

Connecticut Library Association – Executive Board Meeting  
Middletown Library Service Center  
March 3, 2011

- I. Call to Order: Debbie Herman called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.
- II. Board Introductions: Board members introduced themselves.
- III. Approval of Minutes: The minutes were approved with the correction that the name of Will Wilkin's organization be changed to "Artways" not "Artwaves." Peter Ciparelli moved to accept the corrected minutes of February 3, 2011; seconded by Jaime Hammond. Motion passed unanimously.
- IV. Announcements:
  - a. Kat Lyons has retired from the Connecticut Center for the Book and has also resigned from the Board.
  - b. Kirsten Kilborne has resigned as Webmaster. Ben Shum is soliciting for a volunteer to work 2-3 hours per week. In the meantime, please send information for the webpage to Debbie Herman or Kate Sheehan.
  - c. Central Connecticut State University will be showing "Sicko" on March 16 at 7 p.m. The event will feature a panel including Peter Chase and John Dankosky from NPR.
  - d. The Legislative Day Potluck will be held April 12<sup>th</sup> at the State Library. Mary Etter said she will be sending out invitations and looking for people to sign up to bring food. Homemade items are preferred as there is a limit on how much we can legally spend on this event.
- V. Old Business:
  - a. StarChapter Implementation Update: Debbie Herman reported that members should have received an email with login information. Overall issues have been minor and are being resolved. The site is all set for conference registration. Jaime Hammond mentioned members can choose sections they are interested on the page where they set up their profile. Mary Etter suggested a message be sent out to the listservs about the new system.
  - b. CT Libraries Transition: Kate Sheehan announced that *Connecticut Libraries* has been renamed *CLA Today* to distinguish its site, now [www.clatoday.org](http://www.clatoday.org), from the other Connecticut library organizations. She thanked the editorial committee for coming up with the new name. Debbie announced that there will be link to the newsletter on the new CLA site. The job announcement for newsletter editor has been posted and Kate asked Board Members to distribute it widely. She feels the job will

most likely require an average of 15 hours per month. Debbie commended Kate for filling in as editor and thanked her for her hard work.

- c. Treasurer's Report: Alison Wang reported that CLA is getting a debit card to use rather than the credit card to help avoid overspending. She said she is getting many emails regarding conference registration and hopes any glitches with the new system can be fixed before next fall's programs. No other report due to bookkeeper being on vacation.

## VI. New Business

- a. Check payment policy: Debbie reported that the new StarChaper system has prompted a change in how checks must be received for the conference or future programs. The ideal is to have online payments and be paperless but we realize there needs to be flexibility in the system for those who still need or want to pay by check. The new policy will require that payment is received prior to the event. The Budget Committee has approved the change and there will be a revision in the financial plan which will come before the Board at the August or September meeting. Debbie asked the Board to look at the policy and give her any feedback.
- b. Nominations: In Randi Ashton-Pritting's absence, Ben Shum announced the slate of Board nominations to date (see attached.) A discussion followed regarding the process of online voting. Deb thanked Randi and the nominations committee for their efforts in recruiting multiple candidates for open positions this year.
- c. Update on State Library budget talks: Ed O'Hara asked Ken Wiggins for a report on the situation with the Governor Malloy's proposed cuts to Connecticut and Connecticard. Ken said his priority is to restore the funding to both programs by making reductions elsewhere. He mentioned that federal funds are used to support the first stops for Connecticard so this funding would still be there. Ken stressed it is important to communicate with legislators to be sure they understand what these programs are as there is an assumption in Hartford that electronic distribution of information make them less necessary. Ken distributed two handouts that give the highlights of these two programs. Mary Etter mentioned that the potluck is a great opportunity to invite legislators to meet with us. Debbie also mentioned that the Legislative Committee is putting together an advocacy toolkit and that ALA is also sending out a legislative packet.

## VII. Reports

- a. **Publicity Committee:** Linda Avellar announced that Snapshot Day will be held April 13<sup>th</sup> and the website and toolkit have been updated. So far, 25 libraries have said they will participate and the Committee has invited school libraries to participate as well.

