

**Connecticut Library Association Board Meeting  
September 17, 2020 10:00 am  
Business Meeting**

**MINUTES**

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

**2. Approval of Minutes**

**a. September 17, 2020 meeting minutes:**

A motion to approve the minutes of June 18, 2020 was made by Leslie, and was seconded by Pete, and was unanimously approved. Motion passed.

**3. Old Business**

**a. President's Report – Tom Piezzo:**

- Review of budget requests received from committees and sections, acknowledgement of workshop ideas. Call for Zoom account access donations for workshops and the annual conference. A catalog of available Zoom seats will be maintained in the CLA Google Drive.
- Call for candidates for Re. Jahana Hayes (5th Congressional District) to nominate a library or individual for the IMLS National Medal for Museum and Library Service. Suggestions needed to me by 9/25.
- Request to canvas for replacement CLASS chairperson
- Review of FY 20/21 Budget
- I will be attending a TOPCATS (Taskforce on Post COVID Alignment, Trends and Strategies) meeting today and report back on findings. Northeastern regional group based in NJ including library association and state library leaders.

**b. Treasurer's Report – Kristina Edwards:**

Kristina asked the board members if they had any questions about the financial reports that were shared for today's meeting. The format of the financial reports are new. For next meeting, Kristina asked the executive board to think about the following questions:

1. What information do you miss from previous financial reports shared?
2. What information do you wish you had at your fingertips throughout the year as a committee or section chair?

Board Transition should be complete for the year but reach out to Kristina if you have not received your updated StarChapter login information. Kristina shared that the process for seeking reimbursements has not changed. Sections and committees should continue to use the process of filling out the form and submitting to Kristina with supporting documents.

**4. New Business:**

- If you have a Zoom account that you'd like to donate for CLA use, please let Tom know by email.
- Jahana Hayes from the 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District wanted to hear all the things libraries are doing. National Medal for Museum and Library Service – Rep Hayes soliciting nominations from towns in the 5<sup>th</sup> district, library or program of significant distinction to be nominated for the honor, please let Tom know and he will get back to her by 9/25. More information on the IMLS website.

- Seeking a new CLASS chair and will benefit from having leadership in that group. Non-librarian staff who would be good nominees, please send to Tom and he will distribute accordingly.
- Tom presented the budget: A motion to approve the 2020/21 Budget was made by Peter, and was seconded by Trish, and was unanimously approved. Motion passed.

### Reports:

**ACLB: Denise Stankovics:** Absent

**ADA: Maria Bernier:** No report

**ACLPD: Ramona Burkey:** Absent

**ALA: Erin Shea:** ALA Council is meeting virtually tomorrow to discuss budget. ALA Council will discuss proponents of Forward Together. <https://forwardtogether.ala.org/> Midwinter is meeting virtually in January.

**Archivist: Gerald Seagrave:** Jerry received an Annual Report 2019-2020 from the Technical Services Section.

**Awards:** No report

**BCALA: Kym Powe & Robert Kinney:** Kym Powe meeting tonight with Tracy Hall presenting at 6:30, someone signed up from NEWS 8. Session will be recorded and then posted on archives section of their website.

**Bibliomation:** Absent

**Career Development: Janet Flewelling:** No report

**CAS-L: Barbara Johnson & Mary-Ellen Minichiello:** Very busy with the school librarians, most of the library media specialists are inundated with technology. CAS-L trying to set-up workshops and help each other through the pandemic. Awards & scholarships will be announced at the October meeting.

**CLC: Jennifer Keohane:** Absent

**Commission on Ed Tech: Colleen Baille:** No report

**CSL: Maureen Sullivan:** Absent

**Children's: Michelle Kaminski & Cathy Potter:** Michelle shared that the section is doing an October workshop. Cathy said they are doing a full day workshop from 9-3 with a morning session, lunch program, and afternoon session. Magic Square workshop, lunch session encourage people to engage in some self-care activities or learn about self-care activities, panelists in afternoon. Registration opens 10/1, workshop is October 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9-3, cost is \$10 for members, \$20 for non-members

**College & University: Lisa Thornell:** Absent

**CLASS:** Robbie mentioned the region reps should send a blast to their members to try to recruit members and a chair.

**Conference 2021: Christopher Hemingway:** Examining budget info, next steps for virtual conference will be to send a save the date, word for programs/speakers.

**CT Center for the Book: Lisa Comstock:** Absent

**Customer Service: Shelley Holley:** Absent

**Development & Planning: Carl Antonucci:** Absent

**Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI): Olivia Scully:** Absent. Doug said she is working hard to get some initiatives off the ground.

**FOCL: Frank Ridley:** Absent

**Grants/Fundraising: Alessandra Petrino:** Alessandra shared that they will connect with EveryLibrary to set-up the Fund Libraries campaign in place of GoFundMe with a broader reach to library users. Alessandra will begin to reach out to donors in larger donations.

