



OFFICERS:
President: Susan Keitel
Vice-President: Jackie Marino
Treasurer: Fred Wobrock, Jr.
Secretary: Yvette Terplak

**Board of Trustees
February 14, 2024**

PRESENT: Susan Keitel; Evelyn Greenstein; Fred Wobrock, Jr.; Corie Dugas; Arlene Way; Debbie Carr; Lisa Scoons; Jackie Marino; Scott Wyner; Joe Burke; Tara Ricard; Marcy Savage
Excused: Camille Engel; Yvette Terplak
UHLS Staff: Tim Burke

I. CALL TO ORDER

S. Keitel called the meeting to order at 4:32PM – Happy Valentine’s Day!

II. MINUTES

MOTION: T. Ricard moved to approve the January 2024 Minutes. A. Way seconded. Unanimous.

III. DIRECTOR’S REPORT

T. Burke highlighted the following in his written report:

- This was the first time the Governor had put an increase in for libraries in the proposed budget, so it felt a little different walking into the meetings this year for Advocacy Day. The libraries have been underfunded for a long time, this was a great starting point for conversations. Thank you to everyone who could join us!
- UHLS has officially signed a contract with LCR Consulting, which is owned by R. Cheng. We’re optimistic this will work and that the member libraries won’t even notice a difference in service. We are still hosting a retirement gathering to celebrate his last 27+ years. T. Ricard asked if they could provide breakfast – thank you for the offer, we’ve got it covered.
- June 12th is the date of this year’s Annual Celebration. If you have a venue idea for Albany County, please reach out to J. Favreau.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee

F. Wobrock noted that both the Central Library Aid and Outreach grants for 2023 were received in January 2024. Because of this, we are in the black and ahead of where we were last year when looking at the Treasurer’s Report. This will be something he’ll note most likely all year long, as this timing issue will cause each month’s comparison look off. Looking at the Purchase Journal, the first quarter Hoopla payment was made, which will be reimbursed by the member libraries. Directors and Officers insurance was also paid, the check to APL for the Central Library Aid

was cut and the final expense for snow removal was made – yay!

MOTION: The Finance Committee moved to adopt the January 2024 Treasurer’s Reports and Purchase Journals. T. Ricard seconded. Unanimous.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

S. Keitel circled back to the two questions she emailed the board members following the January meeting. Only three people responded – she’s taken your silence as a sign that we’re functioning smoothly and effectively, but if you have anything further to add, please do so soon.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

2023 Reconciled UHLS Budget: A copy was included in the Board packet prior to the scheduled meeting. F. Wobrok noted that state aid payments designated for 2023 were late coming in, and were received in January 2024. Because of this, it looks as though we were in the red for about \$100k but we’re actually ahead.

MOTION: The Finance Committee moved to acknowledge the Reconciled 2023 UHLS Budget. D. Carr seconded. Unanimous.

T. Burke included in his board report a proposed Resolution of Appreciation to be presented by the Board to R. Cheng during his retirement party, acknowledging all of his hard work and dedication over the past 28 years. D. Carr noted the nod to generations of work – you don’t see that anymore!

MOTION: J. Marino moved to adopt the proposed Resolution for Rawdon Cheng as presented. J. Burke seconded. Unanimous.

S. Keitel said she’d present it to R. Cheng at the retirement gathering.

VIII. TRUSTEE REPORTS

M. Savage (COLN): Their new director, Elissa Valente, has officially started following a January retirement. Thank you T. Burke and UHLS – the COLN library board are all appreciative of the support given throughout the process. M. Savage shared the Equity Challenge with the COLN board and they have committed to sign the MOA!

C. Dugas (GUIL): GUIL is in the process of hiring a new director following a 2/2/24 retirement. They’ve completed their first round of interviews and they all really appreciate the support and guidance T. Burke has provided them up to this point.

L. Scoons (BETH): The BETH library has constantly been in the news recently and as a result, the board has been shaken up a bit. Next month they are

hosting a board retreat and UHLS will be there as facilitators. They are currently working on revising their meeting room policy and have had to halt any new meeting reservations in the meantime. A new book challenge was submitted for *Breaking Biden*.

J. Marino (VAFL): The VAFL library has signed on to the new SAIYLS grant offered by UHLS. She was wondering if the full board could receive these announcements as they go out to directors?

D. Carr (RCSC): The RCSC Board discussed the SAIYLS grant and will participate! They are also participating in the Equity Challenge.

A. Way (APL): The Albany County Youth Bureau is teaming up with the PEF Labor Union for an author reading/book signing at an APL branch. She'll send a flyer to Tim for sharing – she's impressed with the local connections!

S. Wyner (STEP): It's been fairly quiet on the STEP board, as they are working toward another 414 vote. It was super helpful to meet with J. Wines. Now they are working to position themselves to the community.

J. Burke (ALTM/DA): The ALTM library has a new mission statement! It was an engaging, powerful and wonderful experience.

MOTION: C. Dugas moved to adjourn. M. Savage seconded.
Unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 5:59 PM.

03/05/2024 JF