

Connecticut Library Association Board Meeting
June 18, 2026
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 April:** Motion made by Lisa Miceli and seconded by Kate Byroade.
- III. **Old Business**
 - a. President's Report - See attached.
 - b. Treasurer's Report - See attached.
- IV. **New Business**
 - a. NELA- Joanna Fuchs- See attached.
 - b. FY27 Budget- Margaret Khan- See attached.
 - c. \$500 donation to Nutmeg Committee- Margaret Khan- See attached.

Representative Reports:

CT State Library: Deborah Schander: Absent

NELA: Sarah McCusker: If you are a NELA member, you should have received an e-mail with your ballot for next year's officers. So please go on there and vote. I think the deadline is like early July, so you've got some time, but go do it. The conference proposal form is open. It's been extended until the 22nd. So that's Sunday, I guess I'm going to drop the link in the chat. We'd love to see Connecticut people up there in lovely Burlington. So please go on and submit proposals and hopefully we'll see you there in October.

<https://s23.a2zinc.net/clients/NELA/nela2026/Public/CallForPapers.aspx>

ALA: Kate Byroade: You might have heard there's ALA Annual next week in Chicago. I have not seen a comprehensive agenda of what council will be discussing. They kind of make it available a few days before and then it keeps getting revised right up until session. So I'm looking forward to being there and seeing colleagues from around the country and representing Connecticut. Maria McCauley, who is the director in Cambridge, MA, is the incoming ALA president. Her inaugural event celebration will be on Monday night and I'll be attending that. But it's really great that we have an ALA president from New England.

ALA EDI Assembly: Vacant

ACLB: Denise Stankovics: As you are probably aware, we had a presence at the conference and we are going over some of the suggestions that were made by people as things we could do in the future. I know one thing people have been hoping for is that we could e-mail the newsletter to library directors, which is a really great idea. The problem there is trying to keep lists current because as you know, e-mail addresses are to individuals rather than to offices. They don't go to say, director at whatever library. So we're trying to figure out a good way that we might be able to make that happen. If not, we do post those newsletters on our website, so if directors wanted to share them with individual board members, they could e-mail them to them that way. We're also looking ahead to webinars that we will be doing in the fall. We always like to redo the board basics for new members who are elected in the November elections. So we have that plan for early in December and we're considering some other topics that we will be doing down the road.

ACLPD: Robert Kinney: Absent.

America 250: Margaret Khan: We are almost there. The 250 Commission is busy with final plans and all of the herding of events and activities that are going to be happening over the next month or so as we approach the 4th of July. Two things to note right now, if you are an affiliate organization, the Commission is offering along with Connecticut Humanities, small stipends of \$500 to affiliate organizations, I believe \$750 to municipal organizations that are affiliated. I'll drop the link in the chat for that. There's kind of a rolling deadline for that and those funds can be used for programming that support America 250 initiatives. Very broad guidelines there. They want to make it really easy and accessible for everybody to use these funds. Also, the Commission is putting out a passport. The passport is available digitally online, but there is also an order form where you can order the passports free to your library. I will include that in the chat as well. There's going to be a lot going on, especially in Hartford. Affiliate organizations are welcome to join the Commission in Hartford for the 4th of July. Remember to upload your events to the calendar that is on the state's website of tourism so all of your events can be promoted there. And if you have any questions, just let me know about. It's going to be a busy and fun month soon.

BCALA: Vivian Bordeaux: Absent.

Bibliomation: Alessandra Casiello: Bibliomation had our annual meeting yesterday. Our new board members and officers were elected. We also are currently working with four libraries that are looking to join us. So we'll see if we add any new members this coming fiscal year. Just like everybody else, end of fiscal year, beginning of new fiscal year. So things are moving.

Commission on Ed Tech: Colleen Bailie: The Commission met at the beginning of June. As I'm sure a lot of people are also aware, there's a lot going on with AI, especially in education, in schools, especially in the academic land and public. So they did have a presentation in regards to forming a task force in the state to kind of target looking at AI throughout education and libraries. I did obviously make a point that we really need to have public libraries also involved in that conversation because we see a lot of people coming in utilizing AI for things they really probably shouldn't be and making sure that we're, we're on the forefront of that as well. So I just kind of wanted to make sure that we get that plug in, but I will for sure let everybody know as that kind of progresses if they're looking for people to join any kind of committees as far as that goes. The committee has also been working with Central Connecticut about looking to try to do a device refurbishment program with students also help assisting with that. We'll be meeting again later this month to talk about what that would look like and what that would entail and how libraries would be involved in something like that as well.

