

Nassau County Library Association

Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Hybrid Virtual & In-person meeting at the Nassau Library System

June 13, 2025

In Attendance: Catherine Barretta, Mildred Bernstein, Melanie Davidoff, Martha DiVittorio, Roseanne Dorfman, Natasha Drax, Mamie Eng, Jen Heinlein, Cara Howfield, James Hutter, Syntychia Kendrick-Samuel, Christopher Mahadeo, Chris Marra, Frank McKenna, Stacey Mencher, Mary Carol Moore, E. Muller, Catherine Nashak, Jody Ruggiero, Cindy Wolfe, Lois Young, Tamelee Young, Lisa Zuena

Call to Order: by Melainie Davidoff at 9:39am

Review and Approval of the Previous Minutes and Notes

- a. A motion was made by Mary Carol Moore and seconded by Catherine Nashak.

II. Treasurer's Report:

- a. The following is the June Report.

		Treasurer's Report			
		June 2025			
				May 31, 2025	
				Balances	
Checking Account					
TD Bank				\$10,183.75	
Savings					
TD Bank Checking Account				\$51,451.49	
TOTAL				\$61,635.24	
<u>Special Funds</u>					
Intellectual Freedom/Civil Service					
TD Bank Money Market				\$10,610.83	
NCLA Scholarship					
TD Bank Money Market				\$45,761.53	

Continuing Education Grants				
TD Bank Money Market			\$11,656.59	
Year to Date Income-thru (date) 2025			\$28,721.33	
Year to Date Expenditures thru (date), 2025			\$10,837.50	
Respectfully submitted				
Cara Howfield				
NCLA Treasurer				

- b. Motions: made by Catherine Nashak. Seconded: Lois Young. The report was received

III. President's Report: Melainie Davidoff

- a. Professional development series will begin again
- b. If you have a large event coming up, please give a good amount of time to have it posted on Wild Apricot.

IV. Division Report

a. Academic & Special Libraries: James Mantegna

The 11th Annual Herb Biblo Invitational Library Conference was held at Nassau Community College on April 24th and was well-received and well-attended, featuring speakers giving insight into the ethical and privacy concerns for Institutional Research and related dangers of common apps featured on library LibGuides and web pages, that librarians must recognize and regulate to protect patrons and students. Additionally, a library survey on student use of AI was informative and opened a window into student habits and misconceptions about generative AI, all of which point to the need for clear policies on the part of faculty as students are caught in a vacuum as campuses grapple with their own understanding of the impact of generative AI.

ASLD had sponsored a number of conference proposals for the 2025 Long Island Library Conference. ASLD Vice President Summer Buffin's program on Table Top Role-Playing Games was selected. Summer gave a lively, fun presentation and made the compelling case for tapping into the gaming community as a way to reach new patrons and as an engaging vehicle to teach students and young adults information literacy, research skills, creativity, and creating mini-communities in the library space.

Capping off the Academic Year was the ASLD Spring Roundtable, a virtual event, held in May, that reached a wide audience and featured Dr. Selenay Aytac from LIU-Post discussing current challenges in Information Literacy and introducing an article that she and her colleagues are working on, giving a window into the peer-review process.

Our members have recently met with LILRC to sketch out possible themes and a location for next year's Herb Biblo conference and are in the process of securing a speaker for our Fall Roundtable, which will be on High School and Academic Library partnerships.

b. Children's Services: Tamelee Young

The CSD wants to advertise that we are having our Summer Reading Display contest. All departments are welcome to participate. We will be providing an email address to send your submissions to in the near future.

c. Media Services: Natasha Drax

We held our program about Streaming on June 3rd with 16 people in attendance via zoom. It was an enlightening discussion about how each library provides their streaming services and the impact on physical collections/circulations.

