

Connecticut Library Association Board Meeting
February 17, 2022
10:00 am Business Meeting via Zoom
MINUTES

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

2. **Approval of Minutes**

a. February 17th meeting minutes

A motion to approve the February 17th meeting minutes was made by Tom Piezzo and seconded by Mary Etter. Motion passed. No abstentions.

3. **Old Business**

a. **President's Report** – See attached

b. **Treasurer's Report** – See attached

4. **New Business**

a. Proposed Change for Conference Committee Structure – Colleen reported that this has been bandied about for some time and, due to the timing of Conferences and COVID, has not been addressed. Alessandra reports that after speaking to Sustainability, the goal is to make it so that the workload is dispersed better amongst the Conference Committee as a group rather than falling to the new Conference co-chairs alone. Kym & Alessandra spoke to how they came about those proposed changes. Discussion ensued. Lisa Karim & Tom Piezzo both spoke in favor of the proposed changes as past Presidents and past Conference co-chairs. Proposed changes are attached. We will get the proposal out to the membership who will have a month to vote on the changes.

Committee/Section/Representatives Reports:

ACLB: Denise Stankovics: Developed a programming survey that they will be sending out – they will go out through snail member to both Directors and Boards.

ADA: Maria Bernier: No report

ACLPD: Absent

ALA: Erin Shea: Absent

Archivist: Gerald Seagrave: No report

Awards: Region Reps: The region reps met recently via Zoom to discuss the Awards process.

BCALA: Robert Kinney: Program on February 28th for Black History month. Scholarship is up and available. They will need help to get the scholarship information on the CLA page.

Bibliomation: Carl Demilia: Absent

Career Development: Janet Flewelling and Sunnie Scarpa: Janet reported that they are in the middle of the scholarship application period, they will score them in the month of March. They are also running a mentor program for the first time. So far there are 14 mentee applications and 18 mentor applications. Beth & Amanda will work on matching people up in the beginning of March. They will be putting out a new internship survey about fall opportunities. Planning for a fall leadership institute in the fall.

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

CLC: Ellen Paul: Have a training next week on their new book contracts – first member webinar to introduce people to the vendors and let people know how to use the contracts. Prepping a bid to go out March 7th on digital resources. Thank you to the libraries who took the pre-bid survey and responded some of the vendors they would like to see on this bid.

Commission on Ed Tech: Colleen Bailie: No report

CSL: Deborah Schander: Deborah thanked everyone on Legislative Committee who have been supporting CSL's efforts with their budget. Deborah also outlined budget proposals (no cuts) a new position in public records unit (focused on eResources), IT consolidation process (whole state of CT), and a proposal to add \$100,000 to purchase braille materials. She also mentioned that they had a very good press conference they had with Senator Hwang in regards to eBook materials and funding for libraries. Deborah has link to the press conference that she will share in case anyone wants to see it.

Children's: Cathy Potter & Alex Kraus: Information has gone out on Faith Hektoen award. Section meeting coming up on March 9th.

College & University: Matthew Sheehan: Section meeting will take place on March 25th. Looking for a new Executive Board for Section.

CLASS: Vacant

Conference 2022: Kari Hamad & Shannon Angelone: Registration opened and there are sign-ups. Please let your staff know. Still working on finalizing the schedule to be sent out (all speakers know what day they are speaking on).

CT Center for the Book: Lisa Comstock: Absent

Customer Service: Vacant

Grants/Fundraising: Alessandra Petrino: Planning event for members in March – the Power of Journaling (will be free for members, non-members will have to pay \$10). They will be working with Pledge It and Every Library Institute will support – looking for feedback as to what kind of Pledge It fundraiser they should do (ex/ read-a-thon vs move-a-thon). Looking to put up donation buttons to fund certain aspects of CLA/libraries (ex/ funding scholarships or a specific section). CLA Conference fundraiser will be pay & play mobile mini-golf. It can be paid for the day of or added to your ticket at registration, comes with after-hours snacks & an extra drink ticket. They will also be doing a silent auction – if you are available to make a basket for that or have theme ideas, let Alessandra know.

FOCL: Frank Ridley: Absent

Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI): Kym Powe: No report

Intellectual Freedom: Sam Lee: The anti-doxing workshop IF had went really well. Sam will be attending State of the State Meeting on March 17th – will get more news on how libraries are dealing with recent challenges.

LCI: Laura Horn: No report

Legislative: Kate Byroade & Olivia Scully: Reiterated the information on the public hearing for the Governor's Budget and eBook Legislation. Kate & Olivia will be working on putting together messaging on eBook Legislation.

