CLA Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 13, 2026 (via Zoom)

Attendance: Rebecca Harlow, Kate Byroade, Olivia Blake, Erin Dunmeyer, Mary Etter, Keith Michael Fiels, Glenn Grube, Laura Horn, Katie Huffman, Sam Lee, Doug Lord, Brenda McKinley, Sarah Morgan, Ellen Paul, Stephanie Smith and Maureen Sullivan (secretary)

Open/Introductions: Kate Byroade called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. and dispensed with introductions. Everyone present knew everyone else. She reported that some individuals were in person in the Wallingford Public Library. She then handed the meeting over to Rebecca Harlow.

Minutes of September 8 Meeting: Rebecca Harlow said that approval of the September meeting meetings would be postponed to the November 10 meeting.

Legislation & Advocacy Updates: No new information was reported.

CLA Legislative Agenda

The work session to plan the Legislative Agenda was held today in the Wallingford Public Library just before this meeting. The discussion focused on identifying next steps and long term plans The group will meet bi-weekly and anyone who has been active in doing the work will be included. Get in touch with Kate Byroade or Rebecca Harlow. The first meeting will be on October 23. The group agreed to meet bi-weekly, every other Friday afternoon, to continue the work started in the session today and to establish a framework for accomplishing its work going forward. Rebecca Harlow and Kate Byroade will put the relevant documents in a shared drive.

The group agreed to ask that delivery be added to the CLA Legislative Agenda. Rebecca read the draft language that had been developed in the work session: collaborate with stakeholders to investigate solutions, to address current delivery concerns, re-establish equitable service to all participating libraries, and improve fulfillment fees and reliability across all participating libraries."

Action: Kate Byroade moved that this language be included in the CLA Legislative Agenda. Doug Lord provided the second. The motion passed.

Rebecca Harlow has a place holder on the CLA Board agenda for its October 15 meeting. Brenda McKinley asked if there is a need to include a description of how this can be done. Rebecca Harlow replied that there are a number of different components and that inclusion of this issue and language is important. The details will be worked out. The Work Group will work with stakeholders in the library community.

Rebecca Harlow reminded the committee that there is an allocation of $10,000 to hire a lobbyist. Elen Paul reported that CLA had explored this two years ago and had drafted an RFP. She said that the RFP could be updated and issued. Two years ago, the CLC Board authorized money to join CLA in the hiring of a lobbyist to create a more meaningful relationship with a lobbyist than CLA could have on its own. Ellen Paul suggested that the RFP should be issued soon. Kate Byroade said that the RFP could be issued as soon as possible and that a small group could be formed to review proposals and decide. Mary Etter volunteered to serve on the small group. Rebecca Harlow asked that others who may be interested reach out to her or to Kate Byroade.

Work Groups

Delivery: Rebecca Harlow reported that there are a number of moving parts here. Conversations continue with Darcy Strand at CSL. Not much progress has been made. Conversations are also happening at LION. Rebecca Harlow reported that the current delivery system is not working for most libraries. Work continues with little progress. Adding delivery to the Legislative Agenda is very important.

E-Books Legislation: Ellen Paul reported that Illinois and New Jersey are still talking. Minnesota and Wisconsin are still interested. Kate Byroade commented that New Jersey has a realistic shot to get it through this year and that Illinois is a strong possibility. If Illinois passes, it will help Connecticut. We are still some months away. Kate Byroade described a feature in Libby called ShelfTalker that explains why a book isn't available. It is an audible exclusive to reach patrons directly. Kyle Courtney will do a presentation at NELA on E-Books.

Ellen Paul reported that libraries are seeing increases in their platform fees. Overdrive is eager to pose great profits. Rebecca Harlow suggested that we might want to convene a statewide conversation about what we are doing to address this problem. We need to wrestle with what is a reasonable cost.

Updates

Libraries and Partners Bridging the Digital Divide: Sarah Morgan reported that there is no update.

State Library: Darcy Strand was not in attendance, therefore, there was no report.

CLC: CLC has shifted its focus to talking about physical books. The CLC book contract will have a new iteration in January 2027. CLC will hold a number of contract training sessions to explain what is new and different. The costs of both hardback books and paperbacks have gone up and the new contracts with publishers won't be as favorable. CLC is considering a new initiative that is still in its very early stages: creating tools that libraries can use to create and advocate for increases in their book budgets and making the case that level funding means far fewer books.

Intellectual Freedom: Sam Lee reported that Banned Books Week was celebrated in many locations. The *CT Mirror* had an article that led to inquiries from other press sources about intellectual freedom and soft censorship.

CASL: Jenny Lussier was not in attendance; there was no report.

Commission on Ed Tech: Colleen Bailie was not in attendance; there was no report.

New Business: None

Old Business: Doug Lord volunteered to assume the duties of Secretary. He was immediately appointed and he will begin in November.

New Business:

Nominations for Secretary: Rebecca Harlow and Kate Byroade welcome nominations and/or expressions of interest in serving in this mission for the coming year.

Upcoming Meetings

- **Tuesday, November 11 at 3 p.m. on Zoom**
- **Tuesday, December 8 at 3 p.m. on Zoom**

Adjournment: Glenn Grube moved for adjournment. Katie Huffman seconded the motion. The was adopted and the meeting adjourned at 3:42 p.m.