

Attendance:

Natalie Hurteau (UHLS), Anne Pitlyk (UHLS), Joe Burke (ALTM), Jane Chirgwin (RENS), Heidimarie Carle (RVLL), Frank Somers (BETH), Melissa Tacke (CAST), Nate Heyer (COLN), Sharon (BETH), Christiann Gibeau (COHS), Chris McGinty (BETH), Amy Powarzynski (WSTR)

Homeless Library Academy

N. Hurteau reminded attendees that UHLS has a subscription to the Homeless Library Academy. UHLS library employees have free access to both live webinars and the full archive. N. Hurteau highlighted upcoming webinars on trauma and de-escalation training. There will also be an upcoming three part series on de-escalation rolling out soon, so keep an eye out!

Digital Content

OverDrive

N. Hurteau reminded everyone that the OverDrive app is being sunsetted soon. OverDrive has a number of resources to aid with the transition to Libby available in the [resource center](#). Be sure to check out their on-demand webinars if you are looking for guidance on the changeover. Libby is still not available for Kindle Fire.

Ancestry

The system-wide Ancestry subscription is expiring in June and will not be renewed. N. Hurteau is in the process of negotiating prices for those locations who want to continue the service themselves. Ancestry numbers for the Annual Report are pending, but not yet available.

Hoopla

N. Hurteau notified everyone that individual libraries are able to change their checkout limits. C. Gibeau reported that Cohoes patrons have been very happy with their change to ten checkouts a month. N. Hurteau reminded everyone that UHLS is here to take any troubleshooting questions that you have.

- N. Heyer asked if any other libraries have opted out of Hoopla. No, only five libraries have opted out, the rest still offer the service
 - C. Gibeau asked if those libraries that have dropped Hoopla are replacing it with another service. N. Heyer said that Colonie is not.
- N. Hurteau asked if anyone who offers both Kanopy and Hoopla could speak to the use of two platforms.
 - F. Somers said that at Bethlehem Kanopy has been very popular and usage has been steady.
 - N. Heyer said that OverDrive is considering a new subscription model for Kanopy that will be similar to their magazine subscriptions. N. Hurteau will look into this new model when it is announced in the next few months.

Adult Lit Grant

N. Hurteau gave the update that DLD is changing the way that grants are funded. Rather than having separate Adult Services and Youth Services grants, all grant money will be combined into one Outreach Fund. This will enable collaborative project with fewer restrictions on what topics can be covered.

- C. Gibeau asked if there was a definition for Outreach. DLD is responsible for defining what the Outreach populations are, they can be found on the UHLS website [here](#).
- C. Gibeau suggested classes for library staff on virtual programming and video editing.
 - N. Heyer does have classes covering that content that he offers to the public, he can adapt them for staff. He and N. Hurteau will meet to talk about expanding the course options now that there are fewer limitations.

2022 is the final year of the grant cycle under the previous funding scheme.

- Classes with Nate Heyer are continuing, with a course list coming soon.
- Notary classes are going to be brought back in some form, either with scheduled classes or reimbursements.
 - C. Gibeau asked if she can be reimbursed if a staff person became a notary already, but did not take classes through UHLS. N. Hurteau said that as long as the certification came in the last three years, the cost can be covered.

Racial Equity Committee

N. Hurteau reported on updates from the Racial Equity Committee.

- There are two new committee members.
- The programming group is working on developing a system-wide series of community conversations revolving around meals called "Breaking Bread and Barriers."
- The collection development group recommended Baker and Taylors DEI, Collection HQ as a resource for libraries to run diversity audits. Six UHLS libraries are ordering it, but the cost proved too high for most members. The group is continuing to develop another way to perform diversity audits on print collections for members not moving forward with Collection HQ.

NYLA Updates

N. Hurteau announced that AnnaLee Dragon has been selected as the new executive director of NYLA. She will start on February 14th.

Advocacy Day will be virtual and will be held on March 2nd.

- J. Burke went over the asks for this year. Although we are starting from a better position under Governor Hochul's proposed budget, there is still ground to make up in library aid and construction grant funds.
 - C. Gibeau asked whether the money comes from state or if it is from the federal government and is passed through the state to reach libraries.

- J. Burke answered that the money comes straight from the state. Some federal money does get sent to libraries, but that is not factored into the state budget.
- N. Hurteau announced two upcoming Advocacy Day related CEs hosted by NYLA.
 - February 16th – Policies and budget asks
 - February 23rd – Social media training for Advocacy Day

N. Heyer announced that an email from IDEAS will be coming soon for anyone who is interested in doing a conference session. They are also looking into starting quarterly CE events for members.

- J. Burke mentioned that PLS will be sending out emails for conference sessions as well.

The NYLA conference this year will be November 2nd-5th and the deadline to apply for conference sessions is the end of March.

The PLS annual member meeting will be on February 14th and AnnaLee Dragon will be in attendance for anyone who wants to meet the new ED and NYLA President Beth Merkle.

Passports

N. Hurteau suggested that libraries looking for new sources of revenue consider becoming passport acceptance facilities. Brunswick became a passport acceptance facility during her time as director and made \$3,000 in one quarter. The training is eight hours and libraries are paid \$35 dollars for each passport, more for photos.

Comments and Updates

C. Gibeau announced that while Cohoes is still in their temporary location in the Senior Center, the work on the library is complete and their move-in plan has been submitted to the city.

A. Powarzynski asked what other libraries were planning to say about mask policies now that a judge has ruled the Governor's mandate invalid.

- J. Burke pointed out that this ruling has already been appealed, so the mandate still stands while the appeal process continues. He suggested telling patrons that rather than switching up policies with every announcement, the library is maintaining a consistent mask policy. He also pointed out that the library is able to implement their own mask rules whether or not a statewide mandate is in effect. Altamont has required masks throughout the pandemic to protect vulnerable patrons.
- N. Heyer said that because Colonie is a municipal library, they have to follow town policies. There had already been a patron expressing frustration at being asked to wear a mask in the building because of the court ruling, but town policy currently requires masks to be worn in town buildings.