LGBTQ+ Section: Mary Richardson: Absent

Membership: Trish Tomlinson: Has met recently with Executive Board about Membership. Trish asks that she can get some time in the beginning of programs to pop in and discuss Membership, please let her know. Trish is also working on cleaning up the Membership database.

NELA: Christy Billings: Absent.

PEG: Mary Etter: Discussed a PEG award honoring Peter Ciparelli. Hoping for full proposal for April.

Publicity & Communications: John Casiello & Lauren Thompson: Getting ready for Conference, asked about the award for the Young Adult section – John will reach out to them. Hoping to get everyone posted for Awards by the end of this week.

Procedures: Lisa Karim: No report

Public Library: Jennifer Sullivan: Passport to CT Libraries is underway and it will start in April.

Reference & Adult Services: Christie Mitchell & Rachel Leff: March 17th workshop – Library Services for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities. March 31st – Filling the needs of the victims of *Domestic* Violence and Assault.

Resource Sharing Matt Earls: Absent

SCSU: Arlene Bielefield: Absent

Technical Services: Steve Bernstein: Absent

Technology: Vacant

Young Adult: Jackie Bush and Stephanie Smith: They have their first YA get-together, virtually, coming up. She'd like

to do another email blast. They also have a program at Conference.

Region 1: Karin Thomas: Absent

Region 2: Sarah McCusker: The Simsbury Library is hosting an evening with Maggie Shipstead on April 5th. They also have a student doing a Capstone project for school doing Tech Help. Plainville has become fine-free.

Region 3: Leslie McDonough: Absent

Region 4: Doug Lord: See attached. Erin Shea will be taking over as Region 4 Rep.

Region 5: Robbie Marshall: See attached.

Region 6: Vicky Coffin: No report

5. **Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn at 11:12 am was made by Kate Byroade and seconded by Jackie Bush. Motion approved.

Present: Vicky Coffin, Robbie Marshall, Sam Lee, Jennifer Sullivan, Sarah McCusker, Olivia Scully, Kari Hamad, Laura Horn, Tom Piezzo, Ellen Paul, Alessandra Petrino, Robert Scheier, Jerry Seagrave, Kate Byroade, Doug Lord, Kristina Edwards, Danielle Valenzano, Stankovics, Colleen Bailie, Jackie Bush, Christie Mitchell, Rachel Leff, Trish Tomlinson, Matthew Sheehan, Shannon Angellone, Cathy Potter, Alex Klauss, Robert Kinney, Janet Flewelling

President's Report – Colleen Bailie
February 17, 2022

Last week we sent out the statement on Intellectual Freedom to the library community. Special thanks again to Sam Lee for the tireless work she has done on raising the CT library's profile on the subject between our statement and her WNPR appearance last week.

We have been working on getting the paperwork set for our switch to 501c3. My hope/goal is that it will be filed by the end of the month.

Had the privilege to attend the press conference yesterday at the Capital with state librarian Deborah Schander, Senator Tony Hwang and some awesome librarians about e-book legislation. There seems there may be some quick traction on a bill, which I'm sure Deborah will speak more to...

Still have some committee vacancies to fill; with CLASS, Customer Service, and Technology committees needing chairs.

Treasurer's Report – Kristina Edwards
February 17, 2022

Kristina has placed the Budget Request Form on the CLA Website (<https://ctlibraryassociation.org/Finance>) and will be due April 15, 2022. Asking chairs to reach out if you need information to complete the Budget request form. Will be working with CLA Admin to make sure that as Treasurer when submitting expense forms that we are documenting the correct group for income and expenses to be attributed to in the overall budget. Need to update Grants & Fundraising lines to correct the discrepancies. Kristina is working with Conference Chairs to take care of expenses for the CLA Conferences. She has been working with the Awards Committee to consolidate the ordering process and format of the plaques for CLA Annual. Kristina and Margaret (Treasurer-Elect) met via Zoom to start the onboarding process and Kristina is compiling documentation to leave as she rolls off the board.

Region 4 Report – Doug Lord
February 17, 2022

Many libraries reported waiting to hear what the schools do before making any masking changes. Municipal libraries are following mask mandates from their town. Many are feeling the pressure to go mask optional after February 28th.

The **Wilton Library** has a new director - Caroline Lopez-Mandler late of Darien replaced Elaine Tai-Laura. All programming is virtual except for a few small programs with littles.

