

Connecticut Library Association Board Meeting

December 16, 2021

10:00 am Business Meeting via Zoom

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order:** President Colleen Bailie called the meeting to order at 10:04 am.

2. **Approval of Minutes**

a. November 18th, 2021 meeting minutes: A motion to approve was made by Doug Lord, seconded by Mary Etter, and was approved by majority with the corrections presented (adding conference rates). Motion passed. Abstentions: Sam Lee, Vicky Coffin, Maria Bernier, Jackie Bush

3. **Old Business**

a. **President's Report** – Travis Feder stepped down as VP – looking for new VP and new Customer Service Chair.

b. **Treasurer's Report** – Kristina has been behind on some Treasurer duties but will be back up to date for the next meeting. Will be reviewing the current Financial Reports and if there are any major issues, will share via email before the next month. Next month, she will do a more thorough review of where we stand given that we will be at our halfway point in the current budget year. Next month, Kristina would like us to discuss how we are going to determine the number of email addresses we need and ensure that they are continuously monitored. There are a couple of programs that are happening in January so there will be additional expenses and income coming in from those programs.

4. **New Business**

Committee/Section/Representatives Reports:

ACLB: Denise Stankovics: Denise reported that they had their sessions that took the place of the annual conference.

ADA: Maria Bernier: Virtual meet and greet for library of the blind and physical handicapped, hear about what their agencies are doing and understand their offerings and what our patrons are looking for. Open to everyone, free for CLA members/students/retirees/people affected by COVID, \$10 for non-members. Registration:

<https://ctlibraryassociation.org/meetinginfo.php?id=469&ts=1639498766>

ACLPD: Absent

ALA: Erin Shea: No report

Archivist: Gerald Seagrave: If you had a fall workshop, please send him a summary for the archives.

Awards: Region Reps: No report

BCALA: Robert Kinney: Black Caucus is planning for annual MLK event "What would Martin Say/Do in today's society" with panelists. Planning another scholarship for students of color. Submitted proposal for CLA annual meeting.

Bibliomation: Carl Demilia: Absent

Career Development: Janet Flewelling and Sunnie Scarpa: Met recently and they are developing internship list for internships starting in summer 2022. Expect to post it sometime in January as PDF on CLA website. They will repeat the survey twice a year starting in 2022. Another program launching in 2022 – a formal mentorship program spearheaded by Beth Crowley and Amanda Stern. Beginning January 3 - February 25, they will accept scholarship applications.

CAS-L: Barbara Johnson & Mary-Ellen Minichiello: Absent

CLC: Ellen Paul: Thank you to Jennifer Keohane for her time with CLC and on the CLA board. Ellen Paul has recently started. Look at calendar for upcoming meetings. CLC has their own board meeting today, open to all board members, 2pm.

Commission on Ed Tech: Colleen Bailie: No report

CSL: Deborah Schander: State Library & Dawn are represented on Government's emergency evacuee task force along with 7 member partner libraries. In the process of accepting donations. Please reach out to Dawn to schedule pick-up. Children & YA books, educational toys, information about living in the United States. Last board meeting, the CT Vision for Resource SHaring was unanimously approved by the board as a best practice. Having a few meetings with legislators such as cost of ebooks and challenges happening in the state. CCOALD state of OER in CT, leading the way of having a formalized approach to OER. Reminder that the All CT Reads launches in January. If you have any questions, reach out to Kym and Ashley.

Children's: Cathy Potter & Alex Kraus: Submitted proposals for Conference and looking forward to hearing back about them.

College & University: Matthew Sheehan: Absent

CLASS: Vacant

Conference 2022: Kari Hamad & Shannon Angelone: Deadline passed and going through proposals. Update in January, along with meeting at Convention Center to work out details. Kari also shared Conference proposals for those who missed previous meeting. They will also be added to the minutes.

CT Center for the Book: Lisa Comstock: Absent

Customer Service: Ann Thompson: Absent

Grants/Fundraising: Alessandra Petrino: Absent

FOCL: Frank Ridley: Board meetings moving to Berlin in January. Meriden will be closed as of January 1st so meetings won't be able to happen there. Awards will be back in 2022, details in the next few months. Annual meeting to be determined in June 2022.

Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI): Kym Powe: January 11th workshop with Julie Edwards on drafting a diversity plan for your library. Register here: <https://ctlibraryassociation.org/meetinginfo.php?id=468&ts=1639516210> Free to CLA members and \$10 for non-CLA members. Already have 37 people registered for it. Please share with your coworkers/other staff members.

Intellectual Freedom: Sam Lee: Freedom to Read Foundation's training, Managing and Addressing Challenges, was last week, I have slides and the recording to share to anyone interested. It was a great presentation and very informative. We are looking forward to our winter workshop on Wednesday, January 26th on developing a security mindset and anti-doxing. Please share with other organizations who might also benefit from the training, (anti racist, BIPOC, LGBTQ+ groups).

