

Connecticut Library Association Board Meeting  
September 18, 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. Kate Byroade 2 Mary Etter. No oppositions.
  
- III. **Old Business**
  - a. President's Report – See attached.
  - b. Treasurer's Report- See attached.
  
- IV. **New Business**
  - a. Vote on [2027 Annual Conference Location/Contract](#)

Representative Reports:

**CT State Library: Deborah Schander:** We have been seeing some more positive action on the federal funding question. Both the subcommittees from the House and the Senate did essentially restore full funding for IMLS in their versions of the proposed budget. There is still those reconciliation conversations to happen even though they agreed on funding for IMLS, there is still a great deal of difference on the rest of their budget proposals. So, we are cautiously optimistic about the outcome of that, but we'll be continuing to monitor the situation. But we did take it as a very positive kind of step, which was the result of both of those conversations. We are continuing to engage with our federal delegation as well as all of the representatives from other states as well via the chief officers of state library agencies. You may have also seen that a federal appeals judge denied the government's request for a stay on the preliminary injunction in the lawsuit that was filed by the multi state entity, which is the lawsuit that the state library in Connecticut is part of. Which means that the preliminary injunction will stay in place as the lawsuit extends. And that allows IMLS to continue its normal operations as they were before the executive order was issued in March. So, another circumstance that we are continuing to monitor as well. And in the meantime, State Library, as I mentioned, is continuing to pursue these conversations as we can.

The Ambassador's program that we talked about was part of that. We also hosted a visit from Rep Courtney's staff members a few weeks ago, giving them a tour of the Middletown Library Service Center, giving them an opportunity to meet the Division of Library Development staff and really hear about that ecosystem of everything that is paid for with the federal funding that comes into Connecticut. We also had our mandatory site visit with IMLS also a few weeks ago. Normally they come and make those visits in person with the federal situation. That was pivoted very quickly to a virtual meeting, and we actually were awarded an award for pivoting very quickly on that with them. But it was a very positive conversation. They had very good things to say about the organization and the running of the program here in Connecticut. So, it was nice to have that check box taken care of. And then the other thing is we were very happy to have a kickoff meeting with the Department of Administrative Services, and a hired consultant related to a study for a potential new state archives building. I've mentioned kind of in past meetings that we are running out of space with the state archives in our rented facility and we're pursuing the opportunity to have a fully stand-alone state archives facility for the first time in Connecticut's

history really because of we just have that much need for it. So, this study, which will take place over a couple of months, will give us a lot of really good information about the cost of that potential facility with the hopes that we will be able to include that in the next fiscal, in the next legislative session in front of the Legislature because it will be it will be a hefty ask at a time when that's a difficult question to have. We will keep you posted on that. But it was a positive, positive movement on that front as well. That is my update for today.

**NELA: Sarah McCusker: (Kate Byroade)** I am going to urge people to go to the NELA conference next month, October 26th to 28th in beautiful Newport, RI. So, you have to go even farther. Everyone says that the site, it's literally on the beach and that it's a stunning location. Maria McCauley, who's president-elect of the American Library Association will be there on Sunday night and the Monday morning keynote will be Senator Jack Reed, who is a well-known supporter of libraries. He's senator from Rhode Island. So go to the NELA conference and I'll be there.

**ALA: Kate Byroade:** The ALA council had a couple of special meetings to pass changes, all of which are arcane and not terribly interesting. So that's, and they have announced a replacement for Midwinter, which will be in Chicago. It will be centered on the Youth Media Awards. I do not have details yet about what kind of programming, if anything will happen or if it's just going to be a gathering focused on the Youth Media Awards and not much else.

**ALA EDI Assembly: Kristina Lareau:** Absent.

**ACLB: Denise Stankovics:** Our roundtable has been moved to November.

**ACLPD: Robert Kinney:** Absent.

**America 250: Margaret Khan:** America 250, just a quick update today that we have been working with the folks at the America 250 Connecticut Commission and they will be doing an information session for librarians on October 1st at 2:00 PM. I'm going to put the registration for that in the chat, and I hope that you can come or can encourage some of your staff to attend .

