

Connecticut Library Association Board Meeting
October 21, 2021
10:00 am Business Meeting via Zoom
MINUTES

1. **Call to Order:** President Colleen Bailie called the meeting to order at 10:03 am.

2. **Approval of Minutes**

a. September 16th, 2021 meeting minutes: A motion to approve was made by Mary Etter, seconded by Alessandra Petrino, and was approved by majority with the corrections presented. Motion passed.
Abstentions: None

3. **Old Business**

a. **President's Report** - Colleen introduced Ann Thompson of Essex Library as Customer Service Chair. Lisa Karim is moving to Procedures Chair. They are looking for a more structured Conference Committee. If anyone has any ideas, send to Alessandra
b. **Treasurer's Report** – See attached.

Committee/Section/Representatives Reports:

ACLB: Denise Stankovics: Planning to do Zoom workshops in place of fall programs

ADA: Maria Bernier: Just a reminder that as you are planning fall programs, please include the accommodations statement. https://ctlibraryassociation.org/ADA_Resources

ACLPD: Vacant: Karen Tatarka will be the new Chair.

ALA: Erin Shea: No Report

Archivist: Gerald Seagrave: No report

Awards: Region Reps: No report

BCALA: Robert Kinney: Absent

Bibliomation: Carl Demilia: Absent

Career Development: Janet Flewelling and Sunnie Scarpa: Sunnie reported that they have a meeting scheduled next Friday and they'll be discussing conference proposals at that time. We're also finalizing a survey to go out to all CT libraries regarding internship opportunities, stay tuned for more details.

CAS-L: Barbara Johnson & Mary-Ellen Minichiello: No report

CLC: Jennifer Keohane: Absent

Commission on Ed Tech: Colleen Bailie: No report

CSL: Deborah Schander: Deborah highlighted some initiatives coming out of DLD: launching the All CT Reads program in January - reach out to Kim Powe with any questions. Also, Deborah mentioned they have launched the CT Pages, short monthly interviews with CT library staff members across the state. Please check those out and if you have ideas for future topics, reach out to Kim.

Children's: Cathy Potter & Alex Kraus: Fall workshop will be Fri, 11/5. Registration is open. Focus on STEAM & STEM. Monthly section meetings on second Wednesday of the month. Alex asked for a motion to be made to approve the donation of \$500 to the Nutmeg Awards. Alessandra Petrino made the motion, Kari Hamad seconded. Motion passed – no abstentions.

College & University: Matthew Sheehan: Absent

CLASS: Samantha Saliter: Absent

Conference 2022: Kari Hamad & Shannon Angelone: Call for proposals out and up on the website, too. Locked in a keynote speaker. Please get the word out on proposals.

CT Center for the Book: Lisa Comstock: Absent

Customer Service: Ann Thompson: No report

Grants/Fundraising: Alessandra Petrino: Banned Bands fundraiser was successful and took in \$726.14 after all fees. Alessandra thanked all those who supported the fundraiser and gave a special thank you to those who created things or gave up time to work at the table. The Café Press merchandise store is now set-up and will be set-up on main site. The next fundraiser will be a Boon Supply holiday fundraiser.

FOCL: Frank Ridley: Absent

Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI): Kym Powe: EDI Fall workshop is 11/1. Please send people from your libraries, if possible. Locked in a January hour long presentation with Julie Edwards, who also presented at NELA, "Drafting a Diversity Plan for your Library." Most likely 1/11/22 via Zoom. Next EDI meeting is Friday, 11/5.

Intellectual Freedom: Sam Lee: Sam reported: I attended ALA's virtual Legislative Summit on October 16th with Olivia. We learned of concerning trends using legislative efforts to undermine the principles of intellectual freedom in libraries. We saw this played out in Colorado with the EBSCO pornography claims, the parental review boards in Missouri, and the attempted use of police to file criminal charges against libraries and librarians. OIF said that September saw a significant increase in challenges and/or bans, ironic given banned book week. I'm still working on resources for anti-doxing and plan on a winter workshop or presenting at conference. As always, I am available to assist libraries and librarians with challenges, censorship, and intellectual freedom issues. And all consultations are confidential.

LCI: Laura Horn: Absent

Legislative: Kate Byroade & Olivia Scully: Sam Lee and Olivia Scully both attended the ALA Legislative Summit. Kate made a motion that CLA spend \$500 to reimburse the CT Lobbying Conference. It was seconded by Mary Etter and passed with no abstentions.

