

Connecticut Library Association Board Meeting
July 16, 2026
10:00 am Business Meeting via Zoom
Minutes

- I. **Call to Order:** President Brenda McKinley called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM.
- II. **Approval of Minutes from June:** 1. Kate Byroade 2. Lisa Miceli
- III. **Old Business**
 - a. President's Report - See attached.
 - b. Treasurer's Report - See attached.
- IV. **New Business**
 - a. Onboarding- See attached.

Representative Reports:

CT State Library: Deborah Schander: Absent

NELA: Sarah McCusker: The registration for the October conference is open. Voting for NELA officers, for those of you who are members is open through July 22nd. You should have gotten an e-mail with the ballot. So if you haven't voted yet, please do. Nominations are currently open for the Emerson Greenaway Award, which is presented at conference every year. After I stop talking, I'll drop the link in the chat with information about that.

[Emerson Greenaway award
Conference info](#)

ALA: Kate Byroade: We had three council sessions and we voted on all kinds of things. One thing was that we voted on and approved a moratorium on establishing new ALA wide divisions roundtable standing committees until no earlier than the annual conference of 2029. This is in part a cost savings measure because all of those things require ALA staff to support and ALA is in significant financial difficulty and so this is the main driver of this. So that's just something to be aware of if you are involved in ALA at some level. We voted to approve the resolution to accept the Librarians and Library Workers Bill of Rights. So that is something that exists now on the ALA website. When I'm done reporting, I'll find links to those things. They should be posted and available for people to find them. We voted to approve a resolution on library infrastructure. This follows I believe it was GAO unless it was another federal agency report on infrastructure in America's public libraries. But it's basically saying that we need some support for our library buildings and wouldn't it be great if there were federal dollars? There have not been federal dollars for library buildings for 30 years now as a class. So that's something else I can drop into the links that report that exists. One big thing was we voted. And approved guidance, a resolution on guidance on the use of artificial intelligence and libraries, which is a long document. This is a living document that will evolve with time and will be overseen by a specific committee and that was approved. I know that there are people who are looking to develop their own policies around AI and the use of AI. So this is a reference document that you can use as you develop those policies internally. We have voted on a resolution and approved a resolution on library card access policies as a form of social equity. And this for us in public libraries is about being the least restrictive in your library card issuing policies as possible. So that that is

another document that I can drop in the chat. Then finally just a very brief thing about the ALA budget: the good news is that the ALA budget which is projected to have something like a \$5.1 million deficit this year only had a \$3.8 million deficit this year. They are working on a five-year sustainability target to get to a point where the \$10 million structural deficit is eliminated and that we are able to move forward as an organization. ALA is not going to close shop tomorrow, but this is the result of a combination of a lot of things. COVID hit ALA very, very hard organizationally. Because of the whole weaponization of censorship. ALA has been targeted as an organization by state governments. Membership in ALA is not allowed to be a public use of public tax dollars in some states, things like that. Then also just some poor management happening as the organization has not moved flexibly or fast enough to keep up with all of these changes. So, we're getting the house in order, working hard to come to the other side. I have been involved with enough organizations that have gone through something like this, including this one that we are all in right now to say, yeah, it's hard, we'll get there.

[ALA CD 20.1 Committee on Legislation](#)- The resolution on Library Infrastructure is on the last two pages of this document.

[Guidance on the Use of Artificial Intelligence](#)

[Resolution on Library Card Access Policies as a Form of Social Equity](#)

[Resolution to Accept the Librarians' and Library Workers Bill of Rights](#)

ALA EDI Assembly: Vacant

ACLB: Denise Stankovics: We have another newsletter coming out probably next month. We're looking ahead to our webinars for the rest of the year. Sometime in the fall, day to be established, the Legislative co-chairs have very kindly agreed to do a presentation for ACLB. Then on December 9th, we're repeating board basics primarily for the benefit of new board members who might be elected in November. But of course, everyone is welcome, library people as well as trustees.

