

**Nassau County Library Association**

**Executive Board Meeting Minutes**

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

**March 13, 2026**

**In Attendance:** Catherine Barretta, Rosemarie Birofka, Amy D’Arco, Roseanne Dorfman, Melanie Davidoff, Jeannine Dillon, Jen Donato, Mamie Eng, Art Friedman, James Grzybowski, Jan Heinlein, James Hutter, Frank McKenna, Mary Carol Moore, Elly Muller, Lisa Paulo, Jody Ruggiero, Michelle Samuel, Mark Shimnoski, Lois Young and Lisa Zuena

**Call to Order:** Michelle Samuel at 9:38am

**I. Review and Approval of the Previous Minutes and Notes:** Motion to approve by Art Friedman. 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 28, 2026</b>	
			<b>Balances</b>
<b>Checking Account</b>			
TD Bank			\$12,984.73
<b>Savings</b>			
TD Bank Checking Account			\$86,146.30
<b>TOTAL</b>			\$99,131.03

<b>Special Funds</b>				
<b>Intellectual Freedom/Civil Service</b>				
TD Bank Money Market			\$10,614.81	
<b>NCLA Scholarship</b>				
TD Bank Money Market			\$45,242.59	
<b>Continuing Education Grants</b>				
TD Bank Money Market			\$12,277.70	
<b>Year to Date Income-thru February 28, 2026</b>			\$18,120.56	
<b>Year to Date Expenditures thru February 28, 2026</b>			\$8,920.47	
<b>Respectfully submitted</b>				
<b>Cara Howfield</b>				
<b>NCLA Treasurer</b>				

b. Motions: The report was received by Frank McKenna. Seconded by Catherine Barretta.

**III. President’s Report: Michelle Samuel**

Michelle has been in contact with the President and Recording Secretary of SCLA and we will resume having a presence at each other's meetings. Their meetings are in-person and usually the week after our meeting. It will be difficult for me to attend these meetings in person each month, so I will be reaching out to the Executive Board members to see if anyone will be able to attend the SCLA meetings. If no one can attend in-person, SCLA will try to accommodate us virtually.

**IV. Division Reports**

a. **Academic & Special Libraries: James Mantegna** (Written report filed.)  
Herb Biblo Invitational Conference: This year’s conference will be held at Nassau Community College on Friday, April 10th. The theme is *Understanding the New College Freshman: Supporting Gen Z. Learners in Academic Libraries*. Presentations

will cover mental health challenges of Gen Z in the age of AI, engaging Gen Z with social media, and the potential for school and college libraries to collaborate in supporting Gen Z. students.

Spring Roundtable: The scheduled in-person Roundtable at NLS was cancelled due to the snowstorm. It has not been rescheduled yet. This will be a panel discussion inspired by Leslie Wong Loock's sabbatical project visiting academic libraries to canvas how they are handling technology integration, space management, professional connections/collaborative thinking, etc.

Long Island Library Conference: Our proposal for *Supporting Student Mental Health and Wellness Through Library Guides at Long Island Institutions* (Tara Byrnes, Farmingdale State College Mary Kate Boyd-Byrnes, Long Island University, C.W. Post Selenay Aytac, Librarian, Long Island University, C.W. Post) was accepted and will be offered at the conference in Session 2.

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

The next CSD monthly board meeting will be held on Monday, March 23rd at 9:30 AM via Zoom.

**c. Media Services: Mark Shimnoski**

The Media Services Division just held a successful Roundtable Discussion program on March 10, 2026, from 2:00-3:00pm. During this hour we discussed a wide range of topics in an environment where media librarians were able to share and learn from each other. The zoom meeting had 20 people in attendance.

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

We will be having our first PR/Programming roundtable on April 22 in the Jackie Thresher room at NLS from 2:00pm-4:00pm. CEUs will be awarded to attendees. We will be exploring programming for Emerging/New Adults. All are welcome to attend. We are currently discussing a few possible presenters for a program in June. More on that to follow next month.

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

The division's spring event with Carol Fitzgerald will be held on April 28 at 11:00am. Registration will begin soon.

**f. Support Staff Division: Eric Gaertner Reported by Roseanne Dorfman**

The division has not had any meetings yet but has been communicating via email. Mamie Eng said she is willing to do a test prep program via zoom for the Senior Library Clerk test. The Board is trying to make that happen, but the test date is rapidly approaching. They are also looking to do a Google Docs computer program.

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

For our joint meeting on Tuesday, March 24, we will have Kelly Jensen from BookRiot who will be speaking on censorship and book banning. Registration is now open on Wild Apricot. The Zoom event is free for NCLA/SCLA members and \$15.00 for nonmembers. We currently have 26 people registered from Nassau. We are working on planning a joint YASD/CSD spring social event. Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 9, at 10:00 a.m. on Zoom.

