

**Nassau County Library Association**

**Executive Board Meeting Minutes**

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

**December 12, 2025**

**In Attendance:**

Catherine Barretta, Mildred Bernstein, Rosemarie Birofka, Amy D’Arco, Melanie Davidoff, Roseanne Dorfman, Natasha Drax, Mamie Eng, Dalal Fatoush, Arthur Friedman, Cara Howfield, James Hutter, Jeannine (Hicksville), Syntychia Kendrick-Samuel, Christina Marra, Frank McKenna, Stacey Mencher, Mary Carol Moore, Catherine Nashak, Jody Ruggiero, Michelle Samuel, Lois Young, Lisa Zuera,

**Call to Order:** by Melainie Davidoff at 9:40am

**I. Review and Approval of the Previous Minutes and Notes**

a. A motion was made by Frank McKenna and seconded by Jody Ruggiero.

**II. Treasure’s Report:**

a. The following is the December Report.

		<b>Treasurer’s Report</b>		
		<b>December 2025</b>		
			<b>Nov. 30, 2025</b>	
			<b>Balances</b>	
<b>Checking Account</b>				
TD Bank			\$7,992.23	
<b>Savings</b>				
TD Bank Checking Account			<u>\$75,681.30</u>	
<b>TOTAL</b>			<u>\$83,673.53</u>	
<b><u>Special Funds</u></b>				
<b>Intellectual Freedom/Civil Service</b>				
TD Bank Money Market			\$10,613.50	

<b>NCLA Scholarship</b>				
TD Bank Money Market			\$45,772.99	
<b>Continuing Education Grants</b>				
TD Bank Money Market			\$11,659.53	
<b>Year to Date Income-thru (date) 2025</b>			\$38,458.05	
<b>Year to Date Expenditures thru (date), 2025</b>			\$40,182.75	
<b>Respectfully submitted</b>				
<b>Cara Howfield</b>				
<b>NCLA Treasurer</b>				

- b. Motions: made by Mary Carol Moore, seconded by Catherine Barretta. The report was received.

**III. President’s Report: Melainie Davidoff**

- a. Thank you to everyone who has worked on the NCLA board. Congratulations to everyone who was installed.
- b. The first meeting of the Nassau County Library Association for 2026 will be held on January 9, 2026. This will be a hybrid virtual and in-person meeting.

**IV. Division Reports**

**a. Academic & Special Libraries: James Mantegna (report filed electronically)**

The ASLD division presented its Fall Zoom Roundtable event, featuring Mary Kate Boyd and Selenay Aytac titled: “Academic Librarians: Building External Partnerships to Boost Information Literacy and Enrollment.” This Roundtable was very well attended and constituted an opening presentation and slides by the hosts, then an animated discussion with attendees expressing questions and reactions on Zoom and on chat. Certificates were provided for this event.

We are in the process of planning and organizing our annual Herb Biblo Memorial Conference, ordinarily held annually in the Spring. We have decided upon Farmingdale College as a convenient location for attendees hailing from both Nassau and Suffolk and are finalizing an April 2026 date and time. We are currently reaching out to speaker candidates in the areas of social media, Gen Z, and AI for information literacy.

Our division also sponsors programs for the Long Island Library Conference being held on May 14, 2026 in Melville. Currently we have offered 3 proposals and forwarded to the reviewing committee for the conference. These proposals spanned the topics of AI, teen services and programming for anyone serving

Middle School, Secondary, or Community College populations, and a program on outreach and marketing to Diverse communities.

**b. Children's Services: Tamelee Young**

The CSD installation breakfast was held on December 3rd at East Meadow Public Library. Author Gale Galligan had a lively presentation and shared her author story and her creative process.

The new elected positions are as follows:

President	James Grzybowski	Uniondale Public Library
Vice Pres./ President Elect	Sarah Nashak	Oceanside Library
Recording Secretary	Grace Jang	Bethpage Public Library
Corresponding Secretary	Jennifer Zodkowitz	Wantagh Public Library
Director	Eileen Kelly	Bryant Library

My time as the President has ended and I want to thank NCLA for the opportunity. The CSD is in excellent hands under the leadership of James Grzybowski.

**c. Media Services: Natasha Drax**

Congratulations to our incoming board! I know they will do a great job and am looking forward to seeing new ideas come to fruition.

Our next board meeting will be on January 6th. All are welcome to attend as we plan for the new year.

We are happy to co-sponsor a program submission for the LILC with the NCLA Library Staff of Color Committee and Mosaic from SCLA, featuring librarian podcaster Tiffany Alston.

**d. Programming & Public Relations: Marion Dodson (report filed electronically)**

We donated a fun Home Movie Nights/Netflix basket to the NCLA dinner. We submitted two programs for the LILC. One of which we will co-sponsor with the Support Staff Division if accepted. We hope to host a table and have a raffle at the LILC.

