

Connecticut Library Association Board Meeting
November 7th, 2019
Middletown Library Service Center, Middletown
9:30 am Coffee/10:00 am Business Meeting

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order:** President Lisa Karim called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.
2. **Approval of Minutes**
 - a. **October 3rd, 2019 meeting minutes**

A ***motion*** to approve the minutes of October 3rd, 2019 was made by Peter Ciparelli, and ***seconded*** by Shelley Holley, and was ***approved by a majority. Motion passed.***

Abstentions: Geri Diorio, Matt Earls, Sam Lee, Brittany Pearson, Dana Hanford, Denise Martens
3. **Old Business**
 - a. **President's Report-Lisa Karim:** Lisa reported:
 - It's been a busy few weeks in the library world and ALA has been responding.
 - Citrus County Board of Commissioners not permitting the Citrus County libraries from purchasing a digital copy of the NY Times after one commissioner labeled the Times "fake news"
 - Ebook Embargo - Hearings held before the Judiciary Subcommittee on Antitrust, Commercial and Administrative Law on the current practice of practices of publishers and distributors in digital markets
 - Lisa sent a letter to Macmillan CEO John Sargent on behalf of CT libraries in early October.
 - John Sargent wrote a response to ALA regarding all the correspondence he'd received regarding the ebook embargo in which he misrepresents ALA's position and activities in trying to equitable balance the rights of readers, authors and publishers. ALA put out a press release correcting and clarifying its' position.
 - Even though the #ebooksforall petition with more than 160,000 signatures has been delivered to Macmillan, signatures are still being collected so sign if you haven't.
 - Change on this issue will likely have to come from a grassroots effort by the public since as librarians we have a vested interest in its resolution
 - CLA Sustainability Task Force will be formed in December to investigate the long-term sustainability of CLA.
 - CLA is seeking a Chair for this task force who has an institutional knowledge of CLA, loves team work, has experience or an interest in organizational strategies and financial issues.
 - If you or someone you know is interested in serving as Chair, please contact Lisa at lkarim@simsburylibrary.info.
 - As you know, this year's budget relies heavily on fund raising.
 - We will be doing fund raising activities at the Conference in April. Tanarha Smith of the West Haven Library is coordinating Conference fundraising activities. I'm passing around a sign-up sheet for contributing either gift baskets or items to a raffle or silent auction. We're looking for a total of 15. We already have a commitment from 4 people – so only need 11 more. Please consider contributing.
 - A reminder that donations to the Legacy Fund before December 31 will be matched. Please consider a contribution to the Legacy Fund.
 - Looking at the credit card processing fees since changing vendors to Host Merchant, we project a savings of a few thousand dollars in this budget line this year

- Coming into a lean period for CLA finances. The primary sources of income will be membership and eventually Conference exhibitor registrations. I'm challenging all Board members to recruit 3 new members over the course of the next few months.

b. **Treasurer's Report-Kristina Edwards:** Absent (See President's Report).

4. New Business:

- a. **State Librarian Search Committee Update:** Mary reported first round of interviews done and that they are making arrangements for second round of interviews. The Committee appreciates all the input they've been given and said that the Town Halls have been very helpful in gathering information of people's concerns. These concerns will help form the questions for the second round of interviews. Once all the Town Halls are complete, a list of comments/concerns will be compiled.
- b. **Sister Libraries:** Tom Piezzo reported about the Sister Libraries project, which is available through ALA. Colleen Wood is ALA International Relations Roundtable Rep. Colleen would like to promote ALA Sister Libraries initiative, which has been around for about 20 years. You pick a library from a list of libraries from all regions around the world (Tom will send link to website) to partner with them to promote awareness, offer opportunities to learn more about a group in your community, etc. Tom mentioned that this provides good international feelings to positively represent our country and libraries in our country. Contact Tom if you are interested, he can pass along any questions to Colleen, or you can contact Colleen Wood at Darien Library directly at cwood@darienlibrary.org.

