



**LEADING THE WAY  
SINCE 1891**

**Connecticut Library Association  
133rd Annual Meeting  
Mystic Marriot Hotel & Spa, Groton, CT  
Monday, April 29, 2024, 9:00 am**

- I. Call to Order: President Sarah McCusker  
Called meeting to order at 9:05 AM
- II. Approval of Minutes 2023 Annual Meeting  
Motion to approve minutes made by Colleen Bailie and seconded by Doug Lord. No oppositions. No abstentions.
- III. CLA President's Report: President Sarah McCusker
- IV. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Margaret Khan
- V. New Business
  - a. State Librarian Update: State Librarian Deborah Schander
  - b. 2024/2025 Slate of Officers: Douglas Lord
  - c. Bylaws Revision discussion
- VI. Adjournment  
Motion to adjourn made by Kate Byroade and seconded by Margaret Khan.  
Adjourn at 9:24 am.

Connecticut Library Association  
Annual President's Report  
April 29, 2024

A lot of what's been going on with CLA this year has gone on behind the scenes. This includes the Strategic Plan process which involved looking at our bylaws, our finances, our succession planning, our training, to make sure that we are in as good a position as we can be going forward. The sustainability committee that was charged with doing this work, which is headed up by Douglas Lord and refereed by Alessandra Casiello. They did a phenomenal job and I feel like the organization is in a really terrific place right now. It was a year where we worked very hard this year on extended our cooperation with other organizations and other agencies. One thing that we are happy with this year is that we have solidified our relationship with CASL- the Connecticut Association of School Librarians. They are kind of parallel organization-they are not part of CLA. We all existed next to each other, but we have been trying to really start to work together and I think you can see that within our legislative efforts. We are really happy to be working with them and hope to have a joint membership option with them like we currently do with NELA. So, folks, at the libraries may soon be easily able to join them and vice versa- they can join CLA. We have been in the news a lot. I am always happy when we are approached for comments and new stories that are nice. We were invited by Channel 3 to do a special on Sunday on all the great stuff you can get in your library. I have never had so many people ask me about metal detectors. My personal library doesn't have one but all of a sudden everyone wants them. We were asked for the top books borrowed in Connecticut. Amazingly enough, no one had ever kept track of before so that was exciting. Number one was Lessons in Chemistry with Number Two being Demon Copperhead. Then of course we did have challenges. As you already know, book banning is still alive and well even in Connecticut. We've had a number of challenges in school and public libraries. We have had some instances of rogue boards, boards of selectmen, rogue library boards. We had eclipse glasses- is anything more challenging than that? But we made it through all of those things and continue to go through all of those things. I just wanted to say I got my first and thankfully only, book challenge. I found out two years ago while attending this conference and found out through text. I was so upset when I found out about it that day because I could not handle it. I came back here the second day of conference and spoke to many of my colleagues and friends, and they gave me a feeling of control and strength for what I was about to go through. The best thing that we have here in the Connecticut Library community is each other. It's such an amazing community to be a part of. No matter what kind of problem we have, you pick up the phone, and call one of your colleagues, someone is there to help you and hold your hand and assure you that you'll get through it. And you will because we're awesome. So, thank you everybody. It has been a pleasure to be president this year. It has been very fulfilling and personally rewarding. I feel like I have grown a lot. I'm thankful to Doug and Scott in particular for all of their help. The president-elect, president, and past president have to work as a team, which is really terrific., and they have been supportive all year. CLA is a great organization. Please become active if you are not already.

Connecticut Library Association  
Annual Treasurer's Report  
April 29, 2024

Good morning, everyone!

My name is Margaret Khan, and I am the treasure of the Connecticut Library Association. Thank you for joining us, not only for what is looking to be a fantastic conference, but for our annual meeting.

The CLA membership has been incredibly focused on nurturing the health of our organization, including our financial health. Over the last year, we have reviewed plans and procedures in an effort to standardize our practices, improve efficiency, and prepare for the future.

Last summer, the executive board and I met with our administrative team to review our documents and procedure. We removed some old budget lines, created new ones, and merged some redundant lines, creating a more precise chart of accounts. We updated our budget document to reflect the new budget lines and updated our expense form to include a line to code bills. This standardization will hopefully provide an easy-to-use format for future treasurers, officers, and members.

The finance sub-committee, part of the Sustainability Committee- met throughout the fall and winter to review our financial plan. This plan has been updated to reflect our current practices, our financial situation, and to create guidelines for how we save our money. This plan has been updated to reflect our current practices, our financial situation, and to create guidelines for how we save our money. We will be investigating different savings accounts and will open an account in the summer once our new officers are elected. As we continue to build our savings, we hope in the next few years to begin investing again.

