

Connecticut Library Association Board Meeting
August 21, 2025
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 July:** Motion made by 1. Mary Etter; 2. Kristina Lareau.
- 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: We are continuing to watch the IMLS budget conversations as it moves through Congress. The Senate subcommittee proposed essentially a full restoration of IMLS funding. There were a couple of tweaks to the existing budget, but really kind of positive news that we saw on that front. At this point, it will be going to the House subcommittee- they operate completely separately. And so, whether or not the House follows suit or comes up with its own proposal is something that we are continuing to monitor. We'll be continuing to work with our federal delegation etcetera on sharing out information regarding the IMLS budget as that continues. On the state budget front, we are continuing to anticipate a special session for the Connecticut General Assembly as well either in September or October. We don't know yet- confirmation of that or about the details of what will be the subject of that session. We assume it will be budget related, but we are continuing to work through that process as well as beginning the regular formal budget process for the new session that will start in January as well. And finally, we are continuing to collect updated policies related to the bill for School and Public Library collection policies. I know many of you have been working with the DLD team on that. Please do continue to reach out to them if you have any questions. I know they've put together a really great resource along with several other library directors and others. So, thank you to everybody and again, the team is available as a resource.

NELA: Sarah McCusker: The NELA conference is happening this year in Newport, RI from October 26th to the 28th. Early bird registration is open now. You can also see the preliminary schedule and everything on there. There is also a scholarship for the attendance for it. It is no longer for first time attendees only. I'm going to drop that link too, but you can also just find it on the main website for the conference.

<https://nela2025-newport.glide.page/dl/17171d>

ALA: Kate Byroade: Absent.

ALA EDI Assembly: Kristina Lareau: No report.

ACLB: Denise Stankovics: ACLB is continuing to plan future webinars. We'll begin them again in the fall. We're always looking for new topics that people think should be of interest to board members. My e-mail address is on the list of participants in these meetings, so if anyone has any suggestions for upcoming webinars, we're certainly happy to get them. Stay tuned for further details on contact as we schedule and are taking registrations for the fall programs.

ACLPD: Robert Kinney: Absent.

America 250: Margaret Khan: The Public Library's section and I have been working with the two America 250 Connecticut folks and we will have an information session for public libraries coming up on October 1st at 2:00 PM. Registration information for that should be out soon and we're excited to be offering that.

BCALA: Astoria Ridley: Absent.

Bibliomation: Alessandra Casiello: We have a lot going on at Bibliomation right now. In August, we were in the interview process for two positions and this week we have two new employees. David Taylor joined us as our system Support coordinator and John Adams joined us as one of our desktop network and helpdesk support technicians and we are onboarding them right now. This week we also launched a new integration service for SMS through our Evergreen ILS with the third-party vendor Shoutbomb. We are just hammering out any bugs and going through that. They had to send out over 50,000 messages to welcome those who have already subscribed. It's been a busy week for us on our end, and we are just moving forward with finally having a full team.

Commission on Ed Tech: Colleen Bailie: No report.

Communications Task Force: John Casiello: Nothing new from last month's report, but again we're just reevaluating how we communicate with our members and nonmembers. I'll probably be reaching out to you, Erin, and some other members of the executive board and trying to put a plan together for the future.

CASL: Gina Wiese: Absent.

