Sarah McCusker, Margaret Khan, Shannon Angelone, Alessandra Casiello, Allison Murphy, Amanda Stern, Ann Victor, Brenda McKinley, Christie Mitchell, Christine Rinaldo, Cindy Schofield, Colleen Bailie, Debbie Misiaszek, Ellen Paul, Gina Wiese, Heather Aronson, Joe Farara, Kate Byroade, Kate Sheehan, Kristina Lareau, Lisa Miceli, Marilyn Lewicki, Mary Etter, Mary Richardson, Olivia Blake, Robert Scheier, Samantha Lee, Scott Brill.

Region 2 Representative Report
Lisa Miceli
January 2025

Granby Library

- Reopening after a mini-renovation

Windsor Library

- Learn How to Hem Program

Simsbury

- The Business & Career Center just held a program which consisted of mock interviews for participants

Cromwell

- Community Conversations Book Club in partnership with their Town DEI Committee will discuss This is How it Always Is by Laurie Frankel

Enfield

- Heroes & Headaches: New England Story of Piracy at Home & Abroad – the History of Pirates & Pirate Hunters

Manchester

- Progress for the new library is moving and is on track to open mid-2026
- Geothermal well drilling has begun
- Later this winter concrete and steel work for the new structure will start

January 16, 2025 – CLA Board Meeting
Region 4 Libraries Report

MARK TWAIN LIBRARY, REDDING:

Library Director Erin Dummeyer shares:

Hi Brenda,

Here is something kind of cool from us:

Thanks to an anonymous gift, the Mark Twain Library in Redding is having several volumes of their "Mark Twain Collection" professionally conserved by the Northeast Document Conservation Center in Andover, MA. Mark Twain started the library with his own personal book collection and for the first time ever some of those volumes are being restored to their original splendor.

Happy New Year!

Erin

EASTON PUBLIC LIBRARY:

Library Director, Lynn Zaffino shares:

Hi Brenda,

Two weeks ago, we had a minor flood in the Library, due to a malfunctioning valve on our hot water heater. Luckily, none of the collection was damaged. The affected areas were the Children's play area, Youth Services office, Story Time room, and the public restrooms. We were closed for 3 days, but we are re-opened and functioning (almost) normally. Carpets and ceiling tiles will have to be replaced in the affected areas, and the walls will be painted in the areas where the wallpaper had to be ripped down.

Lynn

Important links:

Conference

CLA Tentative Schedule

<https://www.claconference.info/tentative-schedule>

Development

Performer Auction:

<https://event.auctria.com/5b1bdc1d-7be0-496e-982a-2c38f06bdaba/aa6cd270-8751-11e9-a741-3fcfc35cbb0>

NELA

nelib.org

CLC

Book Contract Training Today at 4pm:

<https://www.ctlibrarians.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=1915170>

TYCLD Merch:

https://www.demco.com/catalogsearch/result/?q=Take%20Your%20Child%20to%20the%20Library%20Day#q=Take%20Your%20Child%20to%20the%20Library%20Day&idx=production_default_products&p=0&nR%5Bvisibility_search%5D%5B%3D%5D%5B0%5D=1

Legislative

Ebooks - SB 237: An Act Concerning Electronic Book Licensing

Right to read / protecting the profession - SB 523: An Act Concerning The Curation And Retention Of Literary Materials Contained In Public And School Libraries And Legal Protections Afforded To Librarians And Staff Working In Such Libraries

Legal Landscape of Librarianship (L3) Forum:

February 18 – 20, 2025 (virtual); \$35 registration cost

Be sure to read the FAQ! They are detailed and cover the significant steps taken to ensure participant safety and privacy.

FAQ here: <https://reg.eventmobi.com/L3forum/pages/faq>

More info: <https://reg.eventmobi.com/L3forum>

Register: <https://reg.eventmobi.com/L3forum/register>

Intellectual Freedom:

<https://www.tallahassee.com/story/news/local/state/2024/12/17/florida-school-district-urged-to-settle-costly-book-ban-lawsuit/77029016007/>

less about the legal fees paid to plaintiffs, but definitely highlights the costs

<https://alaskabeacon.com/briefs/mat-su-school-district-will-pay-89000-to-settle-book-ban-lawsuit/>