

Connecticut Library Association Board Meeting
October 16, 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 September:** Motion made by 1. Lisa Miceli 2. Sam Lee. No oppositions.
- III. **Old Business**
 - a. President's Report – See attached.
 - b. Treasurer's Report- See attached.
- IV. **New Business**
 - a. Conference 2026 Attendee Rate (Vote)
 - b. Conference 2026 Honorarium/Fees Policy (Vote)

Representative Reports:

CT State Library: Deborah Schander: The latest on the federal and state budget situation. Obviously, the federal government is continuing in its shutdown, so conversations regarding specifically the IMLS and its funding remain in limbo. But we were, I believe I mentioned this in the last meeting, we were very heartened to see that both the House and the Senate subcommittees had to put in full funding for the IMLS back into their proposed versions of the budget. So, we are hopeful that that will bode well for continued support for the IMLS moving forward. In the meantime, like other agencies in the state, we are continuing to operate as normal. The behind the scenes is functionally the state continues to pay for these services and then reimburses itself when it receives payment from the federal government. We are continuing to operate as normal for all of our expenses in the current moment. In terms of the state budget, we have not received word of any special session happening this fall. It is still possible that that will be scheduled. And really the focus of that we anticipate will be any kind of really immediate impacts of the federal funding situation. We don't anticipate that the state library would be included in that because our potential impact is the following fiscal year, but that is a speculation at this point. We will continue to monitor that as well and, in the meantime, we are preparing for the regular session which starts in February. Also coming up is the chief officers of state library agencies. COSLA, which is the professional association for state librarians, is meeting starting on Monday. So obviously these are topics that we will be discussing in depth when we are together in Delaware next week. And then last, Erin did mention that several of us will be getting together to talk about the policies appeals process. This was language that was added in by the bill sponsors. None of our organizations have authority over those decisions were of equal authority in that decision making. But we did feel it was useful to bring everybody together to start having those conversations. We are hopeful that we'll have more firm information to share out with people as those conversations continue.

NELA: Sarah McCusker: I think you all know that the NELA Conference is next week, October 26th to the 28th in Newport, RI. You can still register if you want. The speaker will be Senator Jack Reed and then the incoming the president-elect of ALA will also be the guest of honor at the cocktail hour thing on the first night because she is a New England librarian just like

the rest of us. So, I hope to see some of you there. The NELA games are happening. I've got that all in my back pocket and it should be a good time. Hope to see you there.

ALA: Kate Byroade: Absent.

ALA EDI Assembly: Kristina Lareau: Absent.

ACLB: Denise Stankovics: On November 19th, we are presenting our annual Board Basics webinar in the evening at 7:00 PM. As you know, we try to repeat this each year shortly after the election so newly elected board members can participate. Each year we tweak it a little bit depending on what's going on in library land. And I believe this year we will say something in the section on who has responsibility for what. Just reminding people that when there are challenges to books, the process of review begins with the library director, you know, not that the board or the friends jump into it at that point. There should be postings for it on Conntech. Unfortunately, for some reason, my emails will not allow any contact messages to come through. So, I'm assuming that it will appear on it, and you'll have the chance to sign up and get your board members to sign up. We're planning some other webinars down the road, but those are still in process. As you know, we do those now in place of that single one-day conference that we used to have. We tried to have them throughout the year. So, watch Conntech for more information.

ACLPD: Robert Kinney: Absent.

America 250: Margaret Khan: The America 250 Connecticut Commission did have a full Commission meeting yesterday. We received some updates in regards to national events that will be taking place, including Our American Story, which is a collection of oral histories that are being collected by an Airstream trailer traveling across the nation. They should be in Connecticut in the springtime, I believe the Great American Road Trip, which is a road trip being conducted by the Department of Transportation, kind of honoring Route 66 and they will be in Connecticut in May. The American Field Trip, which is an essay writing contest which was just launched this week with some good prizes available for students across the country to participate in the affiliate program, is still going. I'm going to drop the link for that in the chat again. But we are encouraging libraries to become affiliate organizations. As an affiliate organization, you have access to promotional materials through the Commission. You can use their community calendar. You can use their logo. It's very freestyle. And what you're able to do as an affiliate, you don't have to adhere to any required programming. So I would ask that if you're not an affiliate organization to encourage your libraries to become one. For affiliate organizations, the Give 250 Connecticut fundraiser is starting at the end of the month. This will allow eligible affiliate organizations and municipalities to raise funds for their 250th program. I'll drop the link to that in the chat also. And finally, we had a very successful information session at the beginning of the month. I'd like to thank the folks from America 250 Connecticut. Cindy Tulousi organized that with us in the Public Library section. We had about 65 people for the event and after the number of people signed up as affiliate organizations, we did get a shout out at the Commission meeting yesterday for our representation there. So great job, everybody. It was a very, very helpful session to inform us about the programming that's going on, how we can participate, just reiterating that it is very easy and customizable to what libraries are able to do. I'm also talking with them again about getting a presentation going for the conference this year.

