



**OFFICERS:**  
President: Susan Keitel  
Vice-President: Marcy Savage  
Treasurer: Fred Wobrock, Jr.  
Secretary: Scott Wyner

**Board of Trustees  
January 8, 2025**

PRESENT: Rhea Drysdale; Fred Wobrock, Jr.; Scott Wyner; Camille Engel; Debbie Carr; Marcy Savage; Lisa Scoons; Susan Keitel; Tara Ricard; Jackie Marino; Joe Burke; Yvette Terplak; Sarah Macinski  
Excused: Corie Dugas  
UHLS Staff: T. Burke; J. Favreau

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

S. Keitel called the meeting to order at 4:36PM.

Happy New Year!

**II. OATH OF OFFICE**

Welcome Rhea and Sarah! Each of them took the Oath of Office. J. Favreau will file them with corresponding county clerks.

**III. MINUTES**

J. Marino suggested the removal of the word ‘not’ under the Administration section re: public comment.

**MOTION:** Y. Terplak moved to approve the November 13, 2024 as amended minutes. M. Savage seconded. Unanimous.

**IV. DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Advocacy Day is approaching next month. S. Keitel noted a message via NYLINE highlighting the special legislative money distributed in 2024. For UHLS, that amount totaled \$95k. We need to stay in touch with our legislators to remind them of what we can do with these funds when they are available.

New website rolled out over the last month. We heard very few grumbling from the member libraries. S. Keitel noted that it’s deceptively simple – which is a compliment.

For the first time, we broke the 1 million circulation mark annually in OverDrive – a 15% increase over last year. Digital content is important; the wait times are longer than we want them to be; but every library contributes.

S. Keitel noted the SAIYL grant in the Youth Services report – it’s still active. M. Fellows presented a Smart Program Management last month that was a success. If there’s a need from the

community for controversial programming, this program showed a way to embrace the need and prepare for it.

## **V. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### Finance Committee

F. Wobrock noted that the committee reviewed two months' worth of financials, but are specifically focusing on December. The Treasurer's Report shows a balance significantly higher than last year's balance due to state aid timing. We have \$1.696 million to carry us over until later this summer when we receive 2025 state aid. Looking at the income report, UHLS received \$95k of special legislative funds, with \$85k for our member libraries and \$10k to UHLS to pay for the Memory Project coordinated by J. Wines. The Purchase Journal reflected the last 10% LLSA grant totaling \$18k for the member libraries, NYT payment for all patrons for the year of 2025, Equity Challenge payments, and SAIYL reimbursements.

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

## **VI. OLD BUSINESS**

Thanks to the board for the staff breakfast last month – it was fun and we were appreciative of those who contributed.

New UHLS trustee binders coming next month!

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

Executive Director Search Committee Update: S. Keitel shared that M. Savage was co-chair and the remaining members are S. Wyner, C. Dugas, Andrea Nicolay from APL, and M. Fellows. They are meeting tonight following this meeting to discuss the upcoming process.

This board has never evaluated the Executive Director. S. Keitel thinks it's best practice to do so and will be thinking about how to bring that to the board in the near future with the new ED.

## **VIII. TRUSTEE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

D. Carr (RCSC): Last month a former commentator for New Channel shared on social media the children's book "All About Penises" in protest. The concerned citizen spoke to the school board but no one ever showed up to the library board meeting. While there was a lot of negativity on Facebook, they received all positive feedback inside the library. Policies are in place, they're ready for any future challenge.

Y. Terplak (ALTM): Joe Burke has been the Director at ALTM for 10 years!

L. Scoons (BETH): The bonding vote failed, so now they're going back to the drawing board to discuss next steps. In response to Chris Churchill's editorial, the board decided to write a letter to the editor. The TU wanted the Board to change the letter, so they declined to have it

**Board Meeting 01/08/2025**

R. Drysdale (TROY): published because they felt censored. They have a new library director, they've had a lot of staff turnover, she's feeling how underfunded they are, especially with the denial of insurance funds for the Lansingburgh branch that was damaged from a rain storm last year. Staff is forming a union and she's looking for feedback, as they've never gone through this. BETH, GUIL and APL have unions. They're also reviewing policies. D. Carr offered to help, as she spent the last year reviewing policies for RCSC. They're hoping to ask for a lot more money this year from the voters.

**MOTION:** Y. Terplak moved to adjourn. C. Engel seconded. Unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 5:57 PM.

02/05/2025 JF