

Connecticut Library Association Board Meeting
August 15, 2024
10:00 am Business Meeting via Zoom
Minutes

1. **Call to Order:** President Scott Jarzombek called the meeting to order at 10:03 am.
Approval of Minutes: July meeting minutes
A motion to approve the July meeting minutes was made by Olivia Blake and seconded by Scott Brill. Motion approved. No abstentions.
2. **Old Business**
 - a. **President's Report** – See attached.
 - b. **Treasurer's Report** – See attached.
3. **New Business**
 - a. Financial Plan- Margaret Khan
 - b. Strategic Plan Review-Scott Jarzombek
 - c. CASL/CLA Reciprocal Membership-Scott Jarzombek
 - d. September General Membership Meeting-Scott Jarzombek

Representative Reports:

CT State Library: Deborah Schander: The Museum of Connecticut History has reopened following its renovation. We still have a few details to still work out, but we hope you will come and see the changes that have happened to the museum from 10am – 4 pm.

NELA: Scott Brill: I had the pleasure earlier this month of attending the NELS Emerging Leaders Conference. We were on a panel, and it was very exciting to see all of the eager librarians. It went very well and was an excellent first attempt at doing this. NELS is broken into 3 parts: NELS- for emerging leaders; NELS 2- the NELS that we all know which will be at the Vonn Trap Family Lodge in 2025; and NELS 3 for those who have more experience. We're also trying to have another NELA/CLA meeting hopefully in September just to touch base. The NELA conference is in October in Portland, Maine. There is also a NELA Scholarship to attend the conference. You do not have to be a first-time member; it can be for anybody who wants to attend the conference. They have extended the deadline until tomorrow.

ALA: Kate Byroade: We had a special meeting in July to approve and vote in the selection of Sam Helmick as Vice President/President-elect because the previous candidate who was elected had to step away for health reasons. The executive committee of ALA council interviewed multiple candidates and Sam was presented to us as the first choice. It was a nearly unanimous vote by council and they are now the Vice President/ President-elect. I have met Sam and I think they have been doing a great job in terms of social media outreach. They would be very willing to join one of our meetings to say hello and see what CLA is about.

ALA EDI Assembly: Kristina Lareau: No report.

ACLB: Denise Stankovics: We're firming up plans for two workshops in the fall. In September, we are hoping to do one on association libraries. In October, FOCL came up with a good plan for us to join forces and do a program on the roles of the library director, the board, and the friends to clarify who does what and doesn't do what. We'll have more updates on that.

ACLPD: *Vacant*

America 250: Margaret Khan: No report.

BCALA: Robert Kinney: Absent.

Commission on Ed Tech: Colleen Bailie: No report.

Communications Task Force: John Casiello: Absent.

CASL: Mary Ellen Minichiello & David Bilmes: Absent.

CLC: Ellen Paul & Amanda Stern: Absent.

FOCL: Debbie Misiaszek: Absent.

Library Connection: Laura Horn: Absent.

Region 1: Heather Aronson: Absent.

Region 2: Lisa Miceli: Absent.

Region 3: Chonte Fields: Absent.

Region 4: Brenda McKinley: Barnum is currently closed for roof and elevator renovations.

They currently have curbside service available Tuesday through Friday 10-2. Their 100-year-old structure is getting the new roof and they have been without an elevator since last August.

Fairfield: We had two people come from Ohio to participate in our Summer Reading challenge.

They are from Fairfield, Ohio which was a mistake at first, but they still wanted to participate and came to pick up their prizes. We have pictures and will share those.

Region 5: Emily Rush: The Branford Library is planning for their fall fundraiser: “Evening with the Spirits” and they will have tastings of wine, beer, and whiskey. They will also have palm readings, and tarot cards. Their programming librarian became the Head of Reference and Jordan Nolan became the head of Programming. The programming coordinator at the Clinton Library along with a friend is opening a Romance themed bookstore in Chester, CT called Montgomery and Taggart. The Brainerd Library is undergoing construction so their Summer Reading Finale will all be outside. The West Haven Library had their 10th annual Ice Cream Social and had 200 people show up. The State Library’s Outreach van was there, and they had a magic show and ice cream. Their branch will also be getting a library themed mural on the outside of the building. That will have a reception and unveiling at the beginning of September.

Region 6: Madhu Gupta: See attached.

SCSU: Cindy Schofield: Absent.

