

Connecticut Library Association Board Meeting
December 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 November:** Motion made by Kate Byroade and Alessandra Casiello.
- III. **Old Business**
 - a. President's Report – See attached.
 - b. Treasurer's Report- See attached.
- IV. **New Business**
 - a. Softwares Committee Recommendation- Motion made by Erin Dummeyer. Seconded by Kate Byroade.

Representative Reports:

CT State Library: Deborah Schander: Absent.

NELA: Sarah McCusker: No report.

ALA: Kate Byroade: The only update I have is that I believe the all of the applicants who applied to go to the Advocacy Training and Legislative Action Day in February were notified yesterday. I've heard from two people, Colleen and Sarah McCusker, that they have been accepted. I haven't heard from anybody else, but that's a great event.

ALA EDI Assembly: Vacant

ACLB: Denise Stankovics: Absent.

ACLPD: Robert Kinney: Absent.

America 250: Margaret Khan: No report.

BCALA: Vivian Bordeaux: No report.

Bibliomation: Alessandra Casiello: Bibliomation is in the process of creating our next strategic plan. Over the last two months we've held 12 focus groups around the state for our members. At this point, we are about to send out our membership survey for a follow-up and then start writing the actual plan. We also had some discussion at our board meeting about the eBook legislation trigger possibly happening. We're trying to make our members aware of what's going on to kind of cull some of the concerns that have been reported to me.

Commission on Ed Tech: Colleen Bailie: We had our quarterly meeting at the beginning of the month. The Commission is leading efforts across agencies and partners to advance digital opportunity in the state. The state plan, "Connecticut: Everyone Connected," which I'll have links for in the minutes, serves as a blueprint for equipping residents with the connections, devices, training, and support they need to flourish in today's digital world. Guest speaker Jonathan Costa, Executive Director of EdAdvance, spoke about the work his education svc center is doing across the state with AI in education. He encouraged a balanced approach to AI, given its enormous potential to deepen student learning and its risks. One task the commission is looking at is the feasibility of getting gently used devices into the hands of learners across the state, looking at ways to get items to the public, and how to handle ongoing technical support. CET will be looking at towns to trial the possibility of a program.

Communications Task Force: John Casiello: I know there's conversations around legislative about it. It's just sort of ongoing. And I know in the new year we're going to be launching a lot

more social media stuff as we ramp up for a conference and other things. So at least in regards to some communications, we'll see some improvements, but I think the bigger picture will be further discussion.

CAS-L: Gina Wiese: Absent. Ellen Paul- CASL isn't here so I'll just make one really special announcement on their behalf and that is Barbara Johnson, who is a long-time school librarian at Colchester Public Schools, is running to be president of the American Association of School Librarians. It was just announced yesterday or the day before. At CLC, we're going to do everything that we can to support her candidacy. We're going to send out emails to all of our school library members letting them know that she's running Barbara, if you haven't met Barbara, she is wonderful. She's so much energy. She would do an amazing job in this position to advocate for school librarian. So, anything that we can do to support her here in Connecticut, I think it would be really cool to have the national AASL president be from Connecticut.

CLC: Ellen Paul: I'm just trying to have a quiet December. But two things to know for next year, just two sort of save the dates, John Chrastka is going to come to Connecticut in March, March 17th and 18th. We're going to do 3 sessions: one for school librarians, one for academic librarians, and one for public librarians. So, you can watch for that. And then we're very excited to announce that Lisa Varga, who is the Ala Associate Executive Director of the Washington office, is going to be the keynote speaker at CLC's Annual Meeting in June, June 11th. She was named Library Journal 2024 Librarian of the Year for her work with the Virginia Library Association and has had an incredible career. So that should be a really fun event to hear from her., all good things to come in 2026.

Erin- What topic is John Trashka speaking about? Ellen- So for public libraries, we're specifically talking about money and budgets, public funding, private funding, tax levies, that sort of thing. For school libraries, we're talking about mapping school library services to your portrait of a graduate. And for academic libraries, we are talking about the Ithaca Sr. Triennial survey between college and university admins and librarians and the disconnect between what administration thinks of libraries versus what libraries think of libraries. So that should be posted on our website, hopefully early January.

