

Nassau County Library Association

Executive Board Meeting Minutes

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

May 1, 2026

In Attendance: Catherine Barretta, Mildred Bernstein, Rosemarie Birofka, Amy D’Arco, Melanie Davidoff, Jeannine Dillon, Roseanne Dorfman, Arthur Friedman, James Grzybowski, Jan Heinlein, Cara Howfield, Egita Johnson-Guillame, Syntchia Kendrick-Samuel, Maryanne Linehan, Stacey Mencher, Mary Carol Moore, Catherine Nashak, Lisa Paulo, Jody Ruggiero, Michelle Samuel, Mark Shimnoski, Jeanne Strausman, Lois Young and Lisa Zuena

Call to Order: Michelle Samuel called meeting at 9:33

I. Review and Approval of the Previous Minutes and Notes: Motion to approve by Mary Carol Moore. Second by Catherine Barretta

II. Treasurer’s Report:

a. The following is the April 10, 2026 Report.

	Treasurer’s Report		
		April 10, 2026	
		Balances	
Checking Account			
TD Bank		\$18,244.67	
Savings			
TD Bank Checking Account		\$86,373.18	
TOTAL		\$104,617.85	

Special Funds			
Intellectual Freedom/Civil Service			
TD Bank Money Market		\$10,615.70	
NCLA Scholarship			
TD Bank Money Market		\$45,246.37	
Continuing Education Grants			
TD Bank Money Market		\$12,278.19	
Year to Date Income-thru March 31, 2026		\$25,522.04	
Year to Date Expenditures thru March 31, 2026		\$15,543.69	
Respectfully submitted			
Cara Howfield			
NCLA Treasurer			

- b. Motion to receive the report was made by Roseann Dorfman. Second, by Amy D'Arco.

III. President's Report: Michelle Samuel

Michelle sent an email out on the NCLA listserv asking for volunteers to sit at the table during the LILC. There will be a raffle basket and giveaways to hand out during the conference. Michelle thanked everyone who responded with revisions to the *General Responsibilities of All Officers, Directors & Committee Chairpersons* document. She will compile these changes and hopes to have the revised document ready for the June meeting. Going forward this document should be reviewed and updated regularly. This is a helpful resource for new incoming presidents and chairpersons. In April, a reporter reached out to an executive board member regarding payments made to New Yorker for Better Libraries PAC. After doing some research Michelle was able to determine that NCLA did not make donations to this PAC but were in fact payments for journal ads for the years 2015 – 2021. While the

payment was a small amount and it is still illegal for non-profit organizations to do this. Michelle met with the Executive Board who gave her power to speak to an attorney if it became necessary. The reporter published the article, and it appears at this time that NCLA will not be guilty of any wrong-doing. NCLA was not the only non-profit organization mentioned in the article and based on other contributions ours seemed to be minimal. She will keep everyone up to date.

IV. Division Reports

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

Art Friedman reported that the division along with LILRC and SCLA held a successful annual Herb Biblo Invitational Conference.

b. Children's Services: James Grzybowski

Children's Services will be hosting two workshops and sponsoring a third in conjunction with YASD at the Long Island Library Conference. Tickets will also be sold for their raffle basket. Their next meeting will be on May 18 at 9:30am.

c. Media Services: Mark Shimnoski

The Media Services committee members met April 13 on Zoom to discuss plans for the Long Island Library Conference. They will be raffling off several prizes including gift cards for Barnes and Noble, tickets to the Vanderbilt Planetarium, a gift card for the Melville-based restaurant, The Refuge, and two gift cards to the Huntington Cinema Arts. The group also discussed a possible NCLA meetup at one of the Long Island Film Festivals being held during the summer.

d. Programming & Public Relations: Jeannine Dillon

The next Board meeting is Monday, May 11 at 3:00pm via Zoom.

For the LILC we will be hosting Selina Sharmin's program *Outreach & Marketing Strategies*.

The Division is sponsoring the program, *Offsite Programming in Practice - Innovative Ideas for Library Reach*. This will be virtual on June 8.

e. Reference & Adult Services: Elly Muller No report.

f. Support Staff Division: Eric Gaertner (absent) No report.

