

Connecticut Library Association Board Meeting
March 17, 2022
10:00 am Business Meeting via Zoom
Minutes

1. **Call to Order:** President Colleen Bailie called the meeting to order at 10:02 am.

2. **Approval of Minutes**

a. February 17th meeting minutes

A motion to approve the February 17th meeting minutes was made by Tom Piezzo and seconded by Mary Etter. Motion passed. No abstentions.

3. **Old Business**

a. **President's Report** – See attached

b. **Treasurer's Report** – See attached

4. **New Business**

Committee/Section/Representatives Reports:

ACLB: Denise Stankovics: Denise reported last time on survey they were sending out to determine best topics for future programs and that will be sent out shortly. Spring newsletter should be going out in the next week.

ADA: Maria Bernier: No report

ACLPD: Karen Tatarka: Absent

ALA: Erin Shea Dummeyer: Out of ALA, probably the biggest news came from our virtual Council meeting in March. The "Transforming ALA Governance" working group recommended Council be changed to an advisory group, and this resolution passed.

Archivist: Gerald Seagrave: If you had a winter program, please send a report for the archives.

Awards: Region Reps: Award information is updated on the CLA website. You can email or fill out the Google form.

BCALA: Robert Kinney: Robert made an announcement about Breaking Barriers: The Future of Black Librarianship. They will accept up to 50 MLIS students through the website who will be expected to participate in a day long session on March 30th and then after that a face to face Conference on June 23-28. Visit the website for more information.

Bibliomation: Carl Demilia: Absent

Career Development: Janet Flewelling & Sunnie Scarpa: Sunnie reported that a few libraries have responded to the Internship survey. If you are accepting interns for the fall of 2022, please let them know. Mentorship information is on the website. They are scoring the scholarship applications currently and looking forward to awarding those scholarships.

CAS-L: Barbara Johnson & Mary-Ellen Minichiello: Absent

CLC: Ellen Paul: Ellen reported they are currently out to bid on digital resources. Hoping to bring a lot of purchasing options in the next few months. They are also moving forward with a new program in their catalog. They are hoping to roll it out for libraries by the CLA Conference. CLC will be attending the CLA Conference and will have a prize wheel with prizes from all of their vendors, including a free yearlong subscription to the Scholastic database of your choice.

Commission on Ed Tech: Colleen Bailie: Meeting was held March 7th. Much of the discussion was around how CET can support continued digital education. The Community Wireless project has expanded from the original program in 2021. The Commission will be overseeing how the funds are spent through a grant process to enable libraries and other community anchors the ability to expand their hotspot/wireless reach. CEN's conference will immediately follow our on May 5th at the Convention center.

CSL: Deborah Schander: Budget committee is completed and they are reviewing other legislative things that impact the State Library. Had a meeting with the eBook Bill Committee to discuss key points to share the importance of the eBook Bill issue.

Children's: Cathy Potter & Alex Kraus: Cathy encouraged people to fill out applications for the Faith Hektoen Children's award. Forms are due by March 31st. Next meeting is on April 14th at 2pm.

College & University: Matthew Sheehan: Absent

CLASS: Vacant

Conference 2022: Kari Hamad & Shannon Angelone: Registrations have been flooding in for the Conference. Speakers have been notified of the date & time they are speaking. Early bird registration extended until April 1st.

CT Center for the Book: Lisa Comstock: Absent

Customer Service: Vacant

Grants/Fundraising: Alessandra Petrino: Looking for people to make/donate baskets for the CLA Conference auction. They will be hosting a CLA Workshop – the Power of Journaling. Visit the website to register – free for members and \$10 for non-members. Pledge It Fund/Move-a-thon from April 1-April 30th.

FOCL: Debbie Misiaszek: Debbie has replaced Frank as the representative for FOCL. Their annual meeting and awards ceremony will be June 11th at the Avon Public Library.

Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI): Kym Powe: Kym is working with Samantha Connell to transfer over the Section Chair.

Intellectual Freedom: Sam Lee: ALA released a Privacy Field Guide for Librarians and she encourages everyone to check it out on their website.

LCI: Laura Horn: Absent

Legislative: Kate Byroade & Olivia Scully: They are very excited about the speed of the eBook Bill. It has passed thanks to 23 letters of support and 14 people testifying and Senator Wong and other legislators getting on board and supporting it, it passed out of committee. So now there will be new language crafted to get more of what they are looking for in regards to goals because they hope to get their talking points out there for librarians and the public to do some advocacy and social media. Please keep an eye out for announcements. There are a couple of task forces looking at some long term projects – one is Library Governance and one is Libraries as a Civil Right with a goal of funding to help level the playing field for communities. Budget testimony in support of the budget went fine. If you have any questions, please reach out to Kate or Olivia or Colleen. Kate thanked everyone for their support and work.

LGBTQ+ Section: Mary Richardson: Absent

LION: Joe Farara: Absent

Membership: Trish Tomlinson: Absent

NELA: Christy Billings: Absent.