Ellen- Just to add to your excitement about Barbara running for AASL, just so everyone knows. So, I went to this CASL holiday gathering, total outsider, didn't really know anyone because I'm a public librarian. She was making her opening remarks. And then she was like, I have a surprise and she just unbuttoned her shirt, and she had a like "Barbara for AASL President" shirt on. It was really cool and really fun how she announced her campaign to the group. It was very exciting.

FOCL: Debbie Misiaszek: We had a very successful round table on E-line sales last month. We had about 20 different Friends' group that attended and according to the survey, they all felt that it was worthwhile.

LION: Joe Farara: Absent.

Library Connection: Laura Horn: Absent.

Region 1: Heather Aronson: I haven't heard anything from my liaison libraries, but in Southbury, our elevators being worked on, so it should be on schedule to be back in service within the next few months.

Region 2: Lisa Miceli: No report.

Region 3: Drusilla Carter: Absent.

Region 4: Kiera Parrott: Nothing from my peer libraries in around Region 4, but here at the Darien library, we've been musing on the idea of maybe in the spring or maybe next fall doing

some sort of reading competition with another town or other towns in in CT. So, the idea would be sort of capitalize on that competitive spirit in a good-natured way to get people reading more, increase our search. If you've done anything like this or you're interested in doing something like this, let me know because we're still in the early stages of brainstorming this here.

Alessandra- when I was at Danbury, Danbury did this with surrounding towns, including Ridgefield. I think Reading, Mark Twain was involved, New Milford, New Fairfield. So, yeah, if you want to contact, you know, I think Danbury was the leader there on it, but it was CC Lethargy who was leading it at Danbury if you want to contact her.

Region 5: Emily Rush: See attached.

Region 6: Madhu Gupta: Absent.

SCSU: Cindy Schofield: Absent.

Sustainability Taskforce: All I have right now is the softwares and this should be the time that we go over our strategic plan to do a review. So, if we want to add that to the agenda for January, just to kind of go over what we've completed in the first year of the strategic plan and where we still have to make some movement on that would be something for next month's agenda.

Association Committee Reports:

ADA: Marilyn Lewicki: Absent.

Archivist: Gerald Seagrave: No report.

Awards: Region Reps: John Casiello: The nominations will go out in about two weeks, so look for that in your e-mail and feel free to suggest that people nominate or nominate people so that we can get a good group going.

Career Development: Diana Preece and Mirja Johanson: All I have to say is that we did agree to do the check box on the scholarship application to indicate that they're swearing they are not plagiarizing or using AI in their essays. And those should be ready to launch early January.

Conference 2026: Those who submitted proposals, thank you so much. We were able to accept 85 proposals, which is really great. We're going to have a fully packed conference. Some of the sections and committees went like above and beyond and put in a ton of proposals, so we weren't able to accept everything from every section and committee, but we really do appreciate that we got something from every active section and committee. We will be doing weekly updates from now until our registration open date, which is going to be January 21st. You may have seen the first e-mail go out yesterday, which included the rates that the board had voted on as well as the registration date, and we sent out an interest survey. We really appreciate people completing the interest survey because this helps us figure out placement on the schedule for the sessions based on how much interest they seem to gauge, so how much space each of them needs. Some of you know the rooms hold more space than others, so please complete that if you see it on the e-mail. Otherwise, it is on our conference website, on the announcements page, conference website is claconference.info. We have confirmed both of our keynotes. We're just waiting for a little blurb for one of them. So that announcement will come out soon. Our after-hours events are finalizing right now. Big development this week: we did reach out to see if we could get a showing of the librarians at conference and we're trying to work that out right now. If we were to do that, it would happen at Erin's President's Reception on Sunday evening, which is April 26th. It would start at 5:00 PM. We would do the showing, have some cocktails available for people and little hors d'oeuvres and then they are trying to figure out if they could have somebody come for discussion afterwards After that we would be having one of our fundraisers. So it would be, you know, a pretty packed night. The first fundraiser that night is actually by Drusilla. She is going to

be doing hardcover book purses. We have limited spots. So, when that opens, if you really want to do it, please make sure you secure your spot. And then the Monday night event that we're doing is a Grown-up Nostalgic Book Fair. So, if you miss Scholastic book fairs as a kid, this is going to replicate that. Since we already have some of our book vendors there, we're also reaching out to book shops that would like to attend just that night. A lot of the bookshops aren't able to come for the whole conference, so this is a way to get them involved and show our support for them and their support for us. So, if you have a local bookstore bookshop that you would like us to reach out to, please shoot me an e-mail. We'd really appreciate that. So again, a lot going on and look out for registration to open on January 21st.