Challenges are still happening around the state with efforts to file criminal charges against librarians and libraries for having "obscene" and "pornography" at police departments. We are investigating a potential avenue to stamp out these challenges through the Chief State Attorney's office. If anyone has leads or thoughts, please let me know.

As always, the committee is happy to provide support to libraries and librarians dealing with challenges and censorship issues. Don't hesitate to reach out or refer the committee

LCI: Laura Horn: Absent

Legislative: Kate Byroade & Olivia Scully:

LGBTQ+ Section: Mary Richardson: Absent. The Section is looking at their survey results and planning accordingly.

LION: Joe Farara: Absent

Membership: Trish Tomlinson: Absent

NELA: Christy Billings: Absent

PEG: Mary Etter: Will be sending out correspondence to region reps about scholarship in honor of Peter Ciparelli.

Publicity & Communications: John Casiello & Lauren Thompson: Absent

Procedures: Lisa Karim: Absent

Public Library: Jennifer Sullivan: Meeting of the Section yesterday with over 12 people. Went over Passport program that will return in April 2022. Jen will be sending out info in the beginning of January and the deadline to join the program will be mid-February. Dawn Lavalley also reported in the meeting regarding Afghan refugees collections in libraries.

Reference & Adult Services: Christie Mitchell & Rachel Leff: No report

Resource Sharing Matt Earls: No report

SCSU: Arlene Bielefield: Absent

Technical Services: Steve Bernstein: Absent

Technology: Vacant

Young Adult: Jackie Bush and Stephanie Smith: Working on proposals for Conference and putting a meeting together for the Section.

Region 1: Karin Thomas: Absent

Region 2: Sarah McCusker: No report

Region 3: Leslie McDonough: Absent

Region 4: Doug Lord: See attached

Region 5: Robbie Marshall: See attached.

Region 6: Vicky Coffin: No report

5. Adjournment: A motion to adjourn at 10:44 am was made by Kate Byroade and seconded by Kym Powe. Motion approved.

Present: Colleen Bailie, Danielle Valenzano, Kate Byroade, Doug Lord, Vicky Coffin, Jerry Seagrave, Deborah Schander, Ellen Paul, Kym Powe, Christie Mitchell, Tom Piezzo, Kristina Edwards, Denise Stankovics, Kari Hamad, Frank Ridley, Sam Lee, Olivia Scully, Jen Sullivan, Mary Etter, Alex Klaus, Jackie Bush, Stephanie Smith, Robbie Marshall, Margaret Khan, Robert Kinney, Maria Bernier, Janet Flewelling, Shannon Angelone, Cathy Potter, Rachel Leff, Jennifer Keohane

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The **Mark Twain Library** in Redding is celebrating its 49th annual juried [Art Show](#) from December 5th through the 12th; this fundraiser is a nationally recognized event with massively talented artists. Congratulations to Director Erin Shea Dunmeyer.

Sherelle Harris, Director of the **Norwalk Public Library**, announced that on January 3 the Norwalk Public Library will be fine free; the only exceptions being museum passes and Wifi hotspots.

Karen Tatarka, Director at the **Weston Public Library**, announce the 12/10 ribbon cutting for its Children's Room remodeling project. This project has been a long time coming and is a fantastic development for Weston.

Sheri Szymanski, Library Director at the **Stratford Library Association**, wrote that the Library Board eliminated overdue fines as of 12/15 and used this language, "Fines restrict access for people who are struggling economically and have proven ineffective in encouraging the timely return of materials." Stratford will continue to send out reminders and encourage patrons to return materials by their due dates, and borrowers will still be responsible for the cost of any lost or damaged items.

Lynn Zaffino, Director of the **Easton Public Library**, wrote about Easton's One Book/One Town Community Read title which is [Piglet: the Unexpected Story of a Deaf Blind Pink Puppy and His Family](#) by Melissa Shapiro, DVM. Shapiro, a Westport veterinarian, will be giving a presentation at the Library on 1/22 with the chance to meet Piglet!

Tracey L. Wehking, Library Director at the **Brookfield Library**, wrote of preparing to choose a firm to provide a feasibility study of using the soon-to-be-vacated Center Elementary School site for a new library. A notable development in Brookfield.

At the **C.H. Booth Library, Newtown**, the struggle to have the town recognize its responsibility as the appropriate body to repair an aging slate roof continued, as did the Get Connected Newtown project; an effort to unify local nonprofits. It offers a [volunteer hub](#) (Galaxy Digital platform) with eleven active agencies and half dozen more coming online. Phase 2 of the project includes a community-wide nonprofit calendar in partnership with The Newtown Bee.

On Thursday 12/9, the **Danbury Library** hosted musician Jon Waterman for a musical a tour of 5000 years of history from ancient Sumeria to 14th century Europe, the American Old West, and the trenches of World War One.

The **Darien Library** was hiring for a part-time shelver (pretty particular there, I didn't even get a callback) and they did a fantastic virtual program called Decked Out for the Holidays that explored several conservatories and mansions such as Longwood Gardens, Winterthur, Blithewold, Heritage Museums and Gardens.