Sustainability Taskforce : Alessandra Casiello:

- By-laws- hoping to have vote in September.
- Financial Plan- proposed changes brought today
- Strategic Plan- proposed plan brought today.
- Training/Softwares- Board orientations took place in July and August, if you need training/refresher contact Alessandra. Reminder that in order to be on the board you have to be a current CLA Individual member. All board members must go through a training if they are new (if returning from past year refresher is available, if returning from being on board several years ago, things have changed and you should go through training). We are still looking into setting up demos for other member management softwares.

Association Committee Reports:

ADA: Marilynn Lewicki: I just wanted to introduce myself. I am taking over for Maria and don’t have much to report as I just started, but I will have things to report soon.

Archivist: Gerald Seagrave: Absent.

Awards: Region Reps: N/A

Career Development: Amanda Stern & Rory Martorana: Absent.

Conference 2024: We have had a few meetings and planning is underway. Vendors have been sent a save the date and we will be sending a save the date out to members/nonmembers/listservs

in August. The theme is "Making Space." We have also made our 1st deposit for conference 2026.

Grants/Fundraising: Alessandra Casiello: Looking into a fall fundraiser to replace Banned Bands/Freedom to Rock.

Intellectual Freedom: Sam Lee & Lindsay Delligan: a bit of news that we are waiting on is that earlier in the year, ALA put out a grant for state libraries and Intellectual Freedom committees to form helplines. At the Law for Librarians event that Lindsay attended, a lot of the Northeast Librarians decided to apply together as a block of libraries. We are hoping to hear back soon as to whether or not we won that grant. We were in a lot of stiff competition. A lot of states are looking into establishing helplines, but we did stand out since we were a block of states. Lindsay has been doing an amazing job since her trip. She's been doing training all over the place and making sure that everyone gets more information about Law for Librarians and case laws and information to help people protect themselves during IF challenges.

Legislative: Kate Byroade & Olivia Scully: In our last meeting we talked about the internet archive. Publishers have filed a suit against the internet archive to take down a lot of material. The courts sided with publishers and the internet archive had to take down a lot of material. The argument was that it was copyright infringement. The internet archive is appealing the decision. (Link Below) I just wanted to put it on everyone's radar, there was a question whether CLA could or should take a stance on this. Other state boards in Connecticut were curious about signing onto something like this if we were to put out a statement or letter. Maybe this is something we can revisit in September to make a decision on putting something out there.

<https://boingboing.net/2024/06/24/internet-archive-forced-to-remove-half-a-million-books.html>

Our legislative Committee members have been putting in so much work this summer. One of the things we have been working on is a budget consideration for the legislative agenda for this coming session. The legislative committee would like the board to consider this budget proposal for adoption and consider this at the next meeting.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1mgq6kBTfd21qBKz69kdTr29OCitd1azO/edit>

This budget proposal is something we would like to put forth as part of our legislative agenda for the session itself for the state budget.

Kate: In Connecticut we have a biennial state budget process. We'll have the long session which runs from January to June and that's when they undertake budget requests and considerations. Ours is a little challenging because the State Library with its funding has to go through a process with the Office of Policy and Management and essentially, they can only ask for what they are given. What we are doing as an outside group is saying that the money that exists right now, because of the many cuts over the last decade, is not sufficient for us to serve the residents of Connecticut. So, this is our budget proposal that has been worked out. We'd like people to read this and go into the next packet and vote on as a body so that when we get to the conversations with legislators we can say "yes we are asking for XXX and this is what it is." It takes a lot of legwork and conversations with CLC and Deborah at the State Library. One thing that we would really like to do is see that state aid to public libraries increase so that the formula that already exists in most statutes, can actually be tacked and we can see higher need communities see more funds.

Olivia: There's a lot of other things happening. There are folks working on an advocacy education program; a forum/ repository to report their engagements with legislators and nonprofit organizations regarding the advocacy and collect information on who might be our

friends. We are also working on putting together some legislative meet and greets for the fall. We'll have more information on that soon. The meet and greets will be sometime between election day and the new year. We won't know who the new legislators are until election day. If you run into candidates for office, don't be shy to say libraries are important. Start building those relationships now to tour your library, share your story, and get them aware. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, September 10th at 3pm and then Tuesday, October 8th at 3pm. We will be having another in person working session sometime between now and then.

Outreach: John Casiello: Absent.

PEG: Mary Etter: Absent.

Procedures: Lisa Karim: Absent.

Section Reports:

Children's: Alexandra Remy & Chonte Fields: No report.

CLASS: Vacant

College & University: Rob Walsh: Absent.

JEDI: Mary Richardson & Sam Connell: Absent.

Public Libraries: Jennifer Sullivan: No report.

Reference & Adult Services: Christie Mitchell: No report.

