

Connecticut Library Association Board Meeting
June 18, 2025
10:00 am Business Meeting via Zoom
Minutes

- I. **Call to Order:** President Scott Jarzombek called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM.
- II. **Approval of Minutes:** Unable to approve due to lack of quorum.

- III. **Old Business-** See attached.
 - a. President's Report – See attached.
 - b. Treasurer's Report- See attached.

- IV. **New Business**
 - a. FY26 Budget -Margaret Khan-**Unable to vote, No quorum.**
 - b. Motion to make \$500 donation to Nutmeg Committee-Margaret Khan**Unable to vote, No quorum.**
 - c. Motion to have CLA become an America 250 CT Affiliate-Margaret Khan.**Unable to vote, No quorum.**
 - d. New Fiscal Year Board- Alessandra- See attached.
 - e. Region 4 Rep. nomination- Scott Jarzombek- **Unable to vote, No quorum.**

Representative Reports:

CT State Library: Deborah Schander: I have two updates for you today. One is just the latest on what is happening at the federal level and the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The preliminary injunction that was issued in that case is continuing to move forward in the sense that IMLS staff have been returning to the office, grants are being reinstated, and processing has been moving forward. We have also received our official award notice for federal fiscal year 25. So, that's the fiscal year beginning in October. We are happy that we have current funding, but we are mindful of the fact that a preliminary injunction is what is keeping some of these activities at bay at moment- as well as the fact that the President's proposed budget for FY26, which in the federal sense starts October of 2026, does still continue to call for the full elimination of IMLS. So, we'll be continuing to work through that situation both locally and nationally with other state libraries. Also, as you may be aware, the Freedom to Read bill passed and part of that is requiring principal public libraries to update their policies related to collection development, review materials, things like that. So, information has already gone out to library directors about what will be necessary in terms of what is being reviewed, deadlines for that, and you'll be continuing to see more. There is a Lib guide that's being worked on, working with local library directors to kind of make sure that there's information on the communications going out that we're working directly with those who are being impacted at local level. There will be sample policies and things that libraries will be able to essentially copy and paste as needed. So, we'll continue to work on that as well. And that is my update for today.

NELA: Scott Brill: Absent: It has been a pleasure being the Connecticut Representative to NELA these past two years which has encompassed being the CT Mentor at the 2023 NELLs II, promoting NELLs to CT librarians resulting in the maximum number of CT librarians attending both NELLs I and NELLs II, helping to create better communication between CLA and NELA, advocating the needs and interests of Connecticut Librarians at NELA Board meetings, and attending NELA Conferences.

I will be talking with Sarah McCusker this week to discuss the role of NELA Representative and transfer the NELA email password

ALA: Kate Byroade: No Report.

ALA EDI Assembly: Kristina Lareau: Absent.

ACLB: Denise Stankovics: The ACLB newsletter is in progress now, so people should be getting that in the next couple of weeks. The lead article is about the IMLS situation with the usual cautions, like as of the moment, this is where we stand. And there's also another article with the high points from the We Need to Talk webinar. I do the newsletter and I'm trying to be kind of a liaison and making sure that board members get the information they need about what's going on in the library world because I think a lot of them may not be aware. Deborah's column has some good suggestions as to how board members can kind of help advocate for libraries, so hopefully you'll be seeing that shortly.

ACLPD: *Vacant.*

America 250: Margaret Khan: I am working with some folks from the 250 and I'm going to probably be looping in the Public Library section soon because I'd like us to have a big information session for any public librarian interested. Just to make sure we're all on the same page for America 250, I'd like to see every library recognize the event in some way. So, we have some time. I'm hoping to slate something for the fall and also, it's a little ahead of schedule talking with America 250 folks about getting something either a vendor table or a session at conference next year.

BCALA: Astoria Ridley: The BCALA CT affiliate will celebrate Juneteenth with the program via Zoom today at 7:00 PM and all are welcome. There was a link sent out through the listserv.

Bibliomation: Alessandra Casiello: Just like libraries, we are ending our fiscal year right now. We are actually doing internal interviews at the moment for Director of Information Technology position and looking forward to having someone join our team or be promoted in our team. Our annual meeting is next week and it's actually going to be at Drusilla's library, Douglas Library of Hebron. So, we're excited to be there. But other than that, everything seems to be going well.

