

Nassau County Library Association

Executive Board Meeting Minutes

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

November 14, 2025

In Attendance:

Catherine Barretta, Mildred Bernstein, Rosemarie Birofka, Shannon Dalrymple, Melanie Davidoff, Roseanne Dorfman, Natasha Drax, Mamie Eng, Art Friedman, James Grzybowski, Jan Heinlein, Tracy Horodyski, Cara Howfield, James Hutter, Syntychia Kendrick-Samuel, Maryanne Linehan, Frank McKenna, Stacey Mencher, Mary Carol Moore, Jody Ruggiero, Michelle Samuel, Tamelee Young, Lisa Zuena

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

I. Review and Approval of the Previous Minutes and Notes

- a. For September 2025 minutes, a motion was made by Lisa Zuena and seconded by Catherine Barretta.
- b. For October 2025 minutes, a motion was made by Frank McKenna and seconded by Stacey Mencher.

II. Treasurer's Report:

- a. The following is the November 2025 Report.

		Treasurer's Report	
		November 2025	
		October 31, 2025	
		Balances	
Checking Account			
TD Bank			\$7,983.36
Savings			
TD Bank Checking Account			<u>\$76,267.79</u>
TOTAL			<u>\$84,251.15</u>
<u>Special Funds</u>			

Intellectual Freedom/Civil Service				
TD Bank Money Market			\$10,613.06	
NCLA Scholarship				
TD Bank Money Market			\$45,771.11	
Continuing Education Grants				
TD Bank Money Market			\$11,656.05	
Year to Date Income-thru October 2025			\$34,026.64	
Year to Date Expenditures thru October, 2025			\$35,532.92	
Respectfully submitted				
Cara Howfield				

- b. Motions: made by Frank McKenna, seconded by Catherine Barretta. The report was received

III. President’s Report: Melanie Davidoff

- a. Melanie Davidoff shared that it was great to see so many Long Island Librarians at the New York Library Association conference.
- b. Syntychia Kendrick-Samuel shared that she sent out the ballots for the vote for the board members. Ballots are due next week.

IV. Division Reports

- a. **Academic & Special Libraries: James Mantegna** (no report)

- b. **Children’s Services: Tamelee Young**

The CSD will be hosting its annual installation of officers breakfast on Monday December 1st at 9:30 am at East Meadow Public Library. The cost is \$15 for NCLA members and \$30 for non-members. There will be a fireside chat with our guest Gale Galligan, author of the graphic novels *Freestyle* and *Fresh Start*.

The CSD is still accepting display submissions for our annual Display of the Year. Just a reminder you do not have to be a member of the CSD to submit a display. The winner will be announced at the CSD's installation breakfast in December.

c. Media Services: Natasha Drax

Incoming slate:

President: Mark Shimnoski – Franklin Square Library

VP/President-elect: Phil Harwood – Elmont Library

Treasurer: Emily Van Allen – Oceanside Library

Secretary: Amanda Mulea – Plainview-Old Bethpage Library

Director: Rachel Taub – Farmingdale Library

Our Next meeting: November 24th at 2pm on zoom to focus upcoming programs over the next few months.

d. Programming & Public Relations: Marion Dodson (no report)

e. Reference & Adult Services: Martha DiVittorio

RASD held its Fall program titled "Setting Tech Support Expectations: Empowering Staff to Meet the Community's Needs" via Zoom on Monday, Nov. 10th. Sixty-two people registered and we had 32 attendees at the live Zoom. Our three panelists did a great job discussing best practices and challenges of providing tech support.

The vote for the RASD Executive Board of 2026 is open and will close at the end of Monday, November 24th. If you are a RASD member, please take a minute to vote.

f. Support Staff Division: Eric Gaertner (no report)

g. Young Adult Services: Shannon Dalrymple

The YASD Installation Brunch will be held on Thursday, Dec 11th at 10am at the Oceanside Public Library. It will feature a talk by YA author Krystal Marquis. We are still accepting submissions for our annual Excellence awards. Awards will be given for programming, community service opportunities, and displays. Winners will receive gift cards.