<https://ctlibraryassociation.starchapter.com/meetinginfo.php?id=645&ts=1758054808>

**BCALA: Astoria Ridley:** The BCALA CT affiliate is currently working on programming that will have a direct correlation with the 250 anniversary. We just wanted to let you know that you should keep an eye out on it. It's supposed to be a series of programs, so we will be sending out emails, so you'll know about them.

**Bibliomation: Alessandra Casiello:** We have two new staff members that we've been on boarding; they started in mid-August. We're very happy to have them on board. Currently we are working on scheduling focus groups for our next strategic plan that will be all over the state for our members and our partner organizations and working on our next membership meeting, which is in October. So that's our big updates and we do have a few quotes for inquiries on memberships out right now.

**Commission on Ed Tech: Colleen Bailie:** Last Commission meeting was September 8<sup>th</sup>. Commission reviewed progress and discussed the State Educational Tech plan, Digital equity plan, and online courseware. There was also discussion about AI in schools and the role of the commission in talking about AI in schools and libraries. There was much discussion about the potential loss of federal funding for technology programs and the commission's role in advocating for both statewide savings and sustainable funding. If there are concerns or issues that CLA would like me to bring to the Commission, please let me know. I also am sure Doug would be happy to talk to this group again at some point about the commission's work with technology education.

**Communications Task Force: John Casiello:** No report.

**CAS-L: Gina Wiese-** Professional Learning is Free for CASL members (Remember, there's a joint CLA/CASL membership through CLA too!) Each session is \$10 for non-members or join CASL for only \$30 (new members only) to access this year's events, previous CASL professional learning recordings, an amazing community, & more! See flyer in meeting packet.

**CLC: Ellen Paul:** This morning I'll focus my update on the news of last week that Baker and Taylor may be acquired by Readerlink. Obviously to anyone who attended the webinar with Baker and Taylor that we held on Wednesday, the news that came out Thursday morning was a bit of a whiplash for us all. The good news is that very early that Thursday morning, we did receive notice from Baker and Taylor that Reader Link intends to take over the contract and intends to take over the contract without change. At this point, we are cautiously optimistic about Baker and Taylor's future, but there are a lot of questions that have not yet been answered. The Publishers Weekly article that I shared on Monday in my "This Week in Connecticut Libraries" does a good job of breaking down what questions remain. At this point, I am talking to our other large book jobbers, Ingram and Brodart, about what their plans are moving forward. I have a conversation with Baker and Taylor leadership tomorrow afternoon so that I can ask some of our questions directly to them. I don't know if they will have many answers at this point. As I do have more information about this acquisition and how it will affect all of the libraries in Connecticut who order from Baker and Taylor, I will share that information. But it is something that everyone should be thinking about and how it will affect their library. As I have more information, I'll share it.

**FOCL: Debbie Misiaszek:** Absent. We're working on our upcoming workshops which will be announced on Conntech.

**LION: Joe Farara:** No report.

**Library Connection: Laura Horn:** Absent.

**Region 1: Heather Aronson:** No one else in Region One had anything to report but I will say that Southbury is up and open full service now as of the second.

**Region 2: Lisa Miceli:** See attached.

**Region 3: Drusilla Carter:** I reached out to everyone and did not hear back except for general conversation about policies. I can tell you Lindsay Delligan is back from maternity leave.

**Region 4: Kiera Parrott:** See attached.

**Region 5: Emily Rush:** Absent. See attached.

**Region 6: Madhu Gupta:** Mystic and Noank Library is excited about their annual author event this month with Wally Lamb. East Lyme Public Library hosted high school interns this summer to work on online local history exhibits. We, the Public Library of New London, will be hosting for the first time a Halloween costume and accessory swap for the community. This program promotes sustainability and will help families save money. For the past two years, we've been hosting a college fair. This year we are going to change it a little bit and we're going to call it a Beyond High School Educational Fair. We have a lot of local trade schools, colleges, and universities participating with invited to host this program on October 8.