ACLPD: Robert Kinney: Absent

America 250: Margaret Khan: We had the 4th of July, our 250th anniversary came and went like that, but it was a fantastic day despite the heat and despite the storms in Hartford. The Commission had a very successful event in Hartford that day and I know that a lot of libraries have their own events that have taken place or will be taking place throughout the summer. The affiliate program that I have been talking about for the last couple of years closed. The Commission had a goal of 250 affiliate organizations and we close that out with 260 organizations, 13% being library. So really great representation there. The 250 passports that the Commission has developed are still available for request while supplies last. So I'll put the link to request passports in the chat. There's also a digital format that is available which I will also put in the chat. The Commission had a full meeting yesterday to recap the 4th of July. It was a really great meeting. I had sent out an e-mail earlier in the week to the listserv asking for people to share their programs so that I could report on that. I had so much fun looking through all the programs. I honest to God probably had 57 tabs open by the end of the day just reading all of the programs that everyone was doing. It was a really thorough report that caught the attention of a lot of other commissioners. If you have upcoming programs that will be happening throughout the summer or the fall that have not happened yet, please feel free to send those to me. I did get a request from the Governor's representative to compile a report of to becoming library programs. So I'm happy to be able to send that along. After listening to my report and reports from other commissioners and other organizations, our chair of the Commission, former Secretary of the State Denise Miller, said that she enjoyed hearing the reports and it was like listening to the

legacy of the Commission, which really meant a lot to me to know that libraries had such an impact on that and that we're the grassroots legacy of the 250th in the state of Connecticut. The Commission is going to be continuing to meet for at least the next six months to wrap everything up and to look at some of the milestone events that are having their 250th anniversary in 2027. I know, Brenda in Ridgefield, you probably have a lot of that still to look forward to, but a fantastic event and very, very strong representation from the libraries here. I'm really proud of everyone and grateful to be able to have served on this Commission.

[Passport Request](#)

[Digital Passport](#)

BCALA: Vivian Bordeaux: Absent

Bibliomation: Alessandra Casiello: Just like everybody else, start of the year, new fiscal year, we are kind of just chugging, chugging along at this point and nothing, nothing too big going on.

Commission on Ed Tech: Colleen Bailie: Absent

Communications Task Force: John Casiello: Nothing too new to report, but with obviously some new board members on, I'll be touching base to see how we can improve communications across the organization. As we talked about moving to new software, hopefully we'll solve some of our issues, but sort of creating a six month plan sort of to figure out a lot of this because that's when we'll have the new software and yeah, we'll see what we can do.

CASL: Gina Wiese/Valerie DiLorenzo: Absent

CLC: Ellen Paul: Absent

FOCL: Debbie Misiaszek: On June 20th, we just had our annual awards and conference and that went very well. And I was installed as President of Focal at that time. So that's all the news I have.

LION: Joe Farara: Absent

Library Connection: Laura Horn: Absent

Region 1: Heather Aronson: Nothing really to report. Everyone's just heavily involved with summer. But so far the reports are coming in that they're seeing a nice increase in activity this summer. I don't know if everyone's feeling that, too.

Region 2: Lisa Miceli: See attached.

Region 3: Drusilla Carter: Absent

Region 4: Kiera Parrott: I don't have a formal report for this meeting, but I will echo Heather's comments that it has been exceptionally busy. I think here in Fairfield County generally this summer. I'm sure a lot of folks have experienced the power outages after the recent storms. Here at Darien Library we were jam packed because folks in our neck of the woods were without power for several days. So the circ is all up, which is great for you guys too.

Region 5: Emily Rush: No report

Region 6: Katie Huffman: No report.

