

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

- I. **Call to Order:** President Erin Dummeyer called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM.
- II. **Approval of Minutes:** Motion made by 1. Mary Etter; 2. Kate Byroade. Two abstentions.
- III. **Old Business**
 - a. President's Report – See attached.
 - b. Treasurer's Report- See attached.
- IV. **New Business**
 - a. FY26 Budget -Margaret Khan
 - b. Motion to make \$500 donation to Nutmeg Committee-Margaret
 - c. Motion to have CLA become an America 250 CT Affiliate-Margaret Khan.
 - d. Region 4 Rep. nomination- Erin Dummeyer
 - e. Board Training Reminder-Alessandra Casiello

Representative Reports:

CT State Library: Deborah Schander: A couple of updates for you today. As Erin mentioned a little earlier, we are anticipating a special legislative session for the General Assembly this year, likely in September or October. We don't yet know the date or the full scope of what that will entail, but I will continue to share out information as we know more. The anticipated topic will be of course responding to the recent federal cuts and really Office of Policy and Management, OPM, is really focusing on the cuts that are imminent in comparison with the cuts that are coming potentially next federal fiscal year. And so, we'll continue to monitor that situation. Related to that, of course, is the latest that is happening at IMLS; The big beautiful budget bill that passed did not get to the details of federal funding for IMLS. That will likely be determined in subcommittee meetings for appropriations currently scheduled for next week- we're also waiting to find out if those are confirmed. But the anticipated impact for IMLS that would be happening at the State Library across the country would be for October 2026. We're continuing to monitor that as well and we will keep you posted on it. The final thing is we are offering training sessions and resources related to the new policies legislation that passed in the last session. DLD hosted a session on Thursday and will be offering, I believe two more over the next couple of months. And of course, you're welcome to check out the resources that DLD has created or reach out to the team for one-on-one assistance for those policies as well. So that is my update for today.

NELA: Sarah McCusker: Absent. No report.

ALA: Kate Byroade: ALA was held in Philadelphia. I just want to begin with the headline that we had a little over 14,000 attendees with not quite 8000 of them being paid attendees. So conference exceeded financial goals 106%, which is really good news for ALA because it's been a really hard road since COVID. The big things to know about is that we voted to prove the reunification of ALSC and YALSA. If you're involved with either of these, you may already be aware of this. YALSA, which is a young adult focused on teen services, was spun off many years ago from the services to children and at this point it is not viable to be its own independent unit

within ALA. So we there will be a merger process that'll take place over the next year. If you want more information about that, I am happy to point you toward resources on that. But for those of you like me who worked as a teen librarian, it's a little bittersweet, but hopefully it will contribute to the health of ALA. Our Treasurer's report, ALA has been in financial difficulties for years now and our report for the year to date through I believe that's the end of the third quarter, was that we were \$8 million in the hole as an organization. So, you know, re-up your ALA membership, pay for ALA sweats and merchandise, you know, do your best. We were briefly introduced to Dan Montgomery, who will be the new executive director of ALA starting in the fall. I did not get to meet him personally, but the people I know who have, have been very impressed with him. He seems very energized and engaged and interested in what we do. The Freedom to Read Foundation gave its annual report. We are very concerned about Little vs. Lano County. This is the court case that came out of Lano County, Texas. Sam Lee can probably speak more to it, but it is, and please correct me if I'm wrong, Sam, in any particular, but this is the case that the 5th Circuit- Sam you want to jump in here?

Sam Lee- So Lano, what is it, Little versus Lano County? So folks were suing Lano County for violating their First Amendment rights to access free speech in their libraries. That has been established case law that libraries are places for First Amendment rights to be protected, places of voluntary inquiry, and that First Amendment should be protected. In this new decision from the 5th Circuit Court, they have decided that no, patrons do not have a First Amendment right to access free speech in their public libraries and instead said that the library has every right to limit what goes into their libraries because it is funded by the government and therefore government speech. Now, other district courts, I believe other district courts in the states have said in the federal court system have said otherwise, that the government speech doctrine does not apply to public libraries. This is the first time we've seen this government speech doctrine be given and in credence deeply concerning because this has been an angle of approach that we've seen in Florida and Texas. So, they are in appeals as I understand it. So, we won't know. Appeal, however, goes to the Supreme Court. So, it's unclear. I'm not optimistic and that's not a great place to be what this Supreme Court will rule in this instance, whether or not government, the government speech doctrine holds or not. So, yeah, I've had tacos more supreme than this court.