Our next board meeting will be on June 24th at 2pm. All are welcome to attend. We will be focusing on a social meeting for this summer, upcoming division elections, and the professional development program in September.

d. Programming & Public Relations: Marion Dodson no report

e. Reference & Adult Services: Martha DiVittorio

A call for nominations to populate the 2026 RASD Board has gone out and there have been some positive responses. We do, however, have two open positions for which there is only 1 candidate: VP/President Elect and Recording Secretary. If anyone is interested, or knows someone who might be, please contact Martha DiVittorio at mdivittorio@bellmorelibrary.org.

In the process of recruiting new Board members, we've noticed that the description of RASD Board Positions is terribly out of date. We have a photocopy of a page that came from a binder and are curious where that information might have come from. Is there a section for each of the Committees in the NCLA Bylaws binder perhaps? What is the process for updating these roles and, perhaps, the bylaws as well?

Martha will ask another question about election protocol. We have a board member who has been "missing in action" since February and who is serving a 2-

year position. Should this person drop off the board, is it possible to offer the last year of their position to one of the candidates in the upcoming election who was running for a different position? Can we appoint people to replace someone who fades away?

f. Support Staff Division: Eric Gaertner no report

g. Young Adult Services: Shannon Dalrymple

We had our annual June brunch on June 5th at *Swing the Teapot* in Floral Park. We had 19 attendees and a visit from YA author Talia Tucker. I'd highly recommend the venue! It was very adorably decorated, affordable and the staff could not have been more welcoming! Plus, the owner is a big Floral Park library user.

We have a full slate for next year's board.

V. Committee & Program Reports

a. Annual Dinner: Dalal Fatoush, Chris Marra, Barbara Mickowski

The Annual Dinner & Installation of Officers will be held Thursday, December 4, 2025 at the Coral House/Colonial Skylight Room from 6pm-10pm.
The cost to attend -- \$80 Members and \$90 Non-Members

A "Save the Date" has been sent out.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact [me] Chris Marra at Oceanside Library.

b. Archives: Natalie Korsavidis

Art Friedman sent all his LDA award speeches for the archives. Thank you, Art! I spent some time in the archives recently. I was able to begin to organize the Long Island Library Conference files by year. I will have to go through the individual years eventually, but I want to put everything where it belongs first. Many files got mixed together. I found board meeting minutes filed within information about the annual Institute NCLA ran (which I assume was a precursor to the Conference).

There are many years missing for the Conference. If there are any files from 2010 onward, please send them to me.

Lastly, in an envelope that contained a photograph of Mamie, Art, and someone else, I found a dollar bill. I would like to know what I should do with it.

c. Civil Service: Mamie Eng

Mamie Eng reported that there is no Nassau residency requirement for both the Librarian I and the Librarian I (Bi-Lingual) exams.

Online canvassing seems to be working well for most exams now.

A new Clerk/Typist I/Typist Clerk list was established on 04/29/2025.

d. Computers & Technology: James Hutter and James Hartmann

Meetings in 2025

A joint NCLA/SCLA Tech Meeting was held on Thursday, June 12th at 2:30pm at the Half Hollow Hills Public Library. We had approximately 20 people in attendance, both in-person and virtually.

Agenda:

3D Design Software Options for Libraries

AI-based Productivity Enhancers for Library Staff

Splash Pages for Lab Computers and WiFi Access

Long Island Library Conference & GAIL Conference Recap

Open Q&A

Half Hollow Hills Tour

As of now, our meetings for 2025 will be joint meetings with SCLA CATS/TIF and on the following dates:

Thursday, September 11 at 2:30pm in person (location TBA)

Thursday, November 13 at 2:30pm on zoom

e. Constitution & Bylaws: Lois Young and Stacey Mencher no report

f. Continuing Education: Peter Cirona and Lee Gundel no report

g. Directory: Art Freidman no report

h. Emerging Librarians: Yolanda Philips and Juliet Sanchez no report

i. Finance: Jan Heinlein

The 2024 NCLA and LI Library Conference (LILC) financial records were completed, and the information was delivered to Al Coster of Baldessari and Coster on June 6th. Mr. Coster will move forward with the 2024 Financial Statement. I will review it once it is completed and present it to NCLA Executive Board at a subsequent meeting.