Communications Task Force: John Casiello: We tried a legislative specific communication survey at conference and got less than stellar response. But we will look as we start planning the transition from StarChapter to Member Clicks. By the end of the calendar year, we'll be looking at basically a complete overhaul of our communications work flows.

CASL: Gina Wiese/Valerie DiLorenzo: CASL 2026 Conference: Books, Bytes, & Balance. The CASL Conference brings together educators, administrators, and educational technology leaders for an inspiring, high energy learning experience Nov. 1st and/or 2nd, 2026.

CLC: Ellen Paul: Thank you to everyone who came out to the annual meeting where we hosted Lisa Varga, whose new title, I guess, with ALA is Chief Advocacy Officer. Much shorter title than it was before, much easier to remember. She did a great job and she, of course, met with the legislative committee before the CLC annual meeting. So it was just a really nice afternoon looking forward. Kate mentioned ALA is coming up. You probably all have an e-mail from us in your inbox at this point. What to look for at ALA? There's a plug for Ebook Friday, which I am

co-organizing. It's a full day devoted to ebook library, ebook advocacy, updates and discussions. CLC will host a welcome reception on Friday evening. So there's a link to that and of course a link to all of our vendors who will be at the ALA Vendor Hall. Then just looking forward into the summer, we have to rebid our books contract, which is probably inarguably our most important contract and especially important right now with Baker and Taylor exiting the marketplace. So we will release that RFP in early July, it'll close in August. We're lining up external evaluators, that is librarians in Connecticut who can help us evaluate the proposals. And we'll be ready to have new book contracts for you come January 1st, 2027. But you know, all of this is really kicking off right now and we'll continue into the fall. So thanks for giving me the opportunity to update.

FOCL: Debbie Misiaszek: Absent.

LION: Joe Farara: Absent.

Library Connection: Laura Horn: Absent.

Region 1: Heather Aronson: Absent. Southbury celebrated 20 years at our 100 Poverty Rd location and the Friends of the SPL are now officially back in the basement and accepting donations on site.

Region 2: Lisa Miceli: No report.

Region 3: Drusilla Carter: See attached.

Region 4: Kiera Parrott: I have a relatively short report and some fun news. The Easton Library recently unveiled their new word garden, which is this little area with engraved stones that you can use to make like poetry and word art and phrases and whatnot. And it was inspired by a garden at the Bartlett. The whole project was the brainchild of a local Eagle Scout. So she sent me some pictures, which I included for the CLA minutes. It's very, it's very pretty. And then a very late breaking piece of news here at Darien Library. We just literally yesterday received the permit for our construction to begin down on our lower level. So we will be completely closing our lower level, which is our teen area, for the duration of the summer and probably most of September as we construct a new tween and teen library center and makerspace down there, which is very exciting. And we were still doing teen stuff, though. Mia, our teen librarian, will be doing programming throughout the summer outdoors and in various spaces of the library. We've moved the teen books sort of all around the library and various nooks and crannies, a lot on the 1st floor, some in the children's library and some on the 2nd floor. So our teens can still access the materials. We are hoping to open up late September. But you guys know how these construction projects go. So, we'll be playing it by ear.

Region 5: Emily Rush: See attached.

Region 6: Madhu Gupta: Absent.

SCSU: Cindy Schofield: Absent.

Sustainability Taskforce: Alessandra Casiello: Not too much new at the moment, but I do want to remind everyone there's a bit of confusion this year though. We don't have a regular board meeting in May because our annual meeting counts for the May meeting. The slot for our May meeting on the 3rd Thursday of the month is supposed to be our trainings meeting for the following year. So that got missed this past year. So we will be doing a training for the board after the July meeting. So if you either need a refresher or you will be a new member on the board or in a new position, please plan to stay after for that July meeting and the trainings subcommittee will be we doing that training. The other part of that is there will be two trainings this year because we are moving to a new software in December. So trainings will happen sometime between October and December for that new software. So you'll actually have to be

trained on two different softwares this year. So I just wanted that to be out there as well. Then we will just have regular updates for the other subcommittees as the year goes on and if anybody has any questions, let me know.

