

Connecticut Library Association Board Meeting
October 17, 2024
10:00 am Business Meeting via Zoom
Minutes

- I. **Call to Order:** President Scott Jarzombek called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM.
Approval of Minutes: September meeting minutes approved by Lisa Micelli and Chonte Fields. No abstentions
- II. **Old Business**
 - a. **President's Report** – See attached.
 - b. **Treasurer's Report** – See attached.
 - c. **Adopting Legislative Agenda**

III. **New Business**

Representative Reports:

CT State Library: Deborah Schander: Absent.

NELA: Scott Brill: Having been asked by the NELLS chair, I matched librarian mentors with each of the cohort members of NELLS I. I will be attending the NELA Conference and will report back at the November CLA meeting.

ALA: Kate Byroade: Absent.

ALA EDI Assembly: Kristina Lareau: No report.

ACLB: Denise Stankovics: I just want to remind everybody that we have our October 30th webinar at 7 PM. This is the one about the role of the library director, board, and friends. We are hoping to get a good turn out particularly among board and friends' members because we want to eliminate any confusion about who does what. We did send this out on Conntech but there is an opportunity to sign up on the home page of our website.

ACLPD: *Vacant*

Bibliomation: Alessandra Casiello: We have our Member Council meeting today (October 17) which is why we can't be here. We also will be having a Meet and Greet with the Executive Director (Alessandra) at the Middletown Service Center on October 22 and our annual Circulation meeting will be held in person at the CH Booth library on October 23.

America 250: Margaret Khan: The commission is still focusing on developing, bringing together, and supporting local municipal committees. If your town has a local committee going, I would encourage a library representative to get on that committee or start talking to your historical societies to get one going (link below). This is a great opportunity for libraries to showcase what we do and developing strong community partnerships. As we develop our initiatives more, I will be sharing that with you because we are hoping to use libraries as advertising and information centers for this event. The Connecticut commission is sponsoring an event with Nicole Hannah Jones and Nicole Cox Richardson on Thursday, October 24th. It's a community conversation event. As sponsors, they are also offering free tickets (see below).

<https://ct250.org/get-involved/local-commissions/>

"We are pleased to announce that the America 250 | CT Commission has sponsored The Connecticut Forum's event "Nikole Hannah-Jones and Heather Cox Richardson in Conversation: Reflections on a Complex America." As such, we have 250 free tickets available to share.

Tickets can be claimed by emailing info@ctforum.org or calling 860-509-0909.”

BCALA: *Vacant*

Commission on Ed Tech: Colleen Bailie: No report.

Communications Task Force: John Casiello: I’m working on materials to help people make the transition and understand how to use it, knowing it’s probably a new resource for our members. I hope to have something next month to share with everyone with how to use it, best practices, and all that.

CASL: Jenny Lussier & Gina Wiese: I am the new CASL liaison, so I don’t have much to report this month. We did recently have a new CT State Department of Education contract, and we were hustling to do something with that earlier this fall. We made a lot of connections with public libraries, bookstores, and authors. We had 13 local authors participate and we’re really looking forward to doing that again next fall with more time to plan. We are really excited for Nerd camp on March 1st. We had a great time last year and are looking forward to doing that again. We are trying to spread out our events around Connecticut so we’re not always in the center, so we’re hoping to hold it in New London this year.

CLC: Ellen Paul & Amanda Stern: Our vendor expo is coming up in November at Southern Connecticut State University. We love the CLA vendor hall, but this is not that. This is an all-day event just about library purchasing. We feed you a great breakfast and you get to hear from vendors throughout the day in breakout sessions in a classroom style learning environment. We have dedicated exhibit time, a great lunch, prizes, and swag bags. People who attended last year had great feedback. We have about 22 vendors coming for books, furniture, technology, equipment, and it’s for everyone: academic, schools, and public libraries.

FOCL: Debbie Misiaszek & Pamela Monahan: We are participating in the webinar with ACLB on October 30th. We have a small library and a larger library participating.

Library Connection: Laura Horn: Absent.

Region 1: Heather Aronson: Absent.

Region 2: Lisa Miceli: See attached.

Region 3: Chonte Fields: No report.

Region 4: Brenda McKinley: Absent.

Region 5: Emily Rush: Absent.

Region 6: Madhu Gupta: Absent.

SCSU: Cindy Schofield: Absent.

Sustainability Taskforce : Alessandra Casiello: Bylaws- Bylaws passed in September at the membership meeting- we will be posting them to the website soon.

