

**Connecticut Library Association Board Meeting  
November 19, 2020 10:00 am  
Business Meeting**

**MINUTES**

**1. Call to Order:** President Tom Piezzo called the meeting to order at 10:01 am.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

**a. October meeting minutes:**

A motion to approve the October minutes was made by Mary Etter, and was seconded by Beth Crowley, and was unanimously approved. Motion passed. No Abstentions.

**3. Old Business**

**a. President's Report – Tom Piezzo:** Conference committee will send a call for proposals next month. Exhibits co-chairs have exciting virtual components in the works.

Busy with legislative preparations. We are increasingly taking a long-term approach. Gallo and Robinson lobbyists continue to help through this month.

CLA Holiday Fundraiser in progress. Catalog has good staff holiday gifts :-)

**b. Treasurer's Report – Kristina Edwards:** Taxes have been filed, \$40K in bank account, but still dispersing money from fall bills, hoping to clear everything by December of the fall events.

**4. New Business:**

CT Paid Leave (Andrea Reeves)

Tom has paperwork to disseminate to public, he will send out after the meeting

**Reports:**

**ACLB: Denise Stankovics:** Offering online workshops this week, free of charge, but pre-registration is required. Check the website for more information. Hoping to offer more in early 2021. The fall newsletter was postponed and they are recapping highlights of presentations in the newsletter.

**ADA: Maria Bernier:** See link for information on accommodation requests. Should be included in all workshop registration information: [https://ctlibraryassociation.org/ADA\\_Resources](https://ctlibraryassociation.org/ADA_Resources)

**ACLPD: Ramona Burkey:** Resource sharing committee continues to be active, Zoom sessions on various models of resource sharing. Session through ACLB on 11/20 at 1pm.

**ALA: Erin Shea:** ALA Council postponed Moving Forward Together meeting. It will be the first week of December.

**Archivist: Gerald Seagrave:** No report

**Awards:** No report

**BCALA: Kym Powe & Robert Kinney:** Jerry Craft is speaking at meeting tonight at 6pm via Zoom.

**Bibliomation: Carl Demilia:** No report

**Career Development: Janet Flewelling:** Met last month and working currently on revising criteria for CLA scholarship. Application process opening in January and will be awarded at Conference. Leadership institute possibly virtual in the summer.

**CAS-L: Barbara Johnson & Mary-Ellen Minichiello:** Celebrate 2020 award winners – results on list on CAS-L website currently. Barbara Johnson and Mary-Ellen are part of CT State Digital

Literacy Advisory Committee and this week they presented to the committee AASL standards to be proposed to CT Board of Education. Committee voted and agreed so that is in the works.

**CLC: Jennifer Keohane:** Membership renewal period. Bids going out for library supplies – will be evaluated next week and awarded by the end of December. Just posted non-print media bid. Partnership with Mackin, cooperative shared ebook/digital audiobook for K-12 libraries. Coffee talks are every month. They may be increased in frequency due to COVID situation.

**Commission on Ed Tech: Colleen Baille:** Reminder that CEN is looking for libraries willing to expand their wifi services outside their libraries.

**CSL: Maureen Sullivan:** Mary mentioned that the State Library Board & Search Committee have completed work and have made a selection for a State Librarian candidate. Steps have begun to bring this person on board and expect to make the announcement on Monday, 11/23 at 1pm. Maureen added that through the planning, Maureen's extension contract was extended to onboard the new State Librarian.

Getting more serious about reopening the State Library by appointment. Continuing to work with libraries who have received the grants from the State. Continuing to look at ways to save money in the budget.

**Children's: Michelle Kaminski & Cathy Potter:** Children's fall workshop 10/23 from 9-3:30, 68 attended

**College & University: Lisa Thornell:** Virtual Connecticut Information Literacy Conference will be held on Friday, June 11, 2021. Theme is Digital Divide 3.0: Bridging the Gap In Information Literacy. Meeting in early December to further work out the details. Fairfield University Library created timeline to show their progress/work during COVID:

<https://librarybestbets.fairfield.edu/covidtimeline>

**CLASS:** Still vacant

**Conference 2021: Christopher Hemingway & Susan Ray:** Save the date for the Conference has been sent out: May 10-14. Next steps to send out program proposal forms, hopefully by Thanksgiving, and to work out programming/exhibits by January 2021.

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

**Customer Service: Shelley Holley:** Absent

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

**Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI): Olivia Scully:** Late fall workshop is scheduled for December 8<sup>th</sup> from 10 am – 12 pm.

<https://ctlibraryassociation.org/meetinginfo.php?id=409&ts=1605718459>

**FOCL: Frank Ridley:** Have continued to meet virtually. Had a Zoom meeting on book sales during COVID – 66 participants. Planning mini-chats on various subjects on January and February. Working to do awards in 2021

**Grants/Fundraising: Alessandra Petrino:** Holiday fundraiser is up, thank you to all those who have shared. Got around \$600 profit so far. Runs through January 1<sup>st</sup>. Another email going out December 1<sup>st</sup> for holiday shopping.