LGBTQ+ Section: Mary Richardson: No report

LION: Joe Farara: Absent

Membership: Trish Tomlinson: Trish reported that the membership numbers are up from last year, but they are always looking for more members.

NELA: Christy Billings: Absent. Christy reported via email that NELA has finished their virtual and one day in-person conference sessions, culminating in Monday's in-person event at Holy Cross. Great turnout and great sessions!

PEG: Mary Etter: No report

Publicity & Communications: John Casiello & Lauren Thompson: John reported that they are working to create a task force to address the website. If anyone has an interest, please contact John.

Procedures: Lisa Karim: No report

Public Library: Jennifer Sullivan: Absent. Jen reported via email: The Passport to Libraries program will return in April 2022! All fees that were collected for the 2020 program will roll over, and those libraries will be notified. Several libraries have already been contacted to correct errors, mostly due to staff contacts leaving. I will also put out the call for more library entries by the end of 2021. There will be a section meeting in November (date TBA) to discuss more details about the Passport program, and to gather ideas for a workshop/meeting as well as a CLA conference presentation. If anyone has any suggestions, please contact me.

Reference & Adult Services: Christie Mitchell & Rachel Leff: Rachel reported that they are continuing to move forward with their fall workshop on Climate Change and Sustainability – looking at a December dates. Their speakers are not charging a fee.

Resource Sharing Matt Earls: Absent

SCSU: Arlene Bielefield: Absent

Technical Services: Steve Bernstein: Steven reported that there is no fall program planned since they had been on hiatus, but they are now actively planning several programs for annual Conference in May.

Technology: Vacant

Young Adult: Jackie Bush and Stephanie Smith: No report

Region 1: Karin Thomas:

Region 2: Sarah McCusker: See attached.

Region 3: Leslie McDonough: Absent

Region 4: Doug Lord: See attached.

Region 5: Robbie Marshall: See attached.

Region 6: Vicky Coffin: Absent

5. **Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn at 10:48 am was made by Kate Byroade , seconded by Kym Powe, and was unanimously approved. Motion passed with no abstentions.

Present: Kristina Edwards, Danielle Valenzano, Colleen Bailie, Robbie Marshall, Doug Lord, Kate Byroade, Lisa Karim, Steven Bernstein, Deborah Schander, Kym Powe, Erin Dunmeyer, John Casiello, Jerry Seagrave, Mary Etter, Rachel Leff, Sarah McCusker, Olivia Scully, Maria Bernier, Alessandra Petrino, Kari Hamad, Christie Mitchell, Karin Taylor, Ann Thompson, Denise Stkovics, Alex Klauss, Cathy Potter, sam Lee, Travis Feder, Jackie Bush, Shannon Angelone, Mary Richardson, Trish Thompson

CLA Treasurer Report – Kristina Edwards
October 2021

Kristina commented on the September 2021 budget reports and indicated that there is one edit that will be fixed and reflected in next month's reports related to a Fundraising Expense. This month's report is straightforward and next month we should have some additional information about income and expenses associated with some fall programs. QuickBooks will be higher than budgeted for the remainder of the fiscal year but will be covered by the funding set aside for the CT Information Literacy Conference so it should not affect our ability to stay on track. Kristina indicated that she is finishing up edits provided by volunteers for the Orientation materials. Kristina thanks those that volunteered and shared edits to improve this documentation. She reminded committee and section chairs that they are responsible for reaching out to attendees in which we have not received payment to make sure that payment is on the way or arrangement has been made before the day of the program. Kristina will work on documentation for committee and section chairs highlight how to retrieve attendee lists and checking payment status. She will be working to review with chairs the open orders in StarChapter to make sure we have received payment for all outstanding invoices.

Region 2 report – 10/21/2021, submitted by Sarah McCusker

New Britain opened The Hive, their new makerspace. It contains a Cricut Maker, Cricut mug press, sewing machine, VHS and slides converter, loom, button maker, 3D printer, art and jewelry supplies, a Mac computer with iMovie and iMusic for music production, and a greenscreen. Coming soon: a Glowforge!

Simsbury is hosting a Community Read program during the month of November. All are invited to join in reading books celebrating the Indian-American experience. Adult book: *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri; teen book: *The Knockout* by Sajni Patel; children's book: *American as Paneer Pie* by Supriya Kelkar. Programs include book discussions, film screenings, a "Voices of the Immigrant Experience" panel, a virtual author panel with Sajni Patel, a dance show, and making Diwali lanterns.

