

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

- I. **Call to Order:** President Erin Dummeyer called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM.
- II. **Approval of Minutes from December:** Motion made by Mary Etter and seconded by Kate Sheehan. One abstention.
- 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: I have budget updates on both the federal and stateside. On the state side, as you may have seen, the Appropriations Committee did restore BorrowIt funding in its version of the budget. That does not mean that this is a settled question. It means that that is where negotiations with the Governor's office will start as part of our budget. I believe others have heard from legislators who have said if you still would like to reach out, now is the time to reach out and share the importance of BorrowIt to your local libraries. At this point, the Appropriations Committee is in negotiations with the Governor's Office and the Office of Policy and Management to make the final decisions about the budget. That will be occurring over the next few weeks. We are continuing to monitor it and OPM is aware of our position on the the cost as well and the impact that it would have. But I did want to just share that was where we were in that process. The budget did also restore the proposed cuts for the earmarks that are in our budget as well as agreed with the Governor's office on the proposals about some administrative changes and some additional expenses that would go into our operating line. We are waiting to hear about that again because this is the short session. So that will be determined in the next couple of weeks what the budget will be. On the federal side, as you may have seen the lawsuits that Connecticut joined in with 20 other states on against the administration and its proposed changes for the IMLS. The administration has dropped its appeal specifically regarding the IMLS in that lawsuit. They are pursuing their appeal as it impacts all of the other agencies that were involved but is essentially walking away from trying to do further make further changes to the IMLS at this point in that specific process. That being said, the President has again proposed zeroing out IMLS, functionally zeroing out IMLS in its FY27 budget for the federal government. So again, reaching out to federal legislators to share the importance of federal funding for libraries in Connecticut, this would be the time to do that as well. All of our delegation who do sign on to these letters have signed on to the Dear Appropriator letters to show support for library funding. They will be proceeding through those conversations over the next few months in hopes that, again, we see strong bipartisan support for restoring funding to IMLS.

NELA: Sarah McCusker: Absent.

ALA: Kate Byroade: No report.

ALA EDI Assembly: *Vacant*

ACLB: Denise Stankovics: Last month we had a really good webinar by Sarah McCusker on collection development. We thought it was important for boards to understand the process in view of all the book challenges. The link to the video of that webinar is now available on our website on the home page. If you would like to see it or see it again, feel free to access it by our web page.

ACLPD: Robert Kinney: Absent

America 250: Margaret Khan: We had a Commission meeting yesterday where we got some great updates. I'll be spamming the chat with some links for that. But one thing of interest, I think to libraries in particular is a federal initiative called "America Gives," which is they're tracking volunteer hours and trying to get to a lofty goal of volunteer hours across the country. I know that libraries utilize a lot of volunteers, so I'll be sharing the information for that for you. Everyone can participate in that. The Charter Oak Tree initiative through the Connecticut Commission is underway. UCONN is growing saplings which will be available to municipalities to plant in the fall and all municipalities are encouraged to participate in that. I know that we have a lot of libraries who are already affiliate organizations to the 250th Connecticut Commission, but the deadline to become an affiliate is May 31st. We are a few organizations short of our goal of 250 affiliate organizations, so if you haven't registered for that, please do so. If you have partner organizations in your town that you think would be interested in it, please encourage them to apply for that as well. It's a very easy application. There is no commitment or no requirements in participating to be an affiliate. We are also looking to get a contact person for every single town for the 250th. We are just missing 24 towns at this point. Again, I'm going to share the map of missing towns. If you have a contact person in that town, if you could forward their information to me, that would be greatly appreciated. We really do want to have every town represented with a strong contact person for the 4th of July. Lastly, we will have a presentation at CLA called "Touchy Subjects" and it's going to be about having difficult conversations, difficult to navigate topics, how to handle these topics sensitively and professionally, and encourage good discussion within your community. I hope to see a lot of people at that session, and I'll get all those links into the chats.

Links:

America Gives: <https://america250.org/america-gives/>

Affiliate organizations: <https://ct250.org/get-involved/affiliate-program/become-an-affiliate/>

Municipal contacts/commissions: <https://ct250.org/get-involved/local-commissions/>

BCALA: Vivian Bordeaux: We have a number of things that are that we're planning and one being a celebration for poetry this month, the 25th I believe. We're also trying to plan on the 250th celebration America. We're planning in the planning stage and that's about it that I have to report.

Bibliomation: Alessandra Casiello: We are in the process of doing our regional meetings and we are gearing up for our conference session. We've already had our ILS conference last week and we'll be at CLA in a few weeks as well as the CEN conference.