Resource Sharing: Matt Earls: No report.

Support Staff: Vacant.

Technical Services: Ann Victor & Christine Rinaldi- We just want to remind you that we have an RDA webinar coming up on August 26th. We are also planning another in person roundtable meeting in October.

Technology: Kate Sheehan & Christopher Knorr: No report.

YA: Stephanie Smith: No report.

Adjournment: 11:02 AM Motion to adjourn by Kate Byroade. Seconded by Erin Dummeyer.

Present: Scott Jarzombek, Erin Dummeyer, Margaret Khan, Shannon Angelone, Deborah Schander, Alexandra Remy, Brenda McKinley, Christie Mitchell, Christine Rinaldi, Colleen Bailie, Denise Stankovics, Emily Rush, Jennifer Sullivan, Kate Byroade, Kate Sheehan, Kristina Lareau, Lindsay Delligan, Madhu Gupta, Marilynn Lewicki, Matt Earls, Olivia Blake, Robert Scheier, Samantha Lee, Scott Brill, Stephanie Smith.

President's Report

Scott Jarzombek

We've made a lot of headway on the legislative agenda. We're moving in a really great direction. The legislative committee will report later but I'm really excited about the work there. The majority of the text for the newsletter which I'm hoping will go out on the first of September has been done. There's some stuff that I wanted to add that if we don't have quorum, we don't need to add. The biggest thing there is the general membership meeting. We can't vote on when the general membership meeting is because we don't have quorum. We may not have the meeting until the end of September or October. Other than that it has been relatively low key for my first month. There's a lot of reaching out and some discussion around some stuff that's going on for the association later, but other than that it's been manageable.

Treasurer's Report

We did have a really strong month for membership, we brought in \$6,200 which is almost double of what our monthly goal is. The career development committee has brought in over \$2200 with more to come from their leadership institute. That will be next Friday, the 23rd, and there is still time to register if anyone wants to attend that. We just got notice to renew our insurance, and we are looking to renew our business filing with the state of Connecticut. We need to do that in order to update the names on our banking information. So just a couple of administrative things and finances are all well and good in the beginning in the year.

New Business

a. Financial Plan- Margaret Khan

We did update our financial plan in part to align with our current practices and to outline the procedures that we have from the treasurers and to the administrative and board members should be doing. We also wrote into the plan our goals to increase our savings and eventually getting to the point where we can invest. The plan will have us have three categories in our savings account for contingency with \$20,000 each to be held for emergency funding, for stabilization for general needs, and for conference. We do have that now in a checking account but once we get the banking sorted, it will be moved to a checking account. We will be at the point where we can begin investing when we have 2 years of operating expenses in the bank.

Motion to approve financial plan made by Scott Brill and seconded by Kate Byroade. No discussion. Motion approved.

b. Strategic Plan Review-Scott Jarzombek

Motion to approve strategic plan made by Margaret Khan and seconded by Sam Lee. No abstentions. Motion approved.

c. CASL/CLA Reciprocal Membership-Scott Jarzombek

CASL has come to an agreement where there will be reciprocal membership between CLA and CASL. Their suggestion is an additional \$25 charge to join CLA. I feel like that is a little low so I'd like to hear everyone's thoughts on that. I will go back to Jenny work on the pay structure a bit more.

Motion to enter into an agreement once the financials are worked out made by Scott Brill and seconded by Olivia Blake. Motion Approved.

d. September General Membership Meeting-Scott Jarzombek

My suggestion is to call a general membership meeting at 9am before our September Board meeting. That gives everyone an hour to show up and vote yes or no and then the board shows up to vote.

Motion made by Margaret Khan and seconded by Kate Byroade. Motion approved.

We will put it in the newsletter and also a standalone email.

CLA Board Meeting
August 15, 2024 Meeting
Region 6 Libraries

Mystic And Noank Library-is looking forward to their annual fundraiser with Richard Russo on August 26!

Cragin Memorial Library- is having a very busy summer. Their happy news is that due to an increased budget and grant funding they have been able to grow an existing part-time programming position to a full-time position.

Janet Carlson Calvert Library- There needs to be a Connecticut-wide program (initiative?) that is to get people of all ages to find a reason to come. The same old programs, are not as popular as it use to be (book clubs only, depending on age). Zoom programs were never attended well. Even crafts are so-so with YouTube available. Passport to CT Libraries was well attended and people wished it was every year. It's good to have something to look forward to.

Public Library of New London- Had a very successful summer reading program. Some programs that patrons loved: Passport to New London, cupcake wars for teens, art programs for all ages. Main floor bathroom is ADA compliant.