Association Committee Reports:

ADA: Marilynn Lewicki: Absent.

Archivist: Gerald Seagrave: If you have an annual report for your committee, please send me a copy for the archives.

Awards: Region Reps: John Casiello:

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

Conference 2026: See attached.

Development: Alessandra Casiello: We finished out our year a little less than the goal that we had set of \$10,000 for development. We were around \$9,500. We have the first of our the first of our fundraisers planned for October 15th through November 15th. That's the Meadow Farms online fundraiser. A few things are going to have to get moved around next year because of the software changeover because some of the fundraisers are through the software so we have to change some of those. But we do have our dates for that. We will look to see if we want to set up a Freedom to Rock or Banned Bands event this year. I'll touch base with Intellectual Freedom to see if they want to do anything with that. The other thing is I do want to remind the Career Development Committee that if you are going to be doing your Leadership Institute in the summer and you need sponsorships that reach out to me so that I can try and assist you with that if you need help. One other thing and it's a big thing. The donor that wants to put together a scholarship fund for the LTA program but will only do it is only able to do it if we are a 501(c)(3) has said they are willing to wait for our determination letter as I did talk to the Hartford Foundation last week and updated them that you know we are in this waiting period. So we're hoping that if the 501(c)(3) comes through, we can also work with them on establishing that scholarship fund.

Intellectual Freedom: Sam Lee & Lindsay Delligan: Intellectual Freedom is starting plans on a fall workshop. If folks have any requests, please send them her way. There have been reports of Hide the Pride and complaints made against pride programs, books and displays and she just wanted to remind everyone that that's why we have policies and procedures so we can follow them and to please reach out to the Intellectual Freedom Committee if you need any support.

Legislative: Kate Byroade & Rebecca Harlow: We had a really productive conversation with Lisa Fargo last week. I want to thank Ellen for helping make that possible by inviting Lisa to Connecticut. That was really great. She was a tremendously successful executive director in Virginia with the advocacy work that she did there prior to going to join ALA and we are working to really assemble A comprehensive ask, budgetary ask for next year's session and we will be bringing that to the CLA board probably in September, if not August. But the goal is to for the first time in many years, ask for increased funding for the lines that support Connecticut's public libraries and services associated services. So that is our big driving, legislative driving effort for this upcoming session. And remember, the session starts in January and finishes in June. It's the long session where the two-year budget is determined and because the biennium budget is determined. So that's why we don't we can't ask for money every year because there isn't money every year. But I want to make sure that everyone heard the good word that the BorrowIt funding was restored because of everyone's advocacy efforts. There were so many people who submitted testimony and advocated who we don't usually hear from and it was really very, very impactful. So thank you very much, everyone.

Outreach: John Casiello Nothing major, just sort of end of fiscal year stuff. I guess the reminder for the oncoming people is make sure you're a member of CLA so that we can get you on the board page. And as I said before, the big changeover from StarChapter to Member Clicks will be the next six months of planning, specifically website stuff and other communications pieces. So I'll probably be reaching out to all of you individually to figure out things for the future.

PEG: Mary Etter: No report.

Procedures: Lisa Miceli: No report.

Section Reports:

Children's: Vacant

CLASS: Vacant

College & University: Rob Walsh: Absent.

JEDI: Mary Richardson and Rosie Luther: No report.

Public Libraries: Jennifer Sullivan: Absent.

Reference & Adult Services: Christie Mitchell & Kelly-Ann Gardella: I just wanted to report that we held our final meet up on Wednesday, May 20th. We had a nice group of adult services librarians and we shared about our favorite sessions and takeaways from the CLA conference. And Noel was there and we introduced him, of course, to the group and we're happy that he's going to take over.

Resource Sharing: Matt Earls: Absent.

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

Technology: Kate Sheehan & Jessica Wolford: The tech section will be having a field trip to Booth & Dimock Library to check out their set up with their Linux PCs that are in use for patrons. The potential date for that is September 14th. We're but we're going to iron things out. So that's very exciting. Send your nerds. We've also rewritten our bylaws and we didn't see anything in the CLA bylaws that forbid e-mail votes. But I wanted to check to see if that was something that was allowed because we tried to get them approved at the conference and we didn't have a membership representation at the meeting we were at. So we wanted to check on that. Lisa Miceli: Jessica, I emailed both of you back on that and I can e-mail you again.