Roseanne Dorfman reported that they had their Zoom meeting with Mamie Eng for the clerk typist test. They had 64 attendees.

g. Young Adult Services: Amy D'Arco

Their first book club meeting will be held on Zoom Thursday, May 7, following the monthly e-board meeting. They will be discussing *Our Infinite Fates* by Lauren Steven.

Visit their table at the LILC to see photos of different teen events held throughout the year. They are co-sponsoring, *A Conversation with Tiffany D. Jackson* with CSD and their second workshop is *The How and the Why Public Libraries Should Establish Menstrual Advocacy Programs* from the Brooklyn Public Library.

Our annual June Author Brunch will be held on June 11, at 11:00 am at Gino's in New Hyde Park. YA author Tashie Bhuiyan will be speaking about her books. The cost is \$30.00 per person for NCLA members and \$45.00 per person for non-members. Registration is open on the NCLA website, and a flyer will be sent out soon.

The next meeting will be held on May 7, at 10:00am on Zoom.

V. Committee & Program Reports

- a. Annual Dinner: Dalal Fatoush, Chris Marra, Barbara Mickowski** (absent) No report.
- b. Archives: Natalie Korsavidis** (absent) Written report filed.
Natalie has made progress with organizing the file drawers.
- c. Civil Service: Mamie Eng** (absent) Written report filed.
Mamie presented a program on the Senior Library Clerk exam for the Support Staff Division. There were over 50 attendees.
- d. Computers & Technology: James Hutter** (absent) **and James Hartmann** (absent)
Written report filed.

On Thursday, April 16th at 2:30pm, we met with our SCLA CATS / TIF counterparts on Zoom for our joint tech meeting. There were approximately 30 people in attendance.

Agenda:

- Laser Engravers in 2026
- Technology Programming and Events for Digital Literacy
- Library Catalog Discussion
- Locking Down Library Social Media Accounts to Prevent Hacking
- Uptick in Phishing Attacks
- Open Q&A

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

- 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

The Long Island Library Conference

Our LILC conference program is *Setting Tech Support Expectations: Empowering Staff to Meet the Community's Technology Needs*

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

f. Directory: Art Friedman

Work on the Directory continues. There are many organizations that have not submitted their tear sheets and these are being followed up with phone calls.

g. Emerging Librarians: Jen Donato and Ilene Madden (Absent) Written report filed.

The Emerging Librarians hosted a Meet and Mingle at Oceanside Library on April 21, 2026. It proved to be an informative session where the participants were encouraged to talk about their current positions and future goals. The committee chairs spoke of the importance of joining NCLA and a committee. Their next event is June 23 - Civil Service 101 with Mamie Eng on Zoom at 7:00pm.

h. Finance: Jan Heinlein

Al Coster of Baldessari and Coster sent Michelle Samuels, Cara Howfield and Jan a draft copy of the 2025 Financial Statement. They received very few questions for clarification during the review process. Thank you to Cara and Martha DiVittorio (Long Island Library Conference) for providing the necessary financial information. Jan is in the process of reviewing the draft. The final copy should be available for the next NCLA meeting.

The Finance Committee is sponsoring a program for the LILC which will be presented by Tony Iovino titled *Passing a Construction Bond: Do's & Don't's for a Successful Campaign*.

i. Health Service: Jeanne Strausman No report.

j. Intellectual Freedom: Frank McKenna (absent) **and Mara Marin** (absent) Written report filed.

The committee met on April 28, 2026, to discuss booth set-up and scheduling for the LILC sponsored program, *Anti-American and Just Plain Filthy: The Island Trees School District Book Banning Case 50+ years Ago*.

k. LDA Award: Maryanne Linehan and Catherine Barretta Written report filed.

A winner was chosen for the 2026 LDA Award and their name will be announced at the Long Island Library Conference on May 14. Thank you to Art Friedman who will present the award. Thank you to all the judges who helped select this year's winner. There were four great nominees this year.

l. Legislation: Frank McKenna (absent) Written report filed.

The New York State budget has not been passed yet despite the deadline of April 1, 2026.

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

The committee will be presenting the program, *Challenge Accepted: How library leaders staff in times of change* at the LILC.

n. Long Island Library Conference: Stacey Mencher

Registration for the Long Island Library Conference on Eventbrite will close at 11:59 pm on May 12. Registration after the deadline will need to be in-person at the conference and the cost will be \$195.00.

o. Long Island Library Pride Alliance: Ash Tasari and Anne McNulty Written report filed.

