

Connecticut Library Association Board Meeting
June 18th, 2020
Via Zoom
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. **March 5th, 2019 meeting minutes**
A *motion* to approve the minutes of March 5th, 2020 was made by Peter Ciparelli, and *seconded* by Kate Byroade, and was *approved by a majority. Motion passed.*
3. **Old Business**
 - a. **President's Report – Lisa Karim:** See attached for the President's Report.
 - b. **Treasurer's Report – Kristina Edwards:** Kristina reported on the current status of the CLA bank account and indicated that the final statements are dated but unfortunately this was the best we could do given the current financial situation for CLA. We are going to put a hold on the formal budget process but will provide future guidance on future programming as well as the budget process once we have finalized our main association contracts. Kristina will be taking care of the board transition within StarChapter.
 - c. **Virtual Conference – Alessandra Petrino:** See attached for the Virtual Conference report.
4. **New Business:**
 - a. **Motion to approve the new EDI Section**
A *motion* to approve the Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Section was made by Sam Lee, and *seconded* by Peter Ciparelli, and was *approved by a majority. Motion passed.*
 - b. **EveryLibrary**
 - c. **Consortium Executive Directors at CLA Board meetings:** Tom will email the Executive Directors and ask them to represent in the Board meetings.
 - d. **Requests to CLA for support from libraries & individual staff**
 - e. **Future meeting changes for July/August:** There will be no July meeting. Board orientation in August will be Thursday, August 20th.
 - f. **Administrative Services:** CLA will no longer be using CLC's services and is looking at other options.

Committee/Section/Regional Representatives Reports:

ACLB: Denise reported that they are looking to offer some educational opportunities online, but no in person conference. The summer newsletter is coming out soon and most will have to do with how libraries have responded to the COVID-19 crisis.

ADA: Absent

ACLPD: Ramona reported that resource sharing will be having online workshops about resource sharing model and what it will look like. Watch for info in September. Maureen Sullivan attended their recent meeting-wants to do debrief meetings with libraries that are open to find out what's going well/what's not. Ramona also talked

about MLSC and having e-meetings, the Urban Libraries task force, and reported that Russell Library was a CARES act recipient and got laptops and more to help with computer needs.

ALA: Erin reported that ALA Annual was being held virtually this year and it only cost \$60.00 to attend, which is a great deal considering the normal cost to attend the in-person conference. ALA Council will be meeting virtually as well using a combination of a Zoom webinar platform and still following Robert's Rules of Order.

Archives: Absent

BCALA: Robert reported that the new board members will officially be announced beginning of July, followed by a meet and greet so everyone will have an opportunity to meet the new E-board members.

Career Development: Absent

Beth reported that there is no leadership conference this summer.

CAS-L: Absent

CLC: Jen K. reported that it's been a pleasure working with CLA for over a decade and thanked everyone for all their support. CLC will be continuing with their weekly Coffee Talk because it is a good opportunity to share ideas.

Ed Tech:

CSL: Absent

Bradbury Miller is the executive search firm who will assist with finding the new permanent State Librarian.

Children's: Michele reported that Cathy Potter will be joining as new co-chair for Children's.

College & Universities: Lisa reported that academic libraries are having to follow the state guidelines for education. They are trying to figure out what that means, came up with a plan for physical items-currently held up until entire university submits a plan, students will return in September and transition to online after Thanksgiving and come back to campus in the spring. There are lots of plans needed to be submitted to cover various aspects of college life, many campus libraries may only be open to their current students and staff.

CLASS: Absent

2020 Conference: No report

Center for the Book: Absent

Customer Service: Absent

Grants & Fundraising: Alessandra reported that they are trying to get the Go Fund Me out to the public to raise money. It is different from the Legacy Fund. Please help to publicize and spread the word.

FOCL: Frank reported that their Annual Meeting is canceled. They have not yet had election of new officers and it looks like they will cancel fall conference.

Intellectual Freedom: Sam reported that there is conversation going around about contact tracing in libraries. That would be a bad idea unless there was a plan in place for retention schedules, deletion and staff member in charge of plan

Legislative: Beth reported that they are working with the state, gave a lot of input to the state about all complications libraries will face.

LGBTQ+: Kristina reported that they had a roundtable a few weeks ago, planned for presentations during virtual conference that CLA ran-had drag queen storytime presentation and health resources presentation

Membership: Trish reported that she will sending out an updated membership report. She is planning to send an email about expired membership during pandemic closures.