**V. Committee & Program Reports**

**a. Annual Dinner: Dalal Fatoush, Chris Marra, Barbara Mickowski** (Written report filed.)

The 2026 Annual Dinner and Installation of Officers will be held on Thursday, November 19 at the Coral House in the Colonial Skylight Room from 6:00-10:00pm. The cost for attendees is the same as last year - \$80 for NCLA Members and \$90 for Non-Members. This cost includes buffet dinner, open bar/all beverages and dessert. Entertainment with DJ Pace is contracted. As discussed at previous NCLA Executive Board Meetings, all slates of officers will need to complete early this year before the Installation Dinner.

We thank the seven NCLA Divisions in advance for their generous donations of raffle baskets, which will be needed for this event. Our committee will also need someone to prepare the program brochure.

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

Natalie now has an archive intern to assist her with sorting through each cabinet drawer to determine what items will be kept according to policy.

**c. Civil Service: Mamie Eng** (Written report filed.)

The joint MLD/NCLA Civil Service Committee met via Zoom on March 10, 2026, to discuss its priorities for 2026. A letter will be drafted to thank Nassau Civil Service for lifting the residency requirement for Librarian I candidates and to suggest this be considered for other librarian titles in the future. The next important issues to tackle with the Librarian Trainee to Librarian I path will be the closing date to file for the exam, request for some credit for trainee experience, and to request a grace period until a trainee can get on the Librarian I list. Some of the committee members are researching how these issues are handled in other counties before we approach Nassau Civil Service. A suggestion was made that librarians start attending Nassau Civil Service Commission Board Meetings to make us more visible to the Commission.

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

We have set up a meeting schedule for 2026! These 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 2:30 PM and will be held via Zoom

Our conference proposal was accepted. The program is *Setting Tech Support Expectations: Empowering Staff to Meet the Community's Technology Needs* – a panel of our colleagues will discuss the challenges both staff and patrons face, and best practices for providing technological support to the public.

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

**f. Continuing Education: Peter Cirona and Lee Gundel** (Absent No report.)

**g. Directory: Art Friedman** No report.

**h. Emerging Librarians: Jen Donato and Ilene Madden**

Flyers were sent to local library schools about joining NCLA and the Emerging Librarians Committee. A Meet & Greet is planned for all members and prospective members on April 21st at the Oceanside Library.

**i. Finance: Jan Heinlein**

My work preparing the 2025 financial information for the annual review, financial statement compilation, and tax filings has been completed. I delivered the 2025 information to Al Coster at Baldessari and Coster, LLP on Tuesday, March 17. Al will reach out to me with any questions he may have as he puts the financial statement together.

**j. Health Service: Jeanne Strausman** No report.

**k. Intellectual Freedom: Frank McKenna and Mara Marin** (absent)

The Committee was scheduled to meet on February 24, 2026, however, the meeting was cancelled due to the snowstorm. It has been rescheduled for March 24, 2026.

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

The submission deadline for nominees is March 27th. We have received several nominees and are anticipating more.

**m. Legislation: Frank McKenna**

Meetings are being scheduled 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

The State Assembly and Senate have released their One House budget proposals in response to the Governor's Executive Budget proposal issued in January. Both the Assembly and Senate have restored the Governor's cuts to Operating and Construction Aid and increased allocations above last year's enacted budget. While these are encouraging signs it's often the case that increases to library aid become less of a priority for the Assembly and Senate in the final enacted budget. NYLA will be launching a *Take Action* campaign soon. NYLA hopes everyone will contact their local state representatives to acknowledge the gains for libraries in the One House budgets and encourage their representatives to continue to advocate for libraries during the home stretch of budget negotiations. The State Budget is due April 1. NYLA thanks everyone for all their efforts to keep NYS libraries and library systems fully funded and able to provide the level of service our communities deserve.

**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 program schedule is up on the conference website. We are always looking for additional vendors and sponsors for the conference. If there are any vendors you would like to [see](#), please email me or [LILCExhibits@gmail.com](mailto:LILCExhibits@gmail.com). Registration is now open and ends on 4/30/26. If paying by invoice or check registration ends on 3/31/26. You can still register by credit card after the March deadline. Any questions please email [LILCRegister@gmail.com](mailto:LILCRegister@gmail.com). Association tables will be determined by association presidents. As of now, NCLA and SCLA will be getting 5 tables each. The amount could change; we will notify presidents if that happens.

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

At the LILC, we will be hosting *Beyond the Bookshelves* with Joshua L. Smith. On March 12, we co-hosted Suffolk County's LEOC -- a program about microaggressions in the library. We had 144 people attend this webinar. After the LILC, we will begin to plan the Pride Parade March. We are asking any libraries to please send over LGBTQ+ books/ARCs to Kaye at Syosset Library. These will be handed out during the parade. Or, if you plan on marching with us, you can bring the books that day. The parade this year is on Sunday, June 14th.