YA: Danielle Murray & Jackie Bush: Jackie and I are planning our annual workshop for November. We're going to hold it in Wallingford. Jackie's going to reach out to some of her publishing contacts or Arcs, and for maybe some representation at our annual conference. We're currently looking for other librarians who want to present on topics of special interest to teen librarians

Adjournment: 10:48 AM. Motion made by Daneille Murray.

Present: Erin Dummeyer, Brenda McKinley, Margaret Khan, Shannon Angelone, Alessandra Casiello, Christie Mitchell, Christine Rinaldi, Colleen Bailie, Danielle Murray, Denise Stankovics, Diana Preece, Ellen Paul, Emily Rush, Gerald Seagrave, Jackie Bush, Jessica Wolford, John Casiello, Kate Byroade, Kiera Parrott, Lisa Miceli, Margaret Khan, Mary Etter, Mary Richardson, Mirja Johanson, Sarah McCusker, Devon Andrews, Katie Huffman.

Old Business

a. President's report- Erin Dummeyer

I won't steal the conference committee's Thunder, but suffice it to say it was a very successful CLA conference in Mystic at the end of April. So thank you everyone who is able to join us and also those who presented and organized the conference. I have an update on our 501(c)(3) application. The last activity was that the IRS sent CLA letter requesting more information at the end of March and we've just been sort of waiting. That information was submitted and then we've been waiting to receive a response. Our determination specialist called me last week and was reminding me that she never received that additional information. So, I sent it this past Monday and also called her and left a message to follow up. Now we're sort of in the same holding pattern we were before. I did ask her once she's received the additional information, how long it would be till we really hear a yes or no about our 501(c)(3) status and she wasn't sure But she said to give them three to four weeks. So I'll keep following up. We will very hopefully receive a letter soon indicating that we've successfully changed our status to 501(c)(3). But if you remember, I really started in on this process last November. So it's been wild to me this journey, but I've learned a lot, to keep it to keep it positive. I've learned a lot about what it takes to be in 501(c)(3) and my library is in 501(c)(3). So I feel like I'm learning stuff on behalf of them as well. So it's, it's been a journey and an experience, but I will stick on it until the process is complete. I also just wanted to mention it's my very last CLA meeting as President and I'm just grateful to have worked with all of you this past year. I've learned so much from my colleagues and it's, you know what, it's been kind of fun, not all the time, but it's been fairly fun. I really enjoyed serving with all of you and I was honored to do it and just thank you everyone for your support. I'm just happy to work with all you Connecticut librarians and all you smarty pants in teaching me a lot about advocacy and leadership and how the state functions in our libraries and you all do great work.

b. Treasurer's report- Margaret Khan

I'm going to keep this part of the report kind of short since we'll be moving on to the next year's budget discussion in a little bit. But we did have another fantastic year. We currently have \$248,000 in the bank right now. That is one year's operating expenses. If you remember our financial plan, we want two years of operating expenses before we can begin reinvesting our money again. So, that's been fantastic progress that we have made. We owe a lot of that to the Bilitsky donation that we got earlier this year of \$65,000 that really, really boosted us and hopefully that will continue us on our trajectory of increasing our savings and our holdings. Conference was very successful. We did make some money, some good money on our conference this year. As the year stands right now, well as of the end of May, we have a net profit not including the Bilitsky donation of about \$41,000. So great year that we great, great, great year that we had. And I'm very excited that Devon Andrews from the Mansfield Public Library will be our treasurer next month. I'm really happy that we have some Eastern Connecticut representation. My neighbor will be joining us here and we're going to be meeting after this this meeting to review treasurer responsibilities.

