

**Nassau County Library Association**

**Executive Board Meeting Minutes**

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

**February 13, 2026**

**In Attendance:** Catherine Barretta, Mildred Bernstein, Rosemarie Birofka, Amy D’Arco, Melanie Davidoff, Jeannine Dillon, Roseanne Dorfman, Art Friedman, James Grzybowski, Lee Gundel, Cara Howfield, Maryanne Linehan, Syntychia Kendrick-Samuel, Frank McKenna, Mary Carol Moore, Elly Muller, Lisa Paulo, Jody Ruggiero, Michelle Samuel, Jeanne Strausman, Lois Young and Lisa Zuena

**Call to Order:** Michelle Samuel at 9:33am A moment of silence was held in memory of long time NCLA members Catherine Cincotta and Anthony Ippolito.

**I. Review and Approval of the Previous Minutes and Notes:** Motion to approve by Frank McKenna. Seconded by Roseanne Dorfman.

**II. Treasurer’s Report:**

**a.** The following is the February 2026 report.

		<b>Treasurer’s Report</b>		
		<b>February 2026</b>		
			<b>February 2026</b>	
			<b>Balances</b>	
<b>Checking Account</b>				
TD Bank			\$ 18,248.26	
<b>Savings</b>				
TD Bank Checking Account			\$ 84,501.94	
<b>TOTAL</b>			\$ 102,750.20	
<b><u>Special Funds</u></b>				

<b>Intellectual Freedom/Civil Service</b>				
TD Bank Money Market			\$ 10,614.40	
<b>NCLA Scholarship</b>				
TD Bank Money Market			\$ 45,240.85	
<b>Continuing Education Grants</b>				
TD Bank Money Market			\$ 12,276.70	
<b>Year to Date Income-thru (January) 2026</b>			\$ 14,188.00	
<b>Year to Date Expenditures thru (January) 2026</b>			\$ 549.90	
<b>Respectfully submitted</b>				
<b>Cara Howfield</b>				
<b>NCLA Treasurer</b>				

b. Motions to receive by Catherine Barretta. Seconded by Mary Carol Moore.

### III. President's Report: Michelle Samuel

Advocacy Day was a great day. We had 29 people registered to ride the bus up to Albany. A big thank you to Dalal for assisting me with preparations for the ride to and from Albany. Dalal's generously donated snack bags and they were a welcome treat throughout the day. Thank you to Melanie D. and Lisa Z. for sharing the forms and flyers that I needed so that I did not have to recreate the wheel.

### IV. Division Reports

a. **Academic & Special Libraries: James Mantegna** – No report.

#### b. **Children's Services: James Grzybowski**

CSD is happy to announce three programs for this year's Long Island Library Conference: *Raising Animals (And More!) at Your Library*; YASD co-sponsored program, *A Conversation with Tiffany D. Jackson*; and *Amazing Animators: Bringing the Art of Animation to your Library*. Please check this year's conference website for room locations, descriptions and time. Become a CSD member before March 31st to be entered into our Amazon gift card raffle!

**c. Media Services: Mark Shimnoski**

We plan to offer a Roundtable Discussion to NCLA members with a tentative date of March 10. This event will offer a chance to discuss important trends and significant areas of concern for those handling media in their library. On February 17, the division will be meeting on Zoom to prepare for this event.

**d. Programming & PR: Jeannine Dillon**

President: Jeannine Dillon,

VP/President-elect: Christiann Naeder

Secretary: Jessica Moloughney

Treasurer: Diana Brewster

Director: Roseanne Dorfman

Director: Deborah Honen

Marion Dodson, past president

-Division meeting dates have been established for 2026. These will be added to the NCLA calendar. We discussed potential dates and themes for two programming roundtables and a possible program for NCLA members in June. The presentation that the PR/Programming Division submitted to the Long Island Library Conference was accepted.