V. Committee & Program Reports

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

If you have a raffle basket for the Annual Dinner being held on Thursday, December 4, 2025 from 6:00pm-10:00pm at the Coral House in Baldwin, please bring them directly to the restaurant.

b. Archives: Natalie Korsavidis

I am going through the archives, a drawer at a time from the end as the beginning is organized. The folders at the end are the ones most in need of moving and organization. I was able to get through another drawer. It is a painstaking task,

with a lot of files needing to be placed elsewhere until they can be put where they belong. Once the files are finally placed in their correct spots, I can go through each of the files and start removing items that don't fit the criteria of the archives.

I am not removing much, mostly outdated financial reports which are put aside to be shredded. There are a few items that when in doubt, I've kept for now until I can properly assess them.

c. Civil Service: Mamie Eng (no report)

**d. Computers & Technology: James Hutter and James Hartmann
Meetings in 2025**

Our last meeting for 2025 was held on Thursday, November 13th, at 2:30pm via Zoom. It was a joint meeting with the SCLA CATS TIF Technology Committee. We had over 30 people in attendance.

Our Agenda for the meeting was:

- NYLA Annual Conference Recap - Recap of interesting sessions for those that could not attend.
- 2026 Makerspace Goals / Strategic Planning.
- Filament Storage and Management - storage racks, airtight bags, bins, dryers, etc.
- Planning for Technology Moves During Building Replacement / Renovation / Construction.
- Q&A

We will be working to build out our meeting calendar for 2026 and should have that posted in the coming weeks.

NYLA

Members of our Technology Committee presented at two events at NYLA's Annual Conference this year. All of the sessions were well attended. Thank you to all that stopped by!

Integrating Makerspace Tech into Your Library's Business Model

Presented by Chris DeCristofaro (Half Hollow Hills), James Hartmann (Wantagh), James Hutter (Port Washington), and Alison Mirabella (Longwood)

Closing the Digital Literacy Divide - Technology Services for Seniors

Presented by Melanie Davidoff (Port Washington) and Meaghan Barbari (Port Washington)

Long Island Library Conference

If you wish to partner with our committee for a presentation during the Long Island Library Conference, please let us know. We were hoping to submit a proposal by the December deadline.

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

f. Directory: Art Freidman

The 2025 edition of the *Directory of Long Island Libraries and Media Centers* has now been distributed to those NCLA members who previously requested a personal copy; to the libraries and other institutions that have standing orders on file; to the vendors who sponsored the *Directory*; and to those who ordered a copy during the pre-publication period. A total of more than 400 copies were distributed. There are a few copies left for sale and some of the vendors at the NYLA Conference might be purchasers.

For the record, copies that are sent via the U.S.P.S. have a postage charge of \$4.96 for single items. (The book weighs 1 lb 12 oz.)

Checks have already been received for orders delivered and these will be transferred to the NCLA Treasurer on a regular basis.

We expect to begin work on the 2026 edition in December.

Note that the back cover has already been “spoken for” and the major question is: What color should we specify for the 2026 edition?

Do members of the NCLA Executive Board have a special way that they use the *Directory*? Do your colleagues have anecdotes to offer as to their use of the publication? Please let the Committee know so that we can use the information.

Thank you to Catherine Barretta, James Mantegna, Cathi Nashak and Jessica Tymecki for their valuable work in sending out tear sheets and compiling information to revise the *Directory*. In addition, Barbara Vollmer continues to help NCLA by doing data entry as a volunteer.

g. Emerging Librarians: Yolanda Philips and Juliet Sanchez

We will be having a virtual meeting on Thursday, December 11 at 7:00PM to answer any questions members may have regarding civil service.

The committee is seeking new librarian trainees or librarians to serve as co-chairs, as Yolanda and Juliet will be stepping down. Assistance in spreading the word to potential candidates is requested.

h. Finance: Jan Heinlein

On a motion by Melanie Davidoff and seconded by Frank McKenna, the proposed 2026 NCLA budget was approved.

i. Health Service: Jeanne Strausman (no report)

j. Intellectual Freedom: Frank McKenna and Mara Marin

The Committee met on Oct. 28, 2025 to:

- Discuss a possible program submission for the LILC in May 2026
- Website updates
- Collaborating with the SCLA IF Committee
- Next meeting - Nov. 25, 2025

k. LDA Award: Maryanne Linehan and Catherine Baretta (no report)

l. Legislation: Frank McKenna

NYLA is working both internally and with external partners to get the Freedom to Read Act (school libraries) signed into law.

NYLA met with Gov. Hochul's new Education Counsel, Mike DiSiena, about the legislation.