New Business

a. NELA- Joanna Fuchs

I'm Joanna Fuchs and I am the current NELA president. My presidency will go till October, so I got a few more months. But throughout this year, I've been trying to touch base with all of the States and get NELA back onto its core mission of how do we support the region? How do we support the states? So I wanted to take some time. I've met with Vermont, Maine. It's been so amazing to see all the work that's been going on across our region and some of these challenging times. So I just wanted to reiterate that NELA is here for you. You have a lot of representation here at CLA. I know Devon, Colleen, Kate and a few other people. So we are here to support the region and librarians and staff in any capacity whatsoever. So I just wanted to welcome everyone who doesn't know about NELA, but also just to let you know that we've got your backs, right? So if there's any questions you have about NELA, our conference is coming up at the end of October. If there are things that you need to discuss, like don't hesitate to reach out to me or Sarah McCusker, who is this Connecticut Rep on our board. We are going through some challenges ourselves. This year, what I've deemed as the year of massive cleanup. So cleaning up documentation, getting our finances in order and things like that, what we've been really focused on, but I just wanted to take some time. I reached out to Erin just to let Connecticut know we are here for you and we congratulate you guys on the tremendous conference. I heard so many great things about CLA this year and just some of the work that's been going on and legislation as well in Connecticut. But if you have any questions, I'm going to be here this meeting. Thank you everybody for all of the hard work you do because the work that you do matters.

b. FY27 Budget- Margaret Khan

There was a link to the budget sheet in the agenda. To start off, we'll just review the revenue that we have projected. We usually are pretty conservative with our revenue projections and that was the same for this year. We did very well with our membership fees this year. We still have another month to go, but we did budget under what we brought in this year. We budgeted under what we brought in for conference this year. Alessandra will probably talk about this a little bit more, but we do have some mild concerns with revenue from conference for next year because Massachusetts decided to schedule their conference the same week as ours. We're a little concerned that that might impact what we have for vendors, but the conference committee is aware of this and we're going to be keeping an eye on that. If you scroll down to the very bottom, you do see that we do have a substantial deficit projected for next year. This is not something that we'd like to do. In the past few years, we've been really good about balancing this out. We are projecting right now a deficit of \$34,800. This is due to really 2 main big expenses. The 1st is that we are putting into the budget a \$25,000 deposit in the event that conference committee recommends that we do our 2028 conference in Hartford. That is an if. We don't know what the recommendation will be or what our board will decide to do, but we did want to get that on paper. We also put in \$10,000 for a lobbyist. Again, we don't know this, we don't have a timeline for that right now, but we felt it was important to get these things on paper and plan for them even if that does put us in a deficit. So we know what to expect and we know that we even with this deficit, we can't absorb it based on our account holdings right now. If we don't go to Hartford, that's going to reduce that deficit by \$17,000. That's something to keep in mind.

Additionally, that deficit, you can just take \$6,000 right off the bat by that because we have our 2027 conference venue deposit and our NILA conference expenses coming out of our balance account. So that is \$6,000 left because it is not coming out of operating, it's coming out of balance, but it is still reflected on the operating budget. As I mentioned, we are conservative in our revenue. So if we do bring in more revenue that will also offset the budget deficit. But like I said, we really took into account and I want to thank the Executive Committee for the time they spent with me on this, going through the lines and the details of this budget. We wanted to be comprehensive. We wanted to put ourselves in a good position to be ready for possible big expenses this year. We feel comfortable with the fact that we have our contingency accounts for emergency conference

stabilization and strategy. We have that \$65,000 donation to cushion us. And as I mentioned, we have about a quarter million dollars in the bank right now. We do want to be mindful of our goals to continue to increase those holdings. But we feel that with the e-book bill with other states going on, now is the time that we might need to look at spending those funds. So I am open to any questions or comments on the budget.

Motion to approve made by Kate Byroade. Seconded by Mary Etter. Motion passes

Congratulations on putting together a thoughtful budget for fiscal year 27. Thank you everyone and thank you Executive Committee for the help and guidance in this.

- c. \$500 donation to Nutmeg Committee- Margaret Khan
I'm just looking for a motion that we approve a \$500 donation to the Nutmeg Committee. This is an annual donation that we make and it is incorporated into our operating budget.

Moved by Sarah McCusker. Seconded by Erin Dummeyer. Motion carries

Region 3

Steve Osier, Director, Willington Public Library:

We're almost out of the woods in Willington. They passed the town budget on the second vote (K-8 got shot down, so on to a third vote for the schools sadly), however the BoF cut the town by \$70,000 and left it up to the Board of Selectmen to decide where those cuts/savings would come from, and they haven't had a meeting yet since it passed last week to decide. So we're biding our time until we know for sure, but if our funding stays as it was approved by the BoF, we'll be cutting back up to 12 hours (closing 1 day and reducing hours across the remaining 5) and making a few other reductions to offset funding cuts.