In the coming months, I will be working on 2025 financials for both NCLA and the LI Library Conference and save working documents to Google sheets. This will allow both NCLA and LILIC treasurers and me to work on the documents in real time.

j. Health Service: Jeanne Strausman no report

k. Institutional Services: Jeanne Lettieri no report

l. Intellectual Freedom: Frank McKenna and Mara Marin

The 18th Annual “Art and Essay Contest” Awards presentation took place on June 5, 2025 at the Levittown Public Library. It was a wonderful evening where finalists and winners in each of four age groups, in both the Art and Essay categories, were acknowledged and presented with Certificates and the winners given \$50 gift cards from Barnes & Noble as well.

The students, parents, and local school librarians in attendance were very appreciative.

The Committee will meet via Zoom on Tuesday, June 24 at 11:00am.

m. LDA Award: Maryanne Linehan and Catherine Baretta no report

n. Legislation: Frank McKenna

Final NYS Fiscal Year 2026 Budget

The NYS Budget was recently finalized, several weeks after the April 1 deadline. Here's what's in store for New York State libraries (information courtesy NYLA):

Library Operating Aid: \$106.325 million (\$2.473 million increase)

This is \$1.725 million higher than was proposed in Governor Hochul’s Executive Budget. Notably, this is the first time since FY 2009 that funding has reached or surpassed what is statutory under New York State Law. In the last two years, Library Operating Aid has increased by a total of \$6.698 million.

Library Construction Aid: \$44 million (Flat)

In January, Governor Hochul’s Executive Budget proposed a \$10 million cut to the program that was restored during budget negotiations with the Assembly and Senate.

NOVELNY: \$3 million (Flat)

This is the second year of dedicated funding for NOVELny after first receiving a standalone budget line in FY 2025. As stated by the New York State.

Library Social Worker Pilot Program: \$150,000 (New!)

New York State Senator. Siela Bynoe was able to get a pilot program to expand social work services in libraries included in the budget. The specific mechanisms for implementation of this program are not final at this time.

Freedom to Read Act: S.1099(May) A. 7777 (Simone). The proposed "Freedom to Read Act" requires the Commissioner of Education and school library systems to develop policies to ensure that school libraries and library staff are empowered to curate and develop collections that provide students with access to the widest array of developmentally appropriate materials available.

Open Shelves Act: S.1100-A (May)/A. 3119 – B (Kelles) Ensures that library staff of free association, public, and hospital libraries, and with certain advice, Indian libraries, are able to develop collections, services, and programming that reflect the values and protections established under the human rights law and the equal rights amendment to the state constitution.

o. Library Staff of Color: Syntychia Kendrick-Samuel, Michelle Samuel, and Egita Johnson-Guillame no report

p. Long Island Library Conference: Stacey Mencher

We are working on “closing the books.” We hope all raffle winners were able to pick up their prizes. We are so glad you all came and enjoyed the conference. We will be having a Zoom meeting next week to begin planning next year's conference. Please email me at smencher@syossetlibrary.org if interested or if you have any questions.

q. Long Island Library Pride Alliance: James Grzybowski and Kaye Spurrell no report

r. Membership, Promotion, and Mailing: Emily Trezza and James Hutter

Totals:

We currently have 890 contacts in our database. Of that, 620 are active, fully paid members. 272 are in an overdue state. 266 are considered lapsed.

Also, please remember that Institutional Members have 5 vouchers they can use to send staff to NCLA programs (except LILC and Annual Dinner) at the member rate! Many libraries have taken advantage of this. Contact me for more details.

s. Mentoring: Chris Marra and Catherine Nashak no report

t. Networking: Michelle Samuel no report

u. Newsletter: Mamie Eng

Mamie Eng reported that newsletters should be going out next week. She is looking for an updated President's Message from Melanie.

v. Nominations: Syntychia Kendrick-Samuel

People have already been stepping up to be put on the ballot. Voting will take place in September.

w. Personnel Issues and Professional Concerns: Tracy Horodyski and Syntychia Kendrick-Samuel