SCSU: Cindy Schofield: Absent

Sustainability Taskforce: Alessandra Casiello: Nothing to talk too much about training since that's happening after this. The one thing I did want to say is as a reminder, we will have to do training for the entire board again come November time when we are moving over to the new platform. The other thing that I did want to say is when we had created the new tiers, one of the things that really was a focus and we kind of were pressured to do with our partnership with CASL was to have a joint CASL/CLA membership. We have had an ongoing problem because we try to send those memberships over to CASL and don't get a response from anybody. So if anybody has any connections to anyone on CASL, we've reached out to different presidents

throughout this past year. But we have people who are paying for this joint membership and they're not getting anything from CASL. We're not getting a response from them at all. So it may be to the point where if they're not going to respond, we're going to have to take that off of our membership form because that looks bad on our part because they sign up through us to get that joint membership. So I did want to bring that to everybody's attention. See if anybody has feedback or different contact at CASL that we could speak with because we're not getting a response. This has been going on for, I want to say at least at least six months where, we've had a couple memberships come through and, and we send them over and, and nothing, no response at all. So I did want to just kind of discuss that. As we are moving over to the new software, six months from now, we are obviously moving the entire website as well. So we are recreating that. If people have time and just want to go through the CLA pages, take a look at what's there, things that you wish were there. Send that over to John so that when we put that website together, the new website that we're really focusing on the things that people want to see. If you are a committee that has pages such as legislative and career development who have pages on the website, please look at your pages. Let us know what you want moved over because it is, it is going to be a big job and if there's things that are no longer pertinent or needed, we don't want to waste the time moving those things over. So please spend some time, taking a look at all of the CLA pages and giving some feedback. You can send it over to John, outreach@ctlibraryassociation.org for that.

Association Committee Reports:

ADA: Marilynn Lewicki: Absent

Archivist: Gerald Seagrave: No report.

Awards: Region Reps: John Casiello: No report

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

Conference 2026: we had our first committee meeting this week. We are working on coming up with a theme for the conference we have. Quite a new group of people on conference committee. So we will have some fresh eyes looking at the programs and we're also going to be doing some different offerings for vendors this year to try and incentivize them because our conference will be the same date as the Massachusetts Library Association conference. The other thing right now is we are getting votes and proposals for the 2028 conference. We have already received that from Mystic Marriott. I have not gotten anything back yet from the Convention Center, which right now are really the only two places that we are looking at and that's kind of where things stand. So we're hoping to send out our save the date with a theme in early August.

Development: Alessandra Casiello: We will have our Meadow Farms fundraiser in the fall and right now that's really the only thing that I have planned. We will see if we are going to do anything for banned bands freedom to rock this year.

Intellectual Freedom: Sam Lee & Lindsay Delligan: I've gotten 1 report of a reconsideration - the director did not need support and was following policy and procedures. Disturbing news about two towns still going through referendums with severe cuts to their library budgets. (Windsor Locks and Somers) Vote is Tue. 7/14 for both towns, unsure how it will go. Please reach out to support our colleagues. Preliminary planning for fall workshop - please reach out if you'd like to see something specific from IF.

Legislative: Kate Byroade & Rebecca Harlow: So legislative is mostly working on developing our legislative agenda for the long session, working on our budget requests. Then we're working in partnership with the CLC to prepare for if the ebook lot is triggered in the fall and just generally keeping an eye on the other states that might trigger that. It is looking probable that it

might be triggered in the fall either by Illinois or New Jersey. So we're just keeping an eye on that as well.

Outreach: John Casiello: Just to reiterate what Alessandra said about website work. I'll try to come up with a full plan for the next 6 months so that everyone sort of knows what they need to do or what they need to look at. As she said, they'll be some sort of also consideration for the future. I think maybe we would work towards getting each section and committee its own page on the site so you can start thinking ahead of what that would look like. But that'll probably be more something we develop in November/December and next year once we have the new site active. So just start thinking for the future. But I'll try to put together a plan and we'll work with the new software company as far as what they need for that migration as well.

PEG: Mary Etter: I don't have any report on activity for PEG, but we will try very, very hard to have the regional reps get together with me so that we can go over our website material and make it ready. We'll try and be a good committee for the migration.

Procedures: Lisa Miceli: No report

Section Reports:

Children's: Vacant

CLASS: Vacant

College & University: Vacant:

JEDI: Mary Richardson and Rosie Luther: No report.

Public Libraries: Jennifer Sullivan: Absent

Reference & Adult Services: Noel Sander: No report.