Commission on Ed Tech: Colleen Bailie: The Commission has been working on a feasibility study about potentially looking at using refurbished laptops from a number of different organizations throughout the state where they're working in conjunction with Central Connecticut, with some students looking at the possibility of doing a project where laptops could be given out in towns that want to participate in both schools and libraries. So hopefully we should have that in about a month or so, and I'll be able to report out on that later on in the year.

Communications Task Force: John Casiello: We are planning to meet later this week to put the finishing touches on a survey for members, hopefully to be launched at conference or shortly before just to gauge their interest in like where they want communications to come from and how often and what interaction they want to have. I think that'll guide us for the future for what kind of social media interaction we have, newsletters, emails, etcetera, etcetera. So more to come.

CASL: Gina Wiese/Valerie DiLorenzo: Absent.

CLC: Ellen Paul: Three short updates. One, of course, we're looking forward to being at conference. Julie, Jackie, and Stephanie from our office are presenting on Monday about kind of CLC one-on-one, I think in the morning. If you stop by the booth, we have a lot of fun giveaways with our new logo on them. So some new swag for you, useful swag, fun swag. Just to put it on your calendar, the CLC annual meeting will be on June 9th at the Southington Public Library. Our keynote speaker will be Lisa Varga, who's the ALA Associate Executive Director of the Washington office. She was named Library Journals Librarian of the Year in 2024 for her work with the Virginia Library Association. We're excited to hear from her and that she's coming to Connecticut. The last thing is just our new discount contract with the Hartford Courant. It took us about a good six to nine months to get this done, but we're really happy to roll it out. The West Hartford Public Library saved \$7,000 already on their annual subscriptions to the Hartford Current, so I'll find the link to the information session. We had one earlier this week, and we have one tomorrow if you're interested in learning more. I'll drop it in the chat.

Links:

Here is the Hartford Courant info session:

<https://www.ctlibrarians.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=2052500>

Here is their page on our site: <https://www.ctlibrarians.org/general/custom.asp?page=hartfordcourant>
here is the link to the Annual meeting:

<https://www.ctlibrarians.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=2050529&group=>

FOCL: Debbie Misiaszek: Our Annual Meeting is coming up June 20th. That's the awards and regular meeting and that'll be at the Avon Public Library. Contact me for more details.

LION: Joe Farara: Absent.

Library Connection: Laura Horn: Absent.

Region 1: Heather Aronson: Nothing major other than a lot of people are seeing really good turnout for the passport system. People are coming in super excited, and it's kind of like who's giving out the best swag, so that's very positive. Other than that, people are just gearing up for summer reading.

Region 2: Lisa Miceli: Absent.

Region 3: Drusilla Carter: I apologize. I intended to reach out to my people, but as was mentioned, it's passport season and I run the Facebook page, so I've been a little swamped. There are a lot of people asking a lot of questions about passport, but I do know that we had a bibliomation regional meeting. So, I saw some of my colleagues and everybody's sort of in the usual budget season situation.

Region 4: Kiera Parrott: See attached.

Region 5: Emily Rush: See attached.

Region 6: Madhu Gupta: Absent.

SCSU: Cindy Schofield: Open house tonight at Southern if you have support staff interested in pursuing their MLIS we'll be there answering questions. We are still looking for summer internship hosts. Let me know if you need extra hands--especially in the West Hartford/Farmington area.

Sustainability Taskforce: Alessandra Casiello: The big thing is that last month we had voted on changing software, so I want to give a little bit of an update. Unfortunately, even though we switched to month-to-month payments with StarChapter, they will not let us out of our annual contract which means we will have Star Chapter until December 30th. So, what we did was we did an overlap for the integration of Member Clicks to start in October. It takes about 8 weeks for everything to get transferred over plus doing training. There will be a portion of time from October to December where we have two platforms. In a way, this is good because it gives us some time to allow our chairs, our sections, and committees to go into StarChapter. If there's a templates that you use for emails, those e-mail templates will not transfer over. If there's specific things that you put in for your meetings or events that you just use as a template, those will not transfer over. So, copy and paste them into a document on your computer. Then you'll have them when it moves over to member clicks. We will be doing training starting in the Fall. It does make it a little bit cheaper for us annually, but for next fiscal year, we will be spending about \$500 more because we will have two softwares running at the same time due to StarChapter not agreeing to let us out of that agreement. But we are all signed up with Member Clicks and we will do training on Star chapter in May again for our sections and committees to use for the first 6 months or so of the fiscal year.