Links:

<https://ct250.org/get-involved/affiliate-program/>

<https://www.give250ct.org/>

BCALA: Astoria Ridley: Absent.

Bibliomation: Alessandra Casiello: We had our members' Council meeting yesterday at the Ridgefield Library. Thank you to Brenda for hosting us. It was really great to see people in person, and we had a lot of participants on Zoom. Right now, we are working on our next upgrade which will happen in February for our members, and I had on e-rate for some of our member libraries.

Commission on Ed Tech: Colleen Bailie: Absent.

Communications Task Force: John Casiello: No report.

CAS-L: Gina Wiese: Absent.

CLC: Ellen Paul: The big news is, is all the book industry right now and so the staff here at CLC have been working with a number of library, a number of public libraries who did not have a secondary vendor for their book accounts and are trying to figure out their best path forward. The Vendor Expo is coming up rapidly. It is mid-November at Southern Connecticut State University. It's a great opportunity, especially this year, to talk to a number of different book vendors all in one place. Ingram, Brodart, Mackin, Liberia, & Follett. As of today, because we had a vendor drop out, Amazon will be there as well. So, it's getting full- I expect that we will run a wait list this year. So, if you are interested in going, I'll drop the link in the chat. I'd encourage you to get your name on that list today.

Link: <https://www.ctlibrarians.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=1981736&group=>

FOCL: Debbie Misiaszek: Absent: Focal will be having their round table on e-book sales on November 20th from 1:00 to 3:00 at the Berlin Peck Memorial Library. If anyone wants to attend, they can contact her, and I'm going to go ahead and leave the note in the chat for folks that want to e-mail her.

LION: Joe Farara: Absent.

Library Connection: Laura Horn: No report.

Region 1: Heather Aronson: No report.

Region 2: Lisa Miceli: See attached.

Region 3: Drusilla Carter: Absent.

Region 4: Kiera Parrott: Absent.

Region 5: Emily Rush: No report.

Region 6: Madhu Gupta: Absent.

SCSU: Cindy Schofield: No report.

Sustainability Taskforce: Bob and I had a demo for a new membership database. It went well. We were supposed to have another one and it got abruptly cancelled. We are trying to reschedule the one that we are looking at is Wild Apricot, and that is the one that is used by the Maine Library Association, so Bob is quite familiar with it. The pricing would turn out to be quite comparable to Star Chapter, but we do want to wait to try and do the demo for member clicks before we make any changes or suggestions recommendations to the board. But it did go well. Other than that, no bylaws are updated. We have the form already for the group membership rates and that will be posted to the website. Other than that strategic plan, we'll have to do an update with the board sometime in December when it went into place to see where we're at and where we're going. And then the finance plan Margaret already spoke about.

Association Committee Reports:

ADA: Marilynn Lewicki: No report.

Archivist: Gerald Seagrave: No report.

Awards: Region Reps: John Casiello: We'll be inviting the region reps to the conference meeting on Monday to talk it through and we are in a holding pattern until things really ramp up at the beginning of the year.

Career Development: Diana Preece and Mirja Johanson: I want to give a shout out to Laura Horn, who is on our subcommittee for the compensation benchmark study. She's been working really hard with Cassandra from EANE, and we should have some documentation and things to share with another webinar. So please look for information about that coming out soon.

Conference 2026: For conference currently, we are accepting session proposals. You can access all the information as well as the proposal form on the CLA conference website which is claconference.info and we will be accepting those until mid-November. So, make sure you get those in. As a reminder, every section, and every committee we put in a proposal that is just an info session about section. Those will be our mini sessions between lunch when we have to change over the rooms. It's about a 30-minute session, but we are asking that everybody do that as well as your normal 3 to 5 proposals that have to do with your target audiences. If anybody has questions or needs help, please reach out to me or the program chairs. For the exhibits, we are about to release the packet. It's going to go out. November 3rd is the day that we decided on and open registration. So, if you are looking to be a vendor at the conference or a sponsor, look for that in your e-mail as well as on the website. We do have confirmation for our Monday keynote which I spoke about last month and we are in the process of confirming Tuesday's keynote which will actually be CT Improv. And we are at this point moving forward with doing a book for book fair type fundraiser on the Monday night and we are going to do a tiny art Paint and Sip on Sunday evening after the President's reception as well. So those are all the things that have been confirmed, and we'll be releasing little bits of info to our members once we have final contracts in place with our keynotes. We don't want to announce anything until those are signed. So that's everything for conference at the moment.

