



UPPER HUDSON LIBRARY SYSTEM

Together. For Better Libraries.

OFFICERS:

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

Board of Trustees July 9, 2025

PRESENT: Carolyn Fagan; Fred Wobrock, Jr.; Marcy Savage; Joe Burke; Yvette Terplak; Corie Dugas; Scott Wyner; Debbie Carr; Camille Engel; Jackie Marino; Susan Keitel; Georgia Gray
Excused: S. Macinski
UHLS Staff: J. Favreau; C. Sagaas

I. CALL TO ORDER

S. Keitel called the meeting to order at 4:34PM.

II. OATH OF OFFICE

S. Keitel administered the Oath of Office to Georgia Gray (beginning her first five-year term). J. Favreau will file the paperwork with Albany County.

S. Keitel noted that per the UHLS Board's bylaws, all members are appointed at our Annual Meeting each year in June. The Bethlehem Public Library board had a public vote in June and because their next meeting was after our Annual Meeting, they didn't have the opportunity to appoint their next representative / UHLS board member. They've since met and appointed Mark Kissinger, who was unable to join us this evening.

MOTION: S. Keitel moved to appoint M. Kissinger as a UHLS Board member representing the Bethlehem Public Library. S. Wyner seconded. Unanimously passed.

III. MINUTES

MOTION: C. Engel moved to approve the May 14, 2025 minutes. Y. Terplak seconded. Unanimous.

MOTION: M. Savage moved to approve the June 11, 2025 minutes. D. Carr seconded. Unanimous.

IV. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

In addition to what was provided in the board packet, C. Sagaas shared that everyone's elections passed last month; congratulations to all! The transition to Vega and the new mobile app is in full swing and the UHLS team is supporting the member libraries through the transition. J. Burke

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asked what UHLS would do if the new app isn't completed in time when Capira is shut off – we are meeting next week to discuss logistics.

There was also a discussion regarding hearing more from the UHLS staff, as it's nice to attach a face to a name. C. Dugas suggested that we should keep these visits volunteered so that there's no confusion of being asked to come. They would like to hear and thank the staff for the projects they are working on, like the new shared calendar. Thank you Joe and Judith for all of your work! S. Keitel reminded the group that the Board doesn't ever direct a staff member other than C. Sagaas to do something.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee

F. Wobrock, our star spangled treasurer, noted for our new trustee that while we are in the negative per our Treasurer's Reports, we have more than enough operating funds to cover us until the state aid is received later this summer. We are in excellent shape and earned \$5,500 in interest in June.

Looking at the May and June Purchase Journals, J. Favreau had a tenant space deep cleaned and painted for our new tenants, Up-Stitch. Expenses also covered the cost of the annual meeting and the awards disbursed, maintenance of the generator, and a couple of monitors purchased for POES (which is a pass-through expense). D. Carr asked if the new tenant had access to the full space or if there's a possibility of renting out the other side. J. Favreau noted that we can't currently rent out the other side because that tenant wouldn't have access to the bathrooms without walking outside or through the Up-Stitch space. Our hope is that they'll slowly expand over the next three years.

MOTION: The Finance Committee moved to adopt the May and June 2025 Treasurer's Reports and Purchase Journals. Y. Terplak seconded. Unanimous.

Nominating Committee

C. Engel presented the slate of officers:

S. Wyner – President
M. Savage – Vice President
J. Marino – Secretary
F. Wobrock – Treasurer

Hearing no nominations from the floor,

MOTION: The nominating committee presented S. Wyner as President, M. Savage as Vice President, and J. Marino as Secretary. C. Dugas seconded. Unanimously passed.

MOTION: The nominating committee presented F. Wobrock as Treasurer. S. Wyner seconded. Unanimously passed.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Annual meeting feedback: the venue did run out of food a couple of times and J. Favreau has addressed this with Brown's; they have offered us a \$300 credit toward our next event should we return in 2027. Parking was also a major unexpected issue with the Ryan's Wake event taking place at the same time and will be taken into consideration in the future.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

C. Sagaas presented the new NYS Public Library Construction Aid guidelines to the board. Essentially all of our member libraries (24/29) that were eligible for up to 75% funding are now eligible for up to 90% funding. Y. Terplak asked to have this information relayed to the directors with a specific timeline for submitting their proposed projects.

S. Keitel asked the group if they should meet in August.

MOTION: J. Burke moved to cancel the August meeting. Y. Terplak seconded. Unanimously passed.

VII. TRUSTEE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- J. Burke (ALTM): Thank you Susan for your service on this board and to this library system. You've had to deal with a number of tasks that others before you never had to tackle and you did so with such patience.
- C. Engel (EGRN): Adhering to their mission statement and strategic plan, the EGRN board is considering offering local businesses and their employees library cards. Thoughts? C. Fagan asked how staff is going to monitor employment status within the community. D. Carr asked if these patrons would be granted full access. At RCS they offer out of system cards, as do many within the system for an annual cost, and these often come with restrictions (like no digital content or museum passes access).
- Y. Terplak (ALTM): Shout out to the ALTM concert series on Tuesday evenings – there are four more out in the park. There were maybe 300 people present last night!
- C. Dugas (GUIL): They had a contested election last month! This energy, along with their first book sale post-COVID has really sparked interest in starting up a friends group. If you have an excellent one, please send them our way!
- S. Keitel (WSTR): She has a suggested reading the article *AI is Ruining Our Thinking and Co-Intelligence: Living and Working with AI* by Ethan Mullick. She also saw something on books clubs specifically for guys and dads worth looking into.
- M. Savage (COLN): Stop by the COLN library and visit the memory garden for Natalie Gillis.

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MOTION: C. Dugas moved to adjourn. C. Engel seconded. Unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 5:53 PM.

07/16/2025 JF