Commission on Ed Tech: Colleen Bailie: We had our last Commission meeting was at the beginning of June. There was a lot of discussion about unfortunately the grants that have been stopped for the IT education department. So, we're going to be looking at there's also a lot of discussion in regards to AI in both libraries and in education and also seeing what can the Commission do to help support libraries as well and what we do for technology for our patrons across the state. So, a lot of discussions and hopefully we'll kind of have some more things. But if anybody has any ideas of how they can see the Commission helping out libraries, please just give me a give me a shout.

Communications Task Force: John Casiello: Absent.

CASL: Gina Wiese: Absent.

CLC: Ellen Paul: Absent.

FOCL: Debbie Misiaszek: Absent.

LION: Joe Farara: Other than libraries going live with Capira Mobile in mid-May, there is nothing notable to report from LION.

Library Connection: Laura Horn:

Region 1: Heather Aronson: So, the major themes that everyone in region 1 was bringing back were questions about the new freedom to read bill, just specific policy questions like do they have to have four separate policies? So, I'm assuming that the specifics will be broken down, especially if there's a Lib guide coming out. And then the other big thing is just everyone is

either gearing up or already immersed in summer reading.

Region 2: Lisa Miceli: Absent.

Region 3: Chonte Fields: Absent.

Region 4: Brenda McKinley: Absent.

Region 5: Emily Rush: Absent- Alessandra: Hageman Memorial Library will continue to be closed due to their flooding for April. They were hoping that it was going to be a short closure, but they have to fix some vital infrastructure, hardware and equipment, unfortunately. So, they will be closed. What they're estimating right now through summer, we'll be sending something out to contact and we're going to be working with the state library and deliver it to figure out what to do with their materials and to get back materials from other libraries. They will be doing a pop up library at their Senior Center two days a week and this week will be their first week back in their building to check in all of the materials that were still there or had gotten delivered before they were officially closed. And we'll hopefully you know, get an update out to contact soon.

Region 6: Madhu Gupta: Absent.

SCSU: Cindy Schofield: Absent.

Sustainability Taskforce: So what I said before our rates go into the new rates go into effect. They were voted on when the bylaws passed. So that includes both the new membership rates as well as the new membership tiers, which are the enhanced institutional, which allows for what would be individual memberships, but paid for as a group to get a group discount. Those will go into effect as well as the New CASL/CLA combined membership. It's similar to the way that we do the NELA/CLA membership and then all of our prior member rates were approved for the new rates. Those will go into effect July 1st. The financial Policy is reviewed every year that will happen in August to make sure any changes will have to be put down and voted on. If no changes are there, then it just comes to the board and we just let you know that there's no changes to the to the Financial Policy. Haven't had much movement with software training. It's still me. Hopefully we can transition that this year to the group that it's meant to be. And our strategic plan is something that, Erin, as you go into your presidency, you'll probably want to set times to bring up at the board meetings, but that's in place. So there's some things in there that we have worked really hard on, which is the legislative stuff.

Association Committee Reports:

ADA: Marilynn Lewicki: I don't have anything to report but I have a question. I know we're supposed to have monthly meetings but has anyone else come across the fact that like it's summer, I guess everyone's doing summer reading or program so attendance might be they're very low or like basically 0? Is it OK to do like a bi monthly meeting over the summer because of what we what we say when we do the training is you should at least have a quarterly meeting. Alessandra: You should have monthly communication and that can just be like an e-mail thread. We have a couple groups that just do an e-mail thread, but you should have some type of in person, in person or Zoom physical meeting quarterly, quarterly.

Archivist: Gerald Seagrave: I just want to ask if you have an annual report, please send me a copy for the archives.

Awards: Region Reps: John Casiello: Absent.

Career Development: Amanda Stern & Diana Preece: I don't have major updates. The compensation benchmark study should be well on its way. Thank you to Laura Horn for heading that up. And the Leadership Institute continues planning and firming of the details. But the date

is August 15th and tickets are available online if someone wants to get ahead of that. So that planning is getting firmed up and moving along.