Committee/Section/Roundtable/Regional Representatives Reports:

ACLB: Denise Stankovics: Absent. Lisa reported that the Fall workshop is tomorrow, November 8th.

ADA: Maria Bernier: No report

ACLPD: Ramona Burkey: Absent

ALA: Erin Shea: Absent

Archivist: Gerald Seagrave: No report

Awards: Region Reps: Geri reported that a call for nominations has been sent out for CLA Awards. Entries are due January 31st, 2020.

BCALA: Vivian Bordeaux & Robert Kinney: Absent. Kym reported on their behalf that they are having an executive board meeting right now.

Career Development: Laura Horn: Absent

CAS-L: Barbara Johnson & Mary-Ellen Minichiello: Mary-Ellen reported that they had a very successful conference a few weeks ago. They are looking forward to Spring Fling. There is an Unconference on March 28th. They were pleased to have Kym Powe attend their last board meeting.

CLC: Jennifer Keohane: Absent. Amanda Stern reported for CLC.

- Election Day PD for School Librarians was a success. CLC hopes to make this an annual event.
- New Advocacy Bootcamp dates added for December in Old Saybrook and January in Farmington
- Storytelling Workshops for Librarians in January/February. The four-part series will help librarians build storytelling skills that are applicable to telling any type of story. Information for all events can be found on the CLC website.
- Bids: Non-print media bid has been expanded to now include audio-enabled book readers. Categories and suppliers will be added this month. Periodicals subscription management bid has closed and will be finalized in

December. New contracts with AWE Learning and ReferenceUSA. CLC will continue to explore different products and services for their membership and they welcome feedback or product suggestions.

Commission on Ed Tech: Colleen Bailie: No report

CSL: Ken Wiggin: Ken reported that he attended a meeting with Macmillan CEO John Sargent on 11/4 with a group of other State Librarians who were in Hartford for the Fall Meeting of the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA). Ken's observation was that Mr. Sargent believes that the lending of eBooks by libraries is undermining sales and at the rate of growth in library eBook lending publishers will be forced out of business. Sargent seems to believe that by embargoing new titles, at least 8% of library patrons on wait lists will order the eBook instead of waiting. The COSLA members in the meeting challenged some of his assertions and statistics and offered to work with him to better understand libraries and their role in the publishing ecosystem.

There are still 8 public library construction grants waiting for Bond Commission approval. From conversations Ken has had with the Office of Policy and Management, it appears it is the Governor that is holding these requests up. Ken is trying to get in to see the Governor to discuss the importance of this program and the role state funding plays in incentivizing library construction projects.

Ken reported the CT Councils of Government (COGs) have a request to the Census Bureau for the COGs to be treated as the equivalent of a county. The COGs have been working with State Library staff on what this would be in terms of the tabulation of Census data and comparing previous data which was based on the geographic counties and the COGs which are not made up of the same municipalities. It is believed that the State's request to the Census Bureau will bring federal actions in line with state legislative intent and law, which enable COGs to participate in federal programs and grants directed at counties and, we hope, help to level the playing field between Connecticut and other states, bringing in more resources to our state over time.

DLD will be working with local libraries to roll the SimplyE App out to patrons beginning this month. Steve Cauffman will be leading this effort for DLD.

The ACLPD Resource Sharing Committee is looking for representatives from Small and Medium Standalone libraries. Please contact Dawn La Valle for more information.

Upcoming professional development offerings include: Mother Goose on the Loose, December 19th; multiple LSTA Grant Information Sessions - check the DLD CE Libguide for details; and Transformation for Libraries - a 3 day Natural Foresight Training for Librarians - will be held June 8-10, contact Dawn for more information.