**SCSU: Cindy Schofield:** Our summer internships are completed. We were in nine libraries in the State. Thank you so much and the state for hosting this semester. We have 18 interns in public academic and archives in Connecticut, one in New York, and an additional 6 in school libraries. So, we can't do the internships without the libraries hosting. We can't thank you enough for that. One thing that we do need to pass on a little bit related to CLA is that the IRB, the institutional Research board at Southern has decided that they're no longer going to review any capstone research projects that are not intended to finish a master's thesis. So that means all of our research

for things that are not published cannot be presented at any conferences anymore. I think for the past two years we've had students presenting their research. We thought that was best because Connecticut libraries are answering all their surveys and we wanted to be sure that you got to see what the end results of their research was, but we can't do that anymore. We will still be able to present any research that was done in preparation for an actual master's thesis and we have more and more students in the academic library track and the thesis is a requirement for that. We still should be able to have a presence. But because of that, we are really going to be encouraging students to do applied projects for their capstones and will be developing a list of possible projects around the state that have been brought to our attention. If you have anything in your library that you could use a student's help for a semester different from an internship, it would be something that you're working on: background research for a grant proposal, a plan for a retrospective conversion projects, any kind of social media blitz that you, you want to have some sort of a focus that they could develop for you. Anything like that that you could think of, that you could use an extra set of hands to do some of the legwork, some of the research background work for it, that would be great. You can just send those ideas to the library office, or you could send them to me, and I'll put them through. We haven't quite developed how we're going to maintain this list of suggestions, but students are certainly welcome to figure out their own projects. But we thought if there are ways that we can be supportive of ongoing projects at Connecticut libraries, that would be great. Makerspace students made visits to libraries this week and last week. And so, thank you for letting them poke around in your makerspaces. If you were one of those libraries, I think that's it.

**Sustainability Taskforce:** We did figure out the form for the enhanced institutional. We were just putting together some FAQ so that that can be on the website for those that want to do discounted bulk memberships for their staff. It's about that time where we will revise our Financial Policy. We'll have to get the Budget Committee together to take a look at that and we're coming up in December on our one year for our strategic plan. We want to have that as an agenda item in the future so that we can look at it and see the goals that we've completed and where things have to be changed or worked on a little bit more. We did want to set up a demo with a few different places to look at softwares. It hasn't worked out. One day I wasn't available, one day Bob wasn't available. It just didn't work out. So, we're still working on that, but hopefully we'll have news to share in the future.

Association Committee Reports:

**ADA: Marilynn Lewicki:** No report.

**Archivist: Gerald Seagrave:** No report.

**Awards: Region Reps: John Casiello:** Nothing big, but we will be inviting the region reps to our next conference committee meeting so that we can start talking through that process. I'll start working on the forms in the background so stay tuned for more information.

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

**Conference 2026:** Hopefully, everybody got in their e-mail the save the date that went out yesterday for the 2026 conference. We do have a theme and a logo on there. So that's exciting. People Powered Communities is the theme and the conference will take place April 26th through 28th as you know at the Mystic Marriott. We did get confirmation yesterday from one of the keynotes. So, while it is not official because the contract has not been drawn up, I think I can say it at this meeting. Nick Tansy will be our keynote for the Monday and when the contract is drawn up and signed, we will announce that to the membership. We're also working on getting confirmation for the second keynote for Tuesday. Program proposal forms will start being

accepted next week, so definitely pay attention to the website. We'll also send out emails when it is open. The one thing I do want to say is this year we are asking the sections and committees to do a meeting info meeting with each of your sections and committees. So, if you are a chair or co-chair, these will be our mini sessions. There are 30-minute sessions so that we can get people who are not involved with CLA or who want to know what each of the committees does some more information. It will be required for each of the committees and sections to submit a proposal for one of the mini demos 30-minute sessions, a roundtable, or a networking meeting. Please make sure you do that. Just be given some information trickle by trickle as it comes in to get people excited. Next month we will be bringing a vote to you for the attendee rates and the vendor rates the board does not have to vote on-those have been finalized and rate packet is being worked on by the exhibit committee to send out for our vendors to get in October and start signing them up.

