

Connecticut Library Association Board Meeting
February 19, 2025
10:00 am Business Meeting via Zoom
Minutes

- I. **Call to Order:** President Erin Dummeyer called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM.
- II. **Approval of Minutes from December:** Motion made by Lisa Miceli and seconded by Alessandra Casiello.
- III. **Old Business**
 - a. President's Report - See attached.
 - b. Treasurer's Report - See attached.
- IV. **New Business**

Representative Reports:

CT State Library: Deborah Schander: The Federal Congress provided funding for IMLS moving into the next federal fiscal year. So, it was a very positive sign on that front. And because of the way that the details worked out, all states including Connecticut are going to see a slight increase in the aid that we received through the grants to states' program, moving us from about 2.16 million to about 2.3 million. That being said, because of that increase, it impacts our MOE and the cuts to the BorrowIT funding that are proposed, which Erin mentioned, would impact our MOE response. So, I have had conversations with the Office of Policy and Management, the State Budget Office, to let them know about that potential impact with the relation to this funding as well. So that is on their radar. In terms of the state hearing, in terms of the budget, again, we do anticipate that BorrowIt is going to be the focus of the conversation. We do have our work session with them in about a week and a half to go into a little more detail talking about it. But I think that we're seeing strong support from legislators and understanding about it. So, thank you to everybody who testified on behalf of the state's budget on that front. We are also aware of the Moms for Liberty testimony that has been submitted; the FOI requests that a number of libraries have been receiving. So, I have also been keeping legislative leadership updated on that situation so that they are aware as well. So, feel free to reach out if you have any questions or anything new happens on that front. The last thing is chief officers of state library agencies, KOZLA, which is the professional association for state libraries, will be having our annual visit to DC in the first week of March. We'll be meeting with our federal delegation that week following close on, I think the ALA representatives who are going next week. They'll be hearing a lot of very good news about libraries and museums and how federal funding supports our work across the state in the next couple of weeks.

NELA: Sarah McCusker: No report.

ALA: Kate Byroade: The Winter Council was held at the end of January. We had three sessions and we were not able to get through our set agenda because discussions just got bogged down. There will be one final winter council session on March 10th. The one outstanding thing is a resolution to support and commend the work of librarians and institutions preserving government information since January 21st, 2025. All of the other things have really just been inside baseball organizational things, proposals, language changes, and bylaws changes were all things that we process. Nothing too controversial, but we got bogged down in discussion.

ALA EDI Assembly: Vacant

ACLB: Denise Stankovics: Just a reminder again that on Wednesday, March 18th, we are offering a webinar on collection development defense that Sarah will be leading. I don't believe the sign up has been made available yet, but you can watch for that in the weeks ahead. Our winter newsletter went out a couple of weeks ago. It was sent through library directors and board chairs, but it is available on our website for anyone to read. We have an article about the update on IMLS. So, if you would like to see that, just check our website.

ACLPD: Robert Kinney: Absent.

America 250: Margaret Khan: We are a couple months away from the 250th. The State Commission is working on securing local committees for every town. I'll drop a link in the chat after my report. If your town's not on there, or if your neighboring town isn't there and you know someone who might be a good contact, please send them my way. We would really like to have every town represented in Connecticut for the America 250 CT. There are frequent meetings for these commissions so everyone can get on board. There's nothing in particular that you have to do, it's really free form and accessible to all of our towns. Libraries are welcome to become affiliate organizations. We will have folks from the America 250 Commission and Connecticut Humanities presenting at CLA conference in April on tough topics- how to talk about tough topics relating to America's history, so I think that should be a really good presentation. Otherwise, just fine tuning and gearing up for July 4th, 2026. [Link](#)

BCALA: Vivian Bordeaux: Absent.

Bibliomation: Alessandra Casiello: We are in the process of getting our next strategic plan in place that has been the focus this past fall and early winter. We had our monthly board meeting yesterday and there was a lot of discussion as three of our board members were libraries that got FOIA requests. So, we are trying to keep track of where things go from there. Bibliomation will be a sponsor and be exhibiting at the CLA conference.

Commission on Ed Tech: Colleen Bailie: No report.

Communications Task Force: John Casiello: We have our second meeting later today where I think we will continue to make a lot of progress on this front. Last month we had meeting where we laid out all of our options, issues, audiences, etcetera. I'm looking forward to making some significant progress on this going forward.