CLC: Ellen Paul: We are rebidding our non-print contracts, that's our AV contract. It's five years old. It needs to go out to bid again. The bid documents are live and we are accepting proposals from vendors. New contracts should be in place by January 1st. So more information to come. Coming up in September, CLC is hosting joint webinars with the Connecticut Association of School Librarians to go over the school portion of the Freedom to Read Law. These webinars are open to everyone. If you're curious to know what that piece of the bill says and looks like and how it affects our schools and school libraries, those are on the CLC calendar. Looking towards the fall, CLC's going to launch a new set of roundtables. More information to come in the upcoming newsletter. We're launching 7 regional roundtables. These will be multi-type library roundtables to bring together academic, school, and public librarians all from the same general area of Connecticut. Kind of going back to CLC's roots from the original 6 cooperating library service units. It's wonderful to serve the whole state and to serve all library types, but we know that each region has its own unique needs, and if we can support the continuum of library services from cradle to grave, that's going to benefit all of the residents of Connecticut and all of the libraries. So just look out in your e-mail for those regional round tables. It'll be an opportunity for you to get together with all types of libraries. The 7th region: so, we thought really hard about these regions, because first we started with counties, but counties weren't quite right. And we did think about the six original regions, but they also didn't feel right. So, it is: the quiet corner, Southeastern Connecticut, metro Hartford, metro Middletown, metro

New Haven, Northwest Corner/Litchfield Hills, and Fairfield County. So, the regions 2 through 5 got kind of 3 regions. I'm looking forward to these and I hope you'll join us.

FOCL: Debbie Misiaszek: We're going to have a fall roundtable regarding e-selling for our attendees like A-Z, so they know how to do it. Date is yet to be determined.

LION: Joe Farara: Absent. No report.

Library Connection: Laura Horn: Absent.

Region 1: Heather Aronson: Nothing to report from other libraries in the region, but at Southbury, we are reopening to the public on September 2nd.

Region 2: Lisa Miceli: See attached.

Region 3: Drusilla Carter: See attached.

Region 4: Kiera Parrott: See attached.

Region 5: Emily Rush: Absent. See attached.

Region 6: Madhu Gupta: The Public Library of New London had a very successful summer reading program at the library for all ages and through a generous donation from St. James Church, we were able to add a play kitchen to our library playroom. Preparation is on for fall programs. There will be a college fair, which were held at the library on October 8th.

SCSU: Cindy Schofield: Absent.

Sustainability Taskforce: Our Finance Manual has to be reviewed and renewed. So, the executive committee, we'll be reaching out to you so that we can set a meeting to review that and reinstate it or make changes. That's the only thing going on with sustainability at the moment. Training is ongoing as we're getting new members to the board. If you are a new member to the board and you haven't had training, please let me know so that I can add you to all the the various things: add you to our Google Drive, add you to our Starchapter, add you to our front facing website and get you training. There is now a recording in the Google Drive as well for those that missed training. So please, if you have missed it, either reach out to me to go through a training or watch the training video before you go into StarChapter and do anything.

Association Committee Reports:

ADA: Marilynn Lewicki: Absent. No report.

Archivist: Gerald Seagrave: No report.

Awards: Region Reps: John Casiello: No report.

Career Development: Diana Preece and Mirja Johanson: I'm really excited to be working with Mirja on the committee, so thank you for confirming her. The mentoring subcommittee is doing a little bit of reformatting. Katie McNichol has agreed to assist Anne Marie with receiving those applications and doing the pairings. We've already dropped the fall program and we're going to focus on just a spring session. Thank you, John, for already updating the website to reflect that we are doing spring mentor pairings, and we look forward to that. And of course, our Leadership Institute was Friday and the feedback we've been getting is that the speakers were really valuable and I think it was a good group.

Conference 2025: We have started planning for the 2026 conference, which will be at the Mystic Marriott in April. We have selected a theme, which we will be announcing to the membership later this month. I think it's safe that we can tell you it is going to be "People Powered Communities" and we are going to be sending the theme with a save the date next week, hopefully with our logo. We'll see if we can get that done by then. Next steps is we'll be working on our vendor packet for rates for our vendors, and then we will be opening the proposals at the end of September for people to start sending proposals in. We are also in the process right now of trying to select a location for 2027. We have gotten a quote already from

the Mystic Marriott and they gave us a very good deal, basically not doing anything more than what we're doing for this year, which is really great. We also reached out to the Connecticut Convention Center and we're still waiting on a quote from them. We are doing a tour of the Sheraton Bradley Hartford Hotel on Tuesday. They have concerns that they would not be able to fit us, but they do have some ideas of creative options so, we said we would go and take a look. The Bristol Event Center did confirm that they would not be able to fit our capacity with our attendees and the amount of vendors that we have so, we still are pretty limited on spaces. Next month, I will be bringing a vote to the board to select the location for 2027. So, you'll see that on the agenda.