Conference 2025: So it's a little bit longer than the usual conference went really well. We had a pretty successful conference this year. Once all the monies are totaled, we had a income of \$170,994.00 and an expense, whoops, I just closed out my page, an expense of \$152,243.39. So our profit is actually going to be about \$18,750. We have projected \$8000 so that's a good bump there. We also had a really good attendance and like I said, I just closed out my page, but it was about 375 on Tuesday and just about 400 on Monday. So, we had a really good attendance. We got feedback from only about 26 people. It was pretty positive feedback. We did have some negative feedback about having a virtual keynote. Obviously, that was something we really couldn't help. That was something that happened due to travel restrictions. But other than that, we had pretty positive feedback, and we do have people transitioning off, so I do want to thank them even though they're not here. Sam Lee is transitioning off of the conference committee. She's been exhibits chair for three years, so I thank her. And Allison Murphy is transitioning off as a program co-chair. She's been program Co chair for two years. So, thank you to Allison. Olivia will be staying on and Shannon is actually joining us for exhibits and Christina is staying on as a program co-chair. We have Vicki Otis who will be joining us here in the board meetings next month. She is from Norwalk Public Library who will be her co-chair for programs. I'll be staying on and John is obviously staying on as well. And I think that is our big updates. But if anybody has specific questions, please let me know. And thank you all for the work that you did to make the conference great. All of the sections and committees, we got really great feedback about the sessions this year. So that's all you guys and I appreciate all the work that you put in.

Development: Alessandra Casiello: At conference we held our last official fundraisers of the year. We did our silent auction. It's a penny auction, our after hours, which was really fun and there were some really funny pictures. Not a ton of people, but it was, it was great to see and we made about \$2,500 there, which was wonderful. We also right now have our bonfire shop for all of our T-shirt designs that we have. That is just an ongoing and every day I get somebody else who has bought a shirt, which is great. That's a little bit of income. We don't have to do work on that outside of me requesting them to send the checks once, once we have a good amount in there. We do have some stock of shirts that we made still. We'll keep using those at in person fundraisers until they're depleted. I am now working on getting sponsorships for the Career Development Leadership Institute. If you know of anybody who might want to sponsor that event, please let me know. We have our annual Meadow Farms online fundraiser starting mid-September to the beginning of November. You can get some Christmas gifts- they do wrapping paper, chocolates, nuts, all sorts of stuff like that. So that's already set. We will be looking at doing something for Freedom to Read banned bands. Not sure what we're going to do this year, but hopefully we can do something for that.

Intellectual Freedom: Sam Lee & Lindsay Delligan: Absent.

Legislative: Kate Byroade & Olivia Blake: As has already been noted a few times, we're very happy that both two out of three of the items that were on CLA's legislative agenda this past year did get through. They passed in both chambers and the e-book bill was already signed by Governor Lamont. E-book bill while it is officially a public act, it's like officially on the books now, but it won't go into effect until and unless another state or combined states with a population of 7 million has substantially similar legislation. So it's not, active yet, but we're excited about that. And I'm going to put a couple links in the chat for you. This is this is the page for that ebook bill. And in terms of other states right now we're kind of watching New Jersey that

just introduced somewhat similar legislation. So, we're keeping an eye on that and hopefully, hopefully other states will get on board seeing that Connecticut has had success here. We're excited about that. And in terms of the freedom to read bill, technically the free standing bill itself, SB1271, that kind of died, but it did get folded into the budget implementer bill. So I just drop a couple links in the chat for you there. That first link will take you to page 482 of the very, very long budget implementer bill. And the second link will take you to the SB1271 so that you can kind of see that isolated if you're curious, but that got folded in and very happy about that as well. I don't know that the governor has signed off yet on that bill. I think we're still waiting on that. But it's anticipated that he will. I don't think we're anticipating any major issues with that. So that's very exciting. We were going to have an advocacy program over the summer. Unfortunately, due to low registration, that has been postponed to the early fall. So, if any of you had signed up for that, we're sorry for the inconvenience, but you're still on the list. And we'll, we'll send out more communication when we have it and when that's scheduled. We have some summer work going on in the background. We have some smaller working groups. One is working on committee governance. So just trying to bring a little bit more in the way of clarity and structure to just how the legislative committee works, especially because we have gotten a lot more, a lot more members and a lot more engagement over the last year. So we're, our, our capacity is growing and we are we're working on some architecture to support that. We're also we're talking about our legislative agenda for the coming year. And to that end, we're skipping our summertime meetings in favor of those smaller working groups, but we do have 1/2 day scheduled in September. Our regular meeting day in September would be Tuesday, September 9th. Instead of having a virtual meeting, we're going to be meeting in person at the Russell Library at 10 AM. I'll get that up on the CLA website so that y'all can see it and anyone is any CLA members are welcome to join us. I anticipate a very robust session talking about how we're going to tackle the coming legislative session. And then the last thing is that I will be stepping down as Co-chair. I think someone has expressed interest in stepping into the role to work with Kate and I think that's everything Kate.

