

**Nassau County Library Association**

**Executive Board Meeting Minutes**

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

**January 9, 2026**

**In Attendance:** Catherine Barretta, Rosemarie Birofka, Amy D’Arco, Melanie Davidoff, Jeannine Dillon, Mamie Eng, Art Friedman, James Grzybowski, Jan Heinlein, Cara Howfield, James Hutter, Christina Marra, Frank McKenna, Mary Carol Moore, Elly Muller, Catherine Nashak, Alexander Nero, Lisa Paulo, Jody Ruggiero, Michelle Samuel, Mark Shimnoski, Tim Spindler, Emily Trezza, Lois Young and Lisa Zuena

**Call to Order:** Michelle Samuel at 9:35am

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

**I. Treasurer’s Report:**

**a.** The following is the December Report.

	<b>Treasurer’s Report</b>		
	<b>December 2025</b>	<b>December, 2025</b>	
		<b>Balances</b>	
<b>Checking Account</b>			
TD Bank		\$10,340.65	
<b>Savings</b>			
TD Bank Checking Account		\$81,490.08	
<b>TOTAL</b>		\$91,830.73	
<b><u>Special Funds</u></b>			

<b>Intellectual Freedom/Civil Service</b>			
TD Bank Money Market		\$10,613.95	
<b>NCLA Scholarship</b>			
TD Bank Money Market		\$45,238.93	
<b>Continuing Education Grants</b>			
TD Bank Money Market		\$12,276.18	
<b>Year to Date Income-thru December 31, 2025</b>		\$52,491.95	
<b>Year to Date Expenditures thru December 31, 2025</b>		\$51,217.60	
<b>Respectfully submitted</b>			
<b>Cara Howfield</b>			
<b>NCLA Treasurer</b>			

b. Motion to receive by Catherine Barretta. Seconded by...

## II. President's Report: Michelle Samuel

a. Thank you to last year's Executive Board and all the Division and Committee members who helped to make last year amazing. Thank you to everyone who answered the call to be part of this year's Executive Board and Division Executive Boards. Please remember to renew your membership for 2026. You must be a member to serve on the Executive Board and/or on committees.

b. Advocacy Day is February 3. The bus is booked and the flyer will be sent out on the listserv. I will be contacting Dalal to order sandwiches for the return trip.

c. There will be a brief orientation after the meeting for new Executive Board members.

d. Michelle made a motion to appoint all committee chairs for 2026 as listed on the Agenda with corrections. Mary Carol seconded the motion.

e. NCLA Board meeting dates: February 13, March 13, April 10, May 1, June 12, September 11, October 9, November 13 and December 11.

### **III. Division Reports**

#### **a. Academic & Special Libraries: James Mantegna**

No report.

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

As Vice President/ President Elect James is now President for CSD. Sarah Nashak is the newly elected Vice President/ President-elect for the committee Division.

#### **c. Media Services: Mark Shimnoski**

No report.

#### **d. Programming & Public Relations: Jeannine Dillon**

No report.

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

The following is the slate of board members for 2026:

Elly Muller, Baldwin Public Library – President

Wendy Roque, Bryant Library - Vice President/President Elect

Martha DiVittorio, Bellmore Memorial Library - Immediate Past President

Ian Smith, Bethpage 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)

The first RASD Board meeting will be held on January 15 where we will begin to plan for our spring program. We have submitted three proposals to the Long Island Library Conference, which we hope will be accepted. We will also meet in person on January 23 to complete a membership gift mailing. RASD looks forward to a productive year.

#### **f. Support Staff Division: Eric Gaertner**

No report.

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

We had our first meeting of 2026 on Thursday, and we now have a full board. Kyle Fichtner is our new Constitution chair, and Caitlin Waldron is our new Technology chair. We are planning a joint meeting with Suffolk County's YASD which is usually held in February. We reached out to Kelly Jensen from Book Riot to see if she was available to speak on YA literature and censorship. We are running our usual membership renewal raffle. Anyone who joins or renews their membership before the end of March will be entered to win a Trader Joe's gift card.