Strategic Plan- was accepted in August and is posted in the about section of our website.

Financial Plan- was accepted in August and has now been posted on the website in various financial areas.

Softwares and Training: We are still exploring softwares. A reminder for those that went through training or need training- please let Alessandra or John know if you need to be added to the CLA Board drive or need training on starchapter.

Association Committee Reports:

ADA: Marilyn Lewicki: Absent.

Archivist: Gerald Seagrave: If you have a fall program and have a fall report, please send me a

copy.

Awards: Region Reps: We are meeting with the conference committee next week.

Career Development: Amanda Stern & Rory Martorana: Just a quick update that we have matched all of our matches for the Career Development Committee's CLA mentoring program. We had 21 sets of matches, which is the biggest cohort we've had, and we are really excited.

Conference 2025: Session Proposals are now being accepted through November 15th. Vendor Registration will open on October 21. All updates will be on our conference website. Kristina- I had sent out a few emails to people for soliciting submissions for program proposals. That does close on November 15th. If you have a good idea for a program, something that would work for a session, or any ideas, please reach out Allison and I at conference@ctlibraryassociation.org.

Development: Alessandra Casiello: The committee label changed with the bylaws approval and is now Development. It still entails all that Grants and Fundraising did before, it just allows us to encompass all of the other things we do other than fundraising. We currently have our fall holiday fundraiser running with Meadow farms. The link to purchase through the shop is on the slider of our CLA website. It will run through November 8th. We get 40% of the proceeds. We will also be doing our Giving Tuesday match fundraiser at the end of November and are looking for Companies and Organizations willing to do a match with us.

Intellectual Freedom: Sam Lee & Lindsay Delligan: Lindsay: I am going to be speaking at NELA on Sunday in Portland, MA. We're doing a panel of representatives from IF committees throughout New England. On Monday, I will be speaking at the CASL conference on Monday in Southbury. We are continuing our partnership with CASL and developing relationships with CASL. I did a banned book presentation in Old Lyme on September 26th. It was a small group but very well received. We had interest from the Old Lyme Staff members to join our committee. The hotline is developing. We are waiting to get some news. ALA had tight deadlines to apply but the rollout is slower than we were thinking. I don't think they have disbursed the funds, and we haven't heard any news recently. We hope this will jumpstart all of the IF committees in New England and help us organize and recruit new volunteers and improve our response when we get emails from people when they need help. We've received a few emails from some libraries in CT, but most people have a handle on what their policies are and are not scared or intimidated. If there are any sort of major hiccups, they will reach out to us. They do email us to ask if we can proofread their responses and they are excellent. Sam: I have been to New Haven for a day of dialogue on Intellectual Freedom and banned books. I was at the wash center at Wesleyan in Middletown doing two seminars on Intellectual Freedom for attendees who are retired professors and professionals around Middletown. It included a show at the Ivoryton playhouse "An Alabama Story" which was about the book challenge against a bunny's wedding between a white rabbit and a black rabbit. Yesterday, I was in Newington doing a staff training and I got off zoom earlier today to do training in Stamford.

Legislative: Kate Byroade & Olivia Scully: Besides the legislative agenda, which thank you all for approving, we have a team working on talking points. So, with that legislative agenda, we can all present a unified, consistent messaging as we start getting back to having those discussions with legislators. We also have a team working on legislative meet and greets. It will probably be in late November or early December. We are currently piloting a tool for folks to report interactions with legislators so that we have a better sense of continuity and context to build on instead of reinventing the wheel when one of us has an interaction with a legislator. We also have a team working on education and advocacy programs as well as CLA conference proposals. The only other thing I wanted to bring up is this new law in California about digital

licensing. I think it's important for us to be aware of it. They just signed a law that says if a company is selling digital games, they can't call it purchasing anymore, they have to call it licensing because they could revoke that game at some point or make changes so, you don't actually own that game. This might be something that could set a precedent for other states in terms of consumer protection. It'll be interesting to see how we might be able to work this into our eBook arguments in the coming session.

Outreach: John Casiello: We are getting everything ready for the conference, so, as Kristina said, get your proposals in- the next step is registration. We are working on everything in the background.

PEG: Mary Etter: No report.

Procedures: Lisa Karim: As you know, Bylaws passed the last meeting. I want to thank Olivia and Alessandra for making edits so they can go on the website soon. If anyone wants to be Procedures chair, please let me know.