**e. Reference & Adult Services: Elly Muller**

We met on January 23 to put together the membership mailing which was completed. The spring program planned to bring back Carol Fitzgerald for a *Best Bet's and Sleeper Hits* event. The Division board met on February 12th and continued discussions about LILC (who will attend, raffle prizes, etc.)

**f. Support Staff Division: Eric Gaertner – No report.**

**g. Young Adult Services: Amy D'Arco**

Our monthly board meeting was held on Thursday, February 5. We will be hosting our annual joint meeting with Suffolk County's YASD on March 24 at 11:00am on Zoom. Kelly Jensen will be speaking on censorship and book bans, and what librarians can do to ensure teens have access to a diverse collection. It will be free for NCLA/SCLA members and \$15 for non-members. Both panel submissions for Long Island Library Conference were accepted. We will be co-sponsoring a panel with CSD where we will be interviewing *New York Times* bestselling author Tiffany D. Jackson. The second panel will be a presentation from the Brooklyn Public Library titled "*How and Why Public Libraries Should Establish a Menstrual Advocacy Program*". Our next meeting will be March 5, at 10:00am over Zoom and everyone is welcome to attend.

**V. Committee & Program Reports**

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

The 2026 Annual Dinner/Installation of Office is scheduled for Thursday, November 19, 2026 at the Coral House in the Colonial Skylight Room. The ticket price will be \$80.00 for NCLA Members and \$90.00 for Non-members. All nominations/slates will need to be completed early this year prior to the Installation Dinner.

**b. Archives: Natalie Korsavidis - No report**

**c. Civil Service: Mamie Eng**

Several recent MLS graduates were not able to get their Public Librarian's Certificate in time to file for the Librarian I exam. The Parchment website was down for some time at the end of January 2026. There needs to be more time between graduation and the filing of the exam, so that will be a priority when we speak with Civil Service this spring. A new Senior Library Clerk test has been announced.

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

We hosted our first 2026 Joint NCLA / SCLA CATS TIF Technology Committee Meeting on Thursday, February 12 at 2:30pm via Zoom. We had 27 people in attendance. During the meeting, we covered the following agenda:

- Direct To Film (DTF) Printing - Who does it, how much do you charge, how do you deal with the powder and staff safety?
- Repair Cafes - How do you manage them?
- Starting a Makerspace - How do you even begin?
- Tablets at Service Desks - What does this look like in 2026?
- Technology Refresh - Are you updating computers for staff and/or the public? What does that look like in 2026, as well?
- Deep Freeze Woes - We aren't talking about the weather! How has your Deep Freeze public computer software been working lately?
- Open Q&A Session

The 2026 meeting schedule are joint meetings with Suffolk SCLA CATS/TIF

- 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 2:30 PM and will be held via Zoom

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

Do you often receive technology questions from library patrons and struggle with how best to assist? What do you do when you hit the limit of your tech skills? What if a patron asks for help beyond what is normally provided? Join us as a panel of your

colleagues will discuss the challenges both staff and patrons face, and best practices for providing technology support to the public. This enlightening panel will include the perspectives of a Social Worker, a Technology Librarian, and a Head of Adult Reference.

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

**f. Directory: Art Freidman**

The Committee is pleased to report that work on the 2026 edition of the *Directory of Long Island Libraries and Media Centers* have now commenced. Tear sheets should be arriving in the public libraries of Nassau and Suffolk counties by the end of this week. Tear sheets to the other 800+ organizations listed in the 2025 edition should be distributed next week. A follow-up mailing to those organizations that received the 2025 edition and have not yet paid their bill was sent at the end of January. Remittances are now arriving based on that letter.

**g. Emerging Librarians: Jen Donato & Ilene Madden**

Jen Donato and Ilene Madden, Children’s Librarians from Oceanside Library are the new co-chairs on the Emerging Librarians Committee. Having just taken over the role, we are in the planning phases and hope to have our first meeting by the end of February. Although we are not new to the profession, we can share our experience as well as tips as lifelong learners in the field. We look forward to providing networking opportunities throughout the year, as well as professional development and a Civil Service 101 overview.