Kate- So a plug to join to be a member of the Freedom to Read Foundation. They help pay for lawyers to argue these cases. And then we approved of and then a interpretation of the library code of ethics regarding copyright. So right now, ALA is going through a process of reviewing the library code of ethics, updating everything for the Intellectual Freedom Manual. So, we are busily approving various statements. So, if you are into that kind of nitty gritty stuff, all of that stuff is getting updated regularly these days and watch for the publication of the new Intellectual Freedom Manual later this year. There will be some sort next year in addition to the anniversary of the biseculentennial of our country, it is the sesquicentennial of the American Library Association. So, there will be a 150th commemoration committee. So, you know, maybe in our little membership, our little affiliate role with America 250, we can say, hey, American Library Association 150 years of that 250 years, I don't know.

ALA EDI Assembly: Kristina Lareau: Absent. No report.

ACLB: Denise Stankovics: We are in the process of planning our webinars for the upcoming year. We're going to rerun some of the basic ones. For example, board basics we're going to do in November after the election so that in towns that have elected boards, if there are new members right away, they'll have the opportunity to sit in on the board basics. Then in January, we're

hoping to redo Freedom of Information, which is becoming more of a hot topic as time goes on. And then down the road, we're exploring some other possibilities, suggestions that were made by members of this group and others for topics we haven't covered before. So, stay tuned for further details on those.

ACLPD: Robert Kinney: Absent. No Report.

America 250: Margaret Khan: The America 250 Connecticut Commission had a full meeting yesterday. We were appraised on some funding updates both from the state and the federal level. At the state level, state funding is continuing. There are a number of grants that libraries can apply to for efforts around the 250th. I'll link those into the chat when I'm done, but the CTH is offering quick grants and planning and implementation grants that you are welcome to apply for. At the federal level, there has been money allocated to the 250th, but how that money is going to be dispersed is unclear. Right now there are efforts to divert these federal funds back down to the state commissions so that the state commissions can use them in their own states. There are a number of initiatives that we're looking to participate in. Some ideas from other states are gaining some traction and might be recognized nationally. One of those is a potluck day, which would take place on July 5th of 2026 to get people back to the sharing and casually sharing a meal together. At the state level, Denise Merrill is heading a working group of on the White Oak Tree on how we can commemorate the white oak and pay homage to our Charter Oak. Some ideas are being tossed around with that, but it's looking like there might be an initiative to get every town to plant a white oak tree. Maybe some collaboration with our tree wardens and with our local schools on that. So I will definitely be pushing more information about that when we get it because it's something I'm kind of excited about too. And then lastly, keep your eye out for an information session in the fall. I'm working with Jen in Public Libraries to collaborate with some folks from America 250 CT so that we can have an information session cater just towards public libraries and what we might want to think about for the coming year and good ways that we can participate and have a good library representation for America 250 CT. Additionally, any Public Library is welcome to become an affiliate organization. As we just went over, there is literally no commitment, no real requirement from it. But if you do host America 250 events, you have access to logos and some boosted advertising through the Commission.

BCALA: Astoria Ridley: No report.

Bibliomation: Alessandra Casiello: We had our annual meeting at the end of June at Drusilla's library in Hebron, which was very nice. We have been experiencing over the last week and a half AI bot attacks on our OPACs. I believe other ILS's are also having these attacks happen. So we're trying to combat this. It's just AI is going crazy. We get hit with something, we block that thing, we restore, and then they find a new way to interfere with our work. But I think we've nailed down the issue and we're moving forward. July 1st, we had a new hire, well a promotion I should say. We have a Director of IT, John Miriam, and we are in the process of hiring 2 new employees right now, a system support coordinator and a desktop network help desk support technician. We are moving along at the beginning of the fiscal year.

Commission on Ed Tech: Colleen Bailie: One of the subcommittees met last week. There's a lot of discussion about some of the legislation that's happened at the state level and at the federal level. One of the things the commission's going to be bringing to the next full meeting in September is kind of talking ways about how to support libraries and education in the state, especially school districts as well about with all the different changes and cuts that are happening at the federal level. So I'll have more on that hopefully soon. But they're looking if there are things that they can do to kind of help and what we can, what would they can do as well. There

was also some talk about CENS community Wi-Fi grant program. The panelists who will be looking at all the different applications have been picked and they are currently reviewing all the applications. So hopefully it's those of you who've applied will be hearing something soon about if your if your grant has been chosen or not.