Development: Alessandra Casiello: We are currently doing our fall fundraiser with Meadow Farms. If you're looking for wrapping paper snacks, they have candles, gifts, please take a look at the link and purchase something. We get 40% back and we will also be doing our Giving Day match fundraiser in in December. It's December this year, the first Tuesday after Thanksgiving. I will let you know who the match company is. But if you have donations that you're thinking of giving to CLA, please wait till that time because we will get a match for it as well as our bonfire, which is where we do our shirts through now, have asked if we want to do a Giving Day campaign with them. So, we are working on that as well. So that's everything going on. The only other thing is Mary and I have been speaking with the Hartford Foundation. I mentioned this a couple months ago. There is an anonymous donor that wants us to give out a scholarship but has restrictions. We are really trying to work out those restrictions still because we want to give out the money, but they only want to give the money in particular ways. We're still trying to work that out and when we have confirmation of something, we will let you know. It also is only if we do get approved as a 501(c)3. We can't move forward with anything until then anyways. And thank you, Mary, for chiming in on that conversation.

Intellectual Freedom: Sam Lee & Lindsay Delligan: I made promises about a workshop coming up in the fall. I need to apologize and thank everyone for their patience. I don't have that ready yet, so stay tuned, that'll be developing. I was invited to speak at a rally in Hartford this weekend. I suspect that there are a lot of speakers at Hartford this weekend, so I might not actually get a chance to go on stage. But they did ask to talk about book bans and how to support libraries during this wave of censorship, so we might have a bigger audience and find more

support there, so that'll be great. I'll be at NELA in a couple of weeks with the wonderful Scott Brill and Kate Byroade and a whole bunch of other really awesome people. So, if you haven't signed up already, I suggest registering for NELA. It's always a fun conference and there's great people. And then if you go, I always show up with the Connecticut Cardigan Calvary stickers, which really thrills people during the conference when we identify ourselves as intellectual freedom fighters, especially the Connecticut Cardigan Calvary division. I was invited to an intellectual freedom fly out happening next week in Little Rock, AR. Every library, library freedom, library futures are all involved. There's 50 to 70 librarians all across the country who are going to get peer-to-peer training on how to deal with intellectual freedom issues, challenges, censorship. I have got to say some of the other themes there are really exciting. I understand Amanda Jones from Texas is supposed to be there, Leila Green from Lano, Texas. Martha Hickson might be making an appearance from New Jersey. So, there are a lot of big, heavy, intellectual freedom people there. So, it'll be really exciting to be able to learn from them and share strategies and come back refreshed with more ideas. So, there's that. Continuing to support Suffield while they're going through their various challenges there, particularly working with community members. I was unfortunately not able to attend their meeting on Tuesday with the Library Commission. I have yet to see the minutes, so we're here reports out, but I imagine it was a tough one. I'll take any questions if there are any. Otherwise, I feel like I've talked enough.

Legislative: Kate Byroade & Rebecca Harlow: The legislative committee completed its legislative planning sessions, and we had our regular meeting on Tuesday to form legislative priorities for the year. We're not pursuing any new legislation. Our plan is to be reactive to anything that comes up related to libraries and then support some other initiatives that are coming out for digital equity and supporting CASL initiatives for their legislative work. We're also just continuing to stay on top of any new developments with the e-books bill and forming plans to react if anything new comes up with that or if other states trigger our law. We're still staying on top of what's going on with the Freedom to Read bill. We also have plans to sort of build capacity and help the library community at large develop relationships with their legislators and then continuing to advocate for Public Library funding. We're going to be working on developing more communication tools that can be utilized by the committee to speak to the library community at large. And then last but not least, we are planning a reception for legislators who in the last session supported the two library bills. And we're planning to schedule a screening of the librarians and invite all of those legislators to be honored at a reception.

Outreach: John Casiello: No report.

PEG: Mary Etter: No report.