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

We currently have 939 contacts in our database. Of that, 538 are active, fully paid members. 400 are in an overdue state. 391 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.

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

**s. Networking: Lisa Paulo** No report.

**t. Newsletter: Mamie Eng (absent)**

Mamie apologized for the delay in the newsletter, but she reported that it should be going out by the end of the month. She thanked everyone who sent her photos from Library Advocacy Day.

**u. Nominations: Melanie Davidoff** No report.

**v. Personnel Issues and Professional Concerns: Tracy Horodyski and Syntychia Kendrick-Samuel (absent -written report filed)**

The Personnel Committee is still working on a Spring virtual program.

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

A Professional Development workshop for librarians interested in hosting pop culture conventions at their libraries will be held on Wednesday, May 20, 2026 from 10:00-11:30am on Zoom. More information, registration links, and promotional materials will follow.

**x. Programming: Lisa Paulo**

Met with Lee Gundel at the Massapequa Public Library and discussed his program suggestion. I will contact Shawn Nenos from the Nassau Library System about doing the program, *How to Identify Deep Fakes*.

**y. Promotions: Lisa Paulo**

I am in the process of ordering a new table cover for NCLA and wanted feedback from the members as to whether to have the wording, *Nassau County Library Association* or

use NCLA's logo. After discussing the matter, a table covering will be purchased with the wording, *Nassau County Library Association*. Later, after a new logo has been designed, another table covering will be purchased featuring the new branding.

**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**

A request for a Job Page on our webpage has been received. After discussion with the board, it was decided that at this time we will continue to post jobs to the listserv and not create a separate page.

We have changed where our DNS (Domain Name Service) is located and will be changing the hosting company we use from Network Solutions to Cloudflare.

Cindy made changes to the General Responsibility Document to show that we have changed from event keeper to Wild Apricot and our webmaster email.

If anyone needs any additions to their page or calendar, let the committee know.

**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**

These are some upcoming events:

3/19/2026 - Found Sound: A Novel, with Authors Meg Wolitzer and Charlie Panek

3/26/2026 - Girls Who Code: Free Programming For Your Library

3/31/2026 - A Review of CONTENTdm Fundamentals for NYHDC Contributors

4/8/2026 - Cato in the Revolution: Spies, Slavery, Church, and Chocolate

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

Retirements: Trina Reed (Levittown)

Appointments: Tracy Horodyski (Director - Island Park)

Kristine Dugan (Assistant Director – Farmingdale)

Ian Smith (Assistant Director – Bethpage)

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

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

This year's Annual Report has a new deadline of Thursday, April 16. This is a firm deadline. NLS will be holding a workshop on Monday, March 30 at 10 am, and it will be recorded.

The Techmobile has new programs ready for this spring and beyond. Take your favorite Techmobile programs outside and turn learning into an open-air adventure. New programs include topics such as navigating new mobile devices, how to use popular makerspace tools like 3D printers and Cricut vinyl cutters, and how to design a Tinkercad. Visit [nassaulibrary.org/techmobile](http://nassaulibrary.org/techmobile) or reach out to NLS Techmobile Coordinator Shawn Nenos at [snenos@nassaulibrary.org](mailto:snenos@nassaulibrary.org) for more info.

**d. Nassau BOCES School Library System: Mildred Bernstein** No report.

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

Program proposals for the NYLA Annual Conference (Nov. 4-7, 2026) in Saratoga Springs are being accepted until March 20, 2026.

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

Mamie reported that this committee does not seem to have been re-activated by NYLA since the last committee chair resigned.

**g. Suffolk County Library Association: Anthony Giansante** No report.

**VII. Old Business**

- a. Michelle asked all Divisions and Committees to please review the document, *General Responsibilities of all Officers, Directors & Committee Chairpersons*. It is outdated and there are listed committees that no longer exist or have been merged and several that need to be added. Send your edits to Michelle.
- b. A follow-up discussion was held regarding the use of a single raffle ticket to be used for all division raffle prizes. There was concern about monitoring the money received and the volunteers needed to be at the NCLA table for the length of conference. Since LILC is two months away and there was not enough time to finalize any kind of procedure, Michelle agreed to table the idea for this year's conference.

**VIII. New Business**

a. LILC has assigned NCLA five tables. If any division or committee wants a table, you should contact Michelle by March 20. Depending on how many requests are made divisions and committees may need to share.

**IX. Adjournment**

a. Michelle asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Lisa Paulo accepted and James Grzybowski seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 10:55am.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Rosemarie Birofka**