Kate: We've had tremendous success and you know everyone who participated and you know testified, sent a letter, sent an e-mail, you know our message did get through and you know these you know, these legislative achievements have helped us build great relationship at the Capitol and that should help us move things forward over time. And I just want to personally thank Olivia for her for three years of being my co-chair and tremendous leadership and contributions she has made my life a lot easier. As you can see, I had completely forgotten that we had CLA this morning. It's never migrated to Wednesday on my calendar. So I apologize for that. And that is because of me and not because of my illustrious Co chair for whom I am very grateful. So thank you, Olivia, for all your work the last several years.

Olivia: It's it's been an honor and a pleasure to work with you as well and, and to see the legislative committee grow like this and, and get some wins under our belt.

Links:

https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&which_year=2025&bill_num=1234

NJ: <https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/bill-search/2024/S4520>

Freedom to Read – <https://www.cga.ct.gov/2025/TOB/H/PDF/2025HB-07287-R00-HB.PDF#page=482>

https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/CGABillStatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&bill_num=SB127

Outreach: John Casiello: Alessandra: We already talked about the membership. If you aren't getting emails about renewals, please let John know. I know some people said they weren't, so we're checking into it. It should be automatic, but if people have changed their e-mail settings, we can check on that and get you so that you'll be able to get those emails again. He is looking for a Co chair. So if you are interested in being part of outreach, working with the website and with membership, please reach out to him.

PEG: Mary Etter: We are waiting for the report from our PEG recipient who attended the conference and had a wonderful time. We've had several conversations since then and I'll see if she's at a point where she's ready to step into any of the active groups that are looking for new members. And I'll be looking forward to working with the new state, the new regional reps who will be part of this committee.

Procedures: Lisa Miceli: Absent.

Section Reports:

Children's: Chonte Fields: Absent.

CLASS: Vacant

College & University: Rob Walsh: Absent.

JEDI: Mary Richardson: Absent.

Public Libraries: Jennifer Sullivan: Absent.

Reference & Adult Services: Christie Mitchell: Absent.

Resource Sharing: Matt Earls: Absent.

Technical Services: Ann Victor & Christine Rinaldi: We did schedule our summer meeting. We realized after the fact that it's the same day as leadership day at Central. So hopefully if it does cause an issue, we can consider moving ours. But do send your tech services folks to our meeting. It's open to everybody and we always have a good time. So that's on August 15th.

Technology: Kate Sheehan & Christopher Knorr: Nothing stunning to report right now. Couple of things percolating in the back of my mind more than anything else. I've been trying to get in touch with my Co chair and haven't heard back. I don't know if anybody knows Chris Knorr. I don't know if he wants to keep doing this or not. (Alessandra) I'll let you know. He hasn't responded to any of my emails to him. (Kate): I have somebody who's interested and we've worked together before and I could use the help because I'm drowning so, but we have some stuff ideas in the background. Nothing is actually ready for action yet, but we'll see.

YA: Stephanie Smith: Absent.

Adjournment: 10:44 AM No motion made due to no quorum.

Present: Scott Jarzombek, Erin Dummeyer, Sarah McCusker, Margaret Khan, Shannon Angelone, Deborah Schander, Alessandra Casiello, Ann Victor, Astoria Ridley, Colleen Bailie, Denise Stankovics, Diana Preece, Drusilla Carter, Heather Aronson, Jerry Seagrave, Kate Byroade, Kate Sheehan, Kiera Parrott, Marilynn Lewicki, Mary Etter, Olivia Blake.