Resource Sharing: Matt Earls: Absent

Technical Services: Ann Victor & Christine Rinaldi: We have our next we have our summer meeting on August 21st in Middletown. It will be hybrid cause the Middletown Library Service center does have an owl speaker and our main topic this time will be systems migrations. So invite all your tech services people.

Technology: Kate Sheehan & Jessica Wolford: We have the vote on our bylaws going out this morning to our section members. So that should be done by the next meeting. Just as a reminder, we have our in-person meeting at the Booth and Dimock Library in Coventry to check out their Linux patron computers. We look forward to seeing all the nerds there.

YA: Danielle Murray & Jackie Bush: We confirmed a date in November for the Young Adult Annual workshop. It's going to be at Wallingford Public Library this year on Tuesday, November 10th, 9:30 to 5:00.

Adjournment: 10:45 AM. Motion made by Danielle Murray. 2. Mary Etter

Present: Brenda McKinley, Margaret Khan, Shannon Angelone, Alessandra Casiello, Christie Mitchell, Christine Rinaldi, Danielle Murray, Denise Stankovics, Diana Preece, Emily Rush, Erin Dummeyer, Heather Aronson, Jackie Bush, Jerry Seagrave, Jessica Wolford, John Casiello, Kate Byroade, Kate Sheehan, Katie Huffman, Kiera Parrott, Lisa Miceli, Mary Etter, Mary Richardson, Mirja Johanson, Noel Sander, Rebecca Harlow, Robert Scheier, Sarah McCusker

Old Business

a. President's report- Brenda McKinley

I have a question for Erin. I know that you had wanted to see through the 501(c)(3) issue to the end. Are you still on that? Do you need help?

Erin

I'm still on it. I last sent them documents almost exactly a month ago. So I actually called our determination specialist 2 days ago in preparation for this meeting and left her a message and did not hear back, which is not unusual. I'm sort of hoping no news is good news, but I'm going to keep on it if we don't hear anything. When I originally sent those documents a month ago, I asked her how many weeks it would take the IRS to make a final determination. I could tell she had not really been like asked that question before because she wasn't sure. So she said, feel free to check back in with me in four to six weeks. So I'll keep on it, but no updates, unfortunately.

Brenda

Well, if you need help, please let us know or let me know. The next thing was just that we've got some vacancies and some open positions on the board that I thought I would just kind of point out for people to maybe mull over. One of the biggies: I don't think it's listed on our list, but anyone or maybe 2 interested in shadowing Alessandra Casiello as our annual conference chair. Alessandra would love to step away as she's mentioned, I think for a couple years now that this is on the horizon. So if anyone or couple people would like to maybe shadow her this year would be great opportunity and to step into that critical role with extreme thanks to Alessandra for the many years of doing that. But we also have some board openings, the co-chairs of the Children's, CLASS: both co-chairs vacant, CULLS both co-chairs vacant, Reference and adult services, one co-chair vacant and resource sharing, one co-chair vacant. So maybe kind of folks can think about that and see if we can get some folks in those positions.

The last thing I had wanted to mention, you may have seen the e-mail issue, a statement on the e- rate funding which is being threatened by the FCC and in support of the ALA's e-rate advocacy. I also sent that to our federal senators, my local congressman from my district, Jim Himes. So please consider that advocacy in the course of that statement which came from Kate and Rebecca, our co-chairs from on the legislative committee. They brought it to my attention. I was looking for a procedure for do issuing CLA statements and I didn't find anything in our bylaws or on the board handbook. So I was thinking about, well, maybe like a little light procedure would be good. I know I would have liked to have seen that as the as a brand new incoming president. So I started drafting just a couple ideas of just what I had did, which was basically reached out to the exec committee and said, look, I'm going to be doing this here it is. Please review the draft. It wasn't too formal, but again, if you all start kind of putting that in the back of your mind, start mulling things over, will do. I'd like to maybe get something over the course of the next couple month's kind of a little more formalized, and maybe you think that's a bad idea, but I'd love to hear that too. But anyway, I think that was my initial stuff.