Communications Task Force: John Casiello: Discord is not dead, but I'm definitely thinking it may not be the best thing for us. I'd like to actually start maybe a new conversation with members of this board because this conversation started with people who are no longer part of CLA. So, I'd like to broaden it a bit and talk more about what communication styles would work best for CLA. If there's anyone here who wants to be part of that conversation, please reach out to me. And I'd like to start a better dialogue about what we actually need and how we can achieve it. Like I said, Discord isn't dead. It could still be the method we use, but I think we have a lot of other things to address as well with social media and just e-mail and like all the ways that we communicate with our members and outside of CLA. So please reach out if you're interested and hopefully we can move forward.

CASL: Gina Wiese: Absent. No report.

CLC: Ellen Paul: Absent. No report.

FOCL: Debbie Misiaszek: At the end of June we had a very successful award at ceremony and annual meeting that was very well attended. And our next project we're going to have another round table the end of October, hopefully on Esales like A-Z, so they can all find out how to do that.

LION: Joe Farara: I don't really have anything significant to report. Our energy right now is focused on the transition between fiscal years and getting ready for our annual audit.

Library Connection: Laura Horn: Absent. No report.

Region 1: Heather Aronson: I was able to go through the links of the members on Starchapter and I updated everything. I believe I have all the correct contact info for everyone in region 1 right now and no one had anything significant to report through this month, but I am getting some responses from people so we should be in good shape for this year.

Region 2: Lisa Miceli: Absent. See attached.

Region 3: Drusilla Carter: So I reached out to all of the people in the list on the Google Drive and also to every school librarian and academic librarian in my region. Which boils down to about 89 people. That was a really fun afternoon. I was getting my car fixed, pulling e-mail addresses. Obviously the school librarians aren't back in session yet but I heard back from a couple of people just saying that they appreciated the reach out and that they had no news. But so I'll keep reaching out to everybody throughout the year.

Region 4: Kira Parrott: Nothing to report just yet, but thank you to Brenda for sending me all the contacts. I'm going to confirm with everybody and hopefully have more to report next month.

Region 5: Emily Rush: See attached.

Region 6: Madhu Gupta: See attached.

SCSU: Cindy Schofield: Absent. No report.

Sustainability Taskforce: The bylaws changed at the annual meeting for the new membership tiers and the member dues. All of the dues we had turned off membership renewals and joint joining the first week of July so that we could put the new member dues in. All of those have been put in except for the enhanced institutional membership form. So that will be up on the website soon. We should be having a meeting soon with the executive committee to go over the financial plan, the yearly financial plan, and then we'll do an update on where we are with the strategic plan sometime in the fall based on Erin's schedule for these meetings. For the website

portion of sustainability and training, obviously we're doing our annual trainings now and still working with Starchapter until we find an alternative that will fit us better. So that's about it.

Association Committee Reports:

ADA: Marilyn Lewicki: Nothing to report. I'm going to be doing meetings again in September. We're taking a hiatus. Seems like everyone's doing summer readings, summer programs. There's been a little stagnation, but we're going to be going full steam ahead in September. That's basically it.

Archivist: Gerald Seagrave: No report.

Awards: Region Reps: John Casiello: It's a good time to remind region reps it's early, obviously we won't start any like official work on it till probably November, December. But just so you know, region reps are part of the committee that helps award the awards and goes through the nominations and all that. So, can you keep an eye out for things that you see around the state that are being done? Because it's always good to plant the seed in people's minds.

Alessandra- And you'll get an e-mail from me, from the conference committee inviting you to our September meeting just so that you have an overview of what the award ceremony will be at the annual conference.

John- Brenda, you know that you are the MC of that event. Surprise. We will let you know what you need to do.

Career Development: Diana Preece: The Library Leadership Institute is August 15th and tickets are available to purchase online now. And I want to give a big thank you to Amanda for agreeing to stick it out as co-chair through the institute because I only started in April so our switch off schedule is a little off. We are looking for a new co-chair and hope to announce that soon and will transition off after the Leadership Institute.

Conference 2025: Conference not much to say obviously. Margaret reported on the financials from last year. Our committee will have its first meeting for the 2026 conference on Monday. It's also that time that I have to start getting quotes for the 2027 conference. So, I'll be doing that and bringing that to the board in either August or September, depending on if we're actually going to be going out and visiting places based off of what, what quotes they can send upfront. Other than that, that's all for conference.