LILPA is still looking for donations of LGBTQIA+ books of any age range for the 2026 Pride Parade in Huntington. We will take weeded books as long as they are properly marked as discarded by the contributing library.

p. Membership, Promotion, and Mailing: Emily Trezza (absent) **and James Hutter** (absent) Written report filed.

We currently have 909 contacts in our database. Of that, 621 are active, fully paid members 287 are in an overdue state. 279 are considered lapsed. Some membership renewals remain pending as we await check payments. An electronic reminder was sent out to all overdue members during the weekend of April 25. We are hopeful that some of these overdue members will renew their membership.

We are generating a report for an anonymous donor to facilitate a gift to NCLA. This donor wishes to give NCLA \$1.00 for every renewal and \$2.00 for every first-time membership to NCLA through March 31, 2026. They wish to earmark this donation for the NCLA Scholarship fund. The donation would be capped at \$1,000. We hope to have everything finalized in the coming days.

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

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

r. Networking: Lisa Paulo

A bowling social event for NCLA members and their families is being discussed. The event would be held at Maple Lanes in Rockville Centre. The cost would be \$10.00 for shoes and attendees would pay for their own food and drinks. The date and time is still being considered.

Another event being considered for NCLA members only is a Meet and Greet to be possibly held at the Garden City Public Library.

s. Newsletter: Mamie Eng (absent) Written report filed.

Newsletters will be delivered soon.

t. Nominations: Melanie Davidoff

The committee will begin looking for candidates during summer.

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

On May 21, the Personnel Concerns committee will be presenting a virtual workshop featuring three library administrators answering workplace questions. Registration is open and all are welcome to submit questions and attend. All questions will remain anonymous.

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

On April 22, the NCLA Pop Culture Committee met with all presenters for the professional development workshop, *Create Your Own Library Con: From Concept to Crowd*. Each presenter offered a unique perspective on planning and delivering a successful and engaging event. More than 40 people attended.

w. Programming: Lisa Paulo No report.

x. Promotions: Lisa Paulo

Pens will be given away at the LILC. The newly purchased table covering and banner will also be used at the conference.

y. Recruitment & Scholarship: Michelle Samuel No report.

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

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

bb. Webpage: Catherine Barretta and Cindy Wolfe

The domain is now under NLS with Cloudshare.

cc. Wild Apricot Implementation Committee: James Hutter (absent) Written report filed.

If your Division or Committee needs any assistance in setting up events via Wild Apricot there is a short training video available that can provide assistance.

VI. Liaison Reports:

a. Long Island Library Resources Council: Tim Spindler and Sally Stieglitz

No report.

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

c. Nassau Library System: Lisa Zuena

America 250 at the Library is kicking off later this month. From May 26 through July 18, over 30 Nassau public libraries are delivering *America 250 at the Library* events for all ages ranging from informative lectures, fun crafts and games to live performances and more. Over 125 events are taking place in-person and virtually during this time. Limited print booklets will be available at participating libraries, and all program information can be found on the *America 250 at the Library* website: nassaulibrary.org/250

d. Nassau BOCES School Library System: Mildred Bernstein

The last liaison meeting agenda is complete and includes an award for the Administrator of the Year and School Librarian of the Year for 2026.

In June and in preparation for the end of the school year, they are offering school librarians a half-day session on how to close out their libraries for the summer.

They have been loaning out VR Goggles and Drones to school librarians for use in their schools and have received great feedback from those that have borrowed them.

Lastly, we acquired a 3D printer, and our department is having fun making things.

e. New York Library Association: Art Friedman and Frank McKenna (absent)

Written report filed.

The Membership renewal portal opened the week of April 14, 2026 and will remain open till May 31, 2026

Intellectual Freedom for Breakfast speaker at the Annual Conference will be Jarrett Dapier, author (along with AJ Dungo) of the recently published graphic novel *Wake Now in the Fire: A Story of Censorship, Action, Love, and Hope*.

f. Suffolk County Library Association: Robert Johnson No report.

VII. Old Business None.

VIII. New Business None.

IX. Adjournment

- a. Roseann Dorfman made a motion to adjourn at 10:13am. Jody Ruggiero seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Birofka