Lastly, CLA will remain a 501(c)(6) tax-exempt organization. We no longer have an active application for 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, and any future changes will require a completely new application. At this time, we are not investigating any other tax-exempt status.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. Thank you and I hope you all enjoy the day!

-Margaret Khan

## New Business

- a. State Librarian Update: State Librarian Deborah Schander

### Connecticut Library Association Annual State Librarian's Report April 29, 2024

Good morning, everyone, it is a pleasure to be with you at the CLA conference and I so appreciate the opportunity to come and spend a couple of minutes telling you about the work and projects of the State Library Agency. There's a couple of things that I want to highlight because I won't take too much time of your day. There are a few things that have been happening over the course of the last year.

- In September, the State Library literally hit the road. We used some of our ARPA funding to purchase a CSL outreach van. This is a sprinter van that allows staff from the Museum of Connecticut History, The State Archives, the Division of Library Development and others, to take outreach programming to special events, professional development, library programming support and pop-up exhibits across the state. The Outreach Van will be with us at the conference for both days so if you haven't had a chance and you want to stretch a little bit, please feel free to join us in the parking lot and come see the van. We are also available for you to request us to join you at your events and programming throughout the year.
- We also received a supplemental award of more than \$250,000 from the National Endowment Humanities to continue to digitize historically significant Connecticut newspapers use through the National Digital Newspaper Program over the course of the next 2 years. This is the sixth grant that we have received, and it will allow us to add another 100,000 newspaper pages that are digitized from microfilm and network from 1690 to 1963 and this will be added to the Library of Congress's Chronicling America website.
- Sarah Morin, who is the project Archivist for the New Haven County Court Records project, participated in Grating the Nutmeg podcast last November and she discussed the history of witchcraft, accusations, and the persistence of belief of witchcraft into 18th century. She also published an article *Uncovering the Hidden Lives of New Haven*, which was also published in Connecticut Explored magazine. The article discusses what we have discovered about women, free and enslaved African American and Black persons, and Indigenous persons in the court records from 1700-1810.
- The CSCU system now has access to Ego CT and the Palace Project. There are a total of 163 sites now sharing content from State Library through the Palace App in addition to the school site participating in this program.
- You may be aware that the former Library for the Blind is now called Connecticut Library for Accessible Books and the staff there continues to work with Perkins Access on a pilot project called *Transforming Library and Museums: Collaboration for Accessible Exhibits, Collections, and Programs*, which centers around making libraries and museum exhibits accessible to visitors who are blind or visually impaired. We are continuing to offer an image description program. It was first

offered in September 2023 and will allow additional libraries to continue this good work.

- You may have seen our *Hiking through History* program which is run through the Museum of Connecticut History and is returning again this year. We had our first program in April, and these will continue through October so check out all of our publications for information, upcoming sites and the dates.
- The legislative session is coming to a close. Throughout the session, the state library had se productive conversations both formal and informal with legislators and including members of the appropriations, the finance revenue, the bonding committees, as well as individual legislators. There was recognition for the State Library as well as all libraries across the state throughout. They expressed their appreciation to everyone for that. We are continuing to monitor the eBook legislation as well funding related to America 250 Connecticut Commission. We will see what the near will bring for us.

With that I wanted to say thank you to the staff at the state library agency but also to all of you. These are challenging times as you know in the world and in libraries in particular. Please know that your dedication and perseverance are noted and appreciated. Thank you.

b. 2024/2025 Slate of Officers: Douglas Lord

Good morning, everybody, and thank you very much. I will attempt to be very quick. I am on the board as the immediate Past President and chair of nominations committee and am here to present the slate of officers for the 2024-2025 association. Before we get to that, there has been an opportunity for us to additional candidates to have been nominated by petition. Let the record indicate that there have not been any petitions. I will ask the folks in the room who have been nominated as Vice-President/ President-elect, Erin Dummeyer from Mark Twain Library. For Region Rep 2 is Lisa Miceli from Simsbury Public Library Director, for Region 4: Brenda McKinley from Ridgefield Library, for region 6 Madhu Gupta from the New London Public Library. We thank you for your voluntary service.

I'd like to make a motion for acceptance for Vice-President / President-elect, Erin Dummeyer. The elections for region representatives will take place via StarChapter.

1. Scott Brill 2. Olivia Blake. No oppositions. Motion carries.

c. Bylaws Revision discussion

The updates that we made through our strategic planning process to our bylaws have been sent out to all CLA members via StarChapter. The vote to approve those bylaws will be sent out with the vote for Region Reps. It won't be a vote today, but I want to invite anyone who has any comments on the bylaws, please feel free. You can also email them to [president@ctlibraryassociation.org](mailto:president@ctlibraryassociation.org) and I will pass them onto the Procedures Chair, Lisa Karim before the vote.