**Development: Alessandra Casiello:** We have our next fundraiser happening. It starts next week, September 25th through November 17th. We will have our holiday, our fall holiday fundraiser with Meadow Farms. If you are looking for wrapping paper, holiday presents, snacks, popcorn, handmade foods from New England that will be going out next week. Please purchase something for a friend or for yourself. We are in the works for discussing the fundraiser for conference. I'll let you know the idea. Right now, we have 2 fundraisers that we're hoping to do: One of them we still have to get approval from the hotel-It is a paint and sip. We're not, we're not really sure if they're going to allow us to do a messy craft like that, but we're going to try and do a paint and sip. And the other one is a scholastic style adult book fair for us as librarians, but also, we'll be open to the public and open to people who are staying at the hotel. We're hoping that that works out and more info to come as things are figured out. So those are the two things that are in the works right now and that's it.

**Intellectual Freedom: Sam Lee & Lindsay Delligan:** Intellectual freedom is working on a winter workshop. We're planning for the beginning of December and covering intellectual Freedom 101 and how to respond to request for reconsiderations. I attended the Suffield board of library commissioners meeting. The town attorney was present and pressed the board to pass policies as required by the new law or risk liability. Cautiously optimistic there. And next week I'll be at Colchester for a panel on freedom to read.

**Legislative: Kate Byroade & Rebecca Harlow:** I'll begin by letting you know that we were very successful in getting our eBook legislation passed last spring and we are now receiving inquiries from other states who are interested in having similar legislation. So far, we've heard from Georgia, Minnesota, and Washington. That has led to an interesting little problem because they're like, oh, we would love to see like your testimony and your Flyers and your information. And we're all like, oh, this is scattered across 24 different computers and four years of effort. We're working on trying to develop a comprehensive packet to sort of hand people to so that as they get going so, they don't have to reinvent the wheel. I would like to note that the Connecticut Lobbying conference, it will be held in Hartford on Tuesday, October 28th. I'll drop the link to that in the chat for people who are interested. Please reach out to me. CLA does underwrite attendance. It is, however, I must note on Tuesday, October 28th, which is the last day of NELA. So, if you're going to NELA, you can't go to the lobbying conference. But if you can't go to NELA, maybe you want to go to the lobbying conference. So, thank you very much and I'll let Rebecca take over. <https://www.gallorobinson.com/ct-lobbying-conference>

**Rebecca-** Just one other update from the legislative committee. As Erin mentioned, we had our legislative planning session in Middletown last week. Those legislative goals aren't finalized, but

we'll work on setting that legislative agenda and setting the work for the committee for the next year in the next month or so.

**Outreach: John Casiello:** I see a lot of sections are doing meetings and workshops and things and it's all great. If you need any help promoting any of that, let me know. But otherwise, things are going fairly smoothly.

**PEG: Mary Etter:** No report.

**Procedures: Lisa Miceli:** Absent.

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:** We had our reference and adult services section meeting on September 10th. It was a meet up style. We had a lot of interest. There were approximately 12 people in attendance. We had a nice discussion of topics of interest to adult services librarians and we're planning our next meeting towards the end of October 3rd.

**Resource Sharing: Matt Earls:** No report.

**Technical Services: Ann Victor & Christine Rinaldi:** We have a meeting coming up on October 17<sup>th</sup> in Middletown. We will be focusing on alternative classification systems, and everyone is welcome.

**Technology: Kate Sheehan & Jessica Wolford:** We are having a meeting on September 25th at 2:00. It's a Zoom meeting and that's for our tech folks. So if you have any tech people, I mean anybody who is an official techie, we are we are trying to cast as wide a net as possible to you know, I know a lot of libraries have maybe not a not somebody with that title or technical job responsibilities, but they're the person that everybody calls tell that person at your library or tell your friends, tell that person at their library. So those are those are the folks we're trying to bring in for this first meeting on September 25th at 2:00. The e-mail went out to the CLA list, and I am remiss in sending it to Conntech. So, send your send your tech folks to us that day, please.