Old Business

- a. **President's report-** I just want to thank everybody for the hard work, everybody who's on this board, anyone who's on a committee, all of our volunteers that worked really hard during my term. I know we all had a ton of stuff going on in our libraries. The world is a little discombobulated right now, and it's being very polite about it. Some of us had family and life changes so, I just really want to thank everybody. It was greatly appreciated by me, greatly appreciated by the membership, and it's really been an honor to represent CLA this year. You all know the work that went into it. Not how I envisioned my presidency, but you know, we got a legislative agenda and then we got two out of three items on our legislative agenda. I mean, that's really something we should all be proud of and excited about and we did it as a team and everybody kind of lent their expertise and stepped in. There were times where people step, where people have to step back and others stepped in. So, I just want to thank everybody on this board for showing up all the time and being a part of this and making CLA just a great organization to represent.

- b. **Treasurer's Report-** I was really only going to go over our budget today, our proposed budget. Scott, I don't know how much you want me to get into everything. Everything I had today was a motion item, but I can give a Cliff Notes version. Our budget this year is going well. We're looking at having a nice surplus this year- conference did very well. So, we will be making some money this year, which is exactly what we want to do. But going forward for next year for our budget, our proposed budget does have a small deficit. We had a lot of really, valid and just requests from all of our sections and committees this year along with some other administrative expenses that we had to account for. We had conservative estimates for our revenue for conference and donations next year. Alessandra always does estimate that conservatively, so we can be more sure about our figures. We are going to have an increase in our membership revenue due to the rate increases that we voted on and will be going into effect in July. For our expenses, we are increasing our anticipated expenses for tax filing and doing a review of our accounts through an accountant. We are again budgeting for another salary study that will continue to happen every year, and we have not included in our budget , but we are proposing that we earmark \$20,000 in our savings account to have for CLA expenses. If we wanted to hire a lobbyist, if we wanted to hire a communication specialist, if we wanted general advocacy is what we were terming it. So that will be in our savings account, not in our operating budget, but the money will be there. If you have any questions for me in the meantime, just feel free to e-mail them along. Also, if anybody wants to be the treasurer, I've only got one year left. You can start with me right now. We can have a whole year to go over, over everything aside from the budget and conference. The month to month is not extensive and I'd be happy to work with someone over the next year to take my place. So, if you want to voluntell someone else too. I welcome Voluntolds.

New Business

- a. FY26 Budget -Margaret Khan-**Unable to vote, No quorum.**
- b. Motion to make \$500 donation to Nutmeg Committee-Margaret Khan**Unable to vote, No quorum.**
- c. Motion to have CLA become an America 250 CT Affiliate-Margaret Khan .**Unable to vote, No quorum.**
- d. New Fiscal Year Board- Alessandra- This is just a reminder. I know we're going to have some new board members join us this month, next month. Please make sure that your e-mail is given to Shannon so that Shannon can provide that to me. This is so I can give you the information for being on the board and have you join our CLA board drive as well as put you in if you are going to have access to a star chapter and get you set up with a training on that. For everybody who is staying on or transitioning to a new role, everybody's passwords for star chapter will be reset the week of July 1st. So, you will get an e-mail to that e-mail that Shannon has basically saying, hey, you have to go reset your password. So, please make sure to do so in case you're doing an upcoming workshop or event in Starchapter, sending a mailing out, you don't want to get stuck when you go to do that. So, look out for that e-mail. You'll see on our website next week that there will be something just at the top saying that membership renewals will not be available until July 1st and that is because we're putting in the new rates, which means we have to suspend what's in there right now for the current rates. So, if you get an e-mail saying you're supposed to renew, you can either do it now before the rate goes up, or you can do it July 1st. But it will not be available beginning Monday next week up until July 1st. So please make sure all that information for your e-mail is correct and that is also the e-mail that you want to show on our website. Then once you get the e-mail to reset your password or to join the board drive, please make sure you do so.
Shannon: If I can just add to that, I'm going to put a link in the chat where everyone can see what I currently have. So, you can edit it if you want to change anything- this is the time to do it.
- e. Region 4 Rep. nomination- Scott Jarzombek- **Unable to vote, No quorum.**