

# Association of Connecticut Library Boards

Connecticut State Library

P.O. Box 263

Ellington, CT 06029

Regular Meeting

Date: January 18, 2023, 10 a.m. via Zoom

Present: Wendy Berlind, Jan Glover, Carol Mikulski, Sue Philips, Denise Stankovics,  
Pam Monahan, Holly Louise Perry (10:05-10:25)

Absent: Gail Richmond, Dawn LaValle

**Call to Order:** Vice President Carol called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

**Secretary's Report:** It was moved (Jan) and seconded (Denise) that the minutes of the November 16, 2023 meeting be approved. The motion passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:** Sue's report showed a balance of \$26,270.28. Expenses incurred were reimbursement to Jan for mailing expenses and a banking/credit card fee. ACLB has received \$1,000 in membership dues. Sue reported that she received approval to present a 15-minute "table talk" at the April CLA convention; we might also have a table for handing out ACLB information. It was moved (Sue) and seconded (Denise) that we contribute \$1,000 to the CLA scholarship fund as we have in the past. The motion passed unanimously.

**President's Report:** Gail is recuperating from injuries, so no report was available. As Vice President, Carol sent a summary of our recent activities and webinars to the State Library for their report.

**State Library Report:** Dawn LaValle sent the following report: DLD's Institute of Museums and Library Services (IMLS) funded Transformation for Libraries: The Futures. The school organizational grant, Futures, completed the first Cohort, an open Cohort with participants from Connecticut, Delaware, the Philadelphia Free Library, the Queens Public Library, New York and Pima County Library, Arizona. The next Cohort is the Library of Virginia, which will take place virtually in February.

DLD's IMLS National Leadership Grant to Libraries funded "Designing a Regional Digital Navigator" program officially kicked off this month. The Connecticut State Library in collaboration with eight public libraries will design and implement a replicable model for regional sharing of digital navigation services to underserved residents. The plan seeks to enrich the IMLS funded Salt Lake City navigator model to facilitate the participation of smaller libraries via a regional collaboration, simultaneously demonstrating efficiencies of scale. The Connecticut State Library's Regional Navigator Sharing Plan will engage

with 2,000 residents in need, distribute 400 computers, and create a toolkit for replication of such regional library collaboration. The implementation of this model is expected to inform those responsible for Digital Equity Act projects across the United States of ways to introduce centralization and efficiencies into the smaller navigation project models with which they are familiar. Derby, Howard Whittemore, Naugatuck, Wallingford, New Haven Free Public, Hamden Library, Woodbridge, West Haven, and Bridgeport are the participating libraries.

Barbara Ghilardi, State Data Coordinator is currently working through the first annual report cycle with 178 libraries submitting reports. The FY23 statistical profile will be released in early January. Barbara will be releasing a survey in January asking libraries about what professional development topics they'd like to see regarding data. She is preparing to work with Novus on a new platform for FY24 annual report data collection and will be working with Ashley to develop a social media campaign for sharing trends from the statistical profile. Regarding borrowIT CT funds, public libraries reported that the most popular use of funds was for library materials.

CSL is partnering with the USDA Forest Service who has invited State Libraries to partner on the **Smokey Bear Reading Challenge** in celebration of Smokey Bear's 80th Birthday. This program is designed to be a fun and easy way to engage children in reading about wildfire prevention, forests, and natural resource careers, while exploring their local environment.

Libraries can run the challenge any time from January 1 through November 28, 2024. DLD is excited to share this program on behalf of the USDA and would like to know what libraries are interested in the Smokey Bear Reading Challenge.

**All CT Reads 2024 Virtual Author Launch** with Kelly Yang, Nick Brooks, and Daniel Black, the authors of the 2024 All CT Reads primary selections, is scheduled for **Friday, January 19, 11:00 am-12:30 pm**. Each author will discuss their work and answer questions from our community.