**YA: Danielle Murray:** Absent.

Adjournment: 10:57 AM Motion made by 1. Kate Byroade. 2. Drusilla Carter

Present: Erin Dummeyer, Brenda McKinley, Margaret Khan, Shannon Angelone, Deborah Schander, Alessandra Casiello, Ann Victor, Christie Mitchell, Christine Rinaldi, Cindy Schofield, Colleen Bailie, Diana Preece, Drusilla Carter, Ellen Paul, Emily Rush, Heather Aronson, Jerry Seagrave, Joe Farara, John Casiello, Kate Byroade, Kate Sheehan, Kiera Parrott, Madhu Gupta, Marilyn Lewicki, Mary Etter, Mary Richardson, Matt Earls, Mirja Johanson, Rebecca Harlow, Robert Scheier.

## Old Business

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

This month I met with both Deborah with the State Library as well as Dawn and some other Division of Library Development staff members to talk about the State Library Ambassador program. You also probably saw my message to membership about the House Appropriations Committee and funding for IMLS. I am happy to report that funding has been reinstated but the final budget still needs to be approved by Congress. Things are looking more promising than they did in March thanks to a lot of grassroots advocacy efforts by folks in this group so thank you.

I attended CLA' legislative meeting in Middletown on September 9th. At the end of October, I will be speaking on a panel at NELA for the State of the States and Chapter Leaders' Forum. First time at NELA so please say hello to me if you see me. I will also be speaking on a panel immediately following a screening of "The Librarians" at the Avon Theater in Stamford on Wednesday, October 29, at 7:00 p.m. Thanks Alice Knapp for inviting me. You can already purchase tickets to that.

I successfully submitted our application to become a 501(c)3 to the IRS on Tuesday.

### b. **Treasurer's Report- Margaret Khan**

We are still right at the beginning of this fiscal year, but we are doing well so far. We've received a \$9200 in membership, which is right on track with where you're expected to be this year. We also made about \$2500 through the Leadership Institute. So, thank you to the Career Development Committee for their work on that. It was a great event. Nothing big is happening right now, but we did get that payment through for the 501(c)3 application like Erin said, so we'll be on the lookout for more information in regard to that.

## New Business

### a. Vote on [2027 Annual Conference Location/Contract](#)-Alessandra Casiello

Everybody should have access to the link for the spreadsheet for the three location comparisons that we got proposals from for 2027. We looked at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford, the Sheraton Hartford which is at the Bradley Airport, and Mystic Marriott for this year. If you go to that link, there is also a second sheet that outlines all of the possible venues that say they fit a size like ours. However, if you see in there, I have put notes in for those that I've reached out to that say they cannot fit more than 300 people. There's several of them that while the website says they can fit our size, they cannot. And there's a few that I did not hear back from. We went with getting proposals from those three places that you see on sheet #1.

The big things that you're going to see, Mystic gave us the exact same proposal that they gave us for 2026. Same room rental fee, the food, and beverages they have for this upcoming year. And the AV is the same that they gave us as the last proposal as well. They decreased the block booking room rate by \$4.00. So that's the only thing that changed in theirs. The Sheraton Hartford Hotel is most closely numbers wise compared to the Mystic Marriott. They discounted their rental fee to \$4,000 which is less than the

