

Connecticut Library Association Board Meeting
April 17, 2025
10:00 am Business Meeting via Zoom
Minutes

- I. **Call to Order:** Vice President Erin Dummeyer called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.
- II. **Approval of Minutes:** March meeting minutes approved by Mary Etter. Seconded by Olivia Blake. No abstentions.
- III. **Old Business-** See attached.
 - a. President's Report-absent. No report.
 - b. Treasurer's Report- See attached.
 - c. Marching at Middletown Pride Parade-Mary Richardson
- IV. **New Business**
 - a. June Board Meeting-Vote to reschedule from Thursday, June 19th to Wednesday, June 18th due to Juneteenth holiday. Approved by Kate Byroade; Seconded by Margaret Khan.

Representative Reports:

CT State Library: Deborah Schander: We remain in a holding pattern for our federal and state funding questions. Just to keep you up to date on the federal funding question, obviously our grants the state's program and we've also received notifications that our two discretionary grants, which are the Regional Navigator program and the future school. I know that Stamford Library has received a similar termination as have many other libraries, and that has been reported to the Attorney General's office and elsewhere for further conversation about that. We are waiting to find out the outcome of a hearing tomorrow. The hearing has been scheduled on the lawsuit that was filed regarding IMLS, and that is scheduled for 10am tomorrow morning about a preliminary injunction. We'll know more once we see what is happening with that. At this point, that is the latest information, and we continue to communicate regarding the impact to others what the state library is able to do on behalf of other libraries using this funding. We will continue to move forward on sharing this out as much as possible.

NELA: Scott Brill: NELLE II is May 12th – 15th at the Vonn Trapp Family Lodge. Four people from Connecticut are going to be up there. I haven't heard back if more than 4 are able to go. One of them was asking about PEG grants so, Mary, I might be in touch with you later. Mary Etter-the forms are on the website, and it is an eligible project.

ALA: Kate Byroade: Maria McCauley who is the director of the Cambridge Public Library in Cambridge, MA was elected ALA president. I think she will be a strong and effective leader for ALA, especially in this difficult time. As Deborah had mentioned, ALA is suing the Trump administration as our 21 state attorneys general for the dismantling of IMLS. The ALA website is plastered in advocacy stuff. There's social media stuff and there are hashtags and other kinds of information to use on your social media.

ALA EDI Assembly: Kristina Lareau: No report.

ACLB: Denise Stankovics: We will be having another newsletter coming out around the end of May and I'm the editor of the newsletter as well as the Rep, and we will have an article in there about that excellent program. "We need to talk about it." I think it's really important with all

that's going on in the library world, that boards are as informed as possible about what librarians face that we didn't face before the current administration. So that would be one of our articles. Also, I would put out a plea to all of you if there are issues that you feel that boards should be aware of- my e-mail address is on the organizational chart and I'm always looking for things that I can share with the executive committee and possibly also include in the newsletter. So that's about it for us. We will be looking ahead to do more webinars in the future. We find that this format works really well to do them online as opposed to the olden days when we were able to have a conference. So again, this is what we're planning. We want to keep boards informed as to the issues faced by libraries and we're always open to any subjects that we can include in our newsletter to spread the word.

ACLPD: *Vacant.*

America 250: Margaret Khan: The 250 Connecticut Commission did have a full Commission meeting yesterday. The leaders there went over some updates on national programs, updates on federal funding, which is kind of a wait and see game like a lot of other institutions are right now. They went over a plan for if there is no budget for conducting the America 250 in Connecticut. But as of right now, funding is in place, although, you know, wait, and see because the Connecticut Humanities is facing big cuts too. The Two Lights for Tomorrow to commemorate the midnight ride of Paul Revere is this weekend. And I will have more for our June meeting with about having the Connecticut Library Association become an affiliate program, essentially a partner of America 250, which I would like to see us do, but I'm imagining we'll need a motion for that and our meeting was just yesterday, so I wasn't able to get that all together in time.

BCALA: Astoria Ridley: Vivian Bordeaux filling in: No report.

Bibliomation: Alessandra Casiello: Bibliomation has our spring regional meetings with our members next week. We are preparing for the CLA conference as well as our ILS conference. Evergreen is 2 weeks after that, so preparing for that. Our team has been busy getting some new contacts for our members as well as the ILS system is going to be doing a big upgrade next year. So, they're preparing for that. So, it's been quite a busy time for us.

Commission on Ed Tech: Colleen Bailie: No report.