Development: Alessandra Casiello: We did get our check from the Meadow Farms fundraiser. That was about \$335 that we earned there. We did our match this year and we got \$660 from donations. As always, our match company RH Lord still gave us the full match of \$1,000. So, you'll see that in next month's report. The next thing that we're gearing up for is our performer auction. I'm trying to secure our performers for that, and the auction generally takes place in mid-February online. It's an online auction. It's been really successful the last two years, so we hope to still have the same type of traction with that there. If you have an amazing performer that you think is willing to donate time, I do reach out to the past performers first to see who's interested because we only have so many spots. But if you think of a performer that you think would be willing to donate their time, let me know and I can reach out to them and see if they would like to participate. So that will be coming up. And then I already spoke about the conference fundraisers.

Intellectual Freedom: Sam Lee & Lindsay Delligan: The report out of intellectual freedom is the news from Supreme Court not taking on the Layla Green Little versus Lano County case. So, the decision from the 5th Circuit holds in Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi, which is to say the libraries do not have an obligation to provide a diverse collection to their patrons and that library books are a form of government speech and the government has the right to censor. So that's really disappointing. However, there are rays of sunshine. We don't know why the Supreme Court decided not to. They haven't come out with any statement. But there are other cases winding their way through the other circuit courts and it will be split courts as far as we can see. And ultimately, it will have to get kicked out back to the Supreme Court. However, waiting on buying a T-shirt that says, "I've had tacos more supreme than this court" So, yeah, we shall see. So bad news out of there. But the fight goes on and we're ready to take dig in.

Legislative: Kate Byroade & Rebecca Harlow: We are working on getting those work groups that we've been talking about together. All of the emails to the project leads should be going out today. We're going to get moving on all of those legislative priorities that we set. So, a legislative thank you event, advocacy training, the communication tools that John was talking about, and advocacy for library funding. Council initiatives, digital equity, there's, there's a lot of stuff that's going to be coming out of legislative in the next couple months. So those are going to go out. I was also invited to the Ala legislative fly in and I'm not sure who else. We're still waiting to hear who else has been invited. That's all I can think of from legislative.

Outreach: John Casiello: No report.

PEG: Mary Etter: Absent.

Procedures: Lisa Miceli: My monthly plea for bylaws for the sections. Please review your bylaws if you haven't done so already. I don't think I've received any yet. So please take some time to do that so we can keep them current.

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:** We are holding our next section meeting on Wednesday, January 21st from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Resource Sharing: **Matt Earls:** Absent.

Technical Services: **Ann Victor & Christine Rinaldi:** We are going to be having our winter meeting. It's going to be a hybrid meeting on January 30th from 10am – 12pm at Middletown Service Center. We're going to be talking about mostly about the fall of Baker and Taylor and how everyone's handling that here. We all could use a little powwow about that.

Technology: **Kate Sheehan & Jessica Wolford:** **No report.**

YA: **Danielle Murray:** We have a meeting coming up in January at Fable. So, keep an eye out for invitations. It is not a huge money maker because Fable's ticket price is most of what we're asking for, but it should be fun and it'll center around summer reading planning. I think that's about it. Jackie can fill in if we're missing anything else. We do have our approved breakout sessions for CLA.

Adjournment: 10:35 AM. Motion made by 1. Kate Byroade 2. Alessandra Casiello.

Present: Erin Dummeyer, Margaret Khan, Shannon Angelone, Alessandra Casiello, Ann Victor, Christine Rinaldi, Colleen Bailie, Danielle Murray, Debbie Misiaszek, Diana Preece, Ellen Paul, Emily Rush, Heather Aronsons, Jackie Bush, Jerry Seagrave, John Casiello, Kate Byroade, Kate Sheehan, Kristina Lareau, Lisa Micelli, Rebecca Harlow, Robert Scheier, Sarah McCusker, Vivian Bordeaux.