NYLA launched an email and phone campaign asking Governor Hochul to sign the Freedom to Read Act.

NYLA organized meeting of interested stakeholders in mid-October to regroup and coordinate efforts that became largely siloed over the summer. These groups include NYSUT, NYCLU, EqualityNY, PEN America, ALA, Penguin Random House, and others.

NYLA is working with said partners to organize a week of coordinated advocacy in early December should the legislation still not make its way to Governor Hochul's desk by that time. The advocacy week will include events in Albany, NYC, and shared messaging.

Open Shelves Act (public libraries) – next legislative session

Submitting a program re Governmental Relations for the LILC in May, 2026

m. Library Staff of Color: Syntychia Kendrick-Samuel, Michelle Samuel, and Egita Johnson-Guillame

We held an in-person roundtable meeting on November 13 at Oceanside Library. Some items of discussion were a potential program idea to submit for the Long Island Library Conference, future program ideas for the committee, and ways to encourage more library staff and library school students to join and become active in NCLA.

n. Long Island Library Conference: Stacey Mencher

The committee last met on October 23rd.

Program proposals are up - you can submit one on the website. Remember the theme for the 2026 conference is: *Empower, Engage and Evolve*. We welcome all submissions. Committees and Divisions can submit programs. If you have any questions, please contact Jeff Baker or Danielle Minard, their contact info is on the LILC website. Any other questions you can contact me.

Motion to keep \$500 as a reserve fund for the Long Island Library Conference pending SCLA approval as the same. Motion made by Jan Heinlein and seconded by Mary Carol Moore

o. Long Island Library Pride Alliance: James Grzybowski and Kaye Spurrell

LILPA presented 'Libraries as Allies: Strengthening LGBTQIA+ Connections' at the Annual NYLA Conference, slides will be posted to the website (scla.net/lilpa)

LILPA is hosting a workshop 'Understanding the Experiences of Trans and Nonbinary People' presented by the LGBT Network on Thursday, November 20th, 2025 at 3 PM via Zoom

The annual virtual Mock Stonewall Award titles will be released soon.

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

Totals:

We currently have 900 contacts in our database. Of that, 640 are active, fully paid members; 262 are in an overdue state; 255 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 James Hutter for more details.

q. Mentoring: Chris Marra and Catherine Nashak (no report)

r. Networking: Michelle Samuel

I remain committed to planning a networking event but unfortunately my work and personal schedule has not allowed me enough time to focus on planning an event.

Hopefully our 2026 VP/President-Elect and I will be able to plan a Meet NCLA networking event in 2026.

s. Newsletter: Mamie Eng (no report)

t. Nominations: Syntychia Kendrick-Samuel

The link to vote for the 2026 open NCLA Executive Board officer positions was emailed to members the evening of November 13th. The last day to vote is November 21st. All membership is encouraged to cast their ballots.

u. Personnel Issues and Professional Concerns: Tracy Horodyski and Syntychia Kendrick-Samuel (no report)

v. Pop Culture: Meaghan Barbari

We are currently in the process of planning a workshop about library pop culture conventions for some time in the new year. We have reached out to a few libraries who have done cons in the past, but would like to invite other libraries to reach out to us if they are interested! Feel free to be in touch with Meaghan Barbari (barbarim@pwpl.org), Jenn Jordan (jjordan@syossetlibrary.org), and Kyle Fichtner (kfichtner@bryantlibrary.org) for more information or to get involved!

w. Programming: Michelle Samuel (no report)

x. Promotions: Michelle Samuel (no report)

y. Recruitment & Scholarship: Michelle Samuel

The committee received a number of fine applicants for both the Andrew Ippolito Scholarship and the Education Grant. After reviewing all applications and supporting documents, Keana Lee (SUNY Albany) was selected as the scholarship winner and Catherine Barretta and Michelle Ang D'Guzman were selected to receive Education Grants. The awards will be presented at our Annual Dinner.

z. Retirees: Jan Heinlein and Deborah Podolski (no report)

aa. Statistics: Mamie Eng (no report)

bb. Webpage: Catherine Barretta and Cindy Wolfe

Anyone who needs forms updated, please let us know.

The education and scholarship numbers are currently being calculated and will be sent to Cara Howfield upon completion.

cc. Wild Apricot Implementation Committee: James Hutter

Thank you to all the Division Presidents that have reached out for setting up Elections! If you need any further assistance, do not hesitate to contact me at hutterj@pwpl.org.