Communications Task Force: John Casiello: I know I've said for many months that my goal was to get it done before conference. Actually, because Jedi has created their own Discord, I'm sort of using that as a sort of Guinea pig test sample to see how it goes. I'm very impressed with what they're doing in there, and it's sort of making me change with some of the limitations that we would set on ours and see how it could be used. So, I'm going to put a pause on it just for another maybe month or so just to see how the Jedi one continues to operate and then proceed from there.

CASL: Gina Wiese: No report.

CLC: Ellen Paul: Absent.

FOCL: Debbie Misiaszek: No report.

LION: Joe Farara: I'd like to highlight two things. First is LION is welcoming 4 new library directors, and the second issue is we are in the mid-stage of configuring the Capira mobile app for LION Libraries.

Library Connection: Laura Horn: Absent.

Region 1: Heather Aronson: Absent.

Region 2: Lisa Miceli: Absent.

Region 3: Chonte Fields: Absent.

Region 4: Brenda McKinley: See attached.

Region 5: Emily Rush: See attached.

Region 6: Madhu Gupta: Absent.

SCSU: Cindy Schofield: The Student Research forum where students present their Capstone projects that many of you have been involved in, you've been answering surveys and doing different things that students have asked you to do, so that they'll be presenting their research on May 8th from 1:00 to 3:00 at Bewley Library. There will also be an online link and some of the students present online, some of them are here in person. So, if you've been involved in any of that research and you want to see what they did with the answers to your questions, that's on May 8th and we'll post the link on our Facebook page and also on our listserv if you're on that. Intern placements for Summer and Spring are still being worked out. Some are permanent, some are not. If anyone's interested in mentoring a grad intern, we'd love to hear from you, and you can contact me. We have a table at CLA, and a few students will be presenting their research like, you know, in a bigger way than they're going to do at the small conference on May 8th. We'll also have a table. We're going to have certificates there for libraries who have hosted interns, just certificates of appreciation. So, if you're one of those libraries, stop by and pick that up, say hello. And then the other big thing is that our self-study for our 10, we've actually went through the whole RE accreditation process 10 years ago, which is amazing. So, every 10 years there's a new review. So, the self-study for that review is getting underway this summer. We are scheduled for the ALA review in early 2026. So, we've been collecting some things, but we have to, you know, really get the report going soon.

Sustainability Taskforce: The big thing right now is we have a bylaws vote at the annual meeting that was announced a couple weeks ago. So, if you will be attending the annual meeting, please review what was sent to you. This is a bylaws vote on the wording change so that we can include the joint CLA/CASL membership. That is going to be the same reflection of what we do with the new NELA/CLA Joint as well as there is going to then be a vote on the new membership pricing here. If you're going to be an annual meeting, please review those and vote for bylaws. The other thing I wanted to remind everybody is our May meeting for the board is actually the annual meeting. What we did about two years ago was change the May meeting for the board into our training meeting. So whatever date that is for May, if you are new to the board or need a refresher, please attend that meeting. If you have not attended a training before, we do have to attend the training and it is not a regular meeting. So that's just a reminder about our training. Other than that, the sustainability is still just what it is. We'll review the plan in the new fiscal year to see how we're doing with that, and our fiscal plan will be reviewed again next.

Association Committee Reports:

ADA: Marilynn Lewicki: No report.

Archivist: Gerald Seagrave: No report.

Awards: Region Reps: John Casiello: We received a lot of great nominations, and I appreciate all the work of the region reps to go through them and make our selections. If you didn't see the program that was already posted for the conference, I will put a link in the chat that will showcase the winners. We will have the award ceremony on the Tuesday morning of conference. Thank you, Erin, for emceeding that. We look forward to celebrating everybody and recognizing all the work that's being done.

Career Development: Amanda Stern & Diana Preece: The biggest thing is for everyone to mark their calendars for Friday, August 15th. That is going to be our Leadership Institute. It's

going to be at Central CCSU. We've got some really great speakers already lined up. We're working on the rest of the lineup, but it's going to be an event really worth attending this year. So, mark your calendar, share with your staff, let them know because again, the Leadership Institute is for not just library administrators, but anyone in library land looking to build their leadership skills. We've also just matched our new cohort of present of mentees, and I think this time we had 7 or 8 pairs. It was a smaller grouping than we've had, but everyone is off to the races and so far, so good. And then we are also working on getting a new proposal from a new provider to update our salary, the salary scale, or benchmarks. So those are those are on the works.