- b. **Career Development:** Richard Conroy announced the Committee will be sponsoring a Speed Mentoring program at the annual conference again this year and he is looking for 15-20 people to volunteer to be mentors. An 80's-themed scholarship bash will be held on the Monday evening of the conference and they are in need of prizes if anyone has a good relationship with one of their vendors.
- c. **Conference:** David Boudinot said the deadline for Exhibitors is March 18<sup>th</sup> and there are 32 vendors registered so far. Conference registration is going well.
- d. **NELA:** Mary Etter reported that we have until April 30th to nominate a Connecticut mentor for the New England Library Leadership Symposium. They are looking for someone with either a public library, children's services, or school library background. The nominee should have substantial experience but not be retired or retiring as they need to be available to consult with NELLS participants after the symposium. They must also be available to attend meetings in late April and early summer. Kate Sheehan mentioned she recently read an article that stated some of the best mentors are those that have been in their careers for 5-15 years as they have enough experience to be helpful but also still remember what it was like to be new to the field.
- e. **Connecticut Book Festival:** Mary reported that planning for the festival continues with 36 authors booked so far. There will be a children's activity tent and artistic performances. She anticipates approximately 140 volunteer time slots.
- f. **Customer Service:** Jennifer Keohane reported that the Committee is going to conduct a survey to determine the viability of offering customer service workshops on a regional basis throughout the year. She distributed a flyer announcing the Connecticut Jobs Regional Workshops.
- g. **Grants:** Alison Wang mentioned that the Freedom to Read organization has asked CLA for a \$500 donation. This was not in our budget for this year but the Budget Committee would like to take it under consideration for next year. Alison said we have supported this organization in the past.
- h. **PEG:** Peter Ciparelli reported there is PEG money for NELLS attendees.
- i. **Region 1: At the Cornwall Library:** Yoga Classes ongoing, Pilates Classes ongoing, Italian Classes ongoing, Russian Class in summer, Creative Writing in summer. Barnes and Noble Nooks can be borrowed for 7 days with 10 books loaded—need credit card as collateral. Strategic Planning Process completed. Major focus on enhancing relationship with

the local K-12 school and increased programming for children; secondary focus-striving to have the library serve as the town's community center

The **Hartland** library is closed for construction, approximate date of reopening is this April.

**The Thomaston Library:**

Saturday, March 5—Hot Cat Jazz Band 2:30-3:30 (free)

Saturday, March 12—Annual Book, Bake, and Basket Sale, 10am-2pm

**Silas Bronson Library:**

**AARP TAX-AIDE**

Tax-Aide volunteers will be providing free assistance to all taxpayers with middle to low-incomes, with special attention to those age 60 and older ,  
March 1, 2, 15, 16, and continuing every Tuesday and Wednesday  
9:30am to 12:30pm in the East Wing.

Spanish language computer class beginner and intermediate. Free. No registration required. Date: Wed., Mar. 16, 23, 30, 2011, Time: 6:00-7:30 p.m. Silas Bronson Library, East Wing

Tuesday, March 8 (National Grammar Day)—Where's That Comma? quiz show for 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders in Seven Angels Theatre.

**Beekley Library, New Hartford:**

Guggenheim Grotto—March 12, 7:00--\$20.00

Patty Larkin—April 30, 7:00-\$25.00

- j. **Region 3:** The Thompson Public Library has recently been awarded \$22,000 from the Praxair Foundation to help expand their public computer area. They are also now loaning Kindles and have a Nook and are in the process of ordering an iPad for in-house use. Staff members will each get a chance to take them home for a week.

Quiet Corner Reads will announce their 2011 book in April.

- k. **Region 4:**

The **Darien Library** announced its third annual One Book, One Community event will focus on *Countdown* by Deborah Wiles, a 2010 documentary novel about the Cuban Missile Crisis of October 1962. In March and April the Library will host programs about American culture, foreign relations, and the civil rights movement. The author visits the Library on March 31 for two special events.

The **Easton Library** reported they are hosting its third annual "Murder

203 Connecticut's Mystery Festival on April 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. Best-selling author Carolyn Hart will be the Guest of Honor. The festival includes author panels, book signings, a raffle and auctions, and cocktail party on Saturday night.

The **Greenwich Library** reported the Greenwich Reads Together selection this year is Markus Zusack's *The Book Thief*. The author will visit on March 28. Library programs focus on the novel's setting of Australia, the music and poetry of the Holocaust, and historical events during World War II.

1. **Region 6:** The Cragin Memorial Library in Colchester has received a grant from the Rotary Club to fund a volunteer book mobile. They are also redoing their children's collection like the Darien Library.

VIII. With no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Mary Etter; seconded by David Boudinot. The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Beth Crowley

Attendees: Debbie Herman, Beth Crowley, Libby Mueller, Jessica Miller, Su Epstein, Sheila Lafferty, Benjamin Shum, Ed O'Hara, Richard Conroy, Kendall Wiggin, Peter Ciparelli, Mary Engels, Steve Cauffman, Carl Nawrocki, Jennifer Keohane, Alison Wang, Mary Etter, Laurie Colburn, Gerald Seagrave, Tracy Ralston, Maribeth Breen, David Boudinot, Carolyn Benjamin, Frank Skornia, Jaime Hammond, Kate Sheehan, Suzanne Maryeski, Linda Avellar.

**Board Nominations (as of March 3, 2011)**

Vice President/President Elect:	Peter Ciparelli Carl DeMilia
Treasurer:	Christina Baum
Secretary:	Beth Crowley Tamara Ottum
Region 1:	Sally Tornow
Region 4:	Sheri Szymaski Michele Martin Judy Sparzo
Region 5:	Kathleen Marszycki
NELA Rep:	Dana Tonkonow