**Intellectual Freedom: Sam Lee:** Absent

**Legislative: Beth Crowley & Kate Byroade:** Beth said the next legislative meeting is 9/29 at 2pm via Zoom, they will be working with the lobbyist through November, Kate and Beth have

both been trained through lobbyist training so they are hopeful they will be able to continue this year. Send any ideas or thoughts to Beth in the next month or so.

**LCI: Laura Horn:** Absent

**LGBTQ+ Section: Kristina Lareau & Marissa Bucci:** Absent

**LION: Joe Farara:** Migration from servers in the office to Amazon web services. Also piloting BTCat – Baker & Taylor's new cataloging program. They are also looking at technologies to enhance online programming and looking at ways for LION libraries to share content with one another with programming. Finished revision of delivery procedures manual and preparing for annual audit,

**Membership: Trish Tomlinson:** If anyone has any ideas to drive membership numbers up, specifically those who lapse in their memberships and rejoin. Numbers are going down. Many people have more than one membership under different emails so she is trying to weed those out. She is also planning to talk to directors to ask about sponsoring staff members.

**NELA: Christy Billings:** Absent

**PEG: Mary Etter:** Mary says she looks forward to how they can continue to support continuing education for CT Library workers.

**Publicity & Communications: Leah Farrell:** By the next meeting, there will be some new publicity co-chairs – it was a pleasure working with everyone.

**Procedures: Peter Ciparelli:** No report

**Public Library: Maria Zervos:** Absent

**Reference & Adult Services: Matt Earls:** Absent

**Resource Sharing:** Vacant

**SCSU: Arlene Bielefield:** Absent

**Technical Services: Steve Bernstein:** Had to postpone fall conference they had been planning due to speaker issues. They are meeting Tuesday to determine next steps.

**Technology: Genevieve Francis:** Absent

**Young Adult: Samantha Connell:** Absent

### **Region Reps**

**Region 1: Travis Feder:** See attached for report.

**Region 2: Sarah McCusker:** Farmington Libraries new director Chris Lindquist, West Hartford director retired and Carol Waxman serving as interim director

**Region 3: Leslie McDonough:** no report

**Region 4: Doug Lord:** See attached for report

**Region 5: Robbie Marshall:** See attached for report

**Region 6: Vicky Coffin:** Vicky reported that Colchester returned to evening hours this week and Lyme is open to the public 3 days a week, Salem is in touch with the school librarian to be able to get their spring book sale books to the kids. In October, Salem is getting HVAC replaced.

### **Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made at 11:16 by Alessandra, and seconded by Peter Ciparelli, and was unanimously approved. Motion passed.

**Present:** Tom Piezzo, Douglas Lord, Kristina Edwards, Janet Flewelling, Danielle Valenzano, Beth Crowley, Robbie Marshall, Lisa Karim, Peter Ciparelli, Leslie McDonough, Kym Powe, Ariel Wander, Cathy Potter, Maria Bernier, Steven Bernstein, Joseph Farara, Vicky Coffin, Sarah McCusker, Leah Farrell, Erin Shea, Michelle Kaminski, Colleen Bailie, Travis Feder, Gerald Seagrave, Susan Ray, Trish Tomlinson, Mary Etter, Chris Hemmingway, Mary Ellen Minichiello, Alessandra Petrino

# CLA Region One Report

## Updates

- The Oliver Wolcott Library (Litchfield) is hosting a series of live book events via Zoom. On Thursday, September 24th at 7:00 p.m. author Alan Mikhail, professor of history at Yale University, will discuss his book *God's Shadow: Sultan Selim, His Ottoman Empire & the Making of the Modern World*. On Thursday, October 22nd at 4:00 p.m. Dr. Dann J. Broyle will discuss *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates.
- The Woodbury Library hosted their first virtual concert via Zoom on Tuesday, September 15th featuring The Lighthouse Route, a Boston-based acoustic duo made up of Woodbury natives Robert Peterson and Dan Sheehan.
- On Wednesday, September 16th the Cornwall Library began *Wallace Stevens: The Transient Transcendentalist*, an eight-week literary seminar with Mark Scarbrough. Sessions are held via Zoom from 10:00 a.m. to noon, and run until November 4th.
- The Silas Bronson Library (Waterbury) will begin its *Seat of the Pants Cooking with Chef Bill* program on Thursday, September 24th and continuing the fourth Thursday of the month through November. Chef Bill will demonstrate a new recipe each month. Demonstrations will take place via Zoom at 7:00 p.m., and previous demonstrations will be available on the library's YouTube channel.
- The Hotchkiss Library (Sharon) and Scoville Memorial Library (Salisbury) are collaborating on an Artist Trading Card Project. Participants of all ages will pick up trading card templates from the children's department at either library, then draw three cards on the theme of "My Favorite Hero." The library will create a digital gallery of the cards, and exchange cards between participants. Completed cards are due back to either library by October 10th.
- The Torrington Library hosted a back to school craft night via Zoom on Wednesday, September 16th. Children ages 6 to ten picked up supplies at the library, and joined in the craft session remotely via Zoom.
- The Kent Memorial Library will begin its Virtual Music Access series on Friday, October 2nd at 7:00 p.m. and continuing throughout the Fall on the first Friday of every month. These events showcase artists residing in or with strong ties to Connecticut, performing Americana, Folk, and Country-inspired genres. Performances will be broadcast via Zoom, with the first act being the KC Sisters.