Conference 2025: Conference, obviously is, is happening. It's about a week and a half away. Registration did close on Friday. We will not be accepting walk-ins because we're near capacity for both days. Over the two days, we will have 706 attendees as well as over 75 vendor reps. So, for the two days we will have 858 people at the conference to see, which is great. We based off my numbers and making sure that everyone makes their payments. We will end up making about around a \$10,000 profit without the fundraising effort, which is really great. We had budgeted for I think \$7,500 originally, so that's great. The committee is hard at work. My house has become a holding facility for all the things that go to conference already, so I'll be happy to get that stuff out for a little bit. We still have a ticket for the afterhours that you can purchase through tomorrow online through our special events link, which I'll put in the chat. That is for the Closet Runway fundraiser and it's \$25 for the ticket. It comes with a drink ticket. You'll get some small appetizers as well as an upgrade ticket for the actual competition which Christina is going to be hosting. If you have any past supplies that you would like to donate, please reach out to myself or Kristina. Let us know. Anything not used during that event will be put into our Fast Flop directly after that, which is a free event. And the other thing, the preconference did not have a robust registration, so it was cancelled. And legislative committee will plan something for the future. So, the only event that we have now on Sunday is our normal president's perception. Anybody is invited to it. It is a free event, and it begins at 6:00 PM on Sunday, the 27th. Those are really the big things for our exhibit hall- we have, I believe, without the conference tables, we have 66 vendors, so you know a lot of vendors to visit with. We have some new vendors, and some old friends that you know come every year. There will be a lot of games in the vendor hall as well, and we'll have our penny auction and merch tables there, which I'll talk about in a second. But other than that, that's all conference updates. We have really great speakers and seconds that people are excited about, and the team has worked really hard this year with things that have come up and we hope that everybody enjoys it.

Development: Alessandra Casiello: As Margaret already said, we took in more this year than we had planned. That was mostly due to the bonfire store that we opened with the Jedi shirt. While those Jedi shirts will no longer be available, we do have some that you'll be able to purchase in person at the conference. This will be the last time and then the Jedi committee is working on a new design so that we can have that up. But our bonfire shop is up 24/7. There are four or five designs right now on it that people can purchase at any time in any color or style that we offer and any size they go up to size XL for some of them, which is really great because we never have that on hand at the conference. We will have some on hand at the conference, but if you want any of those shirts in other colors or sizes, you can certainly go to the Bonfire store and we will have the penny social auction, a lot of baskets. We have a lot of things that people can put tickets in for. Same thing that we have done in the last few years. You get a sheet of tickets, 20 tickets for \$10. You're not allowed to call the raffle. That's why it's called the Penny Social

Auction. You put your tickets in hoping to win the prize that you want. And there will be different prizes each day for the fundraising table. Along with some of the shirts, we have glasses, we have bags, soap bags, we have little, little animals like sentimental little animals, black animals that people can come and purchase. So, there's lots of stuff there as well. And that will be the final fundraisers of the year along with the afterhours that I spoke about already.

Intellectual Freedom: Sam Lee & Lindsay Delligan: Sam Lee: So, Suffield- things happened there. They the full library Commission had their meeting on Tuesday, April 8th. Good things, bad things. So, the Monday before the April 8th meeting, Board of Finance was going to cut the Board of Ed budget and eliminate a middle school librarian. Board of Ed members spoke as parents of the Board of Finance meeting to ask them to cut some more, and the Board of Finance did. That was a problem for Tuesday, April 8th because the Library Commission meeting and the Board of Ed meeting were meeting on the same night. So, there were a lot of conflicting agendas going on there. However, during public, the first public comment period of the night lasted about two hours with about 30 people speaking against the proposed policy for people speaking for and 90% of the people speaking against the policy were from Suffield. So that was good. So the Library Commission was very explicit and said that they were not voting on whether or not they would be passing that that policy, but there were a lot of questions raised as to how that policy was written and whether or not it was done through illegal meetings outside of open meeting laws. So, lots of stuff is developing in that regard. ALA has released some of the swag for this year's Banned Books Week. Its campaign is "Censorship is so 1984". They have some great swag there. I'm starting to love some of that stuff there. So, feel free to look at that today. This afternoon, me and/or Lindsay unsure whether or not Lindsay will be able to join us, We will be speaking at the association and libraries round table to talk about FOIA and 1st Amendment frauditors. And I say frauditors because they're not actually auditors. They're committing fraud. Next Tuesday, Stamford on the 22nd. I'll be speaking. I'll be joining a panel for a program for their friends. We will be watching a short documentary, the 30 minute one about kids talking about banned books. I've already forgotten about the title 1,000,000 Apologies, but I'll be in Stamford doing that. We are looking forward to being at CLA and CEN with Kate Sheehan, Wonderful, wonderful person that she is. She invited Lindsay and I to talk about intellectual freedom and then intersection of technology, and how that goes. I think that's it.