Development: Alessandra Casiello: For fundraising, currently working on trying to secure some sponsors for the Leadership Institute. If you know of a company or you are an organization that wants to sponsor that, please let me know. We have a few different sponsorships available for it. We have our first fundraiser starting on September 27th. It will run through November 17th and that is the Meadow Farms Online storefront fundraiser. We still have our bonfire shop, so those shirts are continuously available, and we generate checks every few months or when they decide to just send them because there's been a lot of sales. So we have about \$180 worth of sales so far from July. So, they'll be there until I request a check and seeing if we can do something for Freedom to Read week. We're going to see what intellectual freedom wants to do. And the big thing is there was a reach out from the Hartford Foundation. They had a donor that wanted to create a reference scholarship for people to get more involved in the library field and they needed a 501C3 in order to give the money to. We are not a 501C3 so we obviously cannot do this with them, but they reached out to us first thinking we were the best option to get this out to the right people. I let them know that we can certainly communicate the scholarship out to our networks, but because we are not a 501C3, they can't give us the money. Again, why we wanted

to be a 501C3 years ago. I did give them some alternative options in the state of whom they could reach out to. So other consortiums may be hearing from them and that's about it.

Intellectual Freedom: Sam Lee & Lindsay Delligan: I've changed positions. So intellectual freedom e-mail should not be going to Enfield. I don't even think that e-mail exists anymore. So, if you need intellectual freedom, you'll be emailing me at my Gmail account. I'll be dropping that down into the chat <sleelibrarian@gmail.com>. So intellectual freedom questions should go there. If you're looking for me, it's on the board page. It's been updated. The other thing is, we've heard about See You at the library. This is the campaign from Kirk Cameron's Toll Twins groups. So, we've got reports around the country that they are trying to book out library meeting rooms to run this story time and making them look like they are sponsored by the library. So, folks should be aware in case these meeting room requests come to your libraries or have a program that day and make sure your meeting room is not available. There is also, we are also in the planning stages of the fall Intellectual Freedom workshop. There is a survey going around. I'm dropping that into the chat as well as far as what people would like to see from that workshop. So that is the link on in the chat. And we already covered Llano County, but yeah, we've been watching a lot of these cases go through. Some of them have better results than others. But freedom to read Foundation, just a fun reminder, ACLA does have an institutional membership and we have. So we are supporting their efforts. There's one more thing I wanted to add. There is from the Social Responsibilities Roundtable. There is a day of social justice training with a critical look at AI, so it is free to attend and a link is going into the chat right now. There's a lot of really interesting stuff on there and a lot of really nice mix of AI critical presentations. Again, free from Social Responsibilities Roundtable.

Brenda: Yeah, I have a question for Sam, actually. So, Sam, when we're reporting out for tracking purposes on, you know, incidents, does it need to be the level of a patron actually filling out your request for reconsideration form? Like we're, I mean, I'm thinking because I just spent an hour yesterday with the patron, my second hour with this patron about once was about a display and now it's about some books. And, you know, I gave her the whole packet of information. I invited her to fill it out. I was refusing to discuss the merits of the books that she wanted to talk about until she, like, gave me my opportunity. I'm like, you have to fill these forms out and all the rest and whatever. It was a fine conversation. Some tears were shed, but she left. You know, she was just really upset from a perspective on these particular books. But she was also saying repeatedly, well, I don't want you to do anything. And I'm like, all right, well, you know, like we're spending an hour talking about this and you want like you need to fill these forms out or whatever. But from your perspective or from tracking and what you know about tracking, can you just like kind of speak to that? Like what should get be getting reported and what maybe doesn't?

Sam- I think a conversation like that is worth getting reported. These things are so hard to track that like these amorphous like maybe should I, should I not? I think it's worth tracking so that we are aware what the trends are and know what to anticipate because this sounds like one of those like weird angle of attacks where it's like malicious compliance and that they are eating up your time so that you can't do the rest of your job. That is a waste of library resources in the same way that that these book challenges are. So, I think it's worth tracking. And since I'm seeing Kate right now with a comment there, similar incident. OK, Yeah, it eats up time and it eats up your piece. I think it's worth tracking because this is I, I feel like this might be in another insidious way of attacking our resources and bandwidth. And the best way to do that is ALA has the

challenge report tool. Yeah, I would continue to report it through ALA only because they have the infrastructure. Colleen, let me know if that has changed regionally.