## **V. Committee & Program Reports**

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

Chris Marra reported that after considering the recommendations from the NCLA Board and Membership, the 2026 Annual Dinner/Installation of Officers is scheduled for Thursday, November 19, 2026, from 6pm-10pm at the Coral House in the Colonial Skylight Room. DJ services have also been secured. The cost will be the same as last year - \$80 for NCLA Members and \$90 for non-members. It will include the following: Buffet/Open Bar/Dessert/Raffles/Lotto Tree.

Chris also noted that Dalal and Barbara will be continuing as co-chairs.

As discussed at the last Executive Board Meeting, nominations/slates for all Divisions will need to be completed early given the date of the dinner.

### **b. Archives: Natalie Korsavidis**

Natalie provided a report on the work that she has been doing to put the Archives in some semblance of order.

### **c. Civil Service: Mamie Eng**

The new Librarian I list has been posted. There are approximately 35 non-Nassau residents on the list (27% of the list), mostly from Suffolk County. The deadline to file for the next Librarian I list is January 31st.

Mamie Eng will be holding a Librarian I Exam Information Session on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at 7pm, via Zoom.

MLD is finalizing who will be their representatives to the committee; NCLA should do the same.

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

James Hutter noted the following schedule of meeting dates during 2026:

- a.** Thursday, February 12 – Zoom (Joint Nassau–Suffolk)
- b.** Thursday, April 16 – Zoom (Joint Nassau–Suffolk)

- c. Thursday, June 11 – Zoom (Joint Nassau–Suffolk)
  - d. Thursday, September 10 – Zoom (Joint Nassau–Suffolk)
  - e. Thursday, November 12 – Zoom (Joint Nassau–Suffolk)
  - f. All meetings begin at 2:30 PM and will be held via Zoom
  - g. The Committee has submitted a proposal, co-sponsored by RASD, to the Long Island Library Conference Committee focusing on how best to serve patron technology needs. We are hopeful that our submission will be accepted.
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- e. **Constitution & Bylaws: Lois Young and Stacey Mencher**  
No report.
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- f. **Continuing Education: Peter Cirona and Lee Gundel**  
No report.
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- g. **Directory: Art Friedman**  
We are waiting for the new order of envelopes to send out the tear sheets. There are changes in the printing procedure with NCC and State University, which is adding additional costs to the Directory, however the tear sheets will go out soon.
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- h. **Emerging Librarians: Jen Donato and Ilene Madden**  
No report.
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- i. **Finance: Jan Heinlein**  
The 2026 NCLA Budget will be posted on the NCLA website for your reference shortly. I am in the process of completing the 2025 bank reconciliations and making sure the financial information in the supporting documents are correct. Once everything is in order, I will contact Baldessari and Coster to review our financial documents and prepare the 2025 Financial Statement. I want to remind the treasurers of the committees and divisions to submit their information regarding registration income and expenses to Cara Howfield in a timely manner. If anyone needs help or has questions regarding this or any record keeping during the year, please feel free to contact me. [janmhein@gmail.com](mailto:janmhein@gmail.com)  
I look forward to working with all of you during 2026.
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- j. **Health Service: Jeanne Strausman**  
There is no report from the Health Services Committee but once again I welcome anyone that would like to join the committee or have any ideas of a program to offer to the membership.

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

The committee met on December 23, 2025, to discuss two programs that were submitted for the May LILC. The programs are AI-generated materials in collection development and Governor Hochul's veto of the Freedom to Read Act.

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

We are in the process of updating the brochure and making sure Liz Hughes is continuing as the Suffolk LDA chair. We have spoken to Emily Trezza to have bulk mailings out together and get them out by the end of January. Our goal is to get the brochure to the printer by January 20th.

**m. Legislation: Frank McKenna**

Governor Hochul vetoed the Freedom to Read Act on December 19, 2025.

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

No report.

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

The committee is meeting on January 29<sup>th</sup> to go over program proposals and create the program schedule. Thank you to all committees and divisions that submitted programs. Attendee registration is open. If you have any questions please contact me at [smencher@syossetlibrary.org](mailto:smencher@syossetlibrary.org) and I will refer you to the correct person.