Legislative: Kate Byroade & Olivia Blake: So, there's not a ton to report right now. I'm going to drop some links in the chat, but here is a link to the session schedule. So far none of our bills have hit any of their respective floors, but I will drop links in the chat to the eBooks bills. They do have calendar numbers, so we're really just waiting for those to come up. Same with freedom to read bills. I think as of last meeting, well, I'm not sure where you stood last time, but the House bill for the freedom to read, there's substitute language that is what has made it to the House calendar. But in terms of the freedom to read bills, we are seeing that this legislation is really a high priority for our legislators, particularly for Democrat legislators. They hosted a lot of social media posts on School Library and Appreciation Day, which is really cool to see. So, they're broadcasting that this is a priority for them, not so much on the e-books, but since this is like year 4, I think, yes, Year 4 that we're introducing the e-books legislation, we're hoping that that is also going to go well. The opposition to that has been a lot less vocal this year. So, I think we're pretty optimistic about both of these areas of legislation. It's really just a matter of when and which bill makes it to the finish line. So right now, you really just need folks to be talking to their own local legislators, educating them about these bills, asking them to support them when they when they hit the floor and just really talking it up. I think that's it for the bills. Alessandra

mentioned that the advocacy preconference, that program is going to be postponed, but we will have a table in the exhibits hall to talk advocacy and just be a resource for folks who are curious about what's happening with library legislation and who would like resources on how to advocate themselves. We are going to have 1/2 day in person meeting to regroup in September. We're already thinking ahead. Our next regular meeting will be Tuesday, May 13th. Drop the link to the Zoom in the chat for that. Always happy to see new faces and old, so please join us. Kate, do you want to fill in any details? There's a statement that Scott has written regarding IMLS and the executive order that's ready to go. We've been waiting on some other language that other people are working on, but we will be launching a social media campaign, and we'll have a link to that on the website. That should be coming together very quickly. And I'll just say that Sam Lee and Ellen Paul and I spoke at Hamden Public Library last week at their staff development day, answered a lot of questions about legislation and advocacy and book challenges and all that. And you know, we were happy to do it. And I think any one of us, as our schedules permit are happy to come. I also was part of a public program down in Brookfield talking about advocacy with patrons. And again, that's something I'm happy personally to do. We have other members of the committee who would also probably be willing to do that. So, if you are looking for some staff development or for some kind of public program, don't forget that there's a whole team of people who are, you know, pretty equipped to just go and do it. I think that's the just the color I have, and we always welcome more people to get involved.

Outreach: John Casiello: Most things have been covered already, but the only thing I will add related to conference is anyone who wants to volunteer at the membership outreach table at conference, I would greatly appreciate it. It's a great way to meet members, talk to them about your section and how they can get involved and also give them free stuff. We will have our Plinko board again giving out fun goodies. So, it's generally a good time and it's a good way to just take a break from walking around. I've broken it down into sections based on when other sessions are happening. So obviously check the program and make sure you're not going to miss something that you wanted to attend. But any volunteering would be appreciated. Otherwise, it will be covered by me and others. So, thank you very much in advance and looking forward to seeing you all there.

PEG: Mary Etter: No report.

Procedures: Lisa Miceli: Absent.

Section Reports:

Children's: Chonte Fields: Absent.

CLASS: Vacant

College & University: Rob Walsh: Absent.

JEDI: Mary Richardson: We don't really have a report like I'll be working on the pride stuff. We are going to have like a drop-in meeting at the conference and that's it for us.

Public Libraries: Jennifer Sullivan: No real report except we are hosting 2 sessions at conference on Tuesday. One is a small libraries meet up, so we're hoping to get some people that haven't come before. It's being co-hosted by Lynn Zaffino at Easton and the afternoon program is going to be me talking about passports for 2026 and beyond because getting a lot of feedback afterwards and it would be helpful to kind of use that to plan accordingly to make it much more efficient for everybody. So, I hope to see as many people as possible for both of those sessions. So, see in a couple weeks.

Reference & Adult Services: Christie Mitchell: Absent.

Resource Sharing: Matt Earls: Absent.

Technical Services: Ann Victor & Christine Rinaldi: No report.