NELA: Absent

Newsletter/Website: Absent

Tom reported that we will be working on it through Publicity in the future and asking for volunteers.

PEG: Peter reported that he is looking forward to next year to see what they can do to help and keep things going.

Publicity: Absent

Procedures: Cathy has been working with EDI in figuring out the needs to make it a section. She is looking for someone to take her spot because she is moving to Children's Section.

Public Libraries: Maria reported she is not sure about rescheduling Passport to CT Libraries in September.

Reference & Adult Services: No report

Resource Sharing: Steve is retiring and looking for a new chair. Please contact him if interested.

SCSU: Absent

Technical Services: No report

Technology: Absent

Young Adult: Absent

Region 1: See attached for Region 1 report.

Region 2: Susan reported that Sarah McCusker is the new rep.

Region 3: Absent

Region 4: Absent

See attached for Region 4 report.

Region 5: See attached for Region 5 report.

Region 6: Absent

5. **Adjournment**

A **motion** to adjourn at was made at 11:34 am by Mary Etter, and was **seconded** by Cathy Potter, and was **unanimously approved. Motion passed.** No abstentions.

Attendance: Denise Stankowicz, Danielle Valenzano, Robbie Marshall, Tom Piezzo, Peter Ciparelli, Susan Ray, Sam Lee, Michele Kaminski, Lisa Karim, Cathy Potter, Robert Kinney, Beth Crowley, Glenn Grube, Alessandra Petrino, Colleen Bailie, Kristina Lareau, Tracy Monterville, Kate Byroade, Sarah McCusker, Kristina, Stephen Cauffman, Travis Feder, Jennifer Keohane, Matt Earls, Kristina Edwards, Stephen Cauffman, Travis Feder, Trish Tomlinson, Mary Etter, Maria Zervos, Ramona Burkey, Dana Hanford, Erin Shea, Lisa Thornell, Frank Ridley, Kym Powe

President's Report – Lisa Karim

As library workers we continue to serve during a challenging time given the COVID situation. I know many of us are facing pressure to reopen and it's difficult to deal with the negative comments we're receiving on a continuous basis. Just remember you're doing the right thing in planning to ensure that everyone, staff and visitors, remain safe. Keep your heads held high.

Given the economic situation which CLA finds itself in, the Executive Committee with the assistance of the Sustainability Task Force, has had to make some very difficult decisions about the future of the organization. Unfortunately, the contract for the newsletter editor/StarChapter support will not be renewed for FY 20-21. The Executive Committee is also working with another agency to determine if it will be reasonable for them to handle CLA's administrative support going forward. CLA has been very lucky to have a very positive working relationship regarding administrative services with CLC for many years, but it is no longer fiscally sustainable for CLA to continue to contract with CLC. Thank you to Jennifer and her staff for everything they've done for CLA over the years.

Thank you to everyone for their work and support this past year. I'm very appreciative. It was certainly a challenging year, but we weathered it and I believe CLA will be stronger because of it.

Virtual Conference Report – Alessandra Petrino

Thank you to Lisa and Tom for all your guidance and support through making this virtual conference and thank you to Stephanie Prato and Chris Carney for doing all the work for the in-person conference and choosing such wonderful presentations that we were able to reach out to presenters for this virtual conference.

We ran this as a fundraiser and membership drive, offering it free to members and just \$10.00 per session to nonmembers. We had 14 exhibitor sessions and 5 sponsorships.

In the week we had 1118 registrations for the 21 Regular Sessions and 14 Exhibitor Showcase sessions. Of those registrations we had 899 people actually attend the sessions. The sessions were attended by 232 different people.

We raised \$1650.00 from vendors and sponsors and \$540.00 from non-members attending sessions for a total of \$2190. Finally, in the time we had advertised the free for members announcement, we gained 101 new members and membership renewals. I am unsure how this correlates with our monetary collection from memberships, but it does show that conference is a big trigger for membership renewals and new members to join.

Region 1 Report – Travis Feder

Libraries in Region One, as all others across the state of Connecticut, are beginning the process of reopening to the public. Some, like the Woodbury Public Library, are open as of June 17th while still offering curbside pickup for patrons who aren't comfortable entering the building yet. Many others are continuing to offer curbside pickup only. Claudia Cayne, director of the Scoville Memorial Library in Salisbury, reports:

“Scoville has been offering remote pickup ever since our building closed and patrons have been extremely grateful. We doubled the hours we offer that about three weeks ago. We plan to open for browsing only by appointment on July 14 which gives us time to organize ourselves. We have a reopening committee of staff and board dealing with all the details and that is going really well. We have a robust lineup of Zoom for kids including karate, comedy, story hours, origami and more. For adults, meditation, movement, birding, author talks and a live farmers market. We are also poised to move on a big building envelope refurbishment which will stop our endless and damaging seepage problem.”

