

Association of Connecticut Library Boards

Connecticut State Library

P.O. Box 263

Ellington, CT 06029

Regular Meeting

Date: March 14, 2024, 10 a.m. via Zoom

Present: Wendy Berlind, Jan Glover, Carol Mikulski, Sue Philips, Denise Stankovics, Holly Louise Perry

Absent: Pam Monahan, Gail Richmond, Dawn LaValle

Call to Order: President Carol called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Secretary's Report: It was moved (Denise) and seconded (Jan) that the minutes of the January 18, 2024 meeting be approved. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Sue's report showed a balance of \$28,341.17. Expenses incurred were reimbursement to Jan for envelopes, the PO Box renewal, to Wafaa Razeq for work on the website for the past year, and a banking/credit card fee. Membership dues are still coming in. Sue reported that she received approval to present a 30-minute "table talk" at the April CLA convention; we will also have a booth/table for handing out ACLB information. Carol and Jan will take part in the "table talk" and help man the ACLB vendor booth and Wendy will help on Monday afternoon. The CLA conference takes place on April 29-30. It was noted that as ACLB donates \$1,000 to the CLA scholarship fund, our contribution should be acknowledged; Sue will talk to the scholarship committee about that.

President's Report: Carol reported that Vice-president Gail is recuperating from injuries and hopes to rejoin us soon. Carol sent a summary of our recent activities including the February 28 webinar on DEI, election of officers, and the acceptance of new member Holly Louise Perry to Jane Beaudoin at the State Library.

State Library Report: Dawn LaValle's report is added to the end of the minutes.

FOCL Report: Pam Monahan was unable to attend but sent the following news:

As previously mentioned, the FOCL- Forum is up and running. All can join, members or not.

- The website is being updated over the next few months.
- A mini-workshop about membership is in the works, tentatively scheduled for some time in April.

- It is FOCL award time. Applications will be in the mail next week, and also on the website. Categories include individual achievement, Friends group award, and focused project.
- The FOCL annual conference is scheduled for Saturday, June 15 at the Avon public library. There is no charge to attend. Awards will be given at that time.

Old Business:

Recap of February 28 Webinar: Sue will resend the webinar link because several members commented that the link led to an error message. We think there is a confusion between zero and capital letter O in the passcode. There were over 80 registrations (some register in order to get the link to the recording), and over 40 attended.

Newsletter: Denise has received a column from State Librarian Deborah Schander and plans to summarize the Webinar presentation by Leah Farrell in late February on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. There will also be an article about ebook pricing and availability. For a later issue, she will write an article outlining the differences between duties of the Library Director, the Trustees, and the Friends. Copies of the newsletter will be available at the CLA conference.

Topics for future webinars: Sue came up with two good speakers for future webinars. The director of the Ridgefield Library can speak about issues concerning association libraries and interactions with their towns. A consultant helping to hire a new head of the Bibliomationn consortium is willing to speak about bias in hiring. Carol has prepared a powerpoint presentation on how to hire a library director; she could participate in the hiring webinar. And Jan suggested several topics: board member application and recruitment; the fine points of subcommittees and FOIA with Russell bBair; by-laws and policies review and revision; the latest in best practices in CT libraries; and advocacy at the municipal level. A tentative schedule was agreed on:

Spring 2024:	Association libraries
Fall 2024:	Hiring guidelines
November 2024:	Board Basics
Winter 2025:	One of Jan's topics

New Business:

CLA Conference: Jan will outline points to be covered in the April 29 “table talk” session at the conference. It is scheduled for Monday April 29 from 1:50-2:20. Wendy volunteered to design posters for our vendor table, showing what ACLB does and what resources it makes available.

Making use of our new board member: Carol asked Holly to think of ways she could use her technology skills to help the board in its work. She immediately came up with several ideas, among them creating a Google workspace for storing all our documents, and becoming an administrator of the ACLB website. The suggestions were gratefully accepted.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned after a unanimously passed motion by Jan, seconded by Holly, at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wendy Berlind, ACLB Secretary

The next meeting will take place on May 9, 2024 at 10 a.m. via Zoom.

CSL March report from Dawn LaValle, Director of the Division of Library Development

The legislative session started on February 7. The State Library has very minor requests this session which are to move some appropriations that were put into our general operating funds into their own separate account numbers. The State Library continues to be very fiscally conservative with its expenditures.