Technology: Kate Sheehan & Christopher Knorr: I realize it butts up a little bit against conference, but we have something resembling a meeting. Kathy Pickle from Richfield and Audra McLaren from Gunn are doing a virtual presentation of their VR program. It sounds incredibly cool. I'm super excited to learn more about it. Kathy told me about it and she and I managed to connect. They're doing a VR for career planning and it's in collaboration with the University of Nevada. So, they're going to do a Zoom about that, explaining that. So, yeah conference. But we obviously go to CEN right after that. So, Sam is delightfully coming to talk about intellectual freedom and Scott is having a pre-conference at CEN on FOIA with a lawyer. We did a session on this last year and at the end of it, everybody was everybody was like, but we have like 7 more questions. So, we decided to kind of redo it as a pre-conference this year, which we jokingly called 3 hours with a lawyer. But Scott talks about his experience with it and as a boots on the ground thing. Then the lawyer just deals with the onslaught of anxiety, which is exactly what happens because it's libraries, schools, and municipalities. So, it's all FOIA all the time. That's what we've got going on.

YA: Stephanie Smith: Absent.

Adjournment: 10:47 AM Motion to adjourn by Kate Byroade and Scott Brill.

Present: Erin Dummeyer, Margaret Khan, Shannon Angelone, Deborah Schander, Alessandra Casiello, Allison Murphy, Amanda Stern, Ann Victor, Brena McKinley, Christine Rinaldi, Cindy Schofield, Colleen Bailie, Debbie Misiaszek, Denise Stankovics, Diana Preece, Emily Rush, Gina Wiese, Jennifer Sullivan, Jerry Seagrave, Joe Farara, John Casiello, Kate Byroade, Kate Sheehan, Kristina Lareau, Marilynn Lewicki, Mary Etter, Mary Richardson, Olivia Blake, Robert Scheier, Samantha Lee, Scott Brill, Vivian Bordeaux.

Old Business

a. **President's report- Absent. No Report.**

b. **Treasurer's Report-** Margaret Khan.

We're all about the conference right now. We have received over \$150,000 in revenue since the end of March, so we are in really good shape with that. We are getting our payments ready to go out and are gearing up for that. We have received \$11,600 in general donations this year, which exceeded our budgeted goal of \$8,500 so a really great job with that. We have also received \$32,500 dollars in membership dues- we budgeted \$34,000 with that so with 3 months to go, we are in great shape with all our big revenue lines. Budget proposals for the 2026 fiscal year are going to be due on May 15th. Every section and committee chair needs to submit a budget proposal even if you aren't anticipating spending or making any money. If it's zero, I do need you to submit that form to me. Just keep in mind that we do have a goal to increase the money that we have in the bank so we can get to a point of investing, so everyone should be looking to break even on their budget and ideally making a couple of bucks for the association. I will send a link in the chat to that form due on the 15th. If you need to look into what you have spent this year, you can look at the attached agenda materials- the fiscal year profit and loss, it breaks down every section and committee so you can refer to that. If you have questions, don't hesitate to reach out and ask.

c. **Marching at the Middletown Pride Parade-** I signed us up for it so if anyone wants to volunteer to help us coordinate it. We have a large poste printer so we can do a large-scale banner and print our own. Whoever volunteers with that, we can figure out what we want on it. It's the first Saturday in June. I will create a google form if you want to march with us at Pride so we can coordinate parking. Feel free to reach out to me. I'll put my email in the chat.

**April 17, 2025 – CLA Board Meeting
Region 4 Libraries Report**

FERGUSON LIBRARY, STAMFORD:

Library President Alice Knapp shares:

Brenda,

We are about to go into a legislative committee meeting so hopefully my concern will be addressed there. But I think CLA is taking too long to respond to the Executive Order on IMLS, the administrative leave of the IMLS staff, and now the cancellation of the Federal Grant to the State.

CLA Region 5 News: April 2025

James Blackstone Memorial Library, Branford

- We have hired Ryan Keeler to fill an open full-time reference librarian position. He comes to librarianship mid-career, with a background as a musician. Most recently he was working part-time at the Hamden Library. He is interested in supporting the community through programming around civic education and is fitting right in with our team. We're so thrilled to have Ryan join us!
- We're looking ahead to April 26 & 27, when we have our mini golf weekend. This is our biggest fundraiser, and we have a title sponsor for the first time, covering the costs of the course and food! We're hoping to bring in over \$15,000 for the weekend event. And we're taking the opportunity with the course being setup on Friday night to have staff and their families come out and play, with pizza and drinks supplied by the Friends.
- The Friends of the Blackstone have a spring book sale in their warehouse on Saturday May 3, 9am – 2 pm. They'll be selling fiction, DVDs and boating books.

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