Procedures: Lisa Miceli: Coming out of the legislative committee planning session, there were some proposed bylaw amendments, so I'll be working on those for the annual meeting. Just a reminder, as you're getting your sections up and running this year, please look at your bylaws. All of the bylaws are current on the CLA website, and if your section does not have bylaws, you are required to have bylaws. If you have questions, reach out to me and we can talk about them. Otherwise, please look at your bylaws, review them, update them if necessary, and if you don't have bylaws for your section, please make sure you do soon. Once you have them, you can send them to me.

Section Reports:

Children's: Vacant

CLASS: Vacant

College & University: Rob Walsh: Absent.

JEDI: Mary Richardson: Absent.

Public Libraries: Jennifer Sullivan: Absent.

Reference & Adult Services: Christie Mitchell & Kelly-Ann Gardella: I just wanted to briefly report. We have our next section meeting on Wednesday, October 22nd at 2:00 PM. We're going to be going over more topics of interest to adult services librarians. We will also, as Lisa mentioned, be discussing the bylaws briefly and opening it up to any suggestions. And we are also going to mention the conference proposal. So, we hope to get some interest with that. Our last meeting on September 15th was very successful. We had a lot of good discussions on a variety of topics and one of the main topics was health and wellness.

Resource Sharing: Matt Earls: No report.

Technical Services: Ann Victor & Christine Rinaldi: Tomorrow we have a meeting at the Middletown Service Center at 10:00. We're going to be talking about alternative classification methods and Berlin Peck is coming in to talk about their new system, The Pecking Order. I'm very excited about that. So, you can still sign up if you'd like to come.

Technology: Kate Sheehan & Jessica Wolford: We are going to be having our next meeting on November 3rd at 1:00 PM. That announcement will go be going out soon. This time we'll be having a discussion with non-technical folks about what they would like to know about technology, what kind of support they would need for hiring people, who are technology oriented and that sort of thing. So, this is all in the effort to create some benchmarks around technology skill sets for library staff. We are also putting together a survey for those folks who can't come to attend the meeting so we can get a get more data on it to help us put this together. So, looking forward to that.

YA: Danielle Murray: The young adult section is planning a workshop for November 18th around burnout, secondary trauma, and self-care for helpers of teens and young adults. The agenda is set, the registrations open. It's going to happen at Wells Turner Memorial in Glastonbury, so anybody who is interested in that topic is welcome to come. We have several helpers, Lex in Farmington and Meg at Glastonbury, and then Jackie Bush at Stratford who also stepped up to volunteer as Co-chair for the YA section. So that should be added to the agenda next month and we'll see if we can get her approved.

Adjournment: 10:42 AM. Motion made by 1. Danielle Murray 2. Sam Lee.

Present: Erin Dummeyer, Brenda McKinley, Margaret Khan, Shannon Angelone, Deborah Schander, Alessandra Casiello, Christie Mitchell, Christine Rinaldi, Cindy Schofield, Danielle Murray, Denise Stankovics, Diana Preece, Ellen Paul, Emily Rush, Heather Aronson, Jerry Seagrave, Jessica Wolford, John Casiello, Laura Horn, Lisa Miceli, Marilynn Lewicki, Mary Etter, Matt Earls, Mirja Johanson, Rebecca Harlow, Robert Scheier, Sam Lee, Sarah McCusker.

Old Business

a. President's report- Erin Dummeyer

I was invited this past Saturday by volunteer organizers to speak at a rally in Bethel on book banning. I was invited as CLA president, so I did that. It was an interesting experience. They've been having these rallies in the center of town in Bethel for months now with a different theme each week. They had pretty good attendance, except they do have counter protesters now, so that was interesting to see. I also wanted to let everyone know, I'm sure Deborah will speak about it too, in regard to the new policies that folks are updating to abide by the new state statutes. I know in the collection development and maintenance policy, we talk about a challenge process and one of the last steps in the challenge process is to consult with the CLA President, the State Librarian, the ACLB President and Ellen at CLC. We are meeting in early November to talk about what that will actually look like in practice. I know that was one of the first questions my board had when updating the policies. So, I let them know that we don't know yet exactly what that process will look like, but that it is in the works to figure out what that will be.