b. Treasurer's report- Devon

Our new treasurer Devon is in the middle of an interview and for an open position at her library that's been open for a while. So good luck to them getting that filled. Which means she is not here for the Treasurer's report. It was all in the board packet. I'm sure she would do a much more detailed report on this. I don't know if anyone had any particular questions, but you know the obviously the initial this year's budget is just getting off the ground and you see our budget for the year which we've already approved. I think we approved that at our June meeting, correct. So I guess I'll just put it out there if there's any questions or anything on the budget

Margaret: Not a question, but can I just add a comment. Last year, we just closed out. We had a really, really exceptional year. If you look at the profit and loss for the year and we closed out the year with a net profit of just over \$100,000, just truly phenomenal. We do owe most of that and thanks to the Bilitsky donation that we got that was \$65,000, but that still left us with a \$35,000 profit on our operating budget last year. So we made some tremendous headway and our goal of increasing our savings last year. So thank you to everyone for their efforts over the course of the last year and hopefully we have another successful year going forward.

Alessandra: Bob, I don't know if you want to make a statement about the budget because of the star chapter changes. Do you want to elaborate?

Bob: You mean the new pricing we got this past week about StarChapter? It's not all that significant. It's like what \$35 I think more per month and we're switching out. We're not going to be using them after December. So I'm not too concerned. I mean I'm concerned that they did that. But since we've already made the decision to move away from them. Not sure what there is to say. They sent us an e-mail that was kind of vague on why they said there was a mistake, but they didn't specify what the mistake in the billing was. I have sort of suspected that it could be related to the number of people in our contact database may be over the threshold but I'm not positive. I did send them a follow up e-mail and I haven't heard back yet asking them to elaborate why the price increase and what it's related to. So I'll follow up with the treasurer and a few of you. I'm sure you'd be interested to hear. But when I hear back from them, so I'll, I'll let you know.

Alessandra: I just kind of wanted the board to know that that that line item for our membership software was going to be impacted because of the change. But we did get a notice from Star Chapter saying that they gave us the wrong fee basically, and that it's going to be about \$35 more a month up until we quit with them, which is December. So it will be a couple \$100 more. But we are trying to fight it because it's a mistake on their part. They didn't give us the right fee when the fee increased. So just wanted to let the board know.

New Business

a. Onboarding- Alessandra Casiello

So this month is weird. We'll do the new business after the reports. for those that are new members to the board, you are required to go through a training. We are going to do it directly after this meeting. If you're not able to attend that, please reach out to me so we can set up a separate training for you. For those that have been on the board, anytime within the last three years, the training is the same. So you do not have to attend but if you want to have just a refresher on things, you certainly can. For those that aren't staying, you will have gotten an e-mail from me giving you access to the CLA board information. They are Google Drive folders, so you will have gotten those. If you did not and you think you should have, please let me know. I went off of the contact list that that Shannon was given. So if that is not the right contact information, we will have to update that. Then those that needed or will need access to the back end of the membership software star chapter, you will have also gotten an e-mail last night to update your password. So I just want to let people know that now in case you aren't staying for the training.

CLA Region 2 Report- Lisa Miceli
July 2026

Simsbury Public Library

- The Board of Selectmen just approved a change to the Head of Children's Services position. This staff member will now also serve as Deputy Director. Among the other benefits of this expansion of duties, is succession planning for the organization.

Manchester Public Library

- Will have a soft opening of their beautiful new library next month and a grand opening after Labor Day

Windsor Locks Library Public Library

- Budget update

Avon Free Public Library

- Is celebrating America's 250th with a film festival – Reflections on the American Experience Through the Lens of Film

Berlin-Peck Library

- Is hosting a Booking Around Berlin Scavenger Hunt. Participants find posters of summer themed book covers throughout businesses and the Town of Berlin.

West Hartford Public Library

- Holding their Annual Book Wyrn Fest Saturday, July 25. Book Wyrn Fest celebrates all things adventure, fantasy, board games and live action and tabletop role playing games.