



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

**Board of Trustees  
September 11, 2024**

PRESENT: Evelyn Greenstein; Fred Wobrock, Jr.; Jackie Marino; Scott Wyner; Joe Burke; Camille Engel; Yvette Terplak; Debbie Carr; Marcy Savage; Tara Ricard; Lisa Scoons  
Excused: Corie Dugas; Susan Keitel  
UHLS Staff: T. Burke; J. Favreau  
Guests: Kate Clingon; Charity Thorne; David and Patricia Godsa; Doug Bixler

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

J. Marino called the meeting to order at 4:37PM.

**II. MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Y. Terplak moved to approve the July 10, 2024 Minutes. J. Burke seconded. Unanimous.

**III. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

T. Burke summarized his distributed report, specifically highlighting the Construction Aid application process. He noted that the cycle is different every year and we never know how many libraries are going to apply and how much the member libraries are going to ask for. This year, after the initial application phase, we were short by ~\$3 million. The member libraries really stepped up to reduce or stage their projects into next year, so the Services Committee is able to present a much more satisfying award recommendation. He said that he was very proud of the way the libraries responded to the call. One related note, because there were so much construction funds requested by the member libraries, he and Jona made the decision to pull their application for the front door project. The door project is small enough that it can be covered in full by the money in the building account in our operating budget.

C. Engel asked about the maps discussed in J. Wines' report – what's the end goal for the maps? Can they be used as a service expansion tool? T. Burke explained that J. Wines created the project to provide member libraries more data on library usage in their community and in their surrounding communities. J. Burke explained that using the map that was created for his library he can now see exactly where his library's usage is coming from, which is very valuable information to have.

J. Marino asked if the NYLA conference was free to attend with our trustee memberships. No, but there is a discount!

#### IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

##### Finance Committee

F. Wobrock noted that traditionally with two months to review, he focuses heavily on the most recent month but in this case July was a busy month for UHLS. The majority of state aid was received in July: Basic state aid, LLSA, Supplemental aid and the remainder will trickle in over the coming months. Looking at August's Treasurer's Report, we have \$1.9 mil to last us until next year when state aid is received, which is a comfortable margin. The interest earned on our investments this month (via the new investment vehicle, NYLAF) was over \$10k. Association libraries are not eligible to invest, but other public libraries (districts and municipals) are eligible. If any libraries are interested, J. Favreau is more than happy to answer questions and help navigate the enrollment process. J. Burke asked what the terms were - they are completely liquid funds, so they can be pulled at any time without penalty. M. Savage asked how the SRP amounts for distribution to the libraries were determined. Equal amounts of \$240 per member library or member library branch.

**MOTION:** The Finance Committee moved to adopt the July and August 2024 Treasurer's Reports and Purchase Journals. D. Carr seconded. Unanimous.

##### Services Committee

T. Burke distributed the recommended allocation chart to the full board (see attached). In advance of this meeting, the Services Committee met to determine how the construction aid funds should be allocated to the applying member libraries. All applicants except APL are funded to the maximum allowed amount and should any additional funds be reallocated to UHLS from other systems, APL would receive all of those funds up to their full eligible amount. T. Burke feels that it is likely that this will happen as not only has it happened in years past, but this year we received an additional \$10 mil statewide.

**MOTION:** The Services Committee moved to recommend the proposed distribution chart of construction aid to the applying member libraries. T. Ricard seconded. Unanimous.

##### Nomination Committee

C. Engel thanked E. Greenstein and D. Carr for serving with her on the Nomination Committee. She presented the proposed slate of officers for the UHLS Board of Trustees for 2024/2025:

- Susan Keitel for President
- Marcy Savage for Vice-President
- Scott Wyner for Secretary

**MOTION:** The Nomination Committee moved to accept the presented slate. No additional nominations from group. Y. Terplak seconded. Unanimous.

Because Fred Wobrock has served more than two 1-year terms as Treasurer, this proposed officer position requires a 2/3 or more vote of the board.

**MOTION:** The Nomination Committee presented F. Wobrock as Treasurer for 2024/25. J. Burke seconded. Unanimous.

## **V. OLD BUSINESS**

At the last meeting, the UHLS Board decided to table a decision regarding SCPL until this meeting. T. Burke noted that in late July, SCPL and MVLS met with NYSL. NYSL advised both parties to work out an agreement, emphasizing that the state's preferred outcome is "the status quo." NYSL also noted it has no role in determining the relationship between a library and system services, including any arrangement such as SCPL contracting with UHLS to share their ILS. NYSL also indicated that any proposed plan that would alter established system service areas (i.e. SCPL leaving MVLS) would require SCPL and MVLS to present a mutually agreed-upon plan for consideration and approval by the Board of Regents.

T. Burke and S. Keitel met with NYSL separately about a week later and heard the same information. SCPL has since decided to move forward with its separation from the JA (Joint Automation agreement) and establish its own separate ILS in POLARIS. That new catalog is expected to go live by the end of this year. As the result of these developments and because SCPL is concentrating on its ILS project, any discussions of a resource sharing agreement between UHLS and SCPL are currently on hold. However, SCPL has reiterated its strong interest in the possibility of sharing resources with UHLS in a shared ILS or as a full member of the system, so the issue is not dead, just on hold. T. Burke appreciated the thoughtfulness of the Board and DAs, hoping for future progress when this question comes back to UHLS.

After additional discussion, it was determined by the board to take no action, which means that the previously tabled motion dies. It was noted that the just because the motion dies, it does not mean that the topic or the board's interest in continuing the discussion of it died with the motion.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

D. Carr asked if we knew who the new APL representative to the UHLS Board would be – no, not yet.

## **VII. TRUSTEE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

J. Burke (ALTM): Library Lights is a fundraiser ALTM hosts each year that he can't recommend enough for everyone to bring back to their libraries. Community members pay a couple of bucks to dedicate lights to the memory of a special person, the library reads the names as part of a public program, but it's more than the money, it really helps build and strengthen a sense of community. Last year they read 280 names and all enjoyed hot cocoa around the gazebo under the holiday lights.

D. Carr (RCSC): The library was asked to partner with the high school for banned

books week – they’re all reading the same book and will host a discussion.

M. Savage (COLN):

COLN had 1,311 participants in this summer’s SRP program! They’re working on a memorial bench and plaque for Natalie Gillis, the pilot of the plane that crashed on their property earlier this summer.

L. Scoons (BETH):

The library’s new meeting room policy has been implemented. The board will review it again in 3 months. They’re pushing back their bond vote which was to originally be held on October 1 to maybe mid-December. The biggest reason for the postponement is that there’s a \$5 mil difference between the expected cost and latest cost estimates, so the board needs some time to work with the numbers.

**MOTION:**

C. Engel moved to adjourn. M. Savage seconded. Unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 5:50 PM.

09/27/2024 JF