b. Treasurer's Report- Margaret Khan

The Executive committee met to review our financial plan. I am just finishing up making the updates to that document before it gets updated on our website. We did make a handful of changes to that. We updated information regarding our savings account to include another earmarked fund for strategy. This will include things like communication, anything that we need to advance the organization will go for a strategy, funds to be spent once the plan is in place that the board approves as a whole. We put in language to indicate that the executive board can decide what if anything, to allocate any year end fund balance to if we want, if we have extra money at the end of the year, we can decide what to do with that if we choose . We put in the plan that the budget should be adopted prior to the beginning of the new fiscal year. The old language indicated that the budget should be adopted in July. We figured best practice to be to have that in place before if at all possible. We updated the schedule for financial reviews and audits so that we will have a review every two years on an even year. So, we'll have a review at the end of this year and have audits as recommended by our accountant. Our accountant has currently recommended that based on the size of our organization and our operating budgets that a full-blown audit every two years as we had previously was a little overblown. We tidied up some language regarding the names of state reports and tax forms just so that it was accurate and consistent throughout the document. And we updated the name of grants and fundraising committee to development committee because that's what it is now. Our insurance for the year has also been renewed, and we are waiting back to hear from the IRS still in regards to our 501(c)3 application.

New Business

a. Conference Attendee Rate

Everybody should have gotten this in their packet. It is that time that the board has to approve the attendee rates for the 2026 conference. So, what you have is a little past history. I didn't want to give you so many years, but I gave you the past four years of pricing so that you can see where we're at. We made a big jump in 2024 from \$150 to \$175 for a one-day member and then just incremental small changes the past two

years. That's what we're proposing for this year is for members. It's going to be a \$5 or \$10 increase depending on one-day, two-day. And then for non-members, same thing, it's going to be \$5 or \$10 increase. This is really just to account for the changes in the food costs that we have. With these numbers that you're seeing as the 2026 estimates, this is what our budget was based off of if we had the same attendance that we did last year. Whatever we put together for the budget, I changed all of the attendee numbers to be this to see what our cost would be for food, knowing that the price could go up slightly for the food. And we would need a motion and a second to approve the rates as presented. If anybody has questions, please let me know. I will say there are two rates that we did not want to change and that is the student, unemployed/retired. We kept that at \$125. It's been \$125 for the past three years as well as the two-day speaker and one-day speaker plus one-day member rate. We kept the speaker rates the same.

Motion made by Erin Dummeyer. Seconded by Mary Etter. Motion carried.

The second part that you got for from the packet is every year we have to do a notice regarding fees and honoraria, so that our speakers who are requesting fees know our procedures. There are three parts of this that the board actually has to vote on and those are the complimentary attendances and the hotel that we give complimentary for people. It is parts 2, 3, and 4 under the hotel accommodations. These are the people that we are proposing get the complimentary hotel. It's the conference committee and then we also include the State Librarian in there. This is not a change from last year at all. Some years it is a change because we have an overlap of a new program chair or a new exhibits chair. But this year that is not in there. So, it's the same as last year. Then #3 is the full complimentary registration and lunch. This also includes all of the conference committee and the State Librarian. We also include up to two of the CLA administrators and this is just at the discretion if we feel that we don't get enough volunteers to help at registration, we will ask them to join us. If they are able to assist, we would give them complimentary free registration as well as the hotel. The final thing is we do offer individual complimentary registration and lunch to one person. It is the NELA President and it is in a different way, we offer it as them getting a vendor table. So, they get their registration and a vendor table. The other thing is we put in for four CLA scholarship winners. These are selected by the Career Development Committee along with the scholarships that they get. We will do up to four complimentary registrations on the day that they get their scholarships. So, we do need approval for Parts 2, 3, and 4 of the honoraria. And if anybody has questions, feel free to ask.

Motion by Lisa Miceli, Seconded by Margaret Khan. Motion carried.

CLA Region 2 Report
October 2025
Lisa Miceli

Granby Public Library

- is working toward an expansion of the existing library building.

Plainville Public Library

- is holding its Annual Book Character Pumpkin Decorating Contest to benefit the Plainville Food Pantry

Simsbury Public Library

- is partnering with the Farmington Valley Health District on their Resilience Grows Here mental health support initiative. This includes offering a collection of children's books which have corresponding family activities and community programs, including Narcan training.

Lucy Robbins Welles Library – Newington

- Friends of the Library are planning a Craft Fair for November 22.

Bristol Library

- Friends of the Library were chosen to receive the Community Service Award by the Bristol Historical Society.

Burlington Public Library

- is offering Live from Library Lane, a program series made possible with generous funding from the Burlington Community Fund and Main Street Community Foundation. October's program is the Headless Horseman Rides Again. Actor JT Turner will bring Washington Irving to life.