**2024 All CT Reads – Kids:** *Finally Seen* by Kelly Yang

**2024 All CT Reads – Teen:** *Promise Boys* by Nick Brooks

**2024 All CT Reads – Adult:** *Don't Cry For Me* by Daniel Black

As an Advisory Board member of the University of Maryland's IMLS National Leadership grant **Ready Now: Supporting Youth and Families During Crisis** initiative, Dawn recruited the Ferguson Library, Stamford as Connecticut's representative in this project. CSL is one of only 5 state libraries invited to participate. **Ready Now** expands on work that took place in 2020 during the height of the pandemic and led to the publication of [Library Staff as Public Servants: A Field Guide for Preparing to Serve Communities in Times of Crisis](#) (fondly known as *The Field Guide*). The *Field Guide* outlines four Essential Tasks that libraries and their staff need to embrace to serve historically marginalized youth and families successfully. Participating library staff will benefit from the opportunity to:

- Build strategies for working with community partners in support of historically marginalized youth and families.
- Gain knowledge of how to prepare, with community partners, for crisis situations.
- Attend a series of participatory design training sessions to gain skills in community engagement, co-creation, iteration, and re-imagining systems and structures,
- Design materials for use by others across the US working to serve their communities during emergencies.

**FOCL Report:** Pam Monahan reported that the FOCL Forum is back in operation, allowing Friends groups to communicate and comment on items of common interest and to post scheduled book sales. The FOCL Board has three new members who are doing their best to fill the shoes of long-term recently retired members.

### **Election of Officers:**

It was moved (Wendy) and seconded (Denise) to elect the following slate of officers for a two-year term:

President: Carol Mikulski

Vice-president: Gail Richmond

Treasurer: Susan Phillips

Secretary: Wendy Berlind

The motion passed unanimously. Denise Stankovics will continue writing the newsletter, and Jan Glover will continue as resource coordinator.

### **Old Business:**

*Webinar planned for February 28:* Jan will send a letter in late January promoting the DEI webinar to be presented by Leah Farrell along with a reminder letter about renewing membership for 2024. Sue will set up the webinar and track registrations.

*Newsletter:* Denise plans a spring newsletter in which she will summarize the Webinar presentation by Leah Farrell in late February on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. In addition, she will write an article outlining the differences between duties of the Library Director, the Trustees, and the Friends.

*Topics for future webinars:* A presentation on building projects was discussed and it was decided to look for a speaker on how to determine the library's needs for a new or renovated space. Carol will talk to potential speakers, and Dawn LaValle is a good resource for this kind of speaker. A second idea is for a webinar that focuses more deeply on some of the topics covered in the broader "Board Basics" webinar. Jan volunteered to come up with ideas for this presentation.

### **New Business:**

*Webinar Protocol:* Jan put together a document outlining the steps involved in setting up a webinar and ideas for webinar "housekeeping." She will continue to refine it

and as we gain experience in setting up webinars, individual tasks will be listed and assigned.

*Vote on a prospective board member:* Earlier in the meeting, we were joined by Holly Louise Perry, president of the board of Killingworth Library, who has expressed an interest in joining the ACLB board. Holly home-schools her children and is an enthusiastic user of and advocate for libraries. In her first 18 months as board president, she has worked to ease friction between the library board and the town. She believes that it is important for a library to provide free access to information and to serve community needs. Her skills in writing, editing, and technology will be valuable to the ACLB board. It was moved (Jan) and seconded (Wendy) to invite Holly to join the ACLB board, and the motion passed unanimously. Carol will contact her to invite her to join.

*Calendar:* It was moved (Jan) and seconded (Sue) and unanimously passed to accept the following dates for ACLB meetings in 2024, all on the second Thursday of the month, at 10 a.m., via zoom:

March 14

May 9

July 11

September 12

November 14

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned after a unanimously passed motion by Jan, seconded by Sue, at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wendy Berlind, ACLB Secretary

The next meeting will take place on March 14, 2024 at 10 a.m. via Zoom.