Section Reports:

Children's: Alexandra Remy & Chonte Fields: We are currently accepting program submissions for conference under the children's header. Alex just sent an email over goodnight moon so anyone on there will get that, but you can always email us. We would like to submit something as a group, and we want to know what everyone is looking for, so we'd like to get your input.

CLASS: Vacant

College & University: Rob Walsh: Absent.

JEDI: Mary Richardson & Samantha Connell: Kristina on behalf: we've hit a hiccup with Sam-personal responsibilities getting in the way of JEDI responsibilities. We are looking for someone else to join JEDI as co-chair. If you know anyone who is interested, that would be wonderful. I am the secretary, and we generally are pretty active, but we have been quiet for a little while since we are in flux. Please reach out to me or Mary Richardson to help us keep the momentum that we've had in the past.

Public Libraries: Jennifer Sullivan: Absent.

Reference & Adult Services: Christie Mitchell: No report.

Resource Sharing: Matt Earls: Absent.

Technical Services: Ann Victor & Christine Rinaldi: My cochair Christine is still on maternity leave, but we just held our fall meeting in Middletown on Friday. We had great discussions for what everyone is interested in and hopefully I will get some conference proposals out of that.

Technology: Kate Sheehan & Christopher Knorr: I would like to take everyone's temperature on something. I'm thinking about soliciting conference proposals and didn't realize people have ideas yet. I am also a track lead for the CEN conference. Would anyone feel like I am double dipping, if I sent an email to Conntech to solicit for both things in one email rather than multiple? Some things do very well at both conferences, and I would like to do that. We did it last year and tweaked it for different audiences and it worked really well.

YA: Stephanie Smith: I'm talking to fellow Teen librarians about conference proposals and have been planning an upcoming workshop for early December. I'll have more to report on that soon.

Adjournment: 10:42 AM Motion to adjourn by Kristina Lareau. Seconded by Margaret Khan.

Present: Scott Jarzombek, Erin Dummeyer, Sarah McCusker, Margaret Khan, Shannon Angelone, Allison Murphy, Amanda Stern, Ann Victor, Chonte Fields, Christie Mitchell, Colleen Bailie, Debbie Misiaszek, Denise Stankovics, Ellen Paul, Gina Wiese, Jerry Seagrave, John Casiello, Kate Sheehan, Kristina Lareau, Lindsay Delligan, Lisa Miceli, Mary Etter, Olivia Blake, Robert Scheier, Samantha Lee, Stephanie Smith.

President's Report

Scott Jarzombek

I was asked to go to the Norwalk Public Library for a press conference with the Lieutenant Governor. I got to speak with some elected officials there who all were very supportive of libraries. Other than that, it has been relatively quiet besides working on the legislative agenda.

Treasurer's Report

We are still pretty early in the year, about 25% done. With that being said, we've received over 11,000 in membership, about 33% of our goal membership revenue this year. Career Development also brought in over \$4,000 from their Leadership Conference. For the banking part, the savings account and change of officers: we are finally able to do that and have it scheduled for October 30th. We'll be updating our officers list on our banking, opening a savings account and looking into getting a CLA credit card.

C. Legislative Agenda

I would like to ask you to reopen the Board Packet- there is a draft from the Committee that's working on how we are writing our legislative agenda. If you can review that really quickly, and if someone feels like it, they can move to adopt the draft agenda as outlined in that document. Motion made by Chonte Fields. Seconded by Mary Etter. No discussion. Passes unanimously.

Thank you everyone, especially Ellen and her group who have worked on this from our legislative committee meeting and of course our legislative committee in general. This is fantastic that we are getting it out early and we are making it so that our membership knows what's going on and what we are doing. There was a lot of great work on this and a lot of great feedback.

CLA Region 2 Rep Report

October 2024

East Hartford Library

- Will be adding a new department – Workforce Development & Digital Inclusion. They'll be posting in late October for a department head.

Kent Library in Suffield

- Has a new Director – Amy Vessella who joined the Library on September 23

Berlin Peck Library

- Kicking off a Storywalk – You Be You – at Berlin's Veteran's Memorial Park
- Ditching Dewey and genrefying non-fiction using the "Pecking Order"

Southington Library

- Offers an ADHD Hangout Mondays at 3:30 PM

Enfield Library

- Celebrating its 150th Anniversary

Lucy Robbins Welles Library in Newington

- Sound bowl healing to de-stress program on Friday, October 18 @ 6:30 PM

Warehouse Point Library in East Windsor

Hosting author Richard Ross who will discuss his new book *Merchandising the Dead in 19th Century New England and Washington D.C.* Tuesday, October 22 at 6 PM