The **Ridgefield Library** has all virtual programming at the moment. It offers a Next Chapter book club for persons who are differently abled and has two initiatives focusing on Dementia-friendly and Dyslexia-friendly book clubs. Nicely done!

In **New Milford**, Lorna Rhyins announced her new Public Services Librarian, Denise Martens (late of Hartford PL) though the library has pushed its tentative February opening to June, 2022.

The **Darien Public Library** reported suspending notary services and was affected by the disruption to DeliverIT.

Alice Knapp from the **Ferguson Library** in Stamford reported that their Digital Navigators grant is progressing well.

The **Easton Library** is getting outdoor furniture with its ARPA grant and will be celebrating Neurodiversity Week with a special story, craft and film. Easton reports that a furloughed position was reinstated, effective 3/1 - a Part Time Youth Services Programming Assistant. Easton is bringing back most in-person programs next month. Scott Jarzamek from the Fairfield Public Library reported some success with YA reading groups for kids on the spectrum which usually have a mix of typical and atypical attendees.

Nicole Cignoli at the **Edith Wheeler Memorial Library** in Monroe is doing movie boxes with popcorn and cocoa and a series of boredom busters for adults including literary pickup lines and blind date with a book. EWML has limited in-person programs and small groups are using its meeting rooms.

Tracey L. Wehking, Library Director at the **Brookfield Library** reported that as of early February, all in-person events were canceled and masks are required.

Jennifer Minehardt is the new Head of Youth Services at the **Perrot Library** in Greenwich.

The **Weston Library** recently hosted a well-reviewed Black History Month featuring the poetry of Langston Hughes.

The **Darien Library** mentioned working with Abilis, a nonprofit which provides job training

and job opportunities for adults with disabilities operating the a newly launched café. In more youth services programming news, the Burnham Library in Bridgewater is currently interviewing candidates for their new Youth Services Programmer position and are amid updating their strategic plan.

The **Bethel Public Library** have started an RFID project with a goal of having the entire library tagged by the end of the year and the new self-checkout stations have been installed. Exterior lockers have been added to the library for after-hours checkout of materials, and in March will begin the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program through Beanstack as well as some preschool outreach services.

The **CH Booth Library** completed all the purchases for the CSL ARPA grant, and are looking to do some mild but significant space planning for a bunch of different areas of the library within the next year or so.

Region 5 Report: February 2022

Programs and Announcements:

- **Cheshire:** is holding 2 programs that celebrate Black History month: *Gardens of Black America* [Wed, Feb 16th at 7pm] and *Bending Towards Justice: African Americans as Subjects and Creators in American Art* [Sat, Feb 19th at 2pm].
- **Clinton:** Henry Carter Hull had a Ben & Jerry's Hot Chocolate Truck event sponsored by a grant received from the Community Foundation of Middlesex County.
- **Madison:** The Scranton Library was very excited to be awarded an IMLS Libraries and Veterans micro-grant to fund a 3-part program series for Veterans this spring. Topics will include financial literacy, educational support, and therapy dog programs for veterans. Hybrid programming will make it possible to include participants from across the state, so please stay tuned for details that you can share with your community. *This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The Libraries and Veterans National Forum was born out of efforts from librarians at the Texas A&M University Libraries and their desire to better learn from others libraries' efforts to support the veteran and military communities.
- **New Haven:** The Spring 2022 "Make to Sell" cohort will be accepting 8-10 individuals who would like to start an e-commerce business. **Members of this cohort will use their onsite maker space and entrepreneurial hub to:** Design merchandise, Make prototypes, Create marketing materials, Build your business by taking coursework, Participate in mentoring office hours, & Access the free digital resources at the library.
- **Orange:** Case Memorial provides monthly book boxes for adults which include 2 specially selected books, and surprises for the patrons to keep.
- **Shelton:** At Plumb Memorial, the renovation is 97% completed in the historic part of the building, and Phase 4 in the Main library is prepping to take place. At the Huntington Branch, there are 2 full-time positions available; for an LTA and a Circulation desk assistant. This is still fallout from the staff that did not return after COVID hit March 2020.
- **Westbrook:** The library just held a highly successful pizza tasting event for National Pizza Day, organized by their Public Service Library, with the support of several local businesses. Children's crafts events continue to be a draw. They will be partnering with Shoreline Adult Education to offer a 4-week Computer Basics series in March. They are working in conjunction with the Madison and Clinton libraries to host Ubuntu Storytellers events in May and June. They are 2-3 months away from going live with CEN. The completion of their ARPA grant project has expanded the adaptability of their services.

Respectfully submitted,

Robbie Marshall