The **Bethel Library** continued a Zoom Veteran History series that discussed the famous Christmas Truce of 1914 led by a local art historian on Thursday, December 16th.

Bridgeport Public Library

Burnham Library in **Bridgewater** hosted a [silent auction fundraiser](#) from the end of November through mid-December. One of the items was a year of desserts and I was outbid.

The **Edith Wheeler Memorial Library** in **Monroe** announced a three-part writing workshop series led by a professional author and writing teacher. It's called '[The Writer's Voice](#).'

The **Fairfield Public Library** has posted several part-time openings: [PT Adult Services Librarian](#), [PT Children's Associate](#), and [PT Library Aide – Circulation](#) and announced a year-long reading challenge geared for adults.

The **Wilton Library Association** released its [annual report](#) and offered an electronics recycling day on 12/11.

The **Ferguson Library** in **Stamford** will be featuring a pop up exhibit on The Art of Women and Dressing from the Stamford History Center's Costume and Textile Collection.

Down in Greenwich, the **Byram Shubert Branch Library**'s special annual tree lighting returned in person on Saturday 12/4 that featured local country band, Gunsmoke and even a surprise drop-in from Santa himself. Words fail me, but leave it to Greenwich to afford something thing like bringing in *the* Santa Claus.

New Canaan Library poured footings this past Tuesday (December 14, 2021) for the construction of the new building. Huge kudos to library director [Lisa Oldham](#)!

The **New Fairfield Library** had a clever, simple idea – a program for adults and teens that consisted of painting bookends. NFL also continues to feature celebrities reading books from [storylineonline.net](#) (e.g., *The Tooth* by Avi Slodovnick read by Annette Bening).

The **Norwalk Community College Everett I. L. Baker Library**'s new resources include guides for [Black History Month](#), [Women's History Month](#), and Gale's Business Insights: Essentials.

The **Perrot Library, Old Greenwich** offered a program about decorating outdoor planters for the holidays with a local floral designer and Greenwich proclaimed November 22nd as **Kathy Jarombek Day** in honor of the director of youth services at Perrot Library. Such a nice honor for such a devoted and longtime professional.

The **Ridgefield Library** announced its fundraiser called *Hot Stove with Gary Cohen* at the Ridgefield Playhouse on February 5th. It is a conversation with SNY's Gary Cohen, the award-winning play-by-play announcer for the New York Mets. If you ever wanted to make Max Scherzer your best friend, this is probably your best chance.

At the **Trumbull Library System** just yesterday the Fairchild-Nichols Memorial branch hosted a program Feline Behaviorist called *Decoding the Mysteries of Cats, or Why Cats do What they do?* This program examines cat behavior from the perspective of the evolutionary and adaptive forces that help shape their lives and, perhaps needless to say, failed to produce any answers about why cats do what they do.

Westport Library On Saturday, December 4th musician Chris Frantz (Talking Heads, Tom Tom Club) began a new series, *Chris Frantz Presents: Emerging Musicians at the Westport Library*. The inaugural concert featured NYC's Lulu Lewis and New Haven's The Problem with Kids Today.

Region 5 Report: December 2021

Programs and Announcements:

- **Ansonia:** Career Coach has resumed their visits. Every month they offer resumé building and critique, cover letter assistance, refining interview skills, job search assistance, LinkedIn profile review, and occupational skills training (including Microsoft Office.)
- **Chester:** The library was open by appointment only; however, they are going back to curbside service starting on December 28th.
- **Clinton:** Henry Carter Hull has an oil painting display by Michael Bibow-Finucane through December. They have added a metal detector and birding/painting/gardening/ and "Love to Learn" backpacks.
- **Cromwell:** The Belden Library announced that they will be open on Saturdays beginning in January.
- **Essex:** The library's teen offerings include: Chess classes for grades 6-12 by a professional coach and Free Drivers' Permit practice tests.
- **Seymore:** Their December offerings include: Spanish storytime, painting a winter scene via Zoom for 8 & up, and holiday movies on Fridays [including a Creepy Christmas presentation exploring the many Yuletide monsters and legends, the history of the holiday and ghostly traditions that date back over 2000 years.]
- **Shelton Library System:** The Huntington branch is open, but currently under repair.
- **Wallingford:** On Wednesday, January 5th, from 7:00-8:00 p.m. the library will be unveiling their pick for the 2022 "[One Book, One Wallingford](#)" with a public ceremony. It's been a closely-held secret. The event will feature a video from the author, the opportunity to purchase a copy of the book, and announcement of the slate of events taking place all over Wallingford. Attendees will also be able to snag FREE tickets to the author visit and book signing.
- **Westbrook:** held a Sweet Treats Tasting Event celebrating National Cookie, Brownie, and Pastry Days by tasting goodies from local bakeries. On the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 11:00 am to 12:00 the library holds [Research Skills for Pre-teens and Teens](#). Each class will focus on a different library/research skill, such as locating materials in the library, finding reliable resources, and citing sources.

Respectfully submitted,

Robbie Marshall