



UPPER HUDSON LIBRARY SYSTEM

Together. For Better Libraries.

OFFICERS:

President: Scott Wyner
Vice-President: Marcy Savage
Treasurer: Fred Wobrock, Jr.
Secretary: Jackie Marino

Board of Trustees January 14, 2026

PRESENT: Fred Wobrock, Jr.; Joe Burke; Camille Engel; Jackie Marino; Georgia Gray; Mark Kissinger; Yvette Terplak; Scott Wyner; Laura Tenney; Marcy Savage; Corie Dugas; Sarah Macinski; Marie Gavazzi

Excused: Debbie Carr

UHLS Staff: J. Favreau; C. Sagaas

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. OATH OF OFFICE

M. Gavazzi took the Oath of Office. J. Favreau will file with the Rensselaer County Clerk.

III. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

S. Wyner formally assigned M. Gavazzi to the Finance Committee.

IV. MINUTES

MOTION: J. Burke moved to approve the November 12, 2025 minutes. L. Tenney seconded. Unanimously passed.

V. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- VEGA Discovery rolled out with minimal issues. We learned it would cost \$17k/year for a text messages services. After reviewing the usage numbers, we didn't think it would be the best investment. J. Thornton has since written a script so we can do it for free!
- Construction aid grants are moving forward.
- Advocacy Day is coming up! All meetings have been planned and he'll be sending that schedule out tomorrow (Tuesday, Feb. 3)
- Tomorrow at MVLS is the SRP (Summer Reading Program) event – Mary and Caroline have been working a ton to get that off the ground.
- Wall Street Journal and ComicsPlus are up and running!
- IT contract with Rawdon is expiring in February. It will now have an ad hoc fee structure. We anticipate a cost savings but are also exploring options with a local company for long term needs.

J. Marino mentioned the staff brunch that was hosted in December: it was lovely, however not many trustees were able to attend. She suggested hosting at another time when more trustees can be there.

J. Marino noticed that you met with the director at Schenectady Public Library, do you have any update for us? The County Manager is now gone and he was a big supporter. Tim Burke was also at the meeting as he is now a Schenectady trustee.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee

Comparing the Treasurer's Report to this time last year, we are about the same. We have \$2+ mil, including \$500k in restricted funds, in the bank to carry us through the year until we receive our annual state funding. This month for income we made just over \$10k which is comprised of interest and rent.

Looking at the November Purchase Journal, we paid for the All Access subscription, the second payment of our snow contract, and \$800 towards pest control to seal up the building. On the December Purchase Journal, we paid for the Sierra API subscription, OverDrive Magazine, and Homeless training.

S. Wyner asked about the dinosaur costumes that were purchase: this year's SRP has a dinosaur theme; these will be circulated to the member libraries as needed to provide programming. J. Burke asked about the waffle makers: dino shaped! Also for SRP.

MOTION: The Finance Committee moved to adopt the November and December 2025 Treasurer's Reports and Purchase Journals. S. Wyner seconded. Unanimous.

Services Committee

Y. Terplak noted that the committee communicated via email prior to the meeting to discuss the proposed change to the UHLS holiday schedule. Juneteenth is currently a floated and the committee has agreed to make it an observed / closed holiday. 18 of the 29 member libraries are closed that day with no delivery service provided.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

ED Evaluation Process: J. Burke reiterated that this is incredibly important, as C. Sagaas is heading into his 8th month at UHLS. A lengthy conversation occurred among the trustees and consensus was that while the board still has work to complete in terms of what their role is and how they'll be evaluated, they don't want that process to hinder their ability to review. C. Sagaas.

MOTION: Y. Terplak moved to approve the Executive Director evaluation process as presented by J. Burke. M. Kissinger seconded. Passed unanimously.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Board Meeting 01/14/2026

2025 Reconciled UHLS Budget: a copy was distributed to the full board prior to the meeting.

IX. TRUSTEE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- M. Savage (COLN): She's officially been sworn in as a board member on the COLN board! (She was sporting her new library card socks.)
- J. Burke (ALTM): He highlighted the story in the local newspaper regarding the medical incident at the Bethlehem Public Library. An AED saved a patron's life. The Troy Savings Bank Charitable Foundation has offered grants in the past to purchase AEDs – everyone should have one in their library.
- M. Kissinger (BETH): The BETH patrons love the Wallstreet Journal!
- J. Marino (VAFL): Their library book club is featured in the most recent issue of Bookmarks magazine.
- C. Engel (EGRN): Eminent domain has been taken off the table.
- S. Wyner (STEP): As most of you have read in the papers, the result of the recount was in their favor!

MOTION: S. Macinski moved to adjourn. C. Dugas seconded. Unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 5:54PM.
02/04/26 JF