Trish Palmer and Carolann Slayton are the chairs for this roundtable and they started out the meeting with a game of Human Bingo, as an icebreaker. The discussed our communication vehicle – the Mobilize app.

Jennifer Keohane and Alena Principato from the Connecticut Library Consortium – CLC were introduced. One of CLC’s roles is to coordinate Roundtables. There are roundtables for all interests. If you are interested in a topic and you don’t see it as a roundtable, suggest it to CLC. The Roundtable sessions are for networking and education.

Jennifer spoke about the mission of CLC. The CT legislature set aside funds for CLC as a cooperative library service unit that exists to help all CT libraries to act as a unit for efficiency and discounts. CLC exists for THE POWER OF WE. 800 members include 99% of public libraries, 55% of school libraries, 25% of special libraries and 80% of academic libraries.

The core focus is saving $ for libraries. CLC also does advocacy for libraries. It is partially funded by the state, has a board of 15 representing all types of libraries, all size libraries and all regions of the state. 40% of its operating funds come from membership dues. Members pay an annual membership fee that is scaled based on the size of the library budget. The bulk of funding comes from programs and services.

CLC, CSL and CLA – alphabet soup. CSL is the Connecticut State Library which offers programs and services and is funded by the state. CLA is the Connecticut Library Association which is a volunteer organization that has an annual conference. CLC does administration and bookkeeping for CLA.

CLC primarily discounts for supplies, books and non-print media. Sometimes CLC provides a discount code to use. CLC also buys products in bulk and libraries can buy these directly from CLC. Currently DEMCO is the primary supplies contract and Baker and Taylor is for books. Currently CLC stocks tote bags, flash drives and acrylic signs.

Alena did a walk thru of the website. There are many little known CLC services like the Advocacy toolkit, trendspotting, museum passes, and a programming catalog. CLC coordinates the Take Your Child to the Library Day. Libraries can pay invoices on line now, this is a new feature.

The next meetings are scheduled in 2018 on March 7th and May 9th. At the March meeting, be sure to bring your business cards to share.

Meeting Secretary – Janet Valencis