CASL: Valerie: CASL's 6th Annual nErDcampCT. nErDcampCT is in Norwalk this year on March 7. All the details, including registration, can be found on the link. [Link](#)

CLC: Ellen Paul: A few updates this morning, of course, as we talk about the state budget. CLC is known in statute as the Cooperating Library Service Unit. We are a line item in the State Library's budget. In the governor's midterm adjustments, there were no changes to the Cooperating Library Service unit line item. It remains at \$124,402.00 per year, which is the same amount that it has been since 2018. So, I appreciate those who testified on behalf of the State Library's budget, on behalf of the Cooperating Library Service unit line item in that budget. You know that that line item remains about 12 to 13% of CLC'S annual budget. Moving on to vendor news, you should have an e-mail from us with some updates about book vendors very soon. We also have webinars coming up with both Amazon and Ingram because they both have substantial updates. Moving into summer, we are going to see more updates from companies like Follett with increased capacity to serve public libraries. This marketplace is still definitely a moving target, and I fully expect to see a lot of changes in the library book marketplace over the next two years. We will continue to keep you updated on that. This morning, you may have seen we have a new partnership with Library Ideas that should have hit your e-mail if you are a library director or a children's or youth library. Around 9:30, Library Ideas has an amazing new product. Their

library trading cards as a summer reading incentive with a direct link to a children's interactive e-book. We thought that those were really cool. We are obviously headed into PLA in Minnesota. Last year at ALA CLC organized a nice little reception for Connecticut librarians who were there. We plan to do something similar. For those of you who are active in eBooks, you may know that I chair the ALA e-Book Interest group. We are planning on having a meeting to talk about ongoing legislation across the country. So, if you're interested, I have more information on that.

FOCL: Debbie Misiaszek: I have two things to report. On March 27th, we're going to have another round table, and it is going to be the Treasurer's role in the Friends and that is at the Berlin Community Center on Kensington Rd. Our annual meeting is going to be on June 20th in Avon.

LION: Joe Farara: Absent.

Library Connection: Laura Horn: No report.

Region 1: Heather Aronson: Nothing to report from member libraries other than Southbury who received a FOIA request.

Region 2: Lisa Miceli: See attached.

Region 3: Drusilla Carter: Absent.

Region 4: Kiera Parrott: See attached.

Region 5: Emily Rush: No report.

Region 6: Madhu Gupta: Absent.

SCSU: Cindy Schofield: Absent.

Sustainability Taskforce: We're hoping to be able to bring to the board the information about changing our star chapter to a different service provider. We did just get a notice that Star chapters' pricing will be increasing. So, it is now not the lowest option. So we just want to update that so that we can bring that to the board for a vote next month and hopefully be able to write into the new budget, you know, an option to move to among those that we have demo'd, so look out for that next month and hopefully we'll have a quorum to vote on that.

Association Committee Reports:

ADA: Marilynn Lewicki: No report.

Archivist: Gerald Seagrave: No report.

Awards: Region Reps: John Casiello: The nominations are out. We've already gotten some. I'll be sending e-blasts and other notifications to increase that, hopefully. I encourage you all to encourage your staff and anyone you know who has done anything amazing to, you know, get a nomination in because we love to celebrate our librarians here. I think this year especially, we want to say all the wonderful things that we're working on as we deal with all the other stuff that's happening in the world.

Career Development: Diana Preece and Mirja Johanson: Scholarships are due at 5pm on Friday Feb 27th.

Conference 2026: Conference is well underway. We currently have 35 vendors registered for sponsors, so that's moving along. We do expect this time of year to see a big influx of the vendors registering as well as our attendee registration opened at the end of last month. We have a little bit less than a month left for early bird registration. We are in the process of getting back all of the speaker contracts. If you are a lead planner, please make sure you have sent all of your speakers their contracts. Those are due back by March 15th as well. The website will be updated after March 15th as everything gets confirmed. You'll be able to see the actual times for sessions if anything has changed.

