



**LEADING THE WAY**  
SINCE 1875

**CONNECTICUT LIBRARY ASSOCIATION  
131<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL MEETING  
Connecticut Convention Center, Hartford  
Wednesday, May 4, 2022, 9:00 am**

**I. Call to Order, President Colleen Bailie**

Colleen called the meeting to order at 9:01 am

**II. Minutes 2021 Annual Meeting**

A motion to approve the Annual Meeting Minutes from 2021 was made by Tom Piezzo and seconded by Sam Lee. The motion passed with no abstentions.

**III. CLA Annual Review, President Colleen Bailie (see attached)**

**IV. Treasurer's Report, Treasurer Kristina Edwards (see attached)**

**VI. New Business**

- i. State Librarian Update: Deborah Schander, State Librarian (see attached)
- ii. Nominations: Tom Piezzo, Past President  
Tom nominated Sarah McCusker as Vice President for the 2022-2023 Board Year. Sarah McCusker was approved unanimously as Vice President for the 2022-2023 Board Year.

**VII. Adjourn**

The meeting was called to adjourn by Colleen at 9:17 am. A motion was made to adjourn by Kristina Edwards and seconded by Tom Piezzo. The motion passed with no abstentions.

## CLA YEAR IN REVIEW – President's Report – May, 2022

Colleen Bailie

Everyone tells you that your CLA year will go by in a flash, and they are not kidding. It is hard to believe that we are here, in more ways than one, for our annual meeting.

Like every year, this has been a busy year for CLA. Since the pandemic began, meetings have largely been conducted virtually. I think a special thank you also needs to go out to our immediate past president, Tom Piezzo, for guiding us through the worst of the pandemic and conducting his entire year virtually. And I'd also like to take this time to thank Doug Lord, for stepping into the President Elect role mid-year. Thanks to all the members of the board for your hard work this past year. Throughout this past year, there were a number of great CLA programs, including the virtual leadership institute, EDI's workshop on Drafting a Diversity plan, the long awaited return of our Passport to Libraries program last month, and a number of informative zoom programs. These programs would not happen without all of you, donating your time and energy to putting out programming for your peers.

The career development committee (chaired currently by Sunnie Scarpa & Janet Flewelling), had a busy year! The committee started with the report on Salary benchmarking by Cartis Larson HR Consulting. The information was made public on both CLA and CLC's websites to allow library leaders determine the best salaries possible in our state for our talented library employees. Other states are also looking to what we've done as a stepping point for launching their own benchmarking! They also began an internship list for libraries and finally launched a mentorship program this year matching mentors and mentees. All I've heard is how fabulous and rewarding it has been for those that are involved.

The fundraising committee, aka Alessandra Petrino, has planned a number of fundraisers throughout the year to help continue the sustainability of CLA. There was the successful Banned Books event in October in conjunction with Intellectual Freedom committee (aka Sam Lee), the Boon Supply Fundraiser for the second year in a row, the Move-A-Thon which was during the month of April, and of course the mini-golf fundraiser from last night. Alessandra has been a one woman fundraising dynamo and these would not have been successful without her.

There were some big changes too, including the decision for CLA to become a 501c3 organization. This decision was not made lightly and will take 6-8 months to occur. By doing so, CLA will be poised to apply for grants and other opportunities, while continuing to support our sister organizations of CLC and the State Library.

Thanks to the eagle eye of our operation team at NELA of Bob & Michelle Scheier, we discovered a hole in our insurance coverage that was quickly rectified it to ensure CLA is properly covered going forward.

Unfortunately this year also brought a dramatic rise in attempts for book censorship. CLA issued an Intellectual Freedom statement addressing this and our strong stance against any forms of censorship. I would be remiss if I didn't also thank Sam Lee, chair of Intellectual Freedom, for her relentless leadership in assisting librarians across the state in how to handle censorship in their libraries.

CLA was happy to assist the State Library in advocating and getting the word out about HB 131, An Act Concerning Electronic Book And Digital Audiobook Licensing. I was so proud to see 14 of our colleagues testify on the importance of fair pricing for libraries. The bill at this time has stalled, but we have come a long way in getting information out about this topic and I'm sure this is just the beginning. Kate Byroade and Olivia Scully, co-chairs of the Legislative committee were integral in coordinating everyone and working with CLC and the State Library. Legislative has also been busy

working on some long-term projects concerning Library Governance and Libraries as a Civil Right with a goal of funding to help level the playing field for communities.

The slate of officers for the executive board of FY2023 will be Doug Lord of CH Booth in Newtown as President, Sarah McCusker of Cragin Library as VP/Pres-elect, Danielle Valenzano of Milford Library as Secretary, Margaret Khan of Booth & Dimock Library of Coventry, and myself.

Finally, if you would like to get involved with CLA more, please reach out to someone on the board.

We are always looking for new members to get involved. CLA is a member-driven organization, and many hands make for light work! Get involved in any number of ways; via attending events and workshops, assisting on a committee, or reaching out about open board positions. New faces bring Now, I will ask Kristina to give a Treasurers report.

And here's Deborah Schander, our State Librarian, on updates at the state library.

And from here we'll take a motion to adjourn....

Awards...

I'm so pleased to kick off our 2022 Awards and Scholarship ceremony. Congratulations to all the nominees and winners. There's such a talented group of librarians in CT, and I'm so happy to be a part of our library community. Now, to kick off the first award of the day, Scott Brill!

## Treasurer's Report, Kristina Edwards, May 2022

This year we have continued to move toward a more sustainable future for the Connecticut Library Association. This year's accomplishments have included:

1. Putting an insurance policy that more fully meets our needs
2. Further updating our workflows to meet the needs of our members including making sure that joint memberships are updated in our system in a timely fashion
3. Reestablished the Treasurer Elect position to allow for better transitions from one treasurer to the next. Kristina have met with Margaret and answered questions related to the responsibilities and will be continuing to do this until the end of June
4. Continuation of an ongoing fundraising efforts lead by Alessandra Petrino to reflect the associations needs to look beyond membership and conference revenues to sustain CLA financially
5. We continue to maintain a reserve for several months of expenses to ensure CLA can weather any new changes that come our way

Kristina shared that as an Executive Board, we continued to have discussions on ways that we can grow and solidify our financial future including the possibility of re-establishing an investment account and applying for grants that can help us with initiatives that benefit CLA members.

State Librarian's Report, Deborah Schander, May 2022

Deborah Schander congratulated CLA on its first in-person conference in two years, noting appreciation for her Day One experience, from Tracie Hall's inspiring wake up call on the importance of literacy and access to information to BCALA's session on the history of Black librarianship in America to an update on the early successes of digital navigator pilots happening across the state. Schander noted that, although COVID has exposed inequities and the importance of connection, it has also helped us see how creative and resilient libraries are. At the State Library, major achievements from the past year included the distribution of more than \$2 million in ARPA funds to public libraries and the first modest increase to the State Library's budget in more than a decade. In the next year, we will continue to focus on ebooks, building and deepening relationships with elected officials and policymakers, partner on digital government and preserving electronic records, and begin refreshing the Museum of Connecticut History.