Colleen: We also still also have the New England helpline too, for, for filing reports as well, because we're with that Ala grant. We're also trying to keep track of any of the new ways that people are also, kind of like Sam said, eating up our time, eating people's time. Because I've heard this as well in Massachusetts, they've been having stuff like this, too.

Sam: Yeah, it, it is absolutely a time crunch in a black hole. And it's a way for them to eat up resources and our attention so that we can't do our other job, our regular job, and make it look like we are being fiscally irresponsible when we are responding to our community or our mission. So it's a bit insidious.

Links:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfq01ZYsnzL34KuR94AXcRy1GMWvEVkp9fFWp0txVCoUFBFbA/viewform?usp=header>

<https://www.ala.org/srrt/events/dsj2025>

Legislative: Kate Byroade & Rebecca Harlow: So we are on a well-deserved summer break after getting the freedom to read bill which has the new statutory requirements attached to it passed. The e-book bill passed. I think the big news is that New Jersey introduced substantially similar legislation in New Jersey. Deborah, that's going to be your job to monitor and New Jersey has a full year full time legislature. So that could actually happen, you know, 3-6 months down the road, that it could get passed, if they pass it in New Jersey. We copied a lot of their freedom to read bills. So, you know, New Jersey can copy our e-book bill. And if New Jersey passes that, then we will have hit that threshold, that population threshold required in the e-book bill. And at ALA there were several conversations with multiple states who are more fired up and more engaged with this issue really good. We had some really good conversations at ALA and we will be having a working planning meeting in September. As we are working on planning that we have decided that rather than our typical just come one, come all meeting, since we're anticipating doing nitty gritty work at that session in September, which will be in person at Russell Library, we will reach out to the people who will be actually doing work. If you would like to be involved with the legislative committee, please reach out to me or to my new co-chair, Rebecca Harlow. And we're looking forward to a short session February to May early next year. And we will probably be looking to do some legislative meet and greets in the late fall, early winter before the session.

Outreach: John Casiello: Nothing much that hasn't already been reported. It's the dues change and the board changes and all that and just trying to keep up with all of that. But if there's anything that any of the new chairs need, reach out. And yeah, that's it for now.

PEG: Mary Etter: Other than updating our listing in Scholarships and Financial Aid for Continuing Ed, which is an annual thing, nothing has happened in the past month. So, I'll be reaching out to the new full group of regional reps our committee.

Procedures: Lisa Miceli: Absent.

Section Reports:

Children's: Vacant:

CLASS: Vacant

College & University: Rob Walsh: Absent.

JEDI: Mary Richardson: Absent.

Public Libraries: Jennifer Sullivan: I have no real report other than Margaret and I are going to be working on the Connecticut 250 coming up.

Reference & Adult Services: Christie Mitchell: No report.

Resource Sharing: Matt Earls: No report.

Technical Services: Ann Victor & Christine Rinaldi: We do have a meeting coming up on August 15th at 10:00 at the Middletown Service Center. Everyone's welcome. You don't need to be a member, so let your staff know if they want to come and chitchat. It's just an open discussion round table type of thing. We'll be there.

Technology: Kate Sheehan & Jessica Wolford: We have a new Co chair Jessica is here from Biblio and we're very excited. We are currently talking about, this is sort of an idea that's been percolating in the back of my head for a long time, so still very much rough stages, we've been thinking about technical standards basically. So, benchmarks for what would be helpful. Obviously starting first the public libraries, it's a little more what we know and thinking about what would make sense for your tech staff, what makes sense for your library staff broadly. I know a lot of libraries outsource that. We started thinking about how I've seen people using the salary benchmarks as advocacy tools for your funding agencies to say, hey, look, here are these standard benchmarks from our professional organization. So similar idea. Not like you must hire people with these qualifications or you're bad at your job or something like that, but more like, hey, here's some skills that we're looking for. Here's why we're asking for funding for training. Here's why we're asking for, you know, to expand positions to include more technical abilities. So, we are thinking about that and thinking about how to create that in a way that is useful to everybody. So, if you have things where you thought, you know, hey, this is something where, you know, gosh, I wish we had this on staff and I don't know how to get it. You know, here's some stuff that I wish we had or, you know, here are some things that I wish that or that my staff has asked for training on, things like that. That's the sort of stuff we're looking for. We're probably going to do this in a series of meetings and we've talked about how to have. Jessica had a really great suggestion, which I'm going to mess up. Jess, do you want to? I'm pulling up your e-mail now, but do you want to jump in?