Syntychia would like to thank Rosemarie Birofka for her feedback. They will implement the feedback and plan to have a meeting in the fall.

x. Pop Culture: Meaghan Barbari no report

y. Programming: Michelle Samuel

I have sent an email to SCLA's VP and CLASC's President with a potential date range for this year's Professional Development Series. I suggested we hold the series from September 15-29. CLASC's President said that she will discuss these dates with her board at their meeting earlier this coming week and get back to me. I have not received a response from SCLA's VP. I have emailed twice about this so far. I plan to follow up with both associations on Monday if I haven't received a response by then.

z. Promotions: Michelle Samuel no report

aa. Recruitment & Scholarship: Michelle Samuel

I will be in touch with the Library Schools in our area to promote the scholarship and the Association for students who are not members. If you know anyone in the field who qualifies for either the scholarship or the Education Grant, please encourage them to apply. Applications can be found on the NCLA website.

bb. Retirees: Jan Heinlein and Deborah Podolski no report

cc. Statistics: Mamie Eng no report

dd. Webpage: Catherine Barretta and Cindy Wolfe

Cindy was contacted by Linda Kiperman from the Long Island chapter for [AAUW](#) (American Association of University Women), as part of a survey with other libraries regarding book bans.

The findings and research will be put together into a report from their Public Policy Committee as part of an action plan to present to the governor and NYS legislation. Cindy will be linking the final report on the website so that others will be able to view it. Cindy let Linda Kiperman know that the Intellectual Freedom Committee is also a good place to reach out to for more information.

Also, Cindy has created an Instagram account for NCLA. Of course, someone already had that login so we went with, [nassaucountylibassoc](#).

Please all follow us.

ee. Wild Apricot Implementation Committee: James Hutter

Thank you to all of the Division Presidents and Committee Chairpersons that have reached out for Event training! Please touch base with me if you would like a tutorial on how to create events, manage registration, or manage registration fees in Wild Apricot.

If you are managing an event and someone asks to pay for registration with a voucher, just contact me and I will assist.

VI. Liaison Reports:

a. Long Island Library Resources Council: Tim Spindler and Sally Stieglitz no report

b. Member Library Directors: Frank McKenna

Rockville Centre Library Director Catherine Overton will be retiring in June. Susan Finck (Assistant Director) will become the new director.

c. Nassau Library System: Lisa Zuena

Registration for our 2025 Lit-Fest conference is now open! Join us for a celebration of books for children and young adults, featuring author Veera Hiranandani and author/illustrator Greg Pizzoli. There are four book discussion groups and two workshops to choose from. The conference will be held on Friday, September 12, 2025 at the Nassau Library System building in Uniondale. This means that our seating will be limited, so we encourage everyone to get their registrations and payments in as early as possible. Please contact Renee McGrath with any questions, and if you need the registration link

(renee@nassaulibrary.org).

NLS will be hosting an in-person program with the LGBT Network on Tuesday, July 1 from 9:30 - 11:00am focused on supporting LGBTQ+ staff and community members during turbulent times. This session will discuss ways library administrators and managers can support LGBTQ staff in a variety of situations, how colleagues can be allies, and go over resources and services individuals can reach out when they feel they need additional assistance in these challenging times. Registration for this and all other NLS programs can be found at calendar.nassaulibrary.org.

- d. Nassau BOCES School Library System: Mildred Bernstein** no report
- e. New York Library Association: Art Friedman and Frank McKenna**
NYLA Council and Unit Elections run from June 2 to June 16, 2025.
- f. NYLA Civil Service: Mamie Eng and Syntychia Kendrick-Samuel** no report
- g. Suffolk County Library Association: Anthony Giansante** no report

VII. Old Business

- a. Melanie Davidoff will be sending out information regarding companies, etc. that accept tax exempt forms.

VIII. New Business

- a. Lois Young shared that she heard that Monday is a nationwide NO KINGS protest.

IX. Adjournment

- a. Jody Ruggiero moved to adjourn the meeting. Martha DiVittorio seconded.
Meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mildred Bernstein