Association Committee Reports:

ADA: Marilynn Lewicki: Absent.

Archivist: Gerald Seagrave: No report.

Awards: Region Reps: John Casiello: So as Margaret said, the plaques have been ordered, all the decisions have been made. The conference program will be posted next week and we'll put it up on the website as well. Thank you to all the region reps for going through all the nominations and for everyone who submitted nominations. As always, it's great to see all the work that everyone's doing and I look forward to the award ceremony when we get to celebrate. It is one of the best parts of conference

Career Development: Diana Preece and Mirja Johanson: No report.

Conference 2026: Registration has officially closed as of last night at midnight. We have almost 900 people attending the conference this year over the two days. That is just over 600 different attendees I should say about 80 vendor reps each day. So, we are going to have a full house, especially on Monday. We are a little bit over capacity, but we're hoping it will work out. But we also have our vendor registration, which is now closed. We have a pretty full exhibit hall with 59 different vendors. A couple of them have multiple tables because they're doing different things. We also have a different layout for the exhibit hall in order to do all the things that CLA committees do for fundraising, auction, exhibits, and membership. We'll have a lot of fun games and a lot of fun ways to get people engaged with us in the exhibit hall. We have about 50 presale tickets for the Grown-Up Nostalgic Book Fair that will happen on Monday. We have 3 booksellers and five crafter artisans that will be selling things. It's a drop-in for two hours from 5:30 to 7:30 Monday night. It is a cash bar that will be open and we will have hors d'oeuvres. That's what your ticket gets you is the entrance into it with the hors d'oeuvres. But you do have to pay for drinks. Anything outside of soft drinks you have to pay for. Then Sunday night we are showing "The Librarians" you can buy tickets at the door. We are not at capacity for that, so if you haven't bought a ticket for that and you end up being able to come on Sunday, we are going to have that showing at 5:30 on the 26th with a little short discussion afterwards. If you want to watch it virtually, you can or could have gotten a virtual link. Those who have signed up for the virtual link will get those next week. They have about a week to watch from beginning to end.

The movie you can start/stop, but you only have a week to do that. It cannot be used for screenings. So, don't use it for screening at your library because it's illegal, unless you paid for those rights. Sunday night we also have Drusilla and Sarah McCusker- they're going to be doing a book bag craft. We do have a couple tickets left for that. If you end up coming on Sunday for the movie and you want to stay, you can buy a ticket for that as well. There will be a bar for that as well. We are going to make a profit, which is always good. It will be at least \$10,000, hopefully more, as long as my numbers are coming out correct. I am still waiting on the final order from the banquet hall itself in terms of food, because the food numbers were due today. So, once we get that, my numbers will be accurate, but at this point I know it's going to be at least be about \$10,000 for the net profit that we'll make. Thank you to the the conference committee and for all of the sections and committees that put sessions in. Like John said, the program booklet is finished. I just sent it off to get printed and that will be sent out to all registrants next week. The only reason we're waiting is because a couple of the QR codes in the program are not ready for viewing and we don't want people to look at those and get confused. So, we just want to wait until next week to send that out. We'll also send a welcome e-mail to all attendees with important information regarding parking, check in-how to check in at registration and the link to the official live website will go out Thursday of next week. We're well into conference mode. My house is filled with boxes right now and I'd like to get them out. I don't want to bring anything home so make sure that you buy stuff from the auction tables and the first 500 people who enter the conference get a swag bag that was sponsored by EBSCO so, make sure that you arrive early. If you're a Tuesday person, to make sure that you get one of the the bags if you do not come on Monday.

Development: Alessandra Casiello: We will have several fundraisers, the the Sunday night fundraiser at conference, the Monday night fundraiser, and then throughout conference. What we do is our normal thing- we have CLA merchandise. We're going to do things a little bit differently this year. It's called the CLA donation station. If you make a donation using a QR code or cash, you will get a confirmation or a coupon that you can cash in to pick something off of the fundraising table based on the amount that your donation is. We also will have a bunch of auction items, a lot of high-tech items. We have drones, we have one of those like heat face massager things, we have a Pilates exercise machine. So, there's a lot of things in the auction. So, make sure you buy auction tickets. They're pretty cheap- It's \$10 and you get 25 tickets and we'll be doing that both days. This will be the final fundraiser of the year. So, make sure that you partake in any of those fun things as well. As for everything else with development, we've signed up for our fall fundraiser. Again, things are going to be a little bit weird in the fall, so we'll see how it works.

