**Association of Connecticut Library Boards**

Connecticut State Library

P.O. Box 263

Ellington, CT 06029

Regular Meeting

Date: September 11, 2023, 3 p.m. via Zoom

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

Absent: Gail Richmond, Dawn LaValle, Barbara Leonard

**Call to Order:** Vice President Carol called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

**Secretary’s Report:** It was moved (Denise) and seconded (Jan) that the minutes of the July 13, 2023 meeting be approved. The motion passed unanimously.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Sue’s report showed a balance of $26,765.89 Membership renewals have totaled $470 in the past month; because many libraries have a fiscal year beginning in July, some renew in the middle of the calendar year. Expenses were $18 for the TechSoup administrative fee and $419 for Zoom Pro and Webinar add-on. The annual fee for Wildapricot web services will increase from $649 to $810 when we renew in November. The 990 tax form has been filed.

**President’s Report**: Gail is recuperating from injuries, so no report was available.

**State Library Report**: Dawn LaValle sent the following report: CSL/DLD is currently reviewing principal public libraries’ collection development/management policies, and the reconsideration forms for compliance with PUBLIC Act 23-101, Public Library Incentive Grant Statutory Requirements, which is the Grants In Aid Incentive Grant Statute that was defunded in 2015. This new Act has restored the incentive grants with the caveat that libraries must have robust collection development policies and a reconsideration process to be eligible. This requirement will become part of the 2024-25 State Library Annual Report which has long been a requirement to be considered for the Grants in Aid statutory program. Principal public libraries have until November 15th to submit policies for review and approval.

The CT State Library is thrilled to announce the addition of our new State Library Outreach Van. Funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) America Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the CT State Library's state-of-the-art library-on-wheels will be used for outreach, programs, special events, professional development, library programming support, and pop-up exhibits for all State Library divisions and units, including the Division of Library Development, the CT Library for Accessible Books, Archives, the Museum of CT History, and more.

The Institute of Museums and Library Services (IMLS) has awarded CSL/DLD a two-year, $285,000 extension of its nationally recognized Transformation for Libraries: The Futures School. During the original grant period, the Transformation for Libraries project has focused on individuals and will ultimately result in the successful training of over 400 members of the library workforce; however, there continues to be a large demand from the field for additional training opportunities and to contextualize Strategic Foresight inside a more organizational perspective.

IMLS has awarded CSL/DLD a $249,948, National Leadership Grant for a Regional Digital Navigator Replicable Program. **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 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.

The Connecticut State Library is pleased to announce that it has received a supplemental award of $259,644 from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to continue to digitize historically significant Connecticut newspapers through the **National Digital Newspaper Program** (NDNP) over the next two years. This grant brings the total award amount the State Library has received for the project to $1.5 million.

DLD is continuing its Leading from the Future Series for library administrators including library board and director partnership, capital planning and strategy training with Jerry Nichols.

**FOCL Report**: In the absence of Barbara Leonard, there was no report this month.

**Old Business:**

 *Practice for webinar:* Sue reported that 130 have registered for the session on Intellectual Freedom, some in order to receive the recording. Wendy will start the webinar and introduce Sam Lee, the speaker. Sue gave tips on how to admit attendees and how to enable the speaker to share the screen.

 *Webinars for November and January:* Carol and Gail plan to give the Board Basics presentation on Tuesday, November 14; if possible, we will change that to Wednesday the 15th as many library boards meet on Tuesday evenings. Leah Farrell will speak on DEI issues in libraries on a date to be determined in late January. We will look at ideas for a spring webinar, using the survey that was conducted a couple of years ago. Jan will email the survey results to the board members.

 *Newsletter:* Denise plans that the next newsletter will come out in October, after the Intellectual Freedom Webinar on the 12th, and include a recap of Board Basics and the FOIA June 14 presentation as well as the September 12 program. She has asked State Librarian Deborah Schander for a column, and will perhaps write up the ways in which the CT Library Consortium, with its purchasing power, can save money for libraries.

Jan will do a mailing in early November with publicity for the November Board Basics Webinar, and a mailing in December to encourage membership renewals. It was agreed that she will purchase envelopes with the ACLB return address printed on them to save a step in mailing.

**New Business**:

There is interest from a man known to Sue in joining our board. We will invite him to the November meeting and informally interview him. Each of us should email a question or two to Carol by November 1.

Sue noted that our email and mailing address in the CT State Register and Manual are out of date. We will be sure to update them the next time the CT Register asks for our information.

**Adjournment**  It was moved (Jan) and seconded (Wendy) to adjourn the meeting at 3:32 p.m. The motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wendy Berlind

The next meeting will take place on November 9 at 10 a.m. via Zoom.