Children's: Allison Murphy & Michele Kaminski: Allison reported that they had over 60 attendees from all around the state at their Children's Fall Conference "Kindness Starts Here." They had the Director from Leonia Public Library who spoke, then narrowed down to specific Kindness programs in libraries to help community. Their last session held a guerilla storytime for librarians to share. Allison said it was a great day. The section is busy planning speakers for the annual conference.

College & University: Lisa Thornell: Lisa reported that the Info Literacy Conference will be in June. The committee is still trying to set a date and location and she should be able to report that at the next meeting. Their Fall workshop is scheduled for November 18th, but it only has 1 registrant so far.

CLASS: Carolann Slayton: Carolann reported that CLASS had 32 attendees at their Fall workshop. The topics were well-received by attendees and they made a \$615 profit. They also had a successful networking lunch adventure in Wallingford. The committee is looking to schedule a wrap-up meeting in December.

Conference 2020: Stephanie Prato & Chris Carney: Chris reported that submissions are rolling in for presentations for sessions with about 2 weeks to go. Request for chairs and region reps if you know of anything awesome going on,

please encourage people to submit. Working on happy hour after-hours event. First diamond-level sponsorship and registration for vendors went out 2 days ago.

CT Center for the Book: Lisa Comstock: Absent

Customer Service: Shelley Holley: Shelley introduced Denise Martens as the new section co-chair. Shelley also reported that they had 49 people attend their Fall workshop. The topics were very well received and they made a profit of \$1400.

Development & Planning: Carl Antonucci: Absent

FOCL: Frank Ridley: Absent

Grants/Fundraising: Kymberlee Powe: Kym reported that they are up to \$2,228 in the Legacy Fund, which will be matched 100% as of December 31st by Maxine Bleiweiss. Kym and Lisa have been brainstorming revenue ideas, along with the Past Presidents, led by Glenn Grube. Kym is interested in experiential fundraising ideas such as paint night or author night possibilities. If you have any connections with authors that would bring in a good crowd, please reach out. Send Kym an email if you are interested in joining the Fundraising committee that she is putting together.

Intellectual Freedom: Sam Lee: Sam reported that:

November 15th at Wallingford, Technology section and IF committee will be doing their Fall workshop - Cryptopartying with Lynda. They'll be talking about cryptoparties in the morning with Elizabeth McKinstry. Cryptoparties are decentralized movement promoting safe practices online to moving around online privately and safely. In the afternoon, we'll have a panel of librarians talking about their renewing or canceling their subscriptions to Lynda.com.

As we near the end of the year, please remember to report your challenges to OIF. Big challenges, little challenges, OIF wants to know about all of them. It makes Sam's job a little easier if she can spot trends and get prepared to assist with challenges at libraries.

Lynda/LinkedIn is on their "listening tour" with libraries. Sam has not heard from libraries that have been part of this listening tour, so if LinkedIn does contact you, please let her know.

OIF has a new director, Deborah Caldwell-Stone. She's been interim-director since Jamie LaRue stepped down.

Citrus County Commission voted down the library's request for a New York Times digital subscription. They called it "fake news" and said they did not agree with the paper. ALA released a statement - <http://www.ala.org/news/press-releases/2019/11/ala-responds-county-commission-decision-deny-digital-access-new-york-times>

Legislative: Beth Crowley & Mary Etter: Mary reported that there is one more Town Hall on 11/19 in Weston in the afternoon. You do not have to be a member of Region 4 - anyone can attend.

LGBTQ+: Kristina Lareau & Marissa Bucci: Absent.

Membership: Trish Tomlinson: Absent. Lisa reiterated that she urged all board members to recruit 3 new members to CLA.

NELA: Christy Billings: Absent. Christy reported that the NELA Conference in Mystic went very well. CT did not win the NELA games this time around, but it was some of the best games EVER. They did a toast to Ken Wiggin with Mary Etter, Sue Edmonds, and Kate Byroade, thanking him for all he has done for NELA in his time as the State Librarian.