The Hartford Public Library opened its new Park Street Library @ the Lyric with a grand opening celebration on October 2, featuring a day full of activities and performances. All are invited to come check out this beautiful new branch. Hartford is also one of the grant recipients for the Digital Navigators pilot. The Digital Navigators will go out in the community to distribute laptops and tablets, help individuals sign up for low-cost home internet and connect them with digital literacy skills training. They will be assisted by young adults who will be trained as Digital Mentors through a partnership with Hartford's Youth Service Corps that is led by the nonprofit Our Piece of the Pie.

East Hartford is groundbreaking today for the renovation of their Wickham branch.

Burlington held its Meet the Candidates night last night, moderated by a reporter from the Bristol Press, where questions were posed to candidates for the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Education. They are also having a Pumpkin Pageant next week, with a decorated pumpkin contest, refreshments, crafts, and spooky and not-so-spooky stories in the adjacent cemetery.

In Manchester, the 21st Century Library Taskforce presented their report to the town's Board of Directors about the need for a new library. The presentation was well-received and hopefully the Board of Directors will move forward with site selection and toward a building project and referendum.

On Election Day, the Town of Bloomfield is voting on a \$29 million project to rebuild and expand the Prosser Library and renovate and expand the McMahan Wintonbury Library. Projects include engineering and construction to mitigate flood damage in the future and make the libraries ADA compliant and energy efficient.

Lynn Zaffino, Director of the **Easton Public Library**, wrote that Easton chose its One Book/One Town Community Read title for Winter 2022. It is *Piglet: The Unexpected Story of a Deaf Blind Pink Puppy and His Family* by Melissa Shapiro. Easton's Decibel Double Booth (free-standing study booth) has just been installed and is ready to use. It was purchased with ARPA Grant funds.

New Milford let go all its part timers when it closed for renovation; they are looking to hire staff.

Fairfield PL is also looking for PT help. Their new director is named Scott Jarzambek and he is from from Albany NY.

Elaine Tai-Lauria from **Wilton** is retiring, Bradbury Miller is handling the recruitment

Most R4 libraries are experimenting with hybrid programs. Wilton, Ridgefield which is using a zoom cart for smaller meetings which sounds really smart.

Mark Twain Library in Redding just succeeded in getting the library on the bus route for the Middle School. Twain went fine-free in March and many Region 4 libraries are considering or have done this.

The **C.H. Booth Library** in Newtown is looking at some huge capital improvements over the course of the next 2 years to include a total hvac renovation, a repaved and reconfigured driveway, and new roof shingles for the whole structure. A local foundation awarded a grant to create an online volunteer hub and hours expanded by 1.5 per week on Fridays.

Ferguson Library, Stamford has an upcoming art exhibition called Fragments of Memory which runs through January courtesy of the Stamford Art Association, and is also hosting a debate of the mayoral candidates on 10/19.

Greenwich Library reopened, returning to its pre-pandemic hours weekdays until 9:00 pm and Sundays from 1:00-5:00 pm. Masks are required for everyone over the age of 2, per the Town of Greenwich.

Westport Library hosted the candidates for Westport's First Selectperson on their big screen. The space also hosted the 'Short Cuts Film Festival 2021 Opening Night' with 6 films from the Tribeca Film Festival with Festival Producer Nancy Diamond in conversation with filmmakers.

Bridgeport Library is opening a planning survey to see how they can best serve residents, hosted a live Zoom dance class on Bachata, and got a lot of traction with their posting of the original newspaper coverage of the poltergeist on Lindley Street - <https://conta.cc/3aW6Cup>

The **Burnham Library**, Bridgegewater is hosting a Best Pumpkin Decorator in town with drop offs 10/23 and judging on 10/31. Good luck, I think the fix is in.

Weston Library is hosting both a birth-to-5 Halloween Parade and a Halloween Party for 5-to-12's on 10/29. I'd report more but it seems way too spooky for CLA members to handle.

Danbury Library has an [app in the app store!](#)

Perrot Library, Old Greenwich hosted a virtual book discussion with local author Stasha Healy on *Secret Connecticut: A Guide to the Weird, Wonderful, and Obscure*. The book features 84 collected stories.

Darien Library hiring for a Children's Collection Development Coordinator Librarian and their Head of Materials Management retired.

New Canaan Library is preparing hard for groundbreaking for the *new* New Canaan Library and welcomed NY Times Bestselling author Martha Hall Kelly (*Sunflower Sisters*) to its 14th Annual Literary Luncheon Benefit on November 4th.