Development: Alessandra Casiello: See attached.

Intellectual Freedom: Sam Lee & Lindsay Delligan: One little thing from Intellectual Freedom: A library director reached out and it hasn't escalated to a formal reconsideration form, but a patron wanted to label all books in the children's department that had some profanity. Just a good reminder, we don't label books based on their content. That would be content viewpoint discrimination, which is unconstitutional. I'm dropping the label and rating system interpretation from AALA because it goes over it really well. We don't discriminate. We don't provide value judgments on the books in the libraries about content, language, themes, or backgrounds of the creator. That is viewpoint discrimination. It is unconstitutional, and not within the spirit of the Freedom to Read or the Freedom of Speech, but otherwise cautiously by it on the Intellectual Freedom front, I know we're up for some issues out of Suffield come September with their board meeting, so stay tuned.

<https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill/interpretations/labelingratingsystems>

Legislative: Kate Byroade & Rebecca Harlow: I'm really excited to be here for my first meeting as co-chair of the legislative committee. Not much news since the committee took a break for July and August, but we do have our legislative planning meeting coming up on September 9th in the morning at the Russell Library. We have been working behind the scenes with some people on advocacy for IMLS, but otherwise I think that's it for our news.

Outreach: John Casiello: Excited for the possibility of 501C3 because it opens up a lot of opportunities for software and other things that we can better utilize because they're offered to nonprofits for free and otherwise, we just can't afford them. So looking forward to that. Let me know if you need anything on the website or social media.

PEG: Mary Etter: No report.

Procedures: Lisa Miceli: Just a note for the sections: It's time to review your bylaws. Your current bylaws should be on the CLA website if you need to find them. So, if you could review your bylaws and then get any changes or just tell me that they haven't been revised or if your section doesn't have bylaws, please look into that.

Section Reports:

Children's: Vacant

CLASS: Vacant

College & University: Rob Walsh: Absent.

JEDI: Mary Richardson: No report.

Public Libraries: Jennifer Sullivan: Absent.

Reference & Adult Services: Christie Mitchell & Kelly-Ann Gardella: Hi, I'm Christy, I wanted to introduce my new co-chair for this year, Kelly-Anne Gardella. She's an Adult Services Librarian at the Ridgefield library. She and I are planning a Reference and Adult services section meet-up on Zoom on September 10th at 2:00 PM. We're getting ready to send out the e-mail

notification and the purpose of this meeting will be to sort of have a brainstorming session and assess the needs and interests of adult services librarians so that going forward we can apply that to programs or workshops throughout the year.

Resource Sharing: Matt Earls: Absent.

Technical Services: Ann Victor & Christine Rinaldi: We had our summer meeting this past Friday and had a good showing, good discussion. We really seem to get good feedback from these meetings. So, we're already planning our fall one, although we've discovered that not everyone seems to get the invites going through Starchapter so I'm trying to find a better way to reach out to everyone so they get the registration notice like putting it out on Conntech. So, if anyone has any ideas on how to better advertise for these meetings, let me know.

Alessandra: So just so you know, and you can export the interest group from StarChapter if they've marked that they're interested in information from your section, and then you can e-mail from your own personal e-mail if they've opted out of Starchapter. You can also let people know if they've opted out of star chapter, they can go into their page and opt back in to get those notifications. The one thing I would say is the State said we're able to post stuff on Conntech, but if it has a cost on it, it can't go, it will get pulled. If you wanted to say "For more information" if there was a cost, they could go to a link or something, they'll do that. But if there's any cost tied on to whatever you're posting on Conntech, it will get pulled.

