

SERVICES COMMITTEE

May 9, 2006

PRESENT: Erin Apostol, Brian Hartson, Lou Anne Lundgren, Lois Prenovost, Phil Ritter, Heidi Fuge

EXCUSED: Robert Jaquay

I. Coordinated Outreach Advisory Council appointments

The Committee members reviewed proposed appointments to the Coordinated Outreach Advisory Council and also discussed the request from Jo-Ann Benedetti to change the terms for the Council members. Currently the terms run on the calendar year, J. Benedetti has requested a July 1 to June 30 term in order to bring them into alignment with the terms on the UHLS Board and to make it easier for Council members to review the mini-grant applications in January or early February.

MOTION: L. Lundgren moved to recommend to the UHLS Board of Trustees that the terms for the Outreach Advisory Council members should run from July 1 to June 30. L. Prenovost seconded. Unanimous.

MOTION: L. Lundgren moved to recommend to the UHLS Board of Trustees that the terms of the current Outreach Advisory Council members should be extended to the July 1 to June 30 term. B. Hartson seconded. Unanimous.

MOTION: L. Lundgren moved to recommend to the UHLS Board of Trustees that the following three people be appointed to the Coordinated Outreach Advisory Council for terms running July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2009: Deborah Canzano, Kathleen Grady and Karen Weeden. L. Prenovost seconded. Unanimous.

II. Other Business

P. Ritter asked for Committee approval to apply for a grant from the National Endowment for Arts for the "Big Read" program. UHLS has been invited to apply for this grant. One-hundred grants will be awarded, fifty in 2006 and fifty in 2007. The grant amounts will range from \$10,000 to \$20,000 and are 100% matching. Jo-Ann Benedetti has contacted the Writers Institute at SUNY Albany as a partner for this grant. E. Apostol recommended contacting the New York State Theater Institute (NYSTI) because they have great public contacts.

CONSENSUS: the Committee members authorized the UHLS staff to

pursue the NEA Big Read grant.

P. Ritter alerted the Committee members to a situation in the UHLS service area. He gave some background on the situation: The Town of Schodack is considered an unserved area, except for the Village of Castleton which has a public library. The Division of Library Development has asked the Castleton Library Board to clarify some language in their charter to determine if their service area is the Village of Castleton or the Town of Schodack.

The Town of Schodack has for the past several years made annual support payments to the East Greenbush Community Library in order to allow the Town patrons to have full access to the Library's services. In 2006, the Town cut back substantially on their funding to the EGRN library. The Town of Schodack is considering using the funds to support their own Town Library.

At this time, there is a discussion taking place between the Town of Schodack and the East Greenbush Community Library regarding discontinuing service to Town of Schodack patrons. East Greenbush is basing this decision on the Upper Hudson Library System's 90.3 Free Direct Access Policy which allows them to restrict access to patrons from an unserved area if those patrons constitute 10% or more of the library's circulation.

Heidi A. Fuge
5/11/06