Jessica: It was sort of like the first two meetings being like 1 geared toward the public facing staff and saying like what do you wish that you knew about technology? And the second being geared more toward the Technical Support staff being like, what do you wish the public services staff knew about technology so that we could kind of get a full view of where the gaps are and how those could be filled in.

Kate: So that's, that's what we're percolating on now. So, if you have thoughts about that, by all means, send them along and meetings to come. I know the summer is terrible. Nobody wants to have meetings in the summer and also, I mean, right now we could probably have an entire technology meeting about what you are using for summer reading software and why do you hate it so? Yeah, that's where we're at for the fall.

YA: Danielle Murray: I'm at Rockville Public Library as a teen librarian. I didn't get to meet you guys last month, but it's nice to meet you now. I am looking forward to planning a workshop perhaps in November. I'd like to deal with compassion fatigue and burnout in teen services. I have reached out to a couple potential presenters but haven't heard back. I think the budget might be limiting it. So, if you know anybody, any community organizations that might host these kinds of professional workshops for, you know, a nice rate for professional organizations, let me know.

Adjournment: 11:07 AM Motion made by 1. Kate Byroade. 2. Drusilla Carter

Present: Erin Dummeyer, Brenda McKinley, Margaret Khan, Shannon Angelone, Deborah Schander, Alessandra Casiello, Astoria Ridley, Christie Mitchell, Christine Rinaldi, Colleen Bailie, Danielle Murray, Debbie Misiaszek, Denise Stankovics, Diana Preece, Drusilla Carter, Emily Rush, Erin Dumeyer, Heather Aronson, Jennifer Sullivan, Jerry Seagrave, Jessica Wolford, Joe Farara, John Casiello, Kate Byroade, Kate Sheehan, Keira Parrott, Madhu Gupta, Marilyn Lewicki, Mary Etter, Matt Earls, Robert Scheier, Samantha Lee, Danielle Jurray,

Old Business

a. **President's report- Erin Dummeyer**

I've been focusing really on onboarding myself. In addition to what took place over the past year. I cosigned a letter on behalf of CLA with Ellen from CLC and Our CASL President, to Rosa DeLauro about the special session coming up and the House Appropriations. And in addition to that, we, Ellen, Brenda and I had a meeting with a lobbying firm to talk about, you know, just sort of an exploratory discussion about whether we should think about talking to lobbyists in advance of the special session. We decided that we won't need them for this. And then, which is, it's pretty good for us actually, because now we have time to have our legislative session in September and really determine what CLA's agenda is going to be for the next year and then that will inform whether we think it's worth it to create a call for proposals for lobbying firms to decide if that's the right path for us This year one of my goals is to convert CLA from a 501C4 to A 501C3. The membership actually approved us to make this conversion back in November 2021. It ended up never happening due to a bunch of like clerical delays, so I'd love to pick that back up again. We originally decided to move to a 501C3 because it would make CLA eligible for different types of grant funding. Whereas often you can apply to things if you're a 501C4 and you can still engage with a lobbyist if you're a 501C4. You just can't spend a certain percentage of your budget on lobbying and we were below that limit. But I will not spoil anything for our budget report from Margaret in a minute. I also just wanted to remind everyone to be a board chair or board cochair, you have to be an individual member of CLA. You can't just be an institutional member. That's sort of as a point of order that it's good to remind people about. And that's it for my President's report.

- b. **Treasurer's Report-** We do not have the final figures from the closeout of fiscal year 25, but what we do have as of May 31st showed a very good year. As of May 31st, we had about \$34,000 that we made in profit over the last year. It'll probably be a little bit less than that with a couple expenses that trickled in through June, but overall a very good year. This follows a number of years where we've had good profit. We budget conservatively with our revenues. We budget a little bit more generously with our expenses and that way when things come out to the end of the year, we usually are able to make a profit. So, we've been doing a good job with that. We've been adhering to our financial plan with the goal to increase our savings and eventually get to that investment point. We're still a number of years away from that, but we've been making good headway. Otherwise, there was nothing exceptional or noteworthy about June. Are there any questions about the budget reports? Thank you all.