Newsletter/Website Editor: Jen Datum: Jen reported that the new website has launched and gave the board a preview. Please contact Jen if you are not receiving CLA emails. The deadline for the December newsletter is December 1st. It will be published on December 15th.

PEG: Peter Ciparelli: No report

Publicity & Communications: Leah Farrell: Absent

Procedures: Catherine Potter: Absent

Public Library: Maria Zervos: Absent. Lisa K. reported that their Fall program is tomorrow and next month, Maria said she will have information on CT Passport to Libraries.

Reference & Adult Services: Matt Earls: No report.

Resource Sharing: Steve Cauffman: No report

SCSU: Arlene Bielefield: Absent. Kate Byroade reported on the open public forum about the program. Accreditation visit in March and ALA will then vote in June at their annual conference.

Technical Services: Dana Hanford: No report

Technology: Genevieve Francis: Absent

Young Adult: Brittany Pearson & Samantha Connell: Brittany reported that their Fall workshop is November 11th at the Farmington Library with Jerry Kraft, author and illustrator of New Kid. Kym Powe will also be speaking.

Region 1: Travis Feder: Travis reported that:

Cornwall: The Cornwall Reads Cornwall event, part of the celebration of the Cornwall Library's 150th anniversary, will take place on November 30th from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Cornwall Village Meeting House. Current Cornwall residents will read excerpts from works written by notable Cornwall residents of the past. The event will be followed by a celebratory reception from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Library. Events are free and open to the public; donations are gratefully accepted.

David M. Hunt Library (Falls Village): The library will present the group exhibition Spirit Animals through November 30th. The exhibition features 45 local artists from the tri-state area. An art salon talk with Master Conservationist Ginny Apple will take place on Saturday, November 16th at 4:00 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. Artists were asked to depict an animal that best described their nature and/or spirit.

Harwinton: The Harwinton Public Library received a \$1,200 grant from the Thomaston Savings Bank to help expand its eBook collection.

Kent Memorial Library: Henry Kissinger will be at the library for a signing of the recently-published book Kissinger on Kissinger. The event will take place on Saturday, November 9th from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. A limited supply of the book will be available for purchase.

New Hartford (New Hartford Public Library, Licia & Mason Beekley Community Library, and Bakerville Library Community Center): The New Hartford Public Library will host an American Red Cross Blood Drive on November 8th from 11:30 to 4:30. The Licia & Mason Beekley Community Library will host U.K. singer-songwriter Will Varley on November 9th as part of the 13th season of its Nights at the Beekley music series. Doors open at 7:00, concert begins at 7:30.

New Milford: The library has provided an update on its modernization project:

"The architects are preparing documents to go back out to bid. Library staff are sorting and cleaning, getting the collection ready to be moved into our temporary location, within the Library, as the phased modernization project gets carried out. Youth programs continue to be offered at the Marsh Parish Hall at the First Congregational Church. Children's books will be available for circulation from this location. However, we ask that returns are made to our book

drops outside the main library. A display featuring updated poster boards and “The History of New Milford Library Through the Years” is on display.”

Norfolk: The Norfolk Library’s annual carol sing will take place on November 30th from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served, followed by the lighting of the Christmas tree on the Green and a visit by Santa Claus on a fire engine.

Oliver Wolcott Library (Litchfield): The library’s Premiere Online Auction will begin at noon on November 22nd. Auction items include a variety of vacation packages and are open to anyone within the United States and Canada.

The library’s annual Festival of Trees will take place on November 30 from 5:00 to 8:30 p.m. It will feature hors d’oeuvres and an open bar, along with a silent auction and an assortment of trees, wreaths, and holiday centerpieces. Tickets are \$70 each.

Scoville Memorial Library (Salisbury): The library will host Powerful Voices: Connecticut Women Changing Democracy, presented by Pam Dougherty of the Connecticut Women’s Hall of Fame on November 14th from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. The program will explore the inspirational stories of notable women such as Alice Paul, Isabella Beecher Hooker, Ella Grasso, and Estelle Griswold.