Intellectual Freedom: Sam Lee & Lindsay Delligan: A couple of updates out of Tennessee. So, library director Luann James, some of you might have already heard this story. A Library director was fired by our library board at a meeting for refusing to remove books. I'm going to put links in the chat. Ultimately, her library board president told her that she needed to remove books, but she said very clearly this isn't following a procedure or process and this would be violating our patrons First Amendment rights. She was then fired publicly at the next board meeting, and she has a GoFundMe so I'll leave that in the chat as well. But ultimately, I think she is going to end up suing and there will be more than enough lawyers coming to her defense. But there is a GoFundMe to support her and her family. We are getting reports of challenges specifically to meeting room use by outside groups. Now this is a good reminder for folks that libraries are limited public forums and that we cannot discriminate based on the content of what's

happening in that meeting, especially if it's by an outside group. So, you can place time, place manner restrictions on outside group usage. You can say what time they can use that, where they can use it, how often they can use it. Maybe you don't let them dress, field dress a deer in your meeting room space, but beyond that, we have to be very careful about restrictions and what we allow in our meeting room spaces, which means a lot. So, anything that is discrimination on the content of that meeting would be viewpoint discrimination and therefore unconstitutional. So good reminder for folks who have meeting room spaces that are open to the public, time, place, manner restrictions only. Otherwise, it's viewpoint discrimination and therefore unconstitutional. And also remind your boards of that as well, because boards don't always know the 1st Amendment implications of a library. A really fun thing out of Library Futures. I don't know if people were able to make it to PLA, but Library Futures put out an online video game and it's called Imagine IF. It is an intellectual freedom adventure and the developers, which include Sam Helmick, ALA president-elect, is to choose chaos and figure out whether or not that's the right choice in dealing with intellectual freedom issues.

Links:

<https://www.libraryjournal.com/story/rutherford-county-director-fired-for-refusing-to-relocate-lgbtqia-books>

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/fsg98-help-luanne-james-in-her-time-of-need>

<https://imagineif.libraryfutures.net/>

Legislative: Kate Byroade & Rebecca Harlow: We're excited about our conference programs, which includes taking back the narrative around advocacy work with particular attention to local advocacy training. We have a legislative law librarian from the Connecticut General Assembly doing a fast-paced, but really informative and very interesting guide to navigating the Connecticut General Assembly website, which is not only for advocacy purposes, but also for reference purposes. There's a lot of rich material available through that website and but it is not the most intuitive to navigate. So that will be a great program, and we'll have our e-book update on landscape and we are in the process of working on our legislative ask for next year already. So, the next session won't start until January. We're just finishing up this session at the beginning of May, and we are getting going on that work because we are going to make a budget ask. Rebecca- I just wanted to add about the Legislature of the year awards. So, the committee decided to give 5 Legislator of the Year awards to our Legislators that helped champion library legislation last year. So that's Matt Blumenthal, Bob Duff, Ceci Maher, Eleni Kavros DeGraw, and Tony Whang. We're going to be hosting A legislative Thank You event that's going to be hosted by Erin at the Redding Library. We'll be doing that sometime after the end of session in May.

Outreach: John Casiello: Just a couple of things- Number one, with the migration coming, I'll probably touch base with the committees after conference, but before the end of the fiscal year, just talk about some website stuff. I'll wait to talk to section chairs until after July when new ones come in, just to start talking about the current website and the future website because we'll probably migrate some stuff over. But if it's not good to begin with, we shouldn't spend a lot of time migrating over. So more conversations around that to come. The other thing, I will send this out as an e-mail to the board as well, but anyone who wants to volunteer at the membership table during conference, I've created a little table. Just put your name in if you're able to contribute, it can be a lot of fun. We have games and we have toys. It's a great chance to talk to members about your section or about CLA in general and garner interest. We have specific times during the exhibitor exclusive times that it would be great to have people there. The other times, obviously we have sessions going on and we want you to be able to attend sessions you want to.

So just take a look at the schedule and see if you're able to contribute to that. If not, I'll be there. But it's great to have other section and committee chairs there as well. So, like I said, I'll e-mail that out to everyone so you have time to think about it and look at this overall schedule and figure out your plans.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Dr7py7sPLLvTARb8cb7r7Ri985w9tYV85zdErVNvRnM/edit?usp=sharing>

PEG: Mary Etter: No report.

Procedures: Lisa Miceli: Absent.

Section Reports:

Children's: *Vacant*

CLASS: *Vacant*

College & University: Rob Walsh: Absent.

