



LEADING THE WAY
SINCE 1875

**CONNECTICUT LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
130th ANNUAL MEETING
Wednesday, May 12, 2021 at 1 pm via Zoom
MINUTES**

I. Call to Order: Tom Piezzo called the meeting to order at 1:15 due to a faulty Zoom link that had to be replaced.

II. CLA Annual Review President's Report was made by Tom Piezzo: See attached.

III. Documents 2020 Annual Meeting: A motion to approve the documents was made by Mary Etter and seconded by Kate Byroade. The motion passed.

IV. Treasurer's Report was made by Kristina Edwards: See attached.

V. 2021 Awards & Scholarships were presented.

VI. Presentation of 2021-2022 Candidates for Office

VIII. Adjourn: A motion to adjourn the order was made at 1:38 pm by Kate Byroade and seconded by Lisa Karim. The motion passed.

Connecticut Library Association
Annual Meeting of May 12, 2021
President's Report

The best way to report on the past year is to thank all those who contributed so much to CLA during a time when we were already challenged in our work and personal lives. In recognizing the efforts of our members and liaisons, a picture of board year 2020-21 will become clear.

As we are at the annual conference -- and on Zoom -- it seems a fitting start to acknowledge the team who committed to a traditional, in-person event and brought you this week's offerings. The skill set was new, and the going may have been unsure at times, this being the first paid virtual conference for all the planners, but Chris Hemingway and Susan Ray rose to the challenge. How appropriate that they lived the theme of "Libraries Meeting Challenges in a Challenging World." Attendance has exceeded our estimate, and I hope you have been enjoying the programs.

The other major component of our conference is the Exhibits and Vendors committee, and CLA is lucky indeed to have Alessandra Petrino and Kym Powe at the helm. They likewise applied creativity, perseverance and top-notch organizational acumen to bring us the sponsors and vendors on whose support any conference depends. They also lent much help to the nuts-and-bolts part of our planning, and although most of that work happens behind the scenes, I assure you none of it is taken for granted. Thanks, also, to Bob and Michelle Scheier, who, through the New England Library Association, have been stakeholders in the conference operations, and who also have served us well as the new administrative service for our association.

Alessandra needs also to be recognized as the prime (essentially *sole*) force in the recent Fundraising and Development committee. Working with the EveryLibrary Institute on a funding appeal, with Scholastic on a book fair, and on initiatives of her own devising, such as a writer's workshop fundraiser and a holiday merchandise online sale, and more, she has played a large part in righting the ship, monetarily speaking. The earnings for her committee exceeded our goals, and have helped to build a needed cushion in our finances.

A major part of CLA's core mission is our Legislative and Advocacy efforts, and we are fortunate to have Beth Crowley and Kate Byroade to thank for their job as co-chairs, navigating these unfamiliar and choppy waters. Their dedication in communicating with State officials, coordinating with the new State Librarian Deborah Schander, as well as with our members and the general public, inspired over 50 written and 12 spoken testimonies at the 2021 Appropriations Committee hearing -- a number not seen in many years, if ever. This, operating without a lobbyist for the first time in well over a decade. One positive outcome is evidenced in the latest proposed budget, which now restores a proposed \$100,000 borrowIT cut. In my 7 years on the CLA board, I have never seen that happen! The Legislative committee also worked with the new-look Publicity and Communications committee on Library Week infographics, and on an inspiring video reminding viewers just how important libraries were, and are, in this pandemic. Legislative also held town hall meetings in all six regions, introducing Deborah Schander, and compiling a wealth of constituent information and feedback in the process.

Following up on Publicity and Communications, John Casiello, Adam Wisnieski and Lauren Thompson have consistently produced eye-catching and informative pieces to promote our common mission, and also designed the fresh and meaningful new CLA logo. They met with a number of sections and committees to learn of their priorities, and to be of

support. The Publicity team has also tweaked our website for functionality and ease of reading.

Among the many other positives in this past year was the re-establishment of the long-vacant CLASS section, under the leadership of Samantha Saltier, the revamped financials from Treasurer Kristina Edwards, membership numbers increasing 12% thanks to Trish Tomlinson, and a new recommended salaries study in process, after much research by Laura Horn and Janet Flewelling. Glenn Grube led the Sustainability Committee to keep us forward-thinking and planning for the long term. We have been fortunate to have our EDI, LGBTQ+ and Intellectual Freedom committees, with BCALA liaisons, working in concert to apprise us of the dramatic social justice developments that touch each of our libraries, and matter to us as individuals. Their panel discussions and presentations have brought a crucial dialogue to the fore.

Obviously, time prohibits mentioning everyone else by name, but please know that you are acknowledged and appreciated, not only by myself. CLA would not be the same without your participation. I have benefited from the counsel of immediate past president Lisa Karim and president-elect Colleen Bailie in puzzling through thorny issues, of which there are always a few, and the association benefited from the generosity of the Council of Past Presidents, in the form of their matching gift initiative.

The good seen in this unexpected and tumultuous year has been in how the crisis forced changes upon us, some of which have set CLA on a firm footing for my capable successors. It has also vividly illustrated what I felt all along: Connecticut's libraries are equal to any challenge, because with the mutual support of the CSL, CLC and CLA, among many others, we persevered, reinvented, and proved our dedication to the users we serve.

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas Piezzo

Annual Meeting, May 12, 2022
Treasurer's Report, Kristina Edwards

Kristina discussed the latest budget report that was shared with the membership. She highlighted that we are in a positive position to move forward with rebuilding the association's reserves and other funding as we continue to adjust to life during the pandemic. Kristina thanks the many section and committee chairs for the work to create programs while be mindful of our budget constraints. Kristina highlighted and commended the chair of our Fundraising Committee, Alessandra Petrino, given the wonderful efforts to raising additional funds for the association throughout the year. For the coming year, her hope is that we continue to build on the work that we have done in 2020-2021 to continue to help CLA grow and become a more sustainable organization. Kristina's goals for the coming year are to work with CLA Admin to review and update our insurance coverage, create additional documentation related to CLA financial practices, and work with the new treasurer elect to transition off the board.