Creative Writing with Nora Basking begins on December 1<sup>st</sup>. In 2021, will hold a silent auction. More details to come.

**Intellectual Freedom: Sam Lee:** Year end reminder to send in your challenge and censorship reports to OIF. All challenges are worth documenting – big and small.

**Legislative: Beth Crowley & Kate Byroade:** Working on Legislative agenda. Priority to maintain present funding for State Library. Will be asking for help with Advocacy. Region reps are reaching out to their constituents. Beth will share with the board next month. 23 freshman legislators who were elected. Beth has the list to reach out to library staff who are in those districts so they can reach out to those freshmen legislators. Department of Revenue Services who are planning for tax assistance and that this will be a challenging year so Beth offered to send out a survey to libraries so they can plan their help. Talking about remote help through AARP. They will be invited to our December meeting to make sure we are all on the same page.

Kate mentioned developing resources for librarians in CT to use as references on where to go if they need a quick response from CLA. Reach out to new legislator, give them a tour of the building, give them a realistic understanding of what a library is today. Contact your region reps if there are any issues or contact Tom, Beth, or Kate.

**LCI: Laura Horn:** No report

**LGBTQ+ Section: Kristina Lareau & Marissa Bucci:** Shay Glass from the Ridgefield Library, taking over for Kristina, but no report.

**LION: Joe Farara:** Absent

**Membership: Trish Tomlinson:** Membership numbers are going up. Will be looking for volunteers to contact past members to see if they have information changed, new library, etc.

**NELA: Christy Billings:** Absent

**PEG: Mary Etter:** Looking for new members of the PEG committee

**Publicity & Communications: John, Lauren, Adam:** The team has had some great meetings with board members and encourages other board members to set-up meetings and let them know how they can best be of service. Email: [Publicity@ctlibraryassociation.org](mailto:Publicity@ctlibraryassociation.org). Looking for photos to update the website and content for newsletter, website & social media.

**Procedures: Peter Ciparelli:** Absent

**Public Library: Maria Zervos:** Absent

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

**Resource Sharing:** Vacant

**SCSU: Arlene Bielefield:** Absent

**Technical Services: Steve Bernstein:** They have their program this afternoon called "Casting a Critical Eye on Cataloging and Classification" featuring Violet Fox with 135 people registered.

**Technology: Genevieve Francis:** Absent

**Young Adult: Samantha Connell:** No report

### **Region Reps**

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

**Region 2: Sarah McCusker:** Newington Library has gone back to curbside.

**Region 3: Leslie McDonough:** A lot of communication from members in region 3. Trying to figure out how much they will be open or roll back services. Some libraries were concerned and confused because they lost their grant opportunities for not responding fast enough.

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

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

**Region 6: Vicky Coffin:** Thinking of having a Zoom meeting with her region. Those she did hear from are continuing virtual programs, curbside, etc.

### **Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made at 11:27 am by, Doug Lord, and seconded by Kate Byroade, and was unanimously approved. Motion passed.

**Present:** Tom Piezzo, Colleen Baillie, Kristina Edwards, Danielle Valenzano, Lisa Karim, Kym Powe, Robbie Marshall, Beth Crowley, Cathy Potter, Denise Stankovics, Sam Lee, Colleen Baillie, Janet Flewelling, Shay Glass, Laura Horn, Steven Bernstein, Doug Lord, Jennifer Keohane, Frank Ridley, Travis Feder, Ramona Burkey, Jerry Seagrave, Mary Etter, Vicky Coffin, Adam Wisnieski, Leslie, John, Maureen Sullivan, Maria Bernier, Sarah McCusker, Olivia Scully, (New Canaan Library?), Trish Tomlinson, Erin Shea, Tim Kellogg, Mary Ellen Miniciello, Robert Scheier, Shay Glass

CLA Region One Report  
November 19, 2020

Effective November 18th and until further notice, the Sherman Library will be closed to the public due to the increase in cases of COVID-19 statewide. The library will offer door side pickup during regular business hours Tuesday through Saturday.

The Cornwall Library has also moved to close to the public through at least December 2nd. Curbside pickup will be available.

Effective November 19th, the Harwinton Public Library will temporarily suspend in-person visits and continue to offer curbside borrowing.

Waterbury's Silas Bronson Library is currently open by appointment only for patrons to borrow materials. Patrons may also schedule appointments to use the public computers at the main library.

The Middlebury Public Library will be closing to the public effective Monday, November 23rd. The building will be closed to the public until further notice. They will offer curbside pickup Monday through Friday between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Likewise, Naugatuck's Howard Whittemore Library is closed to the public and offering curbside pickup service.