- As of Monday, September 14th, the Licia & Mason Beekley Community Library (New Hartford) has reopened for limited hours. The library will be available to patrons by appointment.

Respectfully submitted,

Travis S. Feder

Region One Representative

## Region 4 Report | September 17, 2020

Lisa Oldham from the **New Canaan Library** reports on some personnel news. Marie Aspinwall has been promoted to Manager of Services to Families (youth 0-18 and their families, encompassing children's, tween and teen services). Jeffrey Zaino has decided to retire after 37 years at New Canaan from his role as Manager of Infrastructure which included Facilities, Digital Services and Circulation. New Canaan also sees beloved children's librarian Audrey Heneage retire. In other New Canaan news, efforts continue to raise funds for a new library which, with all going well, should be opening its doors in about 2 years.

The **Stratford Library Association** has collaborated with Delta Sigma Theta to host voter registration and information sessions, outdoors on library grounds. This is a non-partisan initiative to encourage people to participate in the electoral process.

The **Brookfield Library** opened, by appointment, as of September 8, with reduced hours (24 hours per week vs our pre-covid 54 hours per week). Patrons are all very compliant with mask wearing and we do not allow medical exemptions of masks because we provide accommodations with continuing curbside service and home delivery. Brookfield is collecting contact tracing information when patrons enter and have door monitor mandated by the town Health Department. Brookfield's public restrooms and water fountains remain closed and we have no programs inside. Brookfield also has received its very own part time custodians 7 days per week. Brookfield now offers outdoor programs and have started outdoor story times on the lawn limited to 10 families.

The **Cyrenius H. Booth Library** in Newtown reopened with appointment-based access on September 2 and had excellent Zoom attendance numbers for August adult programs.

**Christine Bradley** is retiring (after 50 years in this wonderful profession) on October 9 from the city of Norwalk. She will miss her library colleagues but knows our noble profession is in good hands.

## Region 5 Report: September 2020

- West Haven has 2 more long-time retirements; Lynda Bazarsky and Roseanne Mongillo. Lynda's been with the library for 32 years and Roseanne for 42.
  - The Louis Piantino Library branch will be closing, as the building was sold to a developer by the city. The board and administration are working with the city to find a new home for the Allingtown library. In the meantime, the collection will be housed at the Main branch and continue to circulate.
- East Haven's Hagaman Memorial Library installed Public Wi-Fi antennae outside the building in August to expand the coverage for the front of the building and the parking lot areas. This resulted in over 1000 sessions on the outside hotspots in August and that number will increase in September.
  - The Library opens a computer lab starting September 24. The lab will be in a community room which allows patrons to enter in one doorway and exit in another, as well as adequate social distancing.
  - The library is on a limited use basis with curbside services, but will start Saturday hours on September 26th.
- Blackstone Library in Branford: Beginning September 14, the library is offering 30-minute appointments for browsing books and DVDs in all areas. The library will also offer hour-long appointments for quiet study in the Mezzanine and Reading Room.
  - Virtual tech service now available
- Cheshire Library resumed in-person visits on September 16<sup>th</sup>.
- East Haddam's Zoom offerings include: their Mystery Book Club, and Digital Dungeons and Dragons.
- Essex's online programming includes: Lego Challenges, Architect Series, and Game Night using Jackbox.
- Guilford's Friends of the Library announced that because of the cancellation of the Annual Fall Book Sale, they are excited to offer Saturday Pop-Up sales on the front lawn: September 12, 19 & 26. Browsing is now allowed & computers by appointment.
- The Killingworth front entrance walkway renovation is complete!
  - The uneven and broken stone surface in front of the main entrance has been completely refurbished with beautiful non-skid granite mined from a quarry in Haddam. A heartfelt thank you was extended to Moyer's Landscaping Services, who generously donated their time for this project.
- Scranton in Madison: Library Appointments began Wednesday, September 16th.

- At Russell Library, they've started a new program called "Book Match," which, matches readers of all ages with materials chosen with their personalized interests in mind. They also put together "book bundles," for grab-and-go, representing various genres. These services have proven to be extremely popular!
  - They are also working on a new Strategic Plan, targeted for the end of the year. And Finally, Russell is now an official partner with Middletown Pride, joining the City of Middletown, the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce, and Wesleyan University.
- Interesting note: When dinosaurs roamed the Connecticut Valley some of them came to Portland! There are still footprints found in Portland including a few mounted on walls at the Portland Library. Inside the library are 2 brownstone slabs, containing several good quality, medium-size theropod footprints labeled as Anchisauripus and two remarkable specimens of Otozoum.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Robbie Marshall*