**h. Finance: Jan Heinlein**

The 2026 NCLA Budget was posted on the NCLA website for your reference. Thank you, Catherine. Progress is being made on the 2025 financial information. I anticipate being able to contact Baldessari and Coster by the end of the month to see when they will be available review our financial documents and prepare the 2025 Financial Statement.

**i. Health Service: Jeanne Strausman** – No report.

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

☐ One of two programs submitted to the May 2026 LILC was approved – ‘*Anti-American and Just Plain Filthy*’: *The Island Trees School District Book Banning Case - 50+ Years Ago*.

We will be updating links on the NCLA Website.

**k. LDA Award: Maryanne Linehan and Catherine Baretta**

Emails have been sent to the listserv two times a week. No nominations have been received yet. The deadline to nominate someone is March 27. This year the committee will be making two awards, one to Andrew Ippolito posthumously and the second to a nominated person.

**l. Legislation: Frank McKenna**

Advocacy Day was held on February 3 in Albany to meet with legislators to make the case for NYLA's Legislative priorities:

FY 2027 State Budget Requests

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

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

The program that we submitted along with NCLA's Media Services Division, and SCLA's Library Staff of Color Committee, MOSAIC Committee, and RASD Division has been accepted by the LILC. The program titled, *Challenge Accepted: How Library Staff Thrive in Times of Change* will take place during the afternoon session beginning at 2:45pm.

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

The committee has met and decided upon the program's placement. We had about 40 program submissions. Jeff Baker will be reaching out to all arrangers about whether they were accepted or rejected. We are working on updating the website with the program information. We have been posting on social media on Instagram and Facebook with updates as well. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to me at [smencher@syossetlibrary.org](mailto:smencher@syossetlibrary.org).

**o. Long Island Library Pride Alliance: Ash Tasari and Anne McNulty**

The Long Island Library Pride Alliance held its Mock Stonewall workshop on January 29. The winners were, *Are You a Friend of Dorthey's?* by Kyle Lukoff, *Family Week* by Sarah Moon, *Run Away with Me* by Brian Selznick, and *The In-Between Bookstore* by Edward Underhill.

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

We currently have 931 contacts in our database. Of that, 481 are active, fully paid members, 449 are in an overdue state, 437 are considered lapsed. Some membership renewals remain pending as we await check payments.

Physical membership forms have been sent with the LDA brochures to be bulk mailed. We are still receiving many renewal checks which are being processed.

Envelopes with the NCLA logo have now been received and are available for any Division, Committee, or NCLA officer who needs them. In addition, we have self-stick, printable labels on hand to create mailing labels as needed. Contact Art Friedman for these supplies.

**q. Mentoring: Chris Marra and Catherine Nashak** – No report.

**r. Networking: Lisa Paulo** – No report.

**s. Newsletter: Mamie Eng**

The newsletter should be going out next week. Mamie is waiting for an updated President's Message from Michelle S. and any photos from Library Advocacy Day.

**t. Nominations: Melanie Davidoff** – No report.

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

The committee is in the process of planning a virtual workshop for April. We've asked a group of Library Managers/Directors to answer the questions/concerns submitted to our 2025 survey.

**v. Pop Culture: Meaghan Barbari, Jenn Jordan, and Kyle Fichtner**

The committee met with Rachel Sferlazza of Merrick Library, Kelly Gordon of East Meadow, and Marissa Liberman of Cranford Library in New Jersey to plan the Professional Development workshop for librarians interested in hosting pop culture conventions at their libraries. Our colleagues are excited to share their experiences and passion for all things pop culture. We are planning to host the workshop in May.