Ann- That's actually how I found out by exporting our roster. People responded like, oh, I didn't even know this was happening.

Alessandra: We have about 230 members that still have unsubscribed emails in Starchapter, so unless they opt back in, there's nothing that we can do in StarChapter to get them those emails.

John- We also have a fair number in Star chapter that are just not sending because of like over bounce limits and other issues. So I'm trying to go through and find them. I know we have even some of the board members that that is happening to and that's why they're not getting emails. So, it's just sort of an ongoing thing that I'm trying to resolve in Star chapter.

Christie Mitchell: I had a question about this topic. Alessandra, you know Kelly Anne and I are trying to send out our e-mail notification. Do you recommend that we also do a Conntech message just to reach a broader audience for our first meeting? What do you recommend?

Alessandra: Yeah, I think if, if you're doing a meeting to gather information, just get together, the State has said we can certainly post those types of professional development meetups on there. It's anything that has a cost we're not able to put on there, fundraising we can't put on there. So, I would definitely do that and then in your meeting take a list of emails and put them into your section or committees e-mail list in Starchapter and opt all of those people back into emails if they've opted out, or tell them that they can do that if they're a CLA member and start that way. It's a good way to get the word out of what CLA is doing if someone isn't a member already or was a member and has lapsed and didn't realize it. So definitely use our listservs to your advantage. It's just there's limits to them. So, we just want to make sure that we're following the restrictions that those listservs have and keeping that relationship what it's supposed to be.

Technology: Kate Sheehan & Jessica Wolford: We have our first meeting coming up on September 25th to talk about a structural idea around technical knowledge for library workers. We are starting with the techie people. So, we are going to have a meeting for library IT people and ask for people to come and talk about what they wish their Coworkers knew about tech, what questions they answer the most there.

Jessica: I am actually working on the Starchapter meeting as we speak. It's my first time doing this, so I may hit complete without publishing for a minute to have Kate look at it before the announcement goes out. Hopefully we'll get that announcement out pretty soon.

YA: Danielle Murray: Absent.

Adjournment: 10:45 AM Motion made by 1. Margaret Khan. 2. Lisa Micelli

Present: Erin Dummeyer, Brenda McKinley, Margaret Khan, Shannon Angelone, Deborah Schander, Alessandra Casiello, Ann Victor, Christie Mitchell, Christine Rinaldi, Colleen Bailie, Debbie Misiaszek, Denise Stankovics, Diana Preece, Drusilla Carter, Ellen Paul, Heather Aronson, Jerry Seagrave, Jessica Wolford, John Casiello, Kate Sheehan, Kelly-Ann Gardella, Kiera Parrott, Kristina Lareau, Lisa Miceli, Madhu Gupta, Mary Etter, Mary Richardson, Rebecca Harlow, Robert Scheier, Samantha Lee, Sarah McCusker.

Old Business

a. President's report- Erin Dummeyer

This month I've been working on switching us to a 501C3, which as you probably remember, the membership voted to do that back in 2021 and, because of some paperwork, it never ended up happening. So, I'm working with our admins and our accountant and getting that paperwork filed. A 501C3 will give us the ability to apply for certain grants that are only eligible for 501C3 organizations. In addition, I'm working with some folks on a statement with some call-to-action items on supporting the budget that the Senate has worked on that's now moving to the House Appropriations Committee. You'll probably be seeing a message from CLA and some action items on that soon.

b. Treasurer's Report- Margaret Khan

A brief report for today, since we've only completed one month of the current fiscal year, but we adopted our budget last month. So far, we've received \$3,800 in membership dues. That's off to a good start. We have 555 members adds at the end of July, which is really steady with July of the previous year. Career Development had their Leadership Institute last week, so finances for that should be finalized this month and we'll have a better report on that for next month's meeting. Just a quick reminder to everyone regarding expense forms, for anything that you're going to require payment or reimbursement for, I do need an expense form, a signed expense form. Please sign electronically if you are able. That really makes it easier for everyone on the admin side. If you're submitting a reimbursement, you need to provide a receipt. If you're getting payment for a vendor or a speaker, I need the invoice and a W-9.