Silas Bronson Library (Waterbury): The library will host a Waterbury Roundtable community conversation on Thursday, November 21st from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Residents are invited to participate in an open conversation about issues facing Waterbury

Director Raechel Guest reported that she was contacted by a “First Amendment auditor” on October 21st. She was told that they would be sending a film crew to the Silas Bronson Library that week. She provided advice on how to deal with this situation, which I shared with other Region One libraries along with ALA resources. I would also like to explore the possibility of a “First Amendment Audit” Preparedness workshop for library staff.

Region 2: Susan C. Ray: Susan reported that:

The Avon Library, in cooperation with the Avon Historical Society and Senior Center has received a \$4,030.00 grant from CT Humanities to help fund the first half of a year-long series entitled DEEDS NOT WORDS: 100 Years of the Vote for Women. You may also tour the library’s art gallery tomorrow at noon for a visual exploration of the journey to the 19th amendment.

Southington Public Library is in the process of surveying townspeople about the Future of the Library for their upcoming building project. The Library needs to be updated to meet Fire Code standards and be accessible to all members of the community. The project will also include adding quiet spaces, providing community meeting spaces and enhancing the Children’s area.

Renovations continue at the Simsbury Public Library. Interior painting has begun, which will be followed by new carpeting and a redesigned Children’s Room and Adult spaces.

Jackie Hemond, the director of the Kent Library in Suffield, has announced her retirement and will be retiring at the end of this year.

Special thank you to Beth Crowley for moderating the CLA Town Hall meeting yesterday and East Hartford Library for hosting it.

Region 3: Leslie McDonough: Leslie reported that her Region was very happy about the Town Halls and that they reported to her that they are looking for guidance and leadership with the eBook and net neutrality issues.

Region 4: Geri Diorio: Geri reported that:

Edith Wheeler Memorial Library, Monroe: Their grand opening ribbon cutting ceremony for the library's Monroe Lion's Club Co-op and Café was Saturday, November 2nd . It features a brand new makerspace, self-serve coffee seating area, and a cooperative space that includes group activity tables for Lego, puzzles, sticker-by-number, and other projects people can pursue together. They also held their first Friends of the Library Mini-Golf fundraiser on Sunday, November 3rd.

Norwalk Public Library: Norwalk Public Library was chosen as STAR Inc.'s 2019 Partner of the Year, for the many STAR activities hosted at the library, including storytelling, art workshops, job search classes, and exercise classes. "Norwalk Public Library always says YES," said STAR CEO at their annual meeting and awards ceremony. STAR is a not-for-profit organization serving individuals of all ages who have developmental disabilities, as well as providing support services to their families.

Easton Library: Is hosting a Transgender 101 program with Jillian Celentano on Thursday, 11/14. It is for people aged 12 and up. On Sunday, 12/8, the Friends of the Library will host their annual Tree Lighting and Vendor Fair. And they will have their first Staff Development Day on Friday, 12/20.

Brookfield Library: is looking for Video Recorders! We are looking for a donation of video recorders that play 8mm and/or Mini DV cassettes. They need to be in working order and include a power supply. If you still have the connection cables, even better! We have had many requests to use our VHS to DVD converter to convert 8mm and Mini DV tapes to DVD, but there are no adapters for these cassettes available.

Region 5: Robbie Marshall: Robbie reported that:

Durham is holding a "Speed Repping" session on Nov. 14th. The concept is like speed dating. Participants sign up for 10-minute slots to meet with their local officials.

The Bethany Library Association announces the departure of Clark Memorial Library Director Melissa Canham-Clyne effective January 1, 2020.

Shelton is excited to announce that they have a new Children's/Teen Librarian at the Huntington Branch Library. Jessica Prutting started October 7th after leaving her position as a Media Specialist at Prospect Elementary School. The position had been unfilled for over 16 months.