**w. Programming: Lisa Paulo** – No report.

**x. Promotions: Lisa Paulo** - No report.

**y. Recruitment & Scholarship: Michelle Samuel**

Whereas NCLA's Andrew V. Ippolito Scholarship was created to honor the work that this past-President of the Association did to promote librarianship, and  
Whereas Mr. Ippolito passed away on Monday, February 9, 2026,  
Therefore, be it hereby resolved that this NCLA scholarship shall be renamed the Andrew Ippolito Memorial Scholarship, and

The Association asks its members, organizations and other individuals associated with NCLA to contribute to this dedicated scholarship fund in memory of our colleague and friend.

Moved by Art Friedman. Seconded by Frank McKenna.

**z. Retirees: Jan Heinlein and Deborah Podolski - No report**

**aa. Statistics: Mamie Eng – No report.**

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

The committee replaced the nameservers for our domain from Amazon to Cloudflare which was requested by James McHugh.

Cindy and I discussed with James Hutter the idea of changing our domain name registrar. We have decided that we will switch to the company that NLS uses, Cloudflare. It is less expensive.

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

If your division or committee needs any assistance in setting up events via Wild Apricot there is a short training video available. 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**

No report.

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

The following people have recently retired: Jessica Koenig (Island Park); Carolyn Matulewicz (Peninsula); Mary Thorpe (East Rockaway); and MaryAnn Tweedy (Massapequa).

Local meetings with legislators will be scheduled in March to continue advocating for the NYLA legislative priorities.

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

Thank you to everyone who was able to join us in Albany on February 3 for Library Advocacy Day. Thank you to everyone who reached out to their representatives by calling, writing, and tagging them on social media! Thank you as well to NCLA President Michelle Samuel for coordinating the bus to Albany.

Now and in the coming weeks, libraries are invited to share savings receipt graphics for their NYS Assembly and NYS Senate districts on their social media pages, as well as in newsletters and other channels. These graphics outline how many libraries

in each district saved residents thanks to just five core library services. Reach out to Lisa if you need the link to the graphics ([lzuena@nassaulibrary.org](mailto:lzuena@nassaulibrary.org))

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

We will hold our 3rd Liaison meeting of the school year on March 12 for more than 90 school librarians. The morning breakout will include best practices for the elementary and middle school librarians, and the high school librarians will welcome college librarians for a Collegial Circle. After lunch, topics will include Manga and Graphic New Reads with giveaways starting at 2:45pm.

If you are knowledgeable in Manga and are available to share your expertise with our school librarians from 1:45pm-2:45pm, please email [library@nasboces.org](mailto:library@nasboces.org) or Mildred at [mbernstein@nasboces.org](mailto:mbernstein@nasboces.org)

**e. New York Library Association: Frank McKenna**

Program proposals for the 2026 NYLA Annual Conference in Saratoga Springs are being accepted until March 20, 2026.

**f. NYLA Civil Service: Mamie Eng and Syntychia Kendrick-Samuel**

No report.

**g. Suffolk County Library Association:**

Michelle S. has reached out to the president to determine if they are still interested in sharing their report with NCLA. If they no longer want to participate, they will be removed from the NCLA Meeting Agenda.

**VII. Old Business**

Lee Gundel addressed how he was unaware that the Continuing Education committee was no longer part of the NCLA Agenda. Michelle explained that the committee was consolidated into the Programming committee. Lee would still like to arrange and publicize a program with Shawn Nenos of the IT Department at the Nassau Library System. The topic is, *How to Identify Deep Fakes*. He feels the topic is timely, educational and informative for all library staff. It has been discussed with Shawn, and if this is acceptable to NCLA, they would like to move forward with the plans.

**VIII. New Business**

Roseanne D. asked NCLA to consider a general raffle ticket to be used for the Long Island Library Conference. The purchase of the general raffle tickets could then be used at all Division tables. SCLA does something similar where the tickets are purchased using a QR code. Michelle will reach out to SCLA for further information.

**IX. Adjournment**

- a. Michelle asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Art F. seconded. Meeting adjourned at 10:18am.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Rosemarie Birofka**