EBook legislation was reintroduced. There has also been some interest from the Lt. Governor and the Democratic caucus on matters of Intellectual Freedom, book challenges, and censorship as well as on school librarians. These topics are outside of the purview of the State Library so any involvement will be peripheral or educational.

CSL is engaged in a Strategic Framework process, with DLD leading the way using Division developed tools to re-envision the future of the State Library Agency and all of its units and divisions.

Academic Libraries to the Palace Project: The Connecticut State Colleges & Universities System (CSCU) now has access to eGO CT and the Palace Project. There are a total of 163 sites sharing content from the Connecticut State Library through the Palace app in addition to the 133 school sites participating in the eGO CT Community Sharing Program. The press release can be read on the [DLD Libguide](#).

The Connecticut State Library was one of five state libraries invited to participate in year one of the **Building Equity-Based Summers Through Libraries & Communities (BEBS)** co-design initiative. Consultant Kym Powe took seven libraries (Ansonia Library, Hagan Memorial Library, Killingly Public Library, Southbury Public Library, and Windsor Locks Public Library) through year-two of BEBS. [Via the website](#), BEBS “empowers libraries to create summer services that are built on a foundation of equity and designed with the community to ensure systemically marginalized groups engage in library services in new way.”

With the conclusion of the year-long initiative with **Libraries Without Borders US (LWB)**, Children and YA Consultant Kym Powe and Adult Services and Community Engagement Consultant Ashley Sklar, have been meeting with the six participating libraries (David M. Hunt, East Hartford Public Library, Norwalk Public Library, Otis Library, West Haven Public Library, and the Willimantic Public Library) for Impact and

Sustainability meetings which include overviews of their work with LWB, impact and output data, and toolkits designed for continuous work. Two programs were launched in February: the [launch of an outreach van](#) at the West Haven Public Library, and the launch of the [Village Voices Community Storytelling Pathway](#) at the [David M. Hunt Library](#).

The Connecticut State Library (CSL) has partnered with the **Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Education and Public Outreach Division (DEEP)** for their Summer No Child Left Inside events. For the first time, CSL was able to participate in **Winter Fest** and share information about various resources provided by the State Library such as a virtual library card and the eGo Program, All CT Reads, using your library card at any library in the state through the Borrow IT program, and other helpful library information. Over 1,500 people attended the event.

The Advisory Council for Library Planning and Development (ACLPD) is reviewing, revising and updating the Best Practices for CT Public Libraries document. Update should be completed by June 30, 2024.

DLD is introducing a new series based on our Lead Your Library from the Future:

New Series Starting This Month! Lead Your Library | Practical Management of Public Libraries. Join us for a collection of introductory workshops for public library administrators and the “hands on” issues they face every day.

The Critical Partnership: Trustees and Library Directors with Jerry Nichols (March 13)

The most critical partnership in a public library is that between the library director and the public library trustee. Join Jerry Nichols for an interactive session that will address public librarianship core values; duties and responsibilities of public library trustees; duties and responsibilities of the public library director; how to make the partnership work and the value of effective meetings.

Related to the “Lead Your Library” series, we are offering Construction Grant Information Sessions and Capital Projects Workshops in April and May!

**Construction Grant Information Sessions
with Dawn La Valle**

Tuesday, April 16 | 10:00-11:30 am
[Register for Construction Grant Session](#)

Wednesday, May 15 | 10:00-11:30 am
[Register for Construction Grant Session](#)

Capital Projects with Libby Post Libby has a portfolio of successful Capital Project referendums across the northeast.

Thursday, April 25 | 10:00-11:00 am

[Register for Capital Projects](#)

Friday, May 10 | 1:00-2:00 pm

[Register for Capital Projects](#)

Statistical Trends in Connecticut Public Libraries 2022-2023 - Now Available!

Each year, Connecticut Public Libraries make an impact in their communities. The Statistical Trends report identifies and explains the important trends over fiscal year 2023. As always, we thank all the libraries for providing their data and sharing their amazing work with us. Please visit the [CT Public Libraries page](#) to read the report and look at the FY2023 Statistical Profile.

Annual Report Webinar on YouTube

Did you miss the Annual Report webinar last month? [How to Use Your State Annual Report During Budget Season \(and Year-Round\)](#) is now available to view anytime on DLD's YouTube channel!

Additional Tools Available with the 2022-2023 Statistical Profile

[Statistics Advocacy Flyer](#) – Create a flyer specifically for your library to highlight your annual report statistics. Once you've been given access to the template, you can upload and add your library logo, summer statistics, quotes, and more. Visit the link to see instructions for requesting yours.