Old Business

a. President's report- Erin Dummeyer

I followed up a few weeks ago on our 501(c)(3) status with the IRS. I wasn't really expecting much because I think the government shutdown, I'm sure backed them up probably more than they are. But our current status was not assigned to a determination specialist, So I'll keep an eye on that. But I was happy that I at least got an answer even though it wasn't really great news. Then the other thing I want to share, which is much more exciting, was I was invited in December to the Association American or the Connecticut Association of School Librarians Holiday gathering to accept an award on behalf of CLA. And I know Kate was there as well to accept the award with me. So, CASL gave us this award to the Connecticut Library Association. It's a Certificate of Commendation for Empowering Library Supporters of Connecticut to Advocate for Students Freedom to Read and Effectively Communicate with State Legislators about School, Library and Intellectual Freedom Concerns. So that was very nice of them. I was honored and very touched by them recognizing us for all the work we did on the freedom to rebuild last legislative session.

I've been working with Deborah and Ellen and the President of ACLB on the process for if boards want to query us if they're working on a challenge and that's going well. Maybe Ellen will add it to her report too. But that's in process should be completed soon. We have not had any boards contact us yet for consultation, but we will make sure that there is a way for them to do so and with guide with more information.

b. Treasurer's Report- Margaret Khan

We've received nearly \$20,000 in membership dues, which is a little bit more or just about half of what we budgeted for the entire year so far. As of the end of November, we have 531 active members. We are also starting to receive revenue for conference from conference exhibitors having about \$5000 in that budget line so far. All of the donation and fundraising activity will be reflected in next month's report. So overall, we're in very good standing right now.

New Business

a. Softwares Committee Recommendation-Alessandra Casiello

So last month's meeting I briefly spoke about how the softwares committee, which is part of our sustainability task force, wanted to discuss moving away from Star Chapter and possibly moving to a different software; we did a few demos. This group requested that one, they would like to see the demos, which we don't think it's going to be a possibility to set up a time that's going to work for people to actually attend. But we could possibly get some recordings from the two softwares that we're looking at because December's crazy, the software's committee wasn't able to put that together. What we did was prepare a recommendation. Currently what our software runs on is a January to December payment and it's an annual payment. However, we can pay for Star Chapter monthly, but it is approximately \$5 more per month to do so it is a savings for us when we do it annually. Our fiscal year is from July to June, so that is also an issue. What we would like to recommend is that we move over at least for the next 6 months, a monthly renewal of our software StarChapter while we prepare a recommendation for the board to vote on. If

the board does vote that they want to stay with Star Chapter, this would at least allow us to move StarChapter to our fiscal year July to June renewal. If we want to move back to an annual renewal, it will end up being about \$60 to \$70 more for us than we budgeted for the software this year. So that is our recommendation. We do have to have a vote to do to move to the monthly billing which Bob, hopefully you're on now and you can hear this, if it gets voted on, Bob can move to the monthly billing for January through June if that is the recommendation that you want to approve.

Motion made by Erin Dummeyer. Seconded by Kate Byroade. No oppositions.

CLA Region 5 News: December 2025

James Blackstone Memorial Library, Branford

- After 26 years, Deirdre Santora is retiring from the Blackstone Library. As Head of Assess Services, she led a very busy department in making sure our patrons received warm welcomes to the library and excellent service while here.
- The library also just approved moving forward with a Facilities Assessment Study with Lothrop Architects Associates. They will spend the next 5-6 months looking at water infiltration issues, mechanical/HVAC issues, and any possible abatement issues, delivering a final report with recommendations for repairs and maintenance for the next 5-20 years.

Hagaman Memorial Library, East Haven

- I am replying to share some sad news from Hagaman Library. A member of our circulation staff, Sandi Papuga, passed away on December 3, 2025. Sandi joined our circulation team in 2019 and brought dedication, kindness, and a fantastic sense of humor to her work at the library. She was always the first to volunteer for a new project, and always made time to connect with our patrons, one-on-one. She will be greatly missed. For those who would like to leave condolences for her family, her obituary is available [here](#).

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