**e. Reference & Adult Services: Martha DiVittorio (report filed electronically)**

The Reference and Adult Services Division of NCLA held its elections in November and had to have a tie-breaker runoff for corresponding secretary which was super exciting. It has been an absolute pleasure to serve as the RASD President, and I look forward to working with some of the existing board members and to meeting a crop of new folks. The following is the RASD 2026 Executive Board:

Elly Muller, Baldwin Public Library – President  
Wendy Roque, Bryant Library - Vice President/President Elect  
Martha DiVittorio, Bellmore Memorial Library - Immediate Past President  
Ian Smith, Island Park Public Library - Treasurer, (2nd year of 2-year term)  
Jennifer Mann, Plainview-Old Bethpage Library - Recording Secretary  
Michelle Marcus, Westbury Memorial Public Library - Corresponding Secretary  
Megan Murphy, Plainview-Old Bethpage Library - Director (2 year)  
Molly Chuter, Hicksville Public Library - Director (1 year)  
Amanda DeLisi, Hicksville Public Library - Director (1 year)

**f. Support Staff Division: Eric Gaertner (report filed electronically)**

We donated a lovely Stop & Shop/Pasta Night basket to the NCLA dinner. We submitted a program for the LILC that we will co-sponsor with the PR & Programming Division if accepted.

Looking into giveaways for the LILC where we hope to host a table.

**g. Young Adult Services: Shannon Dalrymple (report filed electronically)**

YASD hosted its annual installation brunch on December 11th at the Oceanside library. We had 24 attendees and were visited by YA author Krystal Marquis. We also awarded our Excellence awards and the BEST award- we were so happy the winning teen could join us! Our new board was installed. Congratulations to our new President, Amy D'Arco and Vice President, Jody Ruggiero.

**V. Committee & Program Reports**

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

As a result of the corporate sponsorships, the Annual Dinner netted about \$500 after expenses. There were 56 attendees.

It was suggested that the attendance was low due to the dinner being close to the holidays. It was also suggested that by having a cash bar instead of an open bar the price of the event might be reduced, which might entice more members to attend.

Chris Marra will be going to the Coral House with some December dates for next year's dinner.

**b. Archives: Natalie Korsavidis (report filed electronically)**

I want to thank the people who have sent me items for the archives. If you have items for the archives, please send them to me at Farmingdale.

**c. Civil Service: Mamie Eng**

The MLD/NCLA Civil Service Committee met via Zoom on Thursday, December 11, 2025. Over 40 people registered for the meeting with approximately 25 attendees, to discuss civil service issues that should be addressed in 2026. Some topics were the

status of librarian trainees until they can get on the list, trainees vs. candidates with no experience, and non-competitive positions for clerk-typists.

**d. Computers & Technology: James Hutter and James Hartmann**

We will be working with our counterparts at SCLA's CATS / TIF Technology Committee to host joint meetings throughout 2026. That meeting calendar will be finalized in the coming weeks.

We have submitted a proposal, co-sponsored by RASD, to the Long Island Library Conference Committee focusing on how best to serve patron's technology needs. We are hopeful that our submission will be accepted.

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

**f. Directory: Art Freidman**

The "Accounts Receivable File" for the Directory contains a number of outstanding invoices. The sum of these invoices is about \$500.

I have ordered #10 white envelopes with the NCLA logo on them from our supplier (Weeks Lerman). When they are received we will be able to send out the tearsheets (these are the current listings in the Directory) to all the libraries included in the publication.

Note that the envelopes are also used to send the information to schools about the Intellectual Freedom contest, and they are also available for membership and other mailings as needed.

**g. Emerging Librarians: Yolanda Philips and Juliet Sanchez (report filed electronically)**

At the meeting, held on Thursday, December 11, the discussion focused on recruiting new volunteers.

If you know of an early career librarian who you feel would be a good fit, you are encouraged to share this committee information with them. Joining is a great opportunity to meet new colleagues.

**h. Finance: Jan Heinlein (report filed electronically)**

The 2026 NCLA Budget was approved at the November 14, 2025, meeting. It will be posted on the NCLA website for your reference.

The end of the 2025 fiscal year is rapidly approaching. I know some of you are holding installations this month. I am reminding you to submit your Requests for Payment and revenue for deposits to Cara Howfield ASAP! If you don't have all of your information, submit what you do have now, and follow up with any remaining deposits and/or payment requests as you receive them. Whatever is not paid or deposited by December 31, 2025, will be attributed to your 2026 budget line.

**i. Health Service: Jeanne Strausman (report filed electronically)**

New members are welcome to join this committee. Please reach out to Jeanne Strausman at [jstrausm@nyit.edu](mailto:jstrausm@nyit.edu) if interested.

**j. Intellectual Freedom: Frank McKenna and Mara Marin**

The committee met on November 25, 2025:

- Submitted two program proposals for LILC in May 2026
- Next meeting – December 23, 2025

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

**l. Legislation: Frank McKenna**

The Freedom to Read Act is now on Governor Kathleen Hochul's desk for her signature. TAKE ACTION alerts have been sent to various listservs.

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

The committee has submitted a program proposal for consideration for the 2026 Long Island Library Conference. We are excited to have the NCLA Media Services Division, SCLA, and SCLA MOSAIC committee co-sponsor this program with us.