Mystic Marriott rental. Their food and beverage minimum is a little bit more. However, I did put in there what the food and beverage would actually be based on their per person if we had the same exact numbers of people that we had for 2025. So that's the other number that you see there. And then their AV is a little bit less. So, the food, their per person fee is about \$15.00 more per person. So, the actual food and beverage make their cost a little bit more. You'll see that it's about \$7,000 more there. Their space is interesting- I don't know if anybody's been to the Sheraton at Bradley airport. It is under the airport the biggest issues that I found, Shannon also went with me so she can speak to them as well, the garage that they have, which you pay for parking, has only 250 spots. Though because it is connected to the airport. There are airport lots right next to that garage that have shuttles that go to the airport and then you just have to walk down to the hotel. So, you know, it's not terrible to have a limit, limited amount of spots, but no matter where people are parking there, they will have to pay. They gave us a discount on the parking to \$8 per day or \$14.00 overnight per car for their garage. I don't know if the airport parking lots will do the same thing and it is a quirky setup. It would definitely have to be on two floors. Vendors would have to be in two separate locations. They can't fit the amount of vendors that we have in one location, so we'd have to do them in two separate rooms or in two separate foyer areas. It could work, but those are the big, big things to note. They do have the same amount of rooms that we use at Mystic. They have the same space capacity, around 60 to 70 per room except for their ballroom. So just a little, little bit to note there if you haven't been there.

The Connecticut Convention Center, hopefully everybody knows the space that I'm referring to. It is a large space. However, they did work with us to try and make it as affordable as possible. So, what we did was get quoted for only two of the three ballrooms and only five of the breakout rooms and that would be the same amount of spaces that we have at any of these other locations. The rental fee itself they discounted by \$14,000 as well as in comparison to the others, it's more obviously \$25,000 is a lot more. But they did that because we are able to guarantee a high beverage, food, and beverage minimum which they put at \$90,000. The AV fee is high, it's at 40,000. The one thing that they said was we can go out and bring in our own AV company, but that would mean we would be paying a separate company not just for the AV, but their AV, Demers. They do the tables for the vendors so we would also have to bring somebody else in for that. The one thing to note with their fee, the AV fee does not include the table rentals for the for the vendors and it does not include any electric for the vendors as they have to order directly from them. So that that's the numbers that you're seeing. All of them have dates available. Parking is discounted at the Convention Center as well to \$15 per day per vehicle. We do have to negotiate that with the garage, but they said that that's usually what the garage gives them as a negotiation and then their block booking room rate is \$239 at night.

I'm going to be a broken record here. My recommendation is going to be that we stay at the Mystic Marriott. I don't think we are in a financial place to spend an extra \$40,000 on the conference, especially not knowing if people will attend. It's just the unknown is really hard. I know people want to go back to the space because it is a big, big, beautiful, beautiful space. But I feel like we're going to have to charge a lot more money for that

space for attendees. And they are also going to have to pay for parking, which I think also limits people wanting to attend things. But that is my recommendation. I think that while we are too large for Mystic, what we can do is we can put limitations on it the way we did last year. When it's sold out, it's sold out. Early Bird is the best way to go. You know, we work well with them, and my feeling is, you know, they're giving us this very large discount, the same rate they gave us this year. If we do decide to leave, if it does not work out at a different location, I don't know what rate Mystic will give us in the future. So those are my honest opinions and findings. I am happy to do the conference wherever. It will be my final conference. I will let you know that 2027 will be my conference. That's the end of it. So, I'm happy to do it wherever, but I am just letting you know I think it will be a big financial loss for us.

Erin Dummeyer- The conference committee talks every year about trying to get the conference more centrally located closer to Hartford and that's because we hear from the membership that more folks would be able to come if there were more centrally located. So, I want to thank the committee for always doing their due diligence and trying to get us more centrally located there. The thing that I questioned in our last meeting was do we have a way of knowing if we moved to Hartford, if we would get more people to come, thus making up for the loss financially and us going to Hartford? We really only have two kinds of samples to look at. The first is 2022 where we did lose money. That's not a very good sample to look at though, because we're first gathering all together after the pandemic. The other time was I think in celebration of the 125th anniversary, right?

Alessandra- Yeah, it was 2016. We had a pretty good attendance there. It was about just under 800 people, but there was not a net income from that. They took on paying for the parking that year as well in order to get people to come. So that was a big burden. The conference committee, I think they spent \$10,000 just for parking. So, there's not the best comparisons for us to look at whether people are going to attend.