The Children's Department of the Plumb Memorial Library in the Shelton system is now undergoing a major renovation. The department is closed to the public as books are removed and stored.

Russell Library is pleased to announce that Ayanna Wright began work as the new Teen Librarian on November 4th.

Westbrook Library is sponsoring a 4 week 2-hour intensive beginners coding class on Python programming language given by a UCONN graduate and software engineer.

Region 6: Gale Bradbury: Gale reported that:

Colchester: Colchester hosted a very successful presentation by the Graveyard Girls about old New England cemeteries which they customized for Colchester by highlighting features found in Colchester's 300-year-old local cemeteries. We highly recommend the presenters.

They had a successful program: Transgender 101: What It's All About presentation on Election Day, November 4th.

They've just launched a new Early Reader collection and revamped the labeling of our beginning reading books to make it easier for parents to select books for their new readers. We're adding flash cards for the alphabet, phonics, and sight words. Many thanks to Kari Ann St. Jean of the Avon Free Public Library for her inspiration and guidance in this project.

Two upcoming author events:

1. Wrestler Bob Backlund will present his autobiography Backlund on November 18th, and
2. Vic Butsch & Tommy Coletti will present their historical book In the Crossfire between Heaven & Hell on November 18th about Clara Barton and Dorence Atwater.

Two things that overlap regions:

1. East Hampton, Portland, Hebron, Marlborough & Colchester are sharing the cost of a full page "Black Friday" ad in the Rivereast News newspaper that will appear in the Thanksgiving edition.
2. Those same libraries are also partnering on a press release/letter to the editor of the Rivereast News to explain what the MacMillan ebook embargo means to local libraries and library users.

Groton: Cindy Wright – manager of Circulation and tech services will retire at the end of November after 27 years.

They are hosting a workshop on How to shop cyber Monday on November 25 10:30 AM

Waterford Library: Hosting Wild Women Coffee Tasting on November 16 – an illustrated talk on the History of coffee with a hands on examination of various beans and roasts and a tasting.

A Family Nutrition Fair will be held November 16 with tips for healthy eating, a children's storytime and craft and a yoga session for kids.

Norwich: The 11th Annual O'tis a Festival will be held at Otis Library on Saturday, November 23, 2019, 10am - 3pm. Originating as a modest book fair, O'tis has evolved into a community event that attracts thousands of individuals to the city center.

The R.S. Gernon Trust awarded Otis \$3,454 for additions to its medical resources. The adult collection will benefit from a wide range of health and medical related resources.

Public Library of New London: Celebrating Veterans Day with a drop in program November 9 to create cards and write letters to veterans. Cards and letters will be sent to Veterans through Operation Gratitude.

North Stonington – Wheeler Library: Hosted a program about ceremonial stonework left behind by the indigenous population that occupied New England for 12,000 years on November 6th.

5. Adjournment

A ***motion*** to adjourn at was made at 11:25 am by Matt Earls, and was ***seconded*** by Leslie McDonough, and was ***unanimously approved. Motion passed.*** No abstentions.

Attendance: Lisa Karim, Tom Piezzo, Danielle Valenzano, Kate Byroade, Leslie McDonough, Carolann Slayton, Matt Earls, Gale Bradbury, Geri Diorio, Allison Murphy, Michele Kaminski, Gerald Seagrave, Peter Ciparelli, Chris Carney, Susan Ray, Denise Martens, Mary Etter, Shelley Holley, Ken Wiggin, Brittany Pearson, Kymberlee Powe, Samantha Lee, Samantha Connell, Lisa Thornell, Amanda Stern, Robbie Marshall, Colleen Bailie, Travis Feder, Jennifer Datum, Steve Cauffman, Maria Bernier, Mary-Ellen Minichiello, Dana Hanford, Abe Hilding-Salorio