Alessandra: Also, Margaret, Bob and Michelle asked that if it's a board member that's never been paid before, we also need their W-9 on file.

New Business

a. Career Development Nomination

I just wanted to nominate, so it's recorded in the minutes, Mirja Johansson, she's going to be the new Career Development co-chair serving with Diana Preece. And thank you, Amanda Stern, for your service. I know you guys worked really hard on the Library Leadership Institute on Friday and I hope that it went really well.

CLA Region 2 Report
Lisa Miceli
August 2025

Bloomfield Library

- Held a ribbon cutting for their brand new Prosser Library last Saturday. The Library will have a soft opening in the next few weeks.

Simsbury Public Library

- Had the highest participation in Summer Reading in the history of the Library with over 3,200 people of all ages participating.

Southington Public Library

- Offers a monthly current affairs discussion group facilitated by a Southington High School teacher.

Cromwell Library

- Will hold a clothing swap for teens on Saturday, September 27.

Cora J Belden Library in Rocky Hill

- Will be having repair work done August 25- September 5 with limited access to portions of the building during that time.

Warehouse Point/East Windsor Library

- Will offer Arabic Storytime on Saturday, August 23.

Farmington Libraries

- Offer Sensory Friendly Bags for in-library use to make the Library more accessible to those with increased sensory needs.

Region 3

From Priscilla Colwell in Putnam:

The Putnam Public Library was chosen by PBS Books/WETA to partner with them to offer programming around Ken Burn's upcoming American Revolution miniseries. Kudos to Adult Services Librarian Nichole Nichols for pursuing the grant, which includes funds for programming and support from their organizations. The grant period is from September 2025-August 2026.

From Steve Osier in Willington:

We have a pretty big retirement coming up at our library. Kathleen (Kathy) Lisiewski will be retiring after 50 years working for Willington Public Library. Her last day will be Thursday, September 4th. We're planning on celebrating/recognizing their decades of services during their last shift (11 AM to 4 PM), encouraging patrons, family, friends, etc. to come visit and wish her well. We'll be having cake/treats, a citation presentation from our state legislators, and a special placard/engraved plate put on a book cart to be named after her as well. She'll be continuing to be at the library as a volunteer, but we wish her well in her retirement.

We've also hired two new part time staff members to the library. We were able to restore a page position in this year's budget for additional staffing on Saturdays and for staff time-off needs during the week, and we are filling the soon to be vacant clerk position due to Kathy's retirement. Both of our new hires are set to start in early September.

And from us here in Hebron:

We've wrapped up summer reading with a record 807 registered participants (up from 45 just two summers ago). We have three new staff who started in the middle of the chaos, bringing us up to full staff for the first time in who knows how long, and they've been great. Now it's on to the school year!

Region 4:

Litchfield: They received ACT Humanities grant to support the America 250 programming. The library is going to be presenting a year's worth of programs, including a declaration deep dive lecture series, a community read of The Declaration of Independence. Connecticut's only Revolutionary War land battle occurred right in front of the Richfield Library building site, which is very exciting. So, the entire town is fully engaged, and they'll be working on programming with partners across the community. The opening keynote is going to be Yale's Dr. Akhil Amar on September 21st.

<https://ridgefieldlibrary.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Ridgefield-Library-AM250-Trifold.pdf>

Norwalk: They just finalized some really exciting furniture updates for their main library working with Robert H. Lord company- slat walls, canopy tops as well in the second phase of their Sono branch first floor project as well. For that, they worked with WB Mason, and they're also very excited to talk about their work with Libraries Without Borders. They were selected as one of six libraries in Connecticut to participate in the initiative, which focuses on community inclusivity through awareness to library services and programs. They were able to increase some of their social media presence and gains. You can view more information about that on the State Library website.

