

Nassau County Library Association

Executive Board Meeting Minutes

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

April 10, 2026

In Attendance: Catherine Barretta, Mildred Bernstein, Rosemarie Birofka, Amy D’Arco, Melanie Davidoff, Jeannine Dillon, Roseanne Dorfman, Cara Howfield, James Hutter, Robert Johnson, Maryanne Linehan, Stacey Mencher, Mary Carol Moore, Elly Muller, Sarah Nashak, Lisa Paulo, Jody Ruggiero, Michelle Samuel, Mark Shimnoski, Kaye Spurrell, Lois Young and Lisa Zuena

Call to Order: Michelle Samuel called meeting at 9:37am

I. Review and Approval of the Previous Minutes and Notes: Motion to approve by Catherine Barretta. Seconded by Roseanne Dorfman.

II. Treasurer’s Report:

a. The following is the March 2026 Report.

		Treasurer’s Report		
			March 31, 2026	
			Balances	
	Checking Account			
	TD Bank		\$1,694.73	
	Savings			
	TD Bank Checking Account		\$86,810.49	
	TOTAL		\$88,505.22	

<u>Special Funds</u>			
Intellectual Freedom/Civil Service			
TD Bank Money Market		\$10,615.26	
NCLA Scholarship			
TD Bank Money Market		\$45,244.51	
Continuing Education Grants			
TD Bank Money Market		\$12,277.69	
Year to Date Income-thru March 31, 2026		\$23,882.69	
Year to Date Expenditures thru March 31, 2026		\$14,515.52	
Respectfully submitted			
Cara Howfield			
NCLA Treasurer			

b. Motion to receive the report was made by Mary Carol Moore. Seconded by Catherine Barretta.

III. President's Report: Michelle Samuel

All divisions and committees who asked were able to get a table for the LILC. If you still need a table please get in touch with Michelle. Volunteers are needed to work the NCLA table. A list will go out on the listserv for members to sign-up.

In reviewing the document, *General Responsibilities of all Officers, Director & Committee Chairperson*, there is a lot that needs to be added and revised. Michelle will make this a working document so presidents, directors and chairpersons can make the appropriate revisions simultaneously. She again is requesting everyone to participate in editing. The goal is to present it to the Board at the May or June meeting.

IV. Division Reports

a. Academic & Special Libraries: James Mantegna (absent) No report.

b. Children's Services: James Grzybowski (absent) Reported by Sarah Nashak
The next CSD Board Meeting will be Monday, April 13 at 9:30am via Zoom.

c. Media Services: Mark Shimnoski

The Media Services Division will meet on April 13, 2026 to plan for the Long Island Library Conference.

d. Programming & Public Relations: Jeannine Dillon No report.

e. Reference & Adult Services: Elly Muller

On April 28 at 11:00am the division will host their spring program, *Carol Fitzgerald: Best Bets and Sleeper Hits of 2026*. Carol will share new title releases and what books are anticipated to make a big splash.

At the monthly board meeting the members discussed the raffle baskets they will create for the Long Island Library Conference.

f. Support Staff Division: Eric Gaertner (absent) Reported by Roseanne Dorfman.
A review of the civil service Library Clerk exam will be on Monday, April 13, 2026 via Zoom. Mamie Eng will be presiding over the meeting. There are 56 people registered. CEUs will not be offered.

g. Young Adult Services: Amy D'Arco

Our joint meeting with Suffolk County's YASD was on Tuesday, March 24, at 11:00 a.m. over Zoom. There were over 45 people in attendance with a majority from NCLA. If anyone would like the recording, please email me directly. It will not be shared widely and must be requested. Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 7, at 10:00am.

We are starting a YASD Book Club, led by our Vice President, Jody Ruggiero. The first meeting will be on May 7, following our e-board meeting. We will be discussing *Our Infinite Fates* by Lauren Steven. If you are interested in joining, email Jody at jruggiero@syossetlibrary.org.

Our June Author Brunch will be held on June 11 at 11:00am at Gino's in New Hyde Park. YA author Tashi Bhuiyan will be speaking about her work. A flyer with more details and registration information will be sent out soon.