Bethel Library offered a new storywalk for October on the library property: *A Splash of Red: The Life and Art of Horace Pippin* by Jen Bryant.

Stratford Library offered up grab bags of daffodil bulbs as that is the town's official flower; courtesy of the Town of Stratford Beautification Committee.

Trumbull Library announced the addition of a Nursing Nook to the back of the Children’s Room where moms can spend time feeding their babies in a quiet and comfortable setting. The new space was made possible through the funding from the Healthy Communities Grant and the hard work of the Trumbull and Stratford Health Departments.

The **Brookfield Library** has been on a Facebook blitz recently; they had a visit from **Got Your Goat: Parties and Excursions** on 10/16 with thirteen goats including one-week old triplet girl goats.

Edith Wheeler Memorial Library in Monroe began offering automatic renewals and got a glowforge for their makerspace.

The **Norwalk Public Library** is offering a Zoom “Hear Something, Say Something: Bystander Intervention” training to honor domestic violence awareness month.

New Fairfield Library is doing a series of celebrities like Oprah and Sarah Silverman reading children’s books via storylineonline.net, and check out this ‘lil squoosh who got his first library card in October ’21!



Region 5 Report: October 2021

Programs and Announcements:

- Bethany: Clark Memorial received a construction grant in 2020 to update the Children's Room. They've moved the books upstairs and renovation is in progress.
- Cheshire: Go to the library website to see the amazing scarecrows around the town!
- Cromwell: The Belden Library announced the completion of their elegant new program space, the Belden Room. Belden holds 2 children's book clubs "Where the Wild Readers Are" and "Reading Rebels" focusing on enhancing reading skills with related hands-on activities. Other programs in Belden's packed calendar include: LED Origami, Haunted Gingerbread Houses, Family Photos, Intro to 3D Printing, DIY Neon Signs, Adult Craft kits, and Tea & Dark Chocolate.
- East Haddam: Rathbun is hosting a "Halloween Harvest Half Pint Village" [AKA Fairy Garden] where patrons are encouraged to create seasonal container gardens to display in the Reading Garden. The event will conclude on Friday Oct 22nd with an after dark costumed celebration with scary stories, a campfire, scavenger hunt and Fire Dancer.
- East Haven: Hagaman Memorial - 1921 was the Library's incorporation, so a commemorative coin was made; one side has 100th Anniversary, the other side a stack of books. On October 9th there was a memorial concert for Eileen DeMayo featuring the Connecticut Virtuosi String and Voice Ensemble. Eileen DeMayo was a long time Library Trustee and President. In 2012 she and her husband donated \$28,000 to the Library to help complete renovation of the bookmobile garage into the handicapped accessible DeMayo community room.
- Ivoryton: In celebration of their 150th birthday the library is holding a Murder Mystery Dinner at the Copper Beach Inn Saturday, Nov 6th.
- Madison: Scranton Library announced their Friends group is hosting a mini-golf fundraiser on November 5th & 6th called "Putting Around the Library Links." They hope it will be extremely successful and become an annual fundraiser. December 2nd at 5:30 they are holding, "Toast of the Town", to thank supporters, celebrate the year's achievements, and share the vision for the coming 12 months. The intent is to raise the Library's profile in town and inspire local decision makers before the budget season.
- Shelton: At Plumb Memorial, they are (still) finishing up the 3rd phase of the renovation, and hope to begin the final phase (the Main Adult Library floor) by year's end. It is being totally financed by the Library Board endowments. It has been slower going, especially with CoVid. They still have a shuffling of staff - hiring primarily Library Assistants to replace the staff that didn't return after shut-down; but they are either finding new full-time positions or are moving away.
- Meriden will be undergoing a complete remodel and has posted the plans on their website.

- Wallingford is hosting a presentation called “Enslaved Wallingford: The Missing Chapter of our American Narrative” by the Wallingford Historic Preservation Trust’s Chris Menapace on Wednesday, Nov 3rd at 7pm. The program will be on Zoom and possibly onsite, but the recording will be uploaded to their YouTube channel the following day.
- Westbrook Library has opened its Lew Daniels Technology Center. They launched a Toy Library this month. Their Public Service Librarian, in charge of teen programming, has started a Teen Advisory Board. The Children's Librarian is holding in-person Story Time on Wednesdays at 10 AM. They have greenlighted the installation of CEN and are in the beginning stages of the process. Most pre-pandemic programs and services have resumed. All library services are available at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

Robbie Marshall