PEG: Mary Etter: No report

Publicity & Communications: John Casiello: Absent. Publicity Awards are up on the website and they close on March 31st. Also please make sure you are using the newest CLA logo. If you need access, please get in contact with John.

Procedures: Lisa Karim: Lisa thanked John for helping her get the vote up on StarChapter. Voting for the bylaw change closes April 4th.

Public Library: Jennifer Sullivan: Absent. Passport to Connecticut Libraries will be April 1-30. 142 Libraries have signed up, which is 11% greater than 2020.

Reference & Adult Services: Christie Mitchell & Rachel Leff: Christie reported that they have their first workshop today at 2pm, Library Services for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities. Looking forward to the next workshop on March 31st, Library Services for Survivors on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. Both workshops will be recorded meetings. Christie inquired about posting these on the CLA Youtube channel and will contact John to arrange that.

Resource Sharing Matt Earls: Absent

SCSU: Arlene Bielefield: Absent

Technical Services: Steve Bernstein: Absent

Technology: Vacant

Young Adult: Jackie Bush and Stephanie Smith: Stephanie reported that YA had their first meeting on February 24th and thanked Kym for coming and sharing information to their participants.

Region 1: Karin Thomas: Karin reported that there is a group of 8 libraries who will be participating in EDI Training. There will be a Director's workshop on May 5th and also an entire staff training. If anyone is interested in learning more, contact Gretchen at Hotchkiss Library in Sharon.

Region 2: Sarah McCusker: Absent

Region 3: Leslie McDonough: Absent

Region 4: Erin Shea Dummeyer: See attached

Region 5: Robbie Marshall: See attached

Region 6: Vicky Coffin: Absent

5. **Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn at 11:12 am was made by Kate Byroade and seconded by Jackie Bush. Motion approved.

Present: Robbie Marshall, Doug Lord, Colleen Bailie, Tom Piezzo, Kristina Edwards, Erin Shea Dummeyer, Karin Thomas, Jackie Bush, Stephanie Smith, Christie Mitchell, Rachel Leff, Mary Etter, John Casiello, Kym Powe, Sam Lee, Alessandra Petrino, Kate Byroade, Deborah Schander, Ellen Paul, Debbie Misiaszek, Kari Hamad, Shanon Angelone, Cathy Potter, Alex Kraus, Matt Earls, Janet Flewelling, Sunnie Scarpa, Denise Stankovics, Robert Kinney, Gerald Seagrave, Danielle Valenzano

CLA President, March 2022 – Colleen Bailie

Around 15 of us spoke at the Legislative hearing in regards to HB 131, An act concerning e-books on Feb. 24th. Thank you to all who testified, whether writing in or virtually! This is moving quickly, and CLA will be looking to hold some info session Thursday and Friday to start organizing librarians on the topic. 501c3 paperwork is the hands of our accountant to look over for any issues/concerns and should then go to the IRS soon.

StarChapter has made some changes to how they handle payment, which no one besides Bob/Michelle should really see a difference. If there are any issues concerning payments for conference or membership, please reach out to Bob and Michelle.

As we get closer to conference and the annual meeting, we are looking for people with an interest on serving on CLA's board next year. Please reach out to either myself, doug, or tom if there's an interest.

Please keep in mind that one person cannot serve as two voting committee chairs. Liasion such as CLC and voting member chair yes, children's chair and conference, no.

Don't forget to sign up for the conference! Early bird registration has been pushed to April 1st.

Treasurer's Report, March 2022 – Kristina Edwards

Kristina reminded everyone that budget requests for next year are due April 15, 2022. If you need additional time, please reach out to treasurer@ctlibraryassociation.org. If you need help filling out the expense form, please reach out to Kristina. She and CLA Admin can help provide any final financial information for Fall 2021 programs needed to complete the form. Reminded current chairs to let Kristina/Danielle know when you have information about any changes to the chair of your committee or section. This will help with board transition for next year and allow me to keep incoming chairs updated on the budget for next year. Also asked chairs to let her know if you will not be requesting a budget for next year and noted that once the budget is finalized requests additional requests for funds would be made with the CLA President and may or may not be granted based on our current finances. Conference expenses are starting to come in, next month they will start to show on our financials so that we begin to see the impact of the conference on the overall budget for the year.

Region 4 Report – Erin Shea Dummeyer

After [Gov. Lamont announced on February 7, 2022 that the statewide school mask requirements](#) would be lifted, effective February 28, 2022, transferring mask-wearing decisions to municipalities, [Mayor Rilling lifted the city-wide mask mandate](#), effective Thursday, February 24, 2022. He noted a sustained decline in COVID-19 case rates in Norwalk and the surrounding communities, as well as increased resident vaccination rates. The Norwalk Public Library Board lifted the mask mandate also on February 24 and recently voted to lift the majority of the restrictions that were previously in place due to the pandemic. There is, however, still a capacity limit that allows social distancing for programs in the community rooms and patrons will be asked to respectfully social distance in other parts of the library when encountering patrons who are immunocompromised and/or not comfortable being around unmasked people.