Erin- So, my feeling is the conference is really our largest, you know generator of income and a lot of folks have worked for a long time to get CLA to be more financially solvent. So, the risk we'd be taking and moving to a perhaps more centrally located venue, I don't feel is worth it because we may end up not making budget and then, you know, getting us some sort of not as great financial situation as we've been building on the past few years. I feel like Mystic is really the only solid choice right now. It doesn't mean we won't look at other venues when they open in Connecticut. And I'm so grateful to Alessandra and Shannon for going to this airport hotel and checking it out. But I'd love to hear from others if there's other opinions, but I just feel the need to explain it because you'll hear a lot of like "why are we always in Mystic?" and I feel like the explanation is really good. There are very few venues in the state that can hold us and of the ones that can, you're sort of deciding to operate at a loss in order to get more members in and I don't feel like we're really in a financial position to do that. One day we will be, and we'll be like let's go to Hartford every five years to attract that different group of people. But I don't personally feel that we're there yet.

Alessandra- Yeah, that is something that, you know, the committee constantly talks about is, you know, at what point do we feel like we could take a loss on conference and do a big, a bigger conference at the Connecticut Convention Center and see what we get. But just knowing our, our finances, while we are in a better place basically right now, if we went to the Connecticut Convention Center, it would be taking the 2 profits we made from the past two years and wiping them out and I just, I don't, I don't think that's a, a good move at this point.

Maragaret Khan- And also when we did our budget, the adopted budget this year is a small deficit. I think we're confident that we will overcome that with Mystic this year. But we're already on paper a little bit in a deficit this year. I would agree that we should try to keep our efforts on the money-making side of things at this point in time.

Brenda McKinley- If I could just I first of all, thank you Alessandra for all these years and this analysis. It's truly appreciated. And you know, as we're thinking about, I mean, I, I agree 100%. Mystic is the option. I am certainly, you know, when it takes me an hour and a half to get there, not happy, but it is what it is. It holds our space. I mean, if we're thinking about the need to limit attendance just because like we do have that attendance limit and we bump up against it, you know, we might also need to consider cost. If we need the ticket price to be a little bit more than differential on the early bird or whatever, I would be down with that. But yes, I think, I've been going to these things for practically 30 years now and we used to be in Cromwell. We had a box lunch, it was very different. I think the experience, once you get yourself there, it's a great conference experience. Maybe we can look at that balancing point between attendance and price point.

Alessandra- Now I do think you know, the other thing that will need to be considered for whoever you know is on conference committee in the future. If you move away from Mystic because the deposit is so small, you do need to plan ahead two years for that other place because the deposit for the Connecticut Convention Center is, I think I listed it, 25% of the entire fee, which is \$50,000 as a deposit. Even the Sheraton has a fee that you sign at the time of contract of \$18,000. So, you know, you have to factor those things in when you're doing these as well and that means planning. You know, we're already planning a year ahead. You know, in the past, we weren't even planning this far ahead. But if you're going to go to a different place, you may have to start planning those two to three years in advance, at least for locations.

Kate Sheehan- I'll echo what Brenda said that this is just such a huge amount of work. And thank you, thank you, thank you for doing it and also this feels some of the complaints feel a little like what I think of as the Saturday story time problem, right? Like everybody's been through that. Like everyone says, if only you had story time on Saturdays. And how many of us have done that and then nobody shows up because "that's when we have soccer." Conferences cost money- Conferences are expensive. You have to drive to get there. There was a year we had it in Mohegan and nobody like that. There were a couple of years we had it in New Haven and we had to pay for parking. We could do everything right and if people have to pay for parking, they're going to lose their minds over it- that really upsets people.

Alessandra- I always like to say I have to be there for 3 consecutive days and I'm driving 2 hours there and I'm a volunteer who works the whole conference. Last year I had to pay for a hotel for my sister-in-law, so my baby could also be there. Everybody has things and it's just very hard when there's nobody speaking up about the things other than the conference committee.