Academic libraries, such as the Max R. Traurig Library at Naugatuck Valley Community College in Waterbury, are encountering an added layer of complexity when facing the prospect of reopening. Popular and essential services, such as short loan course reserves of expensive textbooks, are a challenge considering the pandemic. A faculty move to Open Educational Resources (OER) would be helpful, as textbook publishers are not likely to make electronic versions of their high-price products more freely available. There is a resistance to this move by some faculty members, who are either unaware of quality OER options or prefer the ease of use provided by some large publishing companies.

Libraries of all kinds across region one have stepped up during a momentous period in the nation's history, proving once again that the library as an institution is a fundamental component of a vibrant society.

Respectfully submitted,
Travis S. Feder
Region One Representative

Region 4 Report – Geri Diorio

Region 4 Libraries are starting to offer more services for patrons in safe and measured ways.

For example:

Weston Public Library started curbside delivery on June 15

Wilton and Fairfield Public Libraries will begin curbside on June 22. Wilton will be using their drive thru window!

Bridgeport Public Library has a multi-phased plan available on their website. They are at Phase 1 now which is offering virtual services, but bringing staff back into the building to train on safety protocols.

Stratford Library also has a multi-phased plan on our website. We are at Phase 2, offering virtual programs, curbside delivery, and staff are working in rotating crews - 2 days in the building, 3 from home.

Although I am unable to attend the meeting today, I wanted to thank everyone on the CLA Board for their comradeship, good cheer, and help over the past four years. I have thoroughly enjoyed being Region 4's representative.

Thank you,
Geri

Region 5 Report – Robbie Marshall

At the Brainerd Library, strong progress on the renovation continues during the shutdown. The additional, dedicated Kids rest room is almost complete, as are the two reconstructed public rest rooms. The new entrance to the lower level is in place, to provide greatly improved ADA and general access, and they are working with Ted Esselstyn of City Bench on an installation and mural for the Children's Room. The new parking lot, with 17 additional spaces, is in progress and will be done this summer. Interior completion is targeted for 6/26, after which time staff can begin returning to the building.

Russell Library says:

- They began curbside pick-up for holds & opened their book drop June 8th.
- They are presenting programs virtually like: Baby Rhyme Time and Preschool Story Hours on Zoom, a virtual cooking program called, "Feast From the Pantry" with Chef Liz Barbour, owner of The Creative Feast, a collaboration with ARTFARM and Oddfellows on a serialized (3 part) Facebook/YouTubeLive production of Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" featuring a blend of teen actors and professionals.
- They started virtual genealogy programs with Bryna O'Sullivan, genealogist and owner of Charter Oak Genealogy.
- Rosa Carrero, Community Outreach Officer of Liberty Bank has been offering virtual financial seminars: "Recovering from a Financial Disaster and Getting on Track", and "Understanding Credit During These Challenging Times".
- The Job and Career Group meets virtually on Thursdays at 10AM with speakers, (Including Cheshire Director Beth Crowley with "The View From the Hiring Desk" on July 9th) The Job Group also offers one-on-one resume and LinkedIn Reviews. They have a 3 week virtual "Job Group Boot Camp" planned for July 16th, 23rd & August 6th.
- Russell Library and Middletown Park and Rec are partnering for "Book Yak on a Kayak", for 2 book discussions that will take place on the water, aboard kayaks or canoe. Friday, July 31st 9:45AM, "This Tender Land" by William Kent Krueger. Friday, August 21st 9:45AM, "No barriers: a blind man's journey to kayak the Grand Canyon", by Erik Weihenmayer

Westbrook Library has hired Timothy Kellogg as their next Library Director beginning July 2, 2020. Mr. Kellogg comes with very impressive credentials and currently is the Circulation Librarian at the Guilford Free Library. Westbrook's assistant librarian Joan Geissler, who has worked at the library for 42 years, is retiring at the end of June. Joan began work in 1978 and in 1988 was promoted to assistant librarian, running the library circulation department. Her many library friends and colleagues will miss her cheerful and friendly presence.

Portland Library will look new and function in a new and different way when they open the doors. Although they cannot yet show off their improvements, they are pleased to report that the Library interior update is nearly complete.

Respectfully submitted,
Robbie Marshall