We have a variety of programs happening for Summer Reading and the 250th. All of it can be found on <https://www.willingtonpubliclibrary.org/events> (and is being updated regularly), but include:

- A special pre-Summer program at the Center Elementary School on June 10th with FoodPlay Productions to help energize kids for Summer Reading (Juggling Nutrition Magician Show)
- America 250 Movie Matinee (1776: The Musical) on June 24th at 1PM
- SRP Kickoff on June 27th with Lionheart Puppet Co. on June 27th at 1PM
- America 250 'Songs of America's Transition' on July 16th at 6:30PM
- Dino at the Libraries Program w/ Judy Pancoast on July 18th at 10AM
- Vegetable Gardening Program w/ Jen Krueger of Select Seeds on July 25th at 10AM
- SRP Finale on August 8th Lizards at the Library program at 1PM
- America 250/Summer Sendoff Ice Cream Social and Dessert Potluck on August 18th at 6:30PM

Some other happenings around the library:

- We are working with Eversource on a significant lighting upgrade project later this year. We are waiting on final documentation, but we're slated to replace over 200 fixtures with more energy efficient fixtures to help cut down our utility costs, as well as upgrade our public sinks with aerators.
- We are working on a final date in June to do a 'Grand Opening' of our 3D printer purchased through an E.O. Smith student's fundraising efforts. They hope to do some work over the Summer teaching people about 3D printing and CAD if time allows before they start college at UConn.
- We're in the works to get some major upgrades done to our phones from copper to VOIP and security system upgrades with LoCIP monies from the town over the Summer/Fall of 2026.
- We are planning for a 20th Birthday/Anniversary event for the Willington Public Library's new building opening date. Details to follow.

One potential question for the board is if any libraries in CT that are a 501(c)3 have applied for the state's Non-Profit Security Grant Program (<https://portal.ct.gov/demhs/grants/nonprofit-security-grant-program-overview/connecticut-nonprofit-security-grant-program>)? We saw the press release with a new round of funding from the Governor's office, and we have potential projects that could apply, but we don't want to use too much time towards this opportunity if we aren't applicable. Even though we're a 501(c)3, we get a majority of our funding from the town, and most of our capital needs are funded with municipal dollars (town bonding, LoCIP, etc.).

Christopher Frank, Director, Stafford Public Library:

Our very lean budget (town, board of ed., and library) failed twice by wide margins. Residents want services, just not the cost of said services. Our next budget referendum (number three!) is scheduled for June 23.

Torrie Phillips, Media Specialist, GH Robertson School, Coventry:

At G.H. Robertson Intermediate School, we are doing 250th themed summer reading. All gr. 3-5 students in district received a 250th booklet by Scholastic and a free book of choice to keep (thanks to Scholastic points from our Book Fairs this year.) They will track up to 250 minutes of summer reading on the patriotic tally sheet shown. On Field Day, we hosted our public librarian from the tw/een department to visit and promote their summer reading goodies to our students. Families are looking forward to the ice cream social kick off Monday after school. Here's to a great summer of reading and fun...and fingers crossed about ALL of our budgets passing VERY soon!

And here in Hebron we're kicking off an insanely busy summer, as usual. We've gone from 45 kids registered for summer reading in 2023 to more than 500 last year, so it's all hands on deck until August!

Our town budget has failed twice, and we've already had some significant cuts to our line items, but I've been told that if the budget fails at tomorrow's referendum we'll be cutting Saturday and most evening hours here. I keep telling myself that there's no use in stressing about it until I know the damage, and in the meantime we've moved all of our summer reading events away from Saturdays, just in case.

CLA Region 5 News: June 2026

Killingworth Library Association, Killingworth

This month, we held an unveiling event for our new Toy Library! We currently have 60 or so toys for kids and families to check out and bring home. This project was thanks to help from Traveling Toys, the Community Foundation of Middlesex County, and the Killingworth Community Fund.