CLA Region 5 News: August 2025

Scranton Memorial Library, Madison

- Kari Castelli – our Business Manager - will be celebrating 30 years at Scranton Library on September 5th.

Acton Public Library, Old Saybrook

- Lisa Mendes, our Head of Circulation for the past five years is retiring.

West Haven Library, West Haven

- We've had two staff promotions recently; Tatiana Franklin was promoted to the new position of PT children's librarian, and Rebeca Wilson was promoted to Branch Manager after the retirement of Maria Tonelli.

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

Development- Alessandra Casiello:

Last month, I let you know that we were reached out to about a grant scholarship possibility of an individual donor who wanted to do a scholarship for Three Rivers Community College LTA certificate program. Because we are not a 501C3, they did not want to work with us. I let them know we are working on that. They have now come back and said they would wait. If we are able to work with them, they would wait for us to become a 501C3 because they think we are the best fit for this administrative capacity to offer the scholarship. However, they still are stuck on only offering it for the Three Rivers LTA certificate program. So, next month I will also be bringing that to the board as a vote if we would want to be the administrative part of this when we do not restrict for any of our other scholarships what program it is for. So that will be on the agenda. If anybody has comments about it now, I'd appreciate your thoughts. I went back and forth with them about this and how we don't limit our scholarships when we give them out as to where the money can be used or who it can be sent to. So, it will make it a little bit of a different process if we decide to work with them. Of course, it's great to have a scholarship fund that, you know, we would be able to give to library professionals, but putting restrictions on it may do more damage than good. So, if anybody has thoughts on it, I'd love to hear them.

Drusilla Carter: I personally would say that the more scholarship funding we can give the better. And since that is one of the local Connecticut programs, I personally would be all in favor of it being limited.

Alessandra: So there is one other limitation- It would only be allowed to be offered to those in Hartford County because it is through the Hartford Foundation and so there are those two caveats. I should have said that as well.

Drusilla: I'm not so sure how I feel about Hartford County. If it was Connecticut residents, I think that was great. But Hartford County is a little more limiting.

Alessandra: I will put it as an agenda item next month. You can certainly send me your thoughts before then. I will once again be speaking with the Hartford Foundation about it. The person contacted the Hartford Foundation with this criteria and they basically just have to work out whatever the donor wants to do. So I've spoken to them, they've spoken to the donor. We're going to speak again. I'm going to once again say limiting it really isn't a help for this field when there's already so few people getting into this field to have restrictions on it, is really not a help. But for whatever reason, I don't know if there's a specific connection to Three Rivers for the donor. They weren't able to give me that information. And I don't know if it's just because the donor lives in Hartford County that that was a limitation, but I did voice those concerns. But any other concerns that people have, I'm happy to voice to them as well. Again, it's going to take us a bit of time to become a 501C3, so we do have some time to think this over. It seems like the donor is willing to wait it out until we are a 501C3 as they don't want to be the one selecting people for scholarships. They want people in the profession to do that. So, there would be a lot, lot to figure out as well. But just wanted to give you the information that we already have. The Hartford County is coming from the donor specifically that restriction, just like the Three Rivers is also coming from them.

Drusilla: Because my experience with the foundation is that so long as your organization is in their service area, they're not particularly concerned about whether you only serve residents of the county. So it's, yeah, probably don't.

Alessandra: I do see Mary's question, they did reach out to Three Rivers and Three Rivers so that they would not be able to do this type of scholarship directly. So yeah, I hate to turn away free money too, especially if it's going to help somebody who's getting into the field. I just, I don't know, it's, it seems very limiting to me as well.

Grants

Our first fundraiser of the year starts on September 27th and that is our Meadow Farms fundraiser, which runs through November 17th. So, if you have gifts that you're going to be buying for people or you want special fall decor, wait until then so that you can get it through our Meadow Farms fundraiser. About 40% of the proceeds go back to us. And then of course, we still have our T-shirts are still being sold on Bonfire. That's just ongoing. So, you can get them at any time.