Development: Alessandra Casiello: We just had our third performer auction, and our goal was \$5,000 but we didn't reach it. We hit \$3,785, so thank you to those who shared this or whose libraries participated. It is a really great event. You get really great performers for a lot less than they would charge individually. We had 22 items that were in the auction and only five of them did not sell. If anybody is looking for performers and wants to know what those 5 did not sell at, reach out to me and maybe we can get you to purchase those. So right now, I'm just sending out the statements for those and getting those people their documents for the contracts with those performers. Then we have our next fundraiser that is at the conference. Once again, we will have our penny social auction. If anybody has auction items, it's a good time to get rid of Christmas presents that you'd never opened and will never use. Please let me know, reach out to me. We've gotten some really good stuff from our members and our board members in the past, so I appreciate that. We will also obviously have our fundraising table. We'll have some of our printed shirts there along with some other items, and then we have a few fundraisers after hours. We have our viewing of the librarians on Sunday night, so we've had a few tickets purchased for that and then Monday night we have our grown-up nostalgic book fair we're getting, we're seeing tickets purchased for that which is really great. We have 3 confirmed vendors for that right now. We have a max of 10 for that so we're hoping to fill that up. I'm happy to announce that this group really wanted Montgomery and Taggart to be there and they have confirmed. So, they will be there for that, and it will be nice to work with some booksellers. We're also accepting book crafters. We have someone who is a crafter who does bedazzled books. So, we do have a lot coming up and a lot going on in terms of development and fundraising at the moment.

Intellectual Freedom: Sam Lee & Lindsay Delligan: Colleen Bailie- A reminder to everyone that if you're dealing with any kind of challenge, to please fill out the form for the New England helpline. We did change it yesterday so that you can submit what your issue is and that you don't need help, but we're just letting you know about it and a request for help as well. It's just really because of the grant that we got for the New England area, we want to be able to keep track of everything that's happening and see what the trends are across our region.

Legislative: Kate Byroade & Rebecca Harlow: Legislative has been mostly focusing on being responsive to some emergent issues. So, we spent a lot of time responding to the cut to borrow it and organizing testimony and librarian response to that. I just want to say thank you to Alessandra for being really responsive to our need to put up new content very quickly. She got that done and did a great job doing it on a Sunday, so we really appreciated that. Thank you to everyone who has submitted testimony. As Erin mentioned, I think the most important step for all of us to take is to e-mail our individual legislators. I have been told that our best chance at getting movement is for our own legislators to take this up and advocate on our behalf to appropriations. The other thing that we've been working on behind the scenes is our response to the Passport Agency issue. We did get some really good press, and it was picked up by the AP. So, I think that we might start to see some federal pressure there that will hopefully help our Connecticut libraries just in a capacity building since we have been working more on developing communication tools so that we can advocate to a broader spectrum of the library community and some other stakeholder groups. We have ALA Legislative Day coming up. Colleen and Sarah are two of our representatives on the committee.

Colleen Bailie: We received all of who we're all meeting with next week. It's me, Sarah, Alice, Knapp, Julie from CLC, and Rosie Luther. There's six of us going in total, so we have a good group going. It looks like we are going to meet with all the legislative offices, which is good and we'll report back next month.

Outreach: John Casiello: This is the time of year when we see membership increase again and preparation for conference. So, thank you to Bob for helping to field a lot of those questions and I'm trying to get through them as well. If any members come to you with questions about their membership, just send them my way or Bob's way and we'll deal with them.

PEG: Mary Etter: Absent

Procedures: Lisa Miceli: No report.

Section Reports:

Children's: Vacant

CLASS: Vacant

College & University: Rob Walsh: Absent.

JEDI: Mary Richardson: I have some exciting news. I have a co-chair now, so Rosie Luther, who is the creative technology assistant in the Collaboratory at Wallingford Public Library, is going to join me. We are trying to get monthly meetings restarted so we can kind of figure out what our section needs and address those. We're going to try and aim for a meeting on Wednesday, March 4th at 2:00 PM and we have it out on our Discord and I'll be getting it out on the regular CLA section e-mail hopefully by the end of this week.

Public Libraries: Jennifer Sullivan: Absent. Sign up for Passports for Libraries

Reference & Adult Services: Christie Mitchell & Kelly-Ann Gardella: I would like to report on our mental health and wellness workshop that is coming up on Thursday, March 12th from 2:00 to 4:00 PM. We have a wonderful lineup of speakers. We have Mary Ginetti, who was a former licensed clinical social worker, and she's currently in school to earn her MLS and her current position is Interdepartmental Library Assistant at Southington Public Library. We also have Doctor Wendy Hurwitz, MD. She's a graduate of Yale School of Medicine, and she's an expert on stress management and anxiety. We also have Ashley Rivera who is a licensed practitioner as well and she runs her own business, The Counseling Soul, in Eastern Connecticut. And she will be speaking there will be like an opening meditation. We're going to be gaining insights from these professionals on how to navigate situations and libraries that involve mental health and there will be a section on resources. We did advertise, we sent out an e-mail through Star Chapter and through contact. We need to send some more as we get closer to the date. In fact, maybe today we'll send out another reminder because we've only had 12 sign-ups so far. We do have a non-member fee of \$15.00. So we have three non-members who signed up, but only 12 total so far. We'll be working with John to help get the word out. It's on the CLA website. I'm going to send the link in the chat because it's a nice little colorful flyer announcing the program. If you have any ideas on how to get the word out, we'd appreciate it because we need to get some more registrants.