The Norwalk Public Library is very grateful to the Connecticut State Library--Gail Hurley and Maria Bernier--for their assiduous service and support of Connecticut libraries. The ARPA grant was a blessing. The solar charging stations, purchased from the ARPA grant, were delivered and will be set up outdoors next week. The office/study room pod, purchased by the ARPA grant, also arrived; however, it arrived with the incorrect door size. The Library has to wait 10 weeks for the correct door to be delivered. As disappointing as that was, it didn't hinder the team from beginning talks about telehealth with Nuvance Health at Norwalk Hospital. The discussion included having a kick-off with a doctor giving a lecture on telehealth, grants to purchase stethoscopes, sphygmomanometers, thermometers, etc. to give away to patrons who use the pod for telehealth purposes, and setting up a meeting with the Norwalk Community Health Center to bring them on board.

Finally, the adult floor of the SoNo Branch of the Norwalk Public Library may soon get a facelift. [The Branch was last renovated 2004-2006](#). Silver Petrucelli & Associates secured the bid, fall 2021, to provide schematic designs for the Branch. Library Director, Sherelle Harris, wants to ensure that the designs don't look dated by the time the project is finished, or even five to ten years out as can often happen. So far, she likes the designs that she has seen.

The CH Booth Library in Newtown is still looking for an IT Librarian, contact Doug for the details if you know anyone, and the library is happy to have a nice new bunch of shelving in the main lobby area. The Burnham Library in Bridgewater has a new Youth Services Programmer! On March 16, Lianne Ambruso will join the Burnham team. As of March 1st, masks are optional but appreciated! Their decision was determined by Region 12 BOE approval that allows the superintendent to permit mask choice while reserving the right to make masks required in the future if health conditions deteriorate. For the time being, their staff will continue to wear masks while interacting with patrons. They ask that patrons continue to "browse smart at 6-feet apart." On Thursday, March 24th they present Professor Leslie Lindenauer's "Substitute Mother: The Evil Stepmother in American Popular Culture" an illustrated lecture that will explore the role of the evil stepmother in early American popular culture.

Region 5 Report: March 2022

Request:

- **One of my library directors said they would like to see the CLA Board minutes posted on the website. They said that “this has not been done since 2018 and was not sure why they stopped being public.”**

Programs and Announcements:

- **Bethany:** The Bethany Library Association Friends are providing funds that cover the cost of charging electric vehicles at the library’s charging station for the entire 2022 year. The EV charging station installation was made possible by a generous grant from the Connecticut Clean Cities Coalition and is a part of the Library’s strategic plan focus on sustainability in community services.
- **Clinton:** Henry Carter Hull introduced “The Hidek Hub”, an area created in honor of HCH’s former children’s librarian, Lynn Hidek. It is a space for children, tweens, & teens to tinker, explore & create.
- **Cromwell:** went fine free in January.
- **Durham:** The Library received a \$2500 grant for Kindness Projects from the Peach Pit Foundation in partnership with the Community Foundation of Middlesex County. This money will be used to support library projects that spread kindness in the community.
- **Madison:** The Scranton Library has received several grants to expand resources and programming in a variety of ways:
 - IMLS/National Veterans Forum grant for a 3-part series for veterans this spring
 - Pardee Fund grant to create 12 Sensory Backpacks for patrons of all ages with sensory challenges
 - ARPA/Humanities grant for a Shoreline Storytelling series at libraries in Madison, Clinton, and Westbrook
- **Meriden:** Due to the renovations, at this time only digital services are available. However, the library is in the process of moving to the former Old Navy space in the Meriden Mall.
- **Middletown:** Russell Library has an exciting program happening on Monday, March 21st 5:30PM called: ***Printmaking and the Black Female Experience***. Join them on Zoom during Women's History Month for a celebration of Black female printmakers. Artists highlighted include Elizabeth Catlett, Faith Ringgold, and Kara Walker. Their visual representations and pictorial studies of Black women mirror their beauty, strength, dignity, via the Black female experience. The presentation draws from local museum collections at the New Britain Museum of American Art. Following the talk, participants are invited to join Bernadine at the New Britain Museum of American Art for an in-person tour of black female artists works on Saturday, March 26 at 10 a.m. Admission is free. Registration will sign you up for both events.
- **Wallingford:** The library is presenting ***Conversations on Race: The Immigrant Experience*** in partnership with Spanish Community of Wallingford. The program will be held March 22 at 7pm onsite and on Zoom. Their One Book, One Wallingford book is

Transcendent Kingdom by Yaa Gyasi. The author talk and book signing will be held at Choate Rosemary Hall on April 4th; free tickets available at the library.

- **West Haven** is happy to report that they received one of ALA's American Rescue Plan Humanities grants for \$10,000. This will be used for their summer literacy program, that runs separate from the summer reading program, and to expand bookmobile services.

Respectfully submitted,

Robbie Marshall