New Business

a. **FY26 Budget -Margaret Khan**

Thank you to all of our section committee chairs for your help with presenting your budgets, your proposed budgets. By and large, we were able to get most of the asks in this year. However, we did restrict a little bit of spending for our sections just because we needed to help balance the budget. The legislative committee had asked for some monies for lobbying communications or just to help us with our continued legislative efforts. We did not put that into the budget, but what we are going to be doing is earmarking \$20,000 in our savings account for general CLA communication, strategic planning, potentially lobbying purposes. As the plans become more firm and we have more a more clear idea on what exactly that spending will be, those funds will be there to be released as needed. The budget also includes money for a tax review, which we will be looking into getting a regular schedule to having that done. It does show a little bit of a deficit. This bottom line it's about \$3000. But based on past year's budget, so the fact that we earned \$34,000 this year, the executive committee felt confident presenting a slight deficit this year. Are there any questions on the proposed fiscal year 26 budget? Then I think we'll have to make a motion to accept the fiscal year 26 budget. I make a motion to accept the proposed the proposed 2025/2026 operating budget?

I'll second that.

Jennifer Sullivan- Can she Margaret motion to approve what she just presented, though she so actually it's the it's not the work of a committee.

Kate- So she can make the she can make the vote and then somebody needs to second it. Seconded by Jennifer Sullivan. Motion passes.

b. **Motion to make \$500 donation to Nutmeg Committee-Margaret Khan.**

Every year we make a donation to the Nutmeg Committee for all the work that they do for our nutmeg selection. So could I get a motion for the CLA to donate \$500 to the Nutmeg Committee? Moved by 1. Kate Byroade. 2 Sam Lee. No abstentions. Motion passes.

c. **Motion to have CLA become an America 250 CT Affiliate-Margaret Khan.**

As you know the 250th anniversary is coming up. We are less than one year out for that. I would like the CLA to make a decision to become an affiliate organization for the America 250 program. As an affiliate organization, there's actually no real obligation, nothing required that we have to do, but it's just a way for us to get a little bit more involved, be a listed contact for America 250. And I feel that we align libraries in general align well with the values of America 250 Connecticut, which are: tell inclusive stories, the power of place, doing history and for the common good. Are there any questions?

-I'm in favor of motion. I'm just wondering if you can give us a little more information as to what we have to do as an affiliate. We don't have to do anything. Being, being an affiliate just means you're like, hey, please list me on your website. That's we're one. The Historical Society is 1. You don't actually have to do anything. Motion made by Mary Etter. 2. Kate Byroade. Motion passed.

d. **Region 4 Rep. nomination- Erin Dummeyer**

The first is Region 4 Representative Kira Parrot, the new co-chair of our legislative committee because Olivia is stepping down, Rebecca Harlow, a new co-chair for the Reference and Adult Services committee along with Christie Mitchell is Kellyanne Gardella, and a new Co chair for Technology as well, Jessica Wolford. Motion made by 1. Kate Byroade. 2. Drusilla Carter. Motion passed.

e. **Board Training Reminder-Alessandra Casiello**

For those that are returning members of the board, if you've gone through board training and gone through Star Chapter training, you do not have to attend a training again unless you would like to. For those that are new members on the board or your roles are changing to a role that has different duties, which would be executive board member, you do have to attend board training and training for Star Chapter. Normally I send out a survey, but people don't complete my surveys, so we're going to just see what day it works. For those that need training in this meeting, are people OK with doing it on a Thursday morning the way that we have this meeting at 10 AM for those that need it? Those new chairs are mostly who I'm asking if anybody is opposed to doing it. Next Thursday's date is the 24th at 10 AM. Is that OK? All right, so I will send out a link to everybody on the board. Again, if you've already done the training, you don't have to come. If you'd like to do a refresher, you certainly can. The other reminder is, as Erin said, you have to be an individual member to be on the board. The board page that is populated on our website is based off of your member page. So, if you're not a member, it automatically pulls you off of the page and it won't automatically put you back once you renew. You have to let either myself or John know so that we can put you back onto the board page. So, if you don't see yourself there and you believe you're a member, let us know. We'll check for you and if you are a member, we'll put you back on. If not, we'll let you know you have to renew. The other thing is any section chair, committee chair I think other than Rebecca because I wasn't aware of that change, should have gotten an admin reset for starchapter to reset your password. If you did not receive that please check your spam. If you still don't see it, please e-mail my fundraising@ctlibraryassociation.org e-mail so we can sort that out so we can get you your admin login for Starchapter. Everybody except Rebecca should also have gotten invite to the Google Drive folders that we have. If you have not, there are some emails that won't allow you to view Google Drive. So either let me know a different e-mail address you would like to use so you can view those documents, or I can try just sending you PDFs of the training documents and the logo folder and all of that. But if anybody has any questions, reach out to myself or reach out to John for things having to do with membership or the website, and then I will get the training. Zoom out to you all shortly for July 24th at 10 AM. -I have a quick question, yes, so I think I remember from last meeting too. So, for existing chair members, do we all have to reset our password, right? Alessandra- Everybody should have gotten a reset for their password. Some people moved into new roles. So, your username also changes because it goes with what your position is. So just be aware of that. If you go to login and you are