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

We have two new co-chairs starting their terms, replacing outgoing senior co-chairs, James Grzybowski of Nassau County and Alex Giresi of Suffolk County. Our new co-chairs are Ash Tasari, representing Nassau County ([atarasi@uniondalelibrary.org](mailto:atarasi@uniondalelibrary.org)) and Anne McNulty of Suffolk County. ([amcnulty@portjefflibrary.org](mailto:amcnulty@portjefflibrary.org)).

On Thursday, January 29th at 10 AM, there will be the annual Mock Stonewall Award workshop. The list of titles is out now and registration is open.

As always, you can visit our resources on our website: [scla.net/lilpa](http://scla.net/lilpa)

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

There are 933 members in the Database (people that are current members or have been members in the past), 471 active members (these people are fully paid for 2026).

Some membership renewals remain pending as we await check payments. As many of our members are currently in a grace period due to the January 1<sup>st</sup> expiration date of membership, next month will likely be a better reflection of our active membership numbers.

***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.

**r. Mentoring: Chris Marra and Catherine Nashak**

We will be meeting to plan a program.

**s. Networking: Lisa Paulo**

No report.

**t. Newsletter: Mamie Eng**

Mamie Eng reported that the 2025 Year-In-Review newsletter will be going out next week. Any news should be sent to her as soon as possible.

**u. Nominations: Melanie Davidoff**

No report.

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

No report.

**w. Pop Culture: Meaghan Barbari**

The committee reached out to librarians across the county to invite them to participate in a panel discussion focused on pop culture conventions and related programming in libraries. A meeting has been scheduled for interested librarians on Wed., Feb. 4, 2026, from 2:30 – 3:10pm. This meeting will serve as a developmental meeting toward our goals: a two-part professional development opportunity which will be dedicated to a panel discussion for our colleagues across the county.

**x. Programming: Lisa Paulo**

No report.

**y. Promotions: Lisa Paulo**

No report.

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

No report.

**aa. Retirees: Jan Heinlein and Deborah Podolski**

No report.

**bb. Statistics: Mamie Eng**

No report.

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

Catherine reported that she and Cindy have been updating the webpage with all the new contact information and updated forms and budget. If anyone needs anything else added, please let us know.

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

Two sets of automatic membership renewal notices have gone out, and there will be another round soon (grace period reminder). At the end of January, a lapsed notice will be sent to members with unpaid membership.

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**

March 16 will be the Annual Archives Conference.

All appointments for Library Advocacy Day have been made, and the lists should be out by next week.

The LILRC Annual meeting will be on June 8. A guest speaker will be doing a workshop on public speaking.

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

Tracy Horodyski (Westbury) is the new MLD Chair.

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

Save the date for Library Advocacy Day: Tuesday, February 3, 2026. In preparation for Library Advocacy Day, NLS will be holding a virtual prep session on Wednesday, January 28 from 2:00 - 3:30 pm. NLS Director Caroline Ashby

and Assistant Director Nicole Scherer will cover statewide and local talking points for advocating for an increase in library funding in the next State budget.

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

Today, we are having our second Liaison meeting of the school year. This morning's topics include hand-on demonstrations of databases; Makerspace items; and VR Goggles. The afternoon will focus on skills and attributes students should possess upon High School graduation. We have almost 85 school district librarians signed up to attend.

In February, we will have our third High School/College Collegial Circle for our Nassau County School Librarians and local College Librarians. They will discuss the transition from High School to College.

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

No report.

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

No report.

**g. Suffolk County Library Association: Anthony Giansante**

**VII. Old Business**

a. Art Friedman submitted the document, *General Responsibilities of all Officers, Directors & Committee Chairpersons* to Rosemarie. This document is outdated and should be reviewed and revised. He suggests that each committee chair should read and modify the section on their committee.

**VIII. New Business**

**IX. Adjournment**

a. Michelle asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. James Grzybowski seconded. Meeting adjourned at 10:12am.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Rosemarie Birofka**