Resource Sharing: Matt Earls: Absent.

Technical Services: Ann Victor & Christine Rinaldi: Absent.

Technology: Kate Sheehan & Jessica Wolford: We had survey done are parsing through them now and we redid the bylaws and just have to get a vote because we had some original bylaws, some parchment paper style bylaws.

YA: Danielle Murray & Jackie Bush: No report.

Adjournment: 10:51 AM. Motion made by 1. Danielle Murray

Present: Erin Dummeyer, Brenda McKinley, Margaret Khan, Shannon Angelone, Alessandra Casiello, Christie Mitchell, Colleen Bailie, Danielle Murray, Debbie Misiaszek, Deborah Schander, Denise Stankovics, Diana Preece, Ellen Paul, Heather Aronson, Jerry Seagrave, Jessica Wolford, John Casiello, Kate Byroade, Kate Sheehan, Kiera Parrott, Laura Horn, Lisa Miceli, Marilyn, Lewicki, Mary Richardson, Mirja Johanson, Rebecca Harlow, Robert Scheier, Sarah McCusker.

Old Business

a. President's report- Erin Dummeyer

A lot has gone been going on this past week and past month, starting with an update. As you know, I've been working on switching us to 501(c)(3) status, which was something that the membership voted on a few years ago. It ended up being a more involved process than I thought and I did receive correspondence from our claims specialist letting me know that the way I'd submitted the application, it was going to be denied because we more so fit the description of 501(c)(6). She actually was really helpful and gave me some advice. I was able to submit an appeal within two weeks of receiving this notification and so I did that after rewriting part of the tax form and I'm now waiting to hear more. She told me that no news is good news during this period so I'm feeling hopeful. All the other state library associations are 501(c)(3), so I know it's possible. When you fill out the tax form, there's a page you fill out where you describe your activities and the percentage of time that your organization spends on certain activities, and you have to show that you're meeting the 501(c)(3) requirements for that. Something that didn't fall in our favor is she saw us as really being an organization that serves the librarianship profession, which actually is more in line with a 501(c)(6). So, I tried to describe our activities differently that showed us as being more about promoting libraries and promoting librarianship. I'm getting too in the weeds of describing this, but I've learned a lot about how to apply for 501(c)(3) status and it's a much more involved process than I ever expected. So hopefully more to come on that.

The other thing I want to make sure the membership attention is called toward is the Community Passport Services Access Act. This is a bill put out by the federal delegation in Pennsylvania in order to allow public libraries operating 501(c)(3) to continue to execute passport application services. This affects several Connecticut libraries in a dramatic way. I mean, it affects us all as Americans because it's making it harder to get passports and now the SAVE Act is threatening that people would have to use a passport to be able to vote. So, you can see how like restricting access to folks trying to apply for passports can be problematic, but it's also problematic for Connecticut's libraries because many of our libraries generate income by acting as passport acceptance facilities, some libraries to the tune of \$200,000. So no longer being allowed to act as passport acceptance facilities is going to mean a real loss of income for some of those libraries, which as you guys know, affects their ability to serve their patrons. So right now this is affecting Ferguson Library in Stamford, Hartford Public Library, Ridgefield Library, Otis Library in Norwich and Farmington libraries. So far Congressman Himes has co-sponsored this Pennsylvania bill, and I know that Senator Murphy has co-signed a letter to Marco Rubio asking that they reinstate these 501(c)(3) libraries to be able to accept passports. So, things are moving in the right direction; things are looking good. Write to your congressman, write to your senators, and ask them to support this bill. If you want to go on the CLA web page, we have an advocacy section that talks a little bit more about the issue. We released a statement that we sent to membership and that was sent to our congressman in hopes that they would get some support behind this bill.