Shelton Library System, Shelton

Our reference librarian, Bob Antaramian, is retiring after 22 years at the Plumb Library in Shelton on June 30th. He has been a funny, easygoing, positive influence every day he has been here, and he will be missed!

West Haven Library, West Haven

The West Haven Library has just purchased a brand new, state of the art bookmobile that will be rolling through West Haven come the fall. More details soon!

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

Alessandra Casiello: Thursday night into Friday morning, the Ansonia Library basement flooded. That is where they have their storage as well as their children's room. So they are currently evaluating things with insurance to see what they're going to be able to do. But it does seem like the issue is coming from outside. So it's going to be a bit of construction. Their children's room will be closed for several months. They are looking to relocate things and right now they have been told that staff can go in the room to retrieve items. But it is going to be a little bit of a difficult time for them over the next couple months. So if you're not hearing responses from them, that is why.

Conference:

So the 2026 conference was quite successful. We had budgeted for about \$1,500 income for the year, but we exceeded that. So our actual income once everything is in should be around \$12,685. Congratulations to CLA and the conference team for that. We had 808 different attendees total, and 596 different attendees and 81 different vendor reps, so that is really great. We definitely saw a good turnout; we got some really great feedback in the survey. People appreciated the sessions, specifically the sessions that were held on AI were noted and they commended the speakers and the committee for the work that they put in to make this such a great conference. As always we get feedback that is also negative: People don't like the food. People don't like the venue because of the drive. People don't like the venue because the rooms are too small. People did not like that we didn't have a room designated as a sensory space and the sensory space was just a corner. So these are all things that I bring to the attention of the board every year when we go to select a new venue for the following year. All in all, I think people were really happy this year and our conference is set for the Marriott again for 2027. We did find out last month that Massachusetts has had to move their conference to the exact same dates as ours. I reached out to them. I do reach out to our neighboring organizations that have conferences around the same time. With Massachusetts, they had always told me that our conference would never overlap because theirs was the third week in May. But they have decided to change that because the reason they gave was that Maine overlapped with their conference this year. So they didn't want that to happen again, but didn't check to see when the other states had their conferences already set up. So I have been speaking to them and maybe we can get ALA to put back up the event calendar for the chapters that they ask us when our things are. And we booked them two years in advance so this doesn't happen.

Colleen Bailie: Alessandra, I can actually speak to that because on chapter relations. Jonathan's actually working on making sure to get that back up because there's been a couple other states have had similar there are issues. So the hope is to have that back up for the next fiscal.

Alessandra: The 2027 conference committee, I will let you know did discuss as the hotel did give us one option to move our conference at this time to the prior week. We made a decision that because ours has been in this time frame and vendors had known about it for over a year, to stick with the time frame as the other date would probably fall within a spring break as well as of the Texas Library Association conference, which is a very large one that we didn't want to try and grab our vendors from and a lot of our vendors come straight from there to us. So we do know there might be some the loss of revenue on the vendor side. I did go through there's about 13 vendors that overlap that may or may not have multiple representatives to attend at the different conferences at the same time. So the team is taking this into consideration. We have some ideas but the decision was to stick with our dates of April 25th through 27th and we will be getting quotes from the two venues that can actually fit us which is Mystic and the Convention Center. We did get a quote last year from The Sheraton at Hartford Airport and the reason why we did not select them is 1 when we went there, you can hear the planes, but also they were under major construction. So if we did want to consider to get a quote from them, we certainly could. Again, I don't know if their construction is completed, but I will be contacting Mystic and the Convention Center again for the 2028 conference. So those are all of the updates.

I did want to have a little bit of time just to say thank you to this year's conference committee. We do have several people that are rotating off of the committee of this year, so I want to give

them a shout out. Olivia Blake, who's been working on the conference committee for several years with Exhibits will be rotating off, as well as Kristina Lareau and Vicki Otis, who are our program chairs. So thank you to them for their work during the time that they've been on the conference committee. We do have a really great committee coming on board. Sarah McCusker and Tom Nolan will be our program chairs this coming year. Shannon Angelone is going to stay on for exhibits and joining her is Molly Verrillo. So we do have great people coming on, but I want to thank those that that gave their time these last few years and to all the speakers, sections, committees that put together great presentations. Thank you again for another successful year.