V. Committee & Program Reports

a. Annual Dinner: Dalal Fatoush, Chris Marra, Barbara Mickowski (absent) No report.

b. Archives: Natalie Korsavidis (Written report filed.)

Natalie received a request for the start date of a division. The exact start date could not be found but she was able to narrow it down to a year.

c. Civil Service: Mamie Eng No report.

d. Computers & Technology: James Hutter (reporting) and James Hartmann (absent)

We have set up a meeting schedule for 2026. All meetings currently planned are joint meetings with our Suffolk SCLA CATS/TIF counterparts:

- Thursday, April 16 – Zoom (Joint Nassau–Suffolk)
- Thursday, June 11 – Zoom (Joint Nassau–Suffolk)
- Thursday, September 10 – Zoom (Joint Nassau–Suffolk)
- Thursday, November 12 – Zoom (Joint Nassau–Suffolk)

All meetings begin at 2:30pm and will be held via Zoom.

Our conference proposal was accepted: *Setting Tech Support Expectations: Empowering Staff to Meet the Community's Technology Needs*

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

f. Continuing Education: Peter Cirona and Lee Gundel

g. Directory: Art Friedman (written report filed) Absent.

The Directory Committee requested that the tearsheets with changes (or indication that no changes were needed) be returned to us by April 11th. We are hopeful that the majority of institutions will accede to this request.

As of Thursday, April 9th, we are still missing responses from the following:

- 44 Academic Libraries
- 37 Suffolk County Public Libraries
- 24 Nassau County Public Libraries
- 41 Special Libraries in Nassau County
- 39 Special Libraries in Suffolk County
- 62 School Districts in Suffolk County
- 39 School Districts in Nassau County
- 78 Parochial and Private Schools

Any help that our members can provide to convince the leadership of The Merrick Library and the Patchogue-Medford Libraries to update their information would be VERY much appreciated.

We are requesting volunteers to join the Committee to help make telephone calls to all these institutions. Note that our “volunteers” get their name of the title page of the Directory (publication credit, anyone?)

Two institutions have not remitted the payment for the 2025 Directory that was sent to them. We will continue to solicit the payments. There is one additional check to be sent to the Treasurer at this time.

- h. Emerging Librarians: Jen Donato and Ilene Madden** (Absent) Written report filed. Emerging Librarians is hosting a Meet & Mingle at Oceanside Library on Tuesday, April 21st at 7:00pm. All welcome, registration required. Flyers will be sent to local library schools as well as being posted on the NCLA Events Calendar.
- i. Finance: Jan Heinlein** (absent) Written report filed. The 2025 financial information has been provided to Baldessari and Coster for review and to compile NCLA financial statements.
- j. Health Service: Jeanne Strausman** (absent) No report.
- k. Intellectual Freedom: Frank McKenna** (absent) **and Mara Marin** (absent) No report from Frank McKenna. Lois Young reported that the bill, H.R. 7661 was passed by the House committee. This bill “steals the power to choose what kids read away from parents, local communities and well-trained educators, and librarians, and gives it to politicians in Washington, DC.” The Intellectual Freedom Round Table is providing a forum on April 16 to discuss ways to stop this before it goes to the Senate. Lois passed around the articles for members to read.
- l. LDA Award: Maryanne Linehan and Catherine Barretta** We received four nominations this year. Judging for the 2026 award is currently underway.
- m. Legislation: Frank McKenna** (absent) No report.
- n. Library Staff of Color: Syntychia Kendrick-Samuel**, (absent) **Michelle Samuel**, and **Egita Johnson-Guillame** (absent) No report.
- o. Long Island Library Conference: Stacey Mencher** The conference will be on May 14, 2026. The committee is meeting today to finalize the menu.

- p. Long Island Library Pride Alliance: Ash Tasari and Anne McNulty** (written report filed)

This past month, LILPA co-hosted a virtual event with LEOC (Suffolk County's Library Employee's of Color committee) about micro-aggressions. There were 144 in attendance. We've been planning our upcoming program for the LILC. We have been officially registered to march in the Long Island Pride Parade in Huntington on June 14. We are asking for any libraries to please donate LGBTQ+ books of all age-ranges for us to hand out at the parade. A registration link will be emailed for anyone who would like to march with committee.