VI. Liaison Reports:

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

b. Member Library Directors: Frank McKenna

East Rockaway PL: Mary Thorpe, Director is retiring in January, 2026
Island Park PL: Jessica Koenig, Director is retiring in early 2026
Directors are discussing the whole B&T/alternatives issue

c. Nassau Library System: Lisa Zuena

NLS is having our first Meetup Day, taking place in-person at the Nassau Library System on Friday, December 19, at 9:30am - 3:30pm! Join NLS staff members for a day of group meetups for a chance to have informal discussions with your colleagues. Attend sessions that align with your role and get the chance to sit in on other groups for a new perspective. Everyone is welcome at all meetups! Register for the day and attend however many sessions you'd like.

d. Nassau BOCES School Library System: Mildred Bernstein

Nassau BOCES, Western Suffolk BOCES and Eastern Suffolk BOCES held their Fall Institute on Tuesday, November 4. It was a huge success with more than 300 school librarians in attendance. We are currently looking for a new venue for next year's Fall Institute so if you have any suggestions for a space that can accommodate 300+ librarians, break-out rooms and 20+ vendors, please let me know.

e. New York Library Association: Art Friedman and Frank McKenna
(from Art Friedman)

NYLA met in Saratoga Springs, NY from November 5th through November 8th. Among the highlights of the Conference (from Art Friedman's perspective) were the Membership meeting where he presented a revised resolution to adopt a Bill of Rights for Library Staff. Unfortunately, NYLA Council has a major problem recognizing that it can establish appropriate policies and recommend that individual libraries adopt them. Note that neither NYLA nor NCLA can impose policies on individual libraries. A copy of the Resolution will be attached to the December email to the membership.

A wonderful keynote address by Micaela Blei, provided an excellent schema on telling stories. This template can be used in information literacy sessions, story hours, board presentations, and other programs.

At the annual Awards Reception, our own Frank McKenna was honored for his service to NYLA. Dr. Lambert Shell, NCLA member at the Wyandanch Public Library was recognized for his work on making the library an important part of the community.

The New Yorker for Better Libraries PAC held its annual fund raiser at The Parting Glass. The feature of this event is a karaoke night. NCLA members Pansy Cheng, Jeff Donlon, and Art Friedman put themselves in the spotlight and sang a number of songs.

Intellectual Freedom was the theme of the Saturday morning breakfast program. The noted author, A.S. King, discussed the effect that trauma has on our actions and teenage literacy.

(from Frank McKenna)

FY 2027 State Budget Requests

- Library Operating Aid: \$181.3 million
- Library Construction Aid: \$175M
- Library Materials Aid: \$11.33/pupil
- NOVELny: \$3.1M

Annual Conference

- I have finished my 2-Year Term as NYL Treasurer. NYLA is now in great shape financially due to the hard work of NYLA leadership, Council and the Balanced Budget Task Force.

f. NYLA Civil Service: Mamie Eng and Syntychia Kendrick-Samuel (no report)

g. Suffolk County Library Association: Anthony Giansante (no report)

VII. Old Business

VIII. New Business

- a. James Grzybowski brought up a recent issue with a volunteer who was an executive board member of two Divisions. He said that this person was the Vice President of one Division and the secretary of another Division. James Grzybowski shared that according to the NCLA constitution, a person cannot be an executive board member of two Divisions and asked if the constitution could be amended to allow an executive board member to be on two boards. Melanie Davidoff asked that we table this discussion for now.

- b. Syntychia Kendrick-Samuel suggested that the NCLA listserv is made available to all people that want to join. She asked how people, outside of those in libraries learn about committees and programs if they are not subscribed to the listserv or see the newsletter. It was mentioned that Suffolk County invites all people interested to join their listserv. Lisa Zuena will ask about the possibility of inviting non-members to be a part of the NCLA listserv. Melanie Davidoff asked that we table this discussion for now.
- c. Art Friedman sent Mildred Bernstein a revised copy of the Library Workers Bill of Rights. Melanie Davidoff asked that Art Friedman share the revised document with NCLA for our next meeting.

IX. Adjournment

- a. Tamelee Young moved to adjourn the meeting. Catherine Barretta seconded.
Meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mildred Bernstein