JEDI: Mary Richardson and Rosie Luther: I am the new co-chair for JEDI. We don't have much to report. We just had our first meeting of the quarter a couple weeks ago and we're excited for our session at CLA where we're going to talk a little bit about what directions we want to move forward and what workshops we'd like to offer and in what format for the rest of the year. We've got some ideas and we're going to get some feedback at conference.

Public Libraries: Jennifer Sullivan: Absent.

Reference & Adult Services: Christie Mitchell & Kelly-Ann Gardella: I just wanted to report that we have our Reference and Adult Services section meet and greet at the conference on Tuesday, April 28th at 1:50 PM and we're looking forward to that. We have a brief presentation and discussion topics for those who attend. We will have our next section meeting on Wednesday, May 20th at 2:00 PM. We're going to send out an invitation to that shortly.

Resource Sharing: Matt Earls: Absent.

Technical Services: Ann Victor & Christine Rinaldi: I believe our meet and greet Tech Services meeting at the conference is on Monday morning so hope everyone can attend.

Technology: Kate Sheehan & Jessica Wolford: No report.

YA: Danielle Murray & Jackie Bush: Just looking forward to Conference. We have about 5 sessions that we're presenting.

Adjournment: 10:44 AM. Motion made by Kate Byroade. Seconded by Sam Lee.

Present: Erin Dummeyer, Brenda McKinley, Margaret Khan, Shannon Angelone, Deborah Schander, Alessandra Casiello, Ann Victor, Christie Mitchell, Cindy Schofield, Colleen Bailie, Debbie Misiaszek, Denise Stankovics, Diana Preece, Drusilla Carter, Ellen Paul, Emily Rush, Heather Aronson, Jackie Bush, Jerry Seagrave, Jessica Wolford, John Casiello, Kate Byroade, Kate Sheehan, Kiera parrott, Kristina Lareau, Margaret Khan, Mary Etter, Mary Richardons, Mirja Johanson, Rebecca Harlow, Robert Scheier, Rosie Luther, Samantha Lee, Vivian Bordeaux.

Old Business

a. President's report- Erin Dummeyer

I have a very short President's report this month because I'm excited to see you all at the CLA conference at the end of this month at Mystic. I also just want to give a little shout out to the conference committee and everyone who submitted proposals to present programs because the conference committee is great. They've pulled together a lot of fun stuff, and I'm so grateful for everyone who volunteers their time to put together something like this for Connecticut librarians and our profession. I know that Lisa couldn't be here, but last month she presented the slate of officer nominations and that e-mail has also gone out to the membership. We should be all set to approve them at our annual meeting, which takes place during the conference. Since folks are running unopposed, it usually is sort of a like people just raise their hands to vote during that meeting. We don't usually have a ballot or anything like that.

b. Treasurer's report- Margaret Khan

The administrative office has been really busy with processing all the activity for conference, so I don't have the report numbers yet. But there has been nothing unusual that I've noticed. Like I said, we're really busy with conference- all the invoices are coming in right now. We'll have a better idea of our final outcome, of course, after the conference. I have also ordered the awards for the conference, and will be picking those up next week.

Region 4 Updates:

- On Saturday, May 2nd, the Mark Twain Library will be hosting their 29th Annual Frog Frolic Family Festival at the Redding Community Center. It's one of their largest fundraisers and will feature bounce houses, carnival games, arts and crafts, food trucks, and live music. It's from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- The Brookfield Library will be showing "The Librarians" documentary on Thursday April 30th at 6:30 pm. They are extendin an invitation to library staff members or for anyone who loves libraries. Here is the link to sign up: ["The Librarians": Documentary Watch Party and Discussion | The Brookfield Library](#)
- Darien Library recently announced the upcoming renovation of their Lower Level into a new Tween & Teen Library Center. More information can be found at www.darienlibrary.org/teens

CLA Region 5 News: April 2026

Hamden Public Library, Hamden

Hamden Public Library received funding from the Institute of Municipal and Regional Policy at UCONN to develop and implement a program to normalize library usage [their words] for people and their families who are impacted or included in the justice system. They are envisioning a true wraparound experience for individuals and family members, calling on our children's department, teen services, reference staff, digital navigators, social worker, and a legal navigator to help make this happen.

West Haven Library, West Haven

West Haven's Friends book sale is this Saturday – April 18th – from 10am-2pm. \$10 to fill a bag, and the final hour the cost drops down to \$5.

Respectfully submitted,
Emily Rush
Region 5 Representative
E.C. Scranton Memorial Library