- q. Membership, Promotion, and Mailing: Emily Trezza** (absent) **and James Hutter** (reported)

We currently have 907 contacts in our database. Of that, 602 are active, fully paid members. 304 are in an overdue state. 295 are considered lapsed. Some membership renewals remain pending as we await check payments.

Reminder: All NCLA Officers and Committee Chairpersons should check their membership status and renew as soon as possible.

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. Listen to zoom for first part of his report about donor

- r. Mentoring: Chris Marra and Catherine Nashak** No report.

- s. Networking: Lisa Paulo**

Lisa is in the process of arranging a networking event for either July or August on a Saturday night or Sunday afternoon. It is still in the early planning stage. More information will follow.

- t. Newsletter: Mamie Eng** (absent) Written report submitted

The Newsletters should be arriving soon.

- u. Nominations: Melanie Davidoff**

A reminder that elections need to be submitted early. The committee will actively start looking for candidates in the summer.

- v. Personnel Issues and Professional Concerns: Tracy Horodyski and Syntychia Kendrick-Samuel** (both absent) No report.

- w. Pop Culture: Meaghan Barbari, Jenn Jordan and Kyle Fichtner** (absent) Written report filed.

The Pop Culture Committee will be meeting with the workshop presenters on April 22 to review their sessions in preparation for the May workshop. There are currently 25 participants registered. The title of the presentation will be, *Create Your Own Library Con: From Concept to Crowd*, and the presentation will be virtual on Wednesday, May 20 at 10:00am.

x. Programming: Lisa Paulo No report.

y. Promotions: Lisa Paulo

Lisa is in the process of getting the new banner and table covering ordered and delivered for the LILC. She will be speaking with Michelle regarding the giveaways for the conference, as well.

z. Recruitment & Scholarship: Michelle Samuel No report.

aa. Retirees: Jan Heinlein and Deborah Podolski (absent) No report.

bb. Statistics: Mamie Eng (absent) No report.

cc. Webpage: Catherine Barretta and Cindy Wolfe

The committee will meet with James McHugh and James Hutter to start the process to move the domain over to Cloudshare.

dd. Wild Apricot Implementation Committee: James Hutter

Please let me know if your Division or Committee needs any assistance in setting up events via Wild Apricot. I have a short training video available and can provide additional help. Wild Apricot event management can be especially helpful for managing paid events.

VI. Liaison Reports:

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

b. Member Library Directors: Frank McKenna (absent)
No report.

c. Nassau Library System: Lisa Zuena

To celebrate National Library Week (April 19-25, 2026) NLS will once again be hosting a “Spirit Week” social media campaign. We have a theme for each weekday of National Library Week:

Monday, April 20 - Which Books Bring You Joy?

Tuesday, April 21 - Which Library Things Bring You Joy?

Wednesday, April 22 - Which Sports Teams Bring You Joy?

Thursday, April 23 - Which Fandoms Bring You Joy?

Friday, April 24 - Free for All Friday

We encourage library staff to dress up each day according to the theme and take photos and/or videos to share on your social media accounts with the hashtag #NassauLibrarySpirit. We look forward to seeing what you post throughout the week.

d. Nassau BOCES School Library System: Mildred Bernstein (attended via Zoom)

We held a very successful liaison meeting on March 13, with almost 90 school librarians. One of the highlights of the meeting was a presentation by Patrick Risolo from Hewlett-Woodmere Public Library where he shared new (and old) Manga book titles for children and teens. Our final liaison meeting for this school year will be held on May 15. We are also working on our summer schedule which includes working with school districts to automate, weed and catalog building libraries and updating and downloading new databases for school libraries.

e. New York Library Association: Art Friedman and Frank McKenna (absent)
No report.

f. Suffolk County Library Association: Robert Johnson

The President of SCLA, Robert Johnson is thankful for the invitation to be part of NCLA and looks forward to collaborating and sharing information and resources.

VII. Old Business

None.

VIII. New Business

None

IX. Adjournment

a. James Hutter made motion to adjourn at 10:06am. Cara seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Birofka