



Association of Connecticut Library Boards Newsletter

The Association of Connecticut Library Boards (ACLB) is Connecticut's library trustee organization representing public library boards throughout the state.

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Welcome to the ACLB Newsletter

To increase our ability to help library boards improve library services in their communities and add to their knowledge of developments in the field, the Association of Connecticut Library Boards is launching a quarterly newsletter. Each issue will contain articles about our organization and its activities as well as trends in library service that may provide ideas for programs in other libraries. We'll also bring you updates from State Library Director Kendall Wiggin, since so much of what individual libraries do is connected with the State Library's resources and offerings.

We hope you enjoy this publication, and we look forward to receiving your feedback as we begin this new method of communication with our members and librarians across the state.

CT Libraries: The Path Forward
Friday, November 4
2016 Trustee Leadership Conference
University of Hartford Gray Conference Center
200 Bloomfield Avenue, West Hartford
9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

This year's conference will feature a keynote address by Douglas Casey, Executive Director for the Connecticut State Commission for Educational Technology, on "The Path Forward: Digital Learning, Connectivity and the Power of Technology," a take on "The Proper Care and Feeding of Your Library Director" by Cassie Guthrie, director of the Greece Public Library in Rochester, N.Y., and a number of break-out sessions. Cost for the event is \$35 for ACLB members and \$50 for non-members. Registration is open until Oct. 31. A detailed description of the conference and registration forms are available on our web site, <http://aclb.org/>.

A Challenging Year!

By State Librarian Kendall F. Wiggin

I was not at all sad to see Fiscal Year 2016 come to an end on June 30th. It was an extremely challenging and discouraging fiscal year. Over the course of the past 12 months the budget remained in flux. There were rescissions, deficit mitigation plans, budget adjustments and holdbacks. When it was over, the State Library's budget had been reduced by over \$750,000—6% of our original budget. These cuts impacted all State Library services.

We were also addressing proposals to reduce funding for FY17, which just began. In anticipation of those reductions, I continued to make hard decisions. One was to close the Willimantic Library Service Center and consolidate operations in the state-owned Library Service Center building in Middletown, saving nearly \$190,000 in annual leasing and operating costs.

As difficult as the fiscal situation was, there were bright spots. For example, the Bond Commission released \$3.6 million for grants-in-aid to provide over 90 libraries in the state with high speed fiber connections to the Connecticut Education Network.

The Historic Documents Preservation Program reached a milestone. Now entering its sixteenth year, the program has awarded over \$14,500,000 in grants to municipalities. With this funding, towns have completed more than 2,200 projects to improve local government records preservation, access and management.

The Division of Library Development continued to provide a wide range of professional development opportunities to help Connecticut librarians improve and enhance their skills in leadership, innovation, collaboration, and project management.

The State Library is taking a leadership role in the commemoration of World War I. Through our Remembering WWI project

(<http://ctinworldwar1.org/>) and partnering with libraries and historical societies around the state,

the State Library has identified a large number of personally held collections of letters and objects relating to the war.

It was quite a year. And the challenges continue. We begin Fiscal Year 2017 with \$673,452 less than we had in Fiscal Year 2016. There will likely be additional reductions, less staff, and a continuing need to make difficult choices. But despite another year of challenges, we will continue to watch for any and all opportunities.

ACLB Seeks New Members

To all Connecticut Library Directors:

The Association of Connecticut Library Boards (ACLB) is in the midst of the 2016 membership drive. We invite you to join more than 60 Connecticut libraries that allow us to continue supporting and strengthening your boards with the services we provide. Please use the information below to join the ACLB for 2016. Past members may contact us to ensure that your membership is current.

The ACLB represents all library boards throughout the state. We offer consulting on Board Basics, workshops geared to the needs of Trustees and an annual conference that is popular with members and non-members alike. Our services support your library by providing the added education and support that is inherent in thriving Boards and helps the libraries in Connecticut stay strong and connected.

Thank you.

Association of Connecticut Library Boards

Connecticut State Library

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Young Adult Activities Draw Teens to Connecticut's Libraries

Libraries, as we know, are not static entities but rather dynamic centers of activity responding to the changing needs and interests of those they serve. For example, today's young adults (junior high and high school students) have tastes and habits very different from those of previous generations. To address current interests, many libraries have programs geared to this age group. Here is just a sample of active YA programs in our state, many of which are headed by a librarian assigned specifically to this age group.

The **Hagaman Memorial Library** in East Haven has a weekly teen advisory group, a teen-only coffee house, open mic for middle and high school students, and a variety of single-session programs, to name just a few of their activities. The library has participated in the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) program through which teens can evaluate books prior to publication.

Branford's James Blackstone Memorial Library used a state grant to expand its maker programs for tweens and teens by running three Learning Labs, on "Creating 3D Designs with Sketchup" (3D modeling software), "Electronics with Arduino" (an electronic prototyping platform to create interactive electronic objects) and "Sewing & Circuitry" in which participants created light-up armbands.

Among offerings at the **Cyrenius H. Booth Library** in Newtown is an active Young Adult Council that helps plan programs and create displays for the YA department. The library also hopes to launch a young critics group this fall.

The most successful YA summer program at the **Groton Public Library** was a Teen Iron Chef competition for which the library partnered with Big Y and Frogeez. Groton also has a weekly Gaming Club hosted in partnership with GameStop.

It allows participants to try new games and write reviews for the store. A media club called Teen Themes will debut this fall.

The **Stratford Library** has had a very active teen services department for many years with staff, resources and programming focused on middle, high school and post-high school teens and young adults. Activities include an Anime Club in which participants view, talk about and recommend additions to the anime and manga collections. The library also held a Hispanic Heritage Art & Essay Contest and Celebration.

Games are popular among YA patrons at the **Cheshire Public Library**, which provides electronic, card and board games for teens to enjoy. It has an Anime Club as well as a S.T.E.A.M. Punks program featuring activities in science, technology, engineering, arts and math. The library hosts a Yu-Gi-Oh! trading card tournament based on a Japanese manga series about gaming. During the summer Cheshire runs a Teens Read to Tots program in which young adults are paired with preschoolers for stories and crafts.

Each summer the **Thomaston Public Library** holds its annual Murder Mystery Night, this year attended by 33 teens. The event includes a potluck supper along with a murder. During dessert everyone's motives are revealed as to why they want the victim to die. The program has proven so popular that over the years extra roles are created to accommodate all who want to attend.

These are but a few of the programs in libraries throughout the state dedicated to serving young adults as they transition from the children's to the adult department. Once again, Connecticut libraries are proactively seeking new niches to fill with the services they provide.



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Our Mission

- Enable member library boards to improve library services in their communities.
- Broaden trustee knowledge of current developments in the library field.
- Improve communication and cooperation among library boards.

What We Do

- Provide workshops geared to the needs of trustees across the state.
- Maintain strong liaison with library-related organizations on the state and national levels.
- Provide consultant help to library boards and individual trustees

Officers

President: Gail B. Richmond
Vice President: Cyndi Sanders
Secretary: Wendy Berlind
Treasurer: Carole Stroud