**n. Long Island Library Conference: Stacey Mencher**

The committee met on 12/11. The deadline for programs is today, Friday 12/12. The committee looks forward to going through the proposals to put together an awesome conference. Attendee registration opened on 12/1. You can get to it on our website under Registration. Some of the links on the website are still getting updated. Any questions please reach out. We closed our books and the net revenue was great. NCLA and SCLA each received \$10,650 as their share.

**o. Long Island Library Pride Alliance: James Grzybowski and Kaye Spurrell (no report)**

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

**Totals:**

We currently have 909 contacts in our database. Of that, 642 are active, fully paid members. 263 are in an overdue state. 256 are considered lapsed. Some membership renewals remain pending as we await check payments.

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.

- q. **Mentoring: Chris Marra and Catherine Nashak** (no report)
- r. **Networking: Michelle Samuel** (no report)
- s. **Newsletter: Mamie Eng**  
Please send any end-of-year information to me as soon as possible, including photos from divisional installations and breakfasts.
- t. **Nominations: Syntychia Kendrick-Samuel**  
Sending thanks to everyone who volunteered for the open positions and I'm wishing Melanie a successful run as next year's nomination chair.
- u. **Personnel Issues and Professional Concerns: Tracy Horodyski and Syntychia Kendrick-Samuel** (no report)
- v. **Pop Culture: Meaghan Barbari (report filed electronically)**  
The Pop Culture Committee reached out to fellow librarians across the county to invite their collaboration and participation in our upcoming workshop. We are currently working to schedule a meeting with them to discuss their participation in a two-part Zoom workshop that we plan on having in April which will focus on planning and executing a library wide pop culture con event.
- w. **Programming: Michelle Samuel** (no report)
- x. **Promotions: Michelle Samuel** (no report)
- y. **Recruitment & Scholarship: Michelle Samuel**  
I had the pleasure of announcing the Andrew Ippolito Scholarship winner, Kiana Lee, a librarian trainee at Bethpage Public Library and student at SUNY Albany, and 2 Education Grant recipients, Catherine Barretta and Michelle Ang-De Guzman, librarians at the Bryant Library, to the membership at our Annual Installation of Officers and Dinner last week.

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

aa. **Statistics: Mamie Eng** (no report)

bb. **Webpage: Catherine Barretta and Cindy Wolfe**

Cindy and I are starting to make changes in the Division and Committee pages on the webpage. The amounts donated for the scholarship and education fund will be sent to Cara by next week.

cc. **Wild Apricot Implementation Committee: James Hutter**

Membership renewals should be going out automatically at the end of December. Please be on the lookout!

VI. **Liaison Reports:**

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

b. **Member Library Directors: Frank McKenna**

Director's roundtable was held at the North Merrick Library on December 10, 2025. The December 17, 2025 Member Library Directors meeting will be the Ugly Sweater meeting.

c. **Nassau Library System: Lisa Zuena**

NLS recently released the most borrowed books of 2025, combining print, e-book, and digital audiobook checkouts. In a continuing trend, Nassau's digital readers accounted for the majority of checkouts. The digital versions of the #2 title, *The Wedding People*, were borrowed over 10,000 times, while the print version was borrowed a little over 2,800 times. Several titles cracked the top ten thanks to their digital readers, such as *Onyx Storm*, the popular third installment of the *Fourth Wing* romantasy series, which was #63 in print and #8 overall, and *Great Big Beautiful Life*, which was #20 in print and #3 overall. Rounding out 2025's top 10 most circulated titles in Nassau, across print, e-book, and digital audiobook are:

1. *The Women* by Kristin Hannah (14,665)
2. *The Wedding People* by Alison Espach (12,872)
3. *Great Big Beautiful Life* by Emily Henry (11,059)
4. *The Let Them Theory* by Mel Robbins (9,961)
5. *The God of the Woods* by Liz Moore (9,333)
6. *Broken Country* by Clare Leslie Hall (8,391)
7. *Atmosphere* by Taylor Jenkins Reid (7,458)

8. Onyx Storm by Rebecca Yarros (7,267)
9. All the Colors of the Dark by Chris Whitaker (7,237)
10. James by Percival Everett (7,127)

**d. Nassau BOCES School Library System: Mildred Bernstein**

NYS School Library System offered a training session on ALA core values on Wednesday, December 10 with all BOCES in New York State. Nassau BOCES had 50 librarians participate.

We are currently in the process of finalizing our January liaison meeting on January 9.

**e. New York Library Association: Art Friedman and Frank McKenna**

Advocacy Day is Tuesday, February 3, 2026

Pre-advocacy Day bus (originating in Suffolk County) is February 2, 2026

**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. none

**VIII. New Business**

- a. An anonymous person has offered to do a matching donation for membership in the upcoming year. The donation will be \$1.00 for each renewal membership and \$2.00 for each new (first time) member up to \$1000.00 until March 31, 2026. On a motion by Melanie Davidoff and seconded by Catherine Barretta, the motion to accept this generous donation was approved.

**IX. Adjournment**

- a. Roseanne Dorfman moved to adjourn the meeting, Stacey Mencher seconded. Meeting adjourned at 10:39am

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Mildred Bernstein**