



UPPER HUDSON LIBRARY SYSTEM

Together. For Better Libraries.

Chair: Sarah Clark

Vice Chair: Mindy Fowler

Secretary: Sara Hopkins

X	APLM – Andrea Nicolay	X	NGRN – Mary Klimack
X	ALTM - Joseph Burke	X	PTRB – Anita Wilson
X	BRLN – Sara Rogers	X	POES – Donna Riley
X	BERN – Kathy Stempel	X	RCSC – Lisa Neuman
X	BETH – Geoff Kirkpatrick	X	RENS - Jane Chirgwin
	BRUN – Sara Hopkins	X	RVLL – Patrick Wynne