

Association of Connecticut Library Boards

Connecticut State Library

P.O. Box 263

Ellington, CT 06029

Regular Meeting

Date: November 16, 2023, 10 a.m. via Zoom

Present: Wendy Berlind, Jan Glover, Carol Mikulski, Sue Philips (10:45), Denise Stankovics

Absent: Gail Richmond, Dawn LaValle

Call to Order: Vice President Carol called the meeting to order at 9:57 a.m.

Secretary's Report: It was moved (Jan) and seconded (Denise) that the minutes of the September 11, 2023 meeting be approved. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Sue's report showed a balance of \$25,549.44. Expenses incurred were the state business filing, the fall newsletter, yearly fee for WildApricot, and a foreign transaction fee. There was a discussion of the best way to solicit membership renewals; the website sends them automatically in late December, so some payments are credited to the past fiscal year if libraries pay very promptly. Jan is willing to mail out a paper renewal request in early January. It was moved (Denise) and seconded (Jan) that 2,000 return-addressed envelopes be ordered from MinuteMan. 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 to the State Library for their report.

State Library Report: Dawn LaValle sent the following report: Possible federal shutdown will have limited impact on the State Library's federal funding for the Division of Library Development and federally funded grants from the Institute of Museums and Library Services and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Division of Library Development is moving the Public Library Construction grants to a new grant management system developed specifically for the State Library by Novus Insight and the CT Annual Report to an interactive, web-based platform for 2024's Annual Report.

The State Library officially launched the CSL Outreach Van which will be used by all 8 State Library Units and Divisions for various types of outreach.

DLD/CLC Open House for New Library Directors! On Wednesday, October 25, the CT State Library, Division of Library Development (DLD) and our partner the CT Library Consortium (CLC) hosted an open house at the Middletown Library Service Center. More than one dozen new library directors and library staff attended the informational event and had the opportunity to learn about DLD's and CLC's services and engage directly with consultants.

DLD's Giant Room program culminated in a community event at the Killingly Library. The program offered children and their families a unique experience. The GIANT Room offers a diverse range of programs and content that merge design, art, engineering, coding, technology, math, science, and literacy. Founded by Dr. Azadeh Jamalian and Dr. Jessica Mezei, this organization aims to empower young minds to pursue their wildest dreams.

The Connecticut State Library partnered with Azadeh (Azi) Jamalian, founder and CEO of the GIANT Room, to bring a set of three professional workshops to librarians. Librarians were brought together to receive training on ways to implement creative STEM-based family programs to energize community building, and to invite families to libraries to help them connect to their community in new ways.

FOCL Report: Barbara Leonard has resigned, and the new FOCL representative is Pamela Monahan, who was unable to attend today's meeting.

Old Business:

Webinars for November and January: Board Basic will be presented by a panel of ACLB panelists on Wednesday, November 29, and Leah Farrell will present a webinar on DEI issues in libraries on February 28, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.. We will look at ideas for a spring webinar, using the survey that was conducted a couple of years ago. The question of paying a stipend to speakers who are not offering their services as part of a paid job was raised, and it was moved (Jan) and seconded (Denise) that we support webinar speakers with a stipend of at least \$250. The stipend will be paid retroactively to Sam Lee who presented on the topic "Intellectual Freedom" in September. It was also decided that Jan will begin making a list of policies that the ACLB board will follow. The ACLB Board Basics slide show was reviewed and slides were assigned to board members for the November 29 presentation.

Newsletter: Denise was praised for her work on the newsletter making it informative and well written. She is thinking about articles for the spring newsletter.

Topics for future webinars:

From our survey:

- Building projects
- Trustee Roles and Responsibilities
- Censorship
- Civil liberties and library service

From a list created by Carol:

- Board Application/recruitment process
- Key Policies
- Fundraising Plans
- Best practices for advocating at municipal level
- Monthly and annual reports
- Subcommittees on Boards
- Types of Boards and how they differ

New Business:

ACLB Member Job Description: The duties of an ACLB Board member were discussed and aligned with what is stated in the by-laws.

Interview questions for a prospective board member: A list was agreed on and Carol will send it to the members. A prospective member will be invited to the January 11, 2024 meeting.

Newsletter as a PDF file: It was decided to send the newsletter as a PDF file to boards who are members of ACLB. Sue will try to extract their emails from the registration page on the ACLB website.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by accliam at 11:12 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wendy Berlind, ACLB Secretary

The next meeting will take place on January 11, 2024 at 10 a.m. via Zoom.