a different position. Now also if you have two positions, you only get one login.
So, it's for whatever position I sent it for you for you.

CLA Region 2 Report
July 2025

Everyone is immersed in Summer Reading!

Avon Free Public Library

- Featuring the American Revolution: Artifacts and Stories from CT travelling exhibit through the
- month of July.

Rocky Hill Library

- Offering a program on Women and their Wardrobes During New England's Revolution

Welles Turner Library Glastonbury

- Offering a Make Your Own Bobble Head in their 2CF Makerspace

East Windsor Warehouse Point Library

- Has created an Amazon Wish List for their Teen Space so people can help support Teen
- Services. The list includes furniture, activities and décor.

Cromwell Belden Library

- Featuring an American Sign Language Storytime

James Blackstone Memorial Library, Branford

- We have said goodbye to our Business Manager of 22 years, Kathy Oxsalida. Kathy retired this month after a long career of dedicated service to the Branford community. She has helped develop annual budgets, served on Building & Grounds committee to support building repair, maintenance and renovation, and has helped keep the Blackstone in solid financial shape. We wish her all the best in her retirement! We welcome Cynthia Bannon to take over as the new Business Manager. Cynthia has previously held leadership roles for various nonprofits, and will step in to take over the library finances and provide HR support to our staff. We also welcome Stephen Brady to fill the role of Facilities Manager. Stephen brings extensive property maintenance and facilities management, and we look forward to Stephen jumping in to take on maintenance and repair for our 129-year-old building.

Willoughby Wallace Memorial Library, Stony Creek, Branford

- Congratulations to Thia Wrightsman, WWML Archivist, who was invited to give a presentation on Douglas Orr at the New Haven Museum on May 22. Thia's presentation, "Douglas Orr: Connecticut and Beyond" was part of a celebration of National Preservation Month. Thia used information on Orr which is stored in WWML's archives, including primary source materials.

Henry Carter Hull Library, Clinton

- At the kick-off to summer reading on Friday, 6/20, the Children's Room staff will be unveiling the new Clinton Beach Toy Library at the Clinton Town Beach. In partnership with Clinton Park & Rec and the Clinton Land Trust, there will now be a box with sand toys available for any beachgoer to borrow while they are at the beach.
- Also, on July 15th, we will be opening the doors to Henry on Main, located at 10 W. Main St - the building where the library was housed before it moved to the current location in 1998. Henry on Main is a partnership between the Town of Clinton, the Clinton Senior Connection, and the Clinton Economic Development Commission to bring pedestrian traffic back to Main St. The location will have an ongoing used book sale, a puzzle table, quick printing, daily newspapers, and programming. Henry on Main will occupy the front of the building, and the back of the building will house Cafe Nola - a coffee shop. Everyone in town is very excited, and we're sure it's going to be a success.

Wallingford Public Library, Wallingford

- We're thrilled to announce we just hired Sam Lee as our new Assistant Director.

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

CLA Board Meeting
July 17, 2025 Meeting
Region 6 Libraries

- Mystic and Noank Library is going to host Wally Lamb at their annual author event in September. His new book, *The River is Waiting*, has been chosen for Oprah's Book club
- Public Library of New London is enhancing its Teen Reading Room by adding additional shelving to accommodate a growing and diverse young adult collection. The added shelving will help improve organization, increase browsing ease, and create a more inviting and functional environment for teen patrons. This project aligns with the library's ongoing commitment to support youth engagement and literacy through improved access to resources.
- Waterford Public Library is working on replacing the library's HVAC system through funding from the State Construction Grant which they received a couple of years ago. This year they had to bring in 11 temporary cooling units to cool the building.
- East Lyme Public Library is hosting 8 high school interns who are working on digital exhibits on local history supported by a grant from CT Humanities.