This past week we did some advocacy for Connecticut State Library funding. The Appropriations Committee met on Tuesday to talk about the governor's proposed budget, which has a \$140,000 cut to the Borrow It program, formerly known as Connecticard for those who go way back. I know a lot of libraries submitted written testimony and I'm so grateful for that. I also have some colleagues that gave in person testimony late into Tuesday. I think Kiera was after midnight on Tuesday, so technically Wednesday morning. So, thank you. What we are doing now is following up with our state reps and state senators to ask them to pay attention to this and

to reinstate library funding. Even if your library does not benefit very much from the Borrow It incentives, a cut to state aid Connecticut's libraries is bad all around. It can be harmful and we currently rank 32nd in the nation for how much direct aid to public libraries we receive and in total we received less than \$1,000,000 from Connecticut for our libraries. So, you can see how potentially slashing the budget by \$140,000 is not great. I will say that I've heard back from a number of my state delegates saying that they are going to go to bat for us in reinstating this funding. So, this also feels like it's moving in the right direction. But writing to not only who your personal reps are, but to who your reps are in the town where your library is helpful as well and I'm sure our legislative Co chairs will have more of an update on that.

b. Treasurer's report- Margaret Khan

We are getting into gear for conference now. So far, we've received \$29,000 in conference revenue, but to reach our goal, we will definitely be picking up the pace and getting there soon. We've received \$2,400 in donations for the year and have also received \$29,000 in membership dues. That's about 71% of what we've projected for the whole year, so, we're really in good shape with membership for the year. If we were to close out the year as of the end of January, we'd have enough net profit of \$40,000, just under \$40,000. So we're in a good shape and we're looking at another strong year and hopefully a strong conference to pull us through the rest of the year.

Region 4 News

February 2026

UConn Stamford Library:

Please spread the word about this free community event:

BHM 2026 - Stamford Community Vendor Fair

Saturday, February 28, 2026, 11am - 4pm

UConn Stamford Campus, Stamford, CT 06901

Free parking at the UConn lot, *1194 Washington Blvd, Stamford, CT.*

Ridgefield Library:

We are dealing with the fallout from the U.S. State Department decision to rescind Passport Acceptance Program participation by association, nonprofit libraries. It will be a challenge to fill the income hole, but our biggest concern is loss of access to this government service by residents in our area. There has been a heightened media interest in the story. I am grateful that Rep. Jim Himes, who represents our region of the state, has signed on to the bipartisan bill in the U.S. House of Representatives that would allow for association libraries to serve as Passport Acceptance Agents.

We are also working through a formal Request for Reconsideration, our first since the approval of our new policies under the 2025 “freedom to read” CT legislation. I have until March 1, 2026, to reply to the patron with the Library Director’s response. I anticipate that the patron will also lodge a formal appeal to our Library Board of Directors. Grateful for the work done by CLA, CLC, ACLB and CASL to prepare for potential outreach from Library Boards as required by the new statute.

Mark Twain Library:

Mark Twain Library is excited about our upcoming America250 programming. We have a special landing page dedicated to the celebration of the signing of the Declaration of Independence that includes videos, readings, and other resources. This was created in partnership with the Redding League of Women Voters and also features upcoming programs to celebrate the milestone: <https://marktwainlibrary.org/250ammtl012026/>

Stratford Library:

The Stratford Library is undergoing a partial renovation project, which will upgrade HVAC, lighting, ductwork, and drop ceilings in a large section of our building. The Children's and Teen Departments plus the makerspace will be open and running programs throughout construction. Adult Services will be operating out of the Lobby, with a mini computer lab available, a small selection of new and popular print titles and most of the older print collections in storage. Adult programming will be limited, with some programs taking place in alternate locations or Zoom. Public seating, study rooms, and meeting rooms will be unavailable during construction. Our staff will be focusing on outreach activities in the community and the schools during this time. We are anticipating completion of this project by June. The renovation will feature reconfigured Adult and Teen Services, a consolidated adult computer lab, and an expanded makerspace as well as additional public seating in the Lobby.

CLA Region 2 Representative Report
Lisa Miceli
February 2026

East Hartford Public Library

Offers a Bilingual Spanish Playgroup.

Avon Free Public Library

Annual Author Luncheon will feature Amity Gaige on Friday, April 24th, at the Farmington Polo Club. Tickets may be purchased on the library's website.

Canton Public Library

Seed Library is now open

4th Annual Craft Supply Swap will be held March 29

Farmington Public Library

Featuring Passport to Programs – Patron passports have 5 pages featuring 4 different programs for all ages. Completed passports will be entered into a prize drawing.

Noah Webster Library in West Hartford

Will begin Sunday hours February 22

East Granby Library

offering Blind Date with a Book for children.

East Windsor Public Library @ Warehouse Point

Will host a Ramadan Family Celebration on February 21

Manchester Public Library

New building is on schedule to open early summer. It is expected to be the first net-Zero public library in CT.