The Scoville Memorial Library (Salisbury) is hosting a virtual Q&A with author Ibram X. Kendi on November 30th at 7 p.m. This event is especially for young adults, and will concern his book *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You: a Remix*, a shorter, simplified version of his *Stamped from the Beginning: the Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America*, which won the National Book Award for Non-Fiction in 2016.

The Oliver Wolcott Library (Litchfield) is hosting *An Evening of Classical Guitar*, a live Zoom event featuring award-winning guitarist Lorena Garay. Lorena performs classical, Spanish, and Latin guitar and graduated summa cum laude from the Hartt School of the University of Hartford, where she received the Guitar Department Award. The event begins at 7 p.m. on Thursday, November 19th.

Respectfully submitted,

Travis S. Feder  
Region One Representative

## CT Library Association | Region 4 Report | October 15, 2020

Lisa Oldham, **New Canaan Library** reports she just promoted two wonderful librarians into new parallel roles in our Adult Services team: Kayla DelBiondo is now Coordinator Adult Programs and Community Outreach, and Samantha Connell is now Coordinator Reference, Instruction and Digital Services. Additionally New Canaan is recruiting for Full time Children's Librarian.

The **C.H. Booth Library** wrapped up a successful Census project funded by a grant from the ALA, is steadily regaining hours open to the public, and is working on wrapping up capital improvement projects beginning with work on six leaky chimneys.

Yvonne Cech reports that the **Brookfield Library** has done away with appointments and is open 24 hours per week with resultant heavier computer use.

Curbside service continues at 44 hours per week, as does outdoor and virtual programming. We have a door monitor (provided by the town) who asks health screening questions and collects contact tracing information (a requirement from the Brookfield Health Department for us to open). We closely guard the contact tracing lists, keeping them in a safe and shredding them at 30 days.

Our Friends of the Library held an outdoor book sale on Sunday, which was very well attended. Social distancing and mask wearing were required.

We have been focusing on voter registration and information on the local candidates in our programming. We hosted a Meet the Candidates Zoom event which exceeded the 100 person registration limit so we added a youtube live link and ultimately had 172 attendees that evening. We will have an event each week to keep the message going and hopefully get people out to vote.

Our outdoor storytimes have been full to capacity (12 families) each week. We are getting numerous requests (which we can't fill) for private study and work space, since so many people are working and studying remotely.

And, we are working on gathering patron testimonials as we are embarking on round two of a new library campaign shortly.

Reported by Region 4 Representative Douglas Lord, C.H. Booth Library

## Region 5 Report: November 2020

- Haganan in East Haven started a subscription to the Mometrix Study Guides database which contains test preparation materials and exam practice questions.
- All is well in Milford. They are evaluating hours, programs and services. The building is seeing heavy usage, and circ numbers are going up. But, program attendance is beginning to lag -Zoom fatigue has set in. The renovation project hit delays but a completion date is on the horizon. They added 2 meeting spaces and renovated and enlarged the Children's Department. They are moving technical support from the City IT Department to Bibliomation staff. They held a smaller version of "One City One Story" Community Read. The topic was racial equality and injustice with age appropriate titles: White Rage/Carol Anderson, New Kid/Jerry Craft and Antiracist Baby /Ibram X. Kendi.
- Branford's Blackstone Library made the pandemic fine waiver permanent; "Fines do not actually provide an incentive to return items on time. Instead they stop people from coming back to the library. Eliminating fines can improve a patron's library experience and foster more positive interactions." **Instead of fines, patrons can support the library with a donation.**
- **Brainerd Memorial in Haddam just announced the selection of a town Poet Laureate and will promote and support her events and activities.**
- Durham's Zoom offers include: French and Spanish conversation circles, Teen Paint Nights, Food Explorers live cooking [featuring Gnocchi's on Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>], and Cider & Craft and Backyard Adventurers kit pickups.
- East Haddam is offering 2 new programs: Teen Write Club to swap stories, share feedback, do fun writing exercises, and discuss how to get published. And Freaky Friday: Witch Trials, November 20<sup>th</sup>, about the infamous Salem witch trials presented by a local paranormal expert.
- The Stetson Branch of the New Haven Free Public Library is planning to move to a renovated Dixwell Community "Q House". They began a campaign to raise \$2 million to outfit the 60% larger library with: an expanded collection, improved community resources, state-of-the-art technology, and modular furnishings.
- West Haven began a Strategic Planning Survey & Community Engagement Sessions.
- Browsing and in-library services have been suspended by: Cromwell Belden, Essex, North Haven, Seymour, Westbrook, and limited in Killingworth to Friday and Saturday. In Shelton: Plumb Memorial

Library has reopened with reduced hours. The Huntington Branch will remain closed.

- Hamden: Outdoor computer access has been suspended due to dropping temperatures and the rising rates of COVID-19.
- In Portland: Free Covid Testing Drive-through on Saturday November 21 from 10 - 2. The Portland Library will be closed and the testing will be held at the driveway between the Library and the Senior Waverly Center.

Respectfully submitted,

*Robbie Marshall*