Kate- Conference planning was my very first job out of college. I was an event planner and I lasted 6 months. Mystic is lovely and you have a good relationship with them and what a bonus that is for us as an organization.

Alessandra- We did look into a coach bus and even regular buses there would be a cost to it. We don't have it in our budget to pay that cost. But again, in the future we could try and budget for a carpool option. I don't necessarily think it could be coach buses, but that one was pretty expensive when we looked into it.

Erin- Are we ready to vote on the conference location? I'll make a motion to have our 2027 annual conference in Mystic at the Mystic Marriott. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mary Etter. No oppositions. Motion carries.

Alessandra- Thank you very much. I will start working with them to draw up the next set of contracts, which Brenda, you're going to be the one signing for.

**CLA Region 2 Report  
September 2025  
Lisa Miceli**

**East Hartford Public Library**

- Is exhibiting photographs of Luis Cotto “Placemaking and Placekeeping for Communities of Color” for Hispanic Heritage Month.

**Welles Turner Library Glastonbury**

- Features an author visit by Geraldine Brooks September 28 at 2PM.

**Avon Friends of the Library**

- Book Sale October 17-19 at the Library

**Simsbury Friends of the Library**

- Annual Giant Book Sale October 4-5 at Simsbury High School

**South Windsor Public Library**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Family Scarecrow Contest – entries due October 11. Free to enter.

Region 4:

**From the Mark Twain Library:** Mark Twain Library has just signed a contract to replace the flat part of their roof. This work will include removing solar panels and then reinstalling them. I just wanted to let folks know in case they ever have to go through the same process so I can share information with them that I learned along the way.

**From Darien Library:** Susan Orlean will be here on October 16<sup>th</sup>, talking about her new memoir. Our big fundraiser of the year, Novel Tea, is October 22<sup>nd</sup>, featuring Liz Moore, author of *The God of the Woods*.

### **James Blackstone Memorial Library, Branford**

- Blackstone Library has building updates. We are progressing with a project to enclose an interior balcony with a window wall, and subdivide it with glass walls to create two small meeting rooms. We've secured an architect, Lothrop Associates, who are proceeding with probe work and then will create the design documents to go out to bid for a contractor. These 2 new small meeting rooms are in response to community needs that we identified in our most recent strategic plan.
- At the same time, we've identified over the past few years areas where water is infiltrating – from the top, sides and bottom, in different ways. We also know some of our systems are coming to their end of life, and we're in the process of selecting a company who will conduct a full Facilities Conditions Assessment, to give us a road map for repairs/maintenance for the next 15-20 years. We've never done something like this before, but we want to get away from ad hoc/emergency fixes, and get ahead of major repairs so we can plan for them as best we can and keep our 129-year-old building safe and beautiful for generations to come.

### **Derby Public Library, Derby**

- I just wanted to share some of our biggest news--Derby Public Library's Children's Librarian is retiring. After three decades of dedicated service in libraries--including the past 20 years as our beloved Children's Librarian--Sue Sherman will be retiring on Friday, September 19th. Sue was the heart of the Children's Department, guiding young readers and sparking imaginations along the way. Her programs, warmth, and generosity have left a lasting mark on our community. She truly inspired generations of library users with the magic of reading. While we will miss her at Derby, we are all excited to wish Sue all the best as she begins her next chapter.

### **Meriden Public Library, Meriden**

- We have a HUGE event coming to the Meriden Public Library for the next 6 weeks. Meriden Public Library was chosen to host the ALA Traveling Exhibition *Americans and the Holocaust*. We will have the exhibit available to the public during our open hours from September 29, 2025 to November 7, 2025.
- We have a number of exciting events also happening at the library, related to the exhibit - book discussions, seminars, film showings, a holocaust survivor talk, and high school visits.

### **Wallingford Public Library, Wallingford**

- We've been running this really fun multi-library promotional campaign in conjunction with CTRail called "Libraries of the Hartford Line." The program encourages people to travel by train and explore the libraries of the Hartford Line for a chance to win a library swag bag and pick up other prizes along the way!