



UPPER HUDSON LIBRARY SYSTEM

Together. For Better Libraries.

Chair: Melissa Tacke

Vice Chair: Tim Wiles

Secretary: Joe Burke

X	APLM – Scott Jarzombek	X	NGRN – Mary Klimack
X	ALTM - Joseph Burke		PTRB – Anita Wilson
	BRLN – Sharon Vogel	X	POES - Margie Morris
X	BERN – Kathy Stempel	X	RCSC - Judith Wines
X	BETH – Geoffrey Kirkpatrick	X	RENS - Jane Chirgwin
	BRUN – Sara Hopkins	X	RVLL – Heidi Carle
X	CAST – Melissa Tacke	X	SNLK - Melinda Fowler
X	COHS – Christiann Gibeau	X	SCHG - Nick Matulis
	COLN - Evelyn Neale		STEP - Kim Roppolo
	EGRN - Jill Dugas Hughes	X	TROY - Paul Hicok
X	GRAF – Leanna Sweet		VAFL - Kelly Akin
	GUIL - Tim Wiles	X	VOOR – Sarah Clark
	HOOF – Sara Yetto	X	WTVT – Debbie Scott
X	MEND – Laura Cernik	X	WSTR – Amy Powarzynski
X	NASS – Tracey Clague	X	UHLS - Tim Burke

Directors' Association

Date: March 19, 2021

Others in Attendance: J. Favreau; J. Thornton; Mary Fellows; Melanie Metzger

Virtual meeting called to order by M. Tacke at 9:02AM

Updates from UHLS

Tim

- All public librarians and library workers are eligible to receive the vaccine as of March 17. A paystub or letter of employment should be efficient for proof. Last week Albany Co. had a vaccine clinic and M. Tacke noted that if you check Rensselaer Co.'s facebook page or call them directly, they'll get you in fairly quickly. With multiple sites in the area and pharmacies now vaccinating, S. Jarzombek noted that many of his staff have gotten in within 48 hours.
- The budget looks good, better than what the executive put in his original budget - \$34 million restoration for construction grants. Pass along the call to action from NYLA to anyone who's an advocate for libraries.
- 25 signature limit is now in play for member libraries who have a vote coming up.
- DLD will have more details soon regarding the funds for systemwide broadband. There was much discussion regarding these funds and if they'd make it to the member libraries - yes, and the CARES funds should be received soon too.

Jona

She's slowly making her way through reviewing them - please keep an eye out for emails from her. Still missing three reports - but have submitted a number to DLD. Thank you!

Natalie

Grow with Google classes with Nate have ended - reach out to her if you need further documentation.

Mary

There's a process defined for swapping StoryWalks if you have one you'd like to swap or borrow: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Ct-4McVb4zvQg5NibAwUs9qq6p7wUFpU0_ctMWdqRyo/edit?usp=sharing>

Joe

Please get those Capira forms in as soon as you can - do not hit submit and reach out if you have any questions.

New Business

Vaccine Hesitant Staff Discussion

J. Wines found the Ask the Lawyer pages sent out yesterday by UHLS to be helpful, but would also like to hear from the group what they plan on doing about masks in staff areas and what they will do during public facing programs (especially children's programs because they aren't yet eligible for a vaccine). S. Jarzombek said that APL has no plan to de-mask any time soon. G. Kirkpatrick noted that there are no places in the building for staff to take a break or eat lunch currently because all of the space is being used as offices to spread people out. Hoping with the warmer weather, staff can move outside for breaks and lunch but inside the building, masks will still be a requirement. J. Chirgwin asked the group if you can ask about vaccination status during

an interview - the consensus was that you cannot, until the job is offered and then, only if the library is requiring it. Many member libraries will continue to offer virtual programming throughout the summer.

UHLS Board and Finance: Jill not present but T. Burke reported that a PPP loan was approved for UHLS.

Ad Hoc Pandemic Response Committee: Will be meeting soon to discuss further reduction of quarantine time.

Ad Hoc Systemwide Broadband Committee: S. Jarzombek will send out a Doodle poll next week for meeting times (will meet prior to the next DA meeting).

Antiracism Task Force: Project Ready has started and there are 13 solo with support participants. They are working on a systemwide program with Gretchen Soren and are also working on a systemwide board training piece. A survey will be sent out to board presidents and directors to help determine the structure and timing of the board training segment - only one response will be needed from each library and will be due back by the end of April, but it's important that each library complete this survey so that the committee has information to work with on this part of the project.

Open Forum

APL just received a McGee Foundation Grant and will be working with the Albany Center Gallery and local teens to paint the murals for various library and community spaces.

VOOR is shifting to a fine free model! Natalie's help in presenting the concept and the current system wide data to the VPL Board was a key factor in the decision, so thanks to Natalie and UHLS! T. Burke reminded the group that libraries that want to explore going fine free should reach out to Natalie to discuss.

On Monday, BETH will be allowing 15 people in for browsing, no appointments needed.

RCSC will be dropping appointments as of April 1st.

ALTM will begin browsing by appointments on Monday

VOOR is offering curbside M-W and headcount browsing Th-Sat

L. Cerniak at MEND asked how to know when others will be opening - there's a public facing systemwide spreadsheet on the front page of the UHLS website with library hours and service details. M. Tacke will send out the link to the group following the meeting.

COHS did a soft opening last Wednesday. Does everyone use racks or bags when offering curbside? G. Kirkpatrick said that it's on demand and on non-windy days, they just run it out to a table, no bags.

DA Meeting 03/19/21

RENS is trying to get back to regular hours but needs another staff member - if you know of anyone looking for more hours, have them reach out to J. Chirgwin.

G. Kirkpatrick reminded everyone to be ready for an increase in the number of staff absences in a couple of weeks when staff members receive their second vaccination.

WSTR allows 4 people in at a time, a lot of curbside pick-ups. Has had a couple of issues recently with overdue notices for items patrons said they returned, hopefully it's just a pandemic anomaly.

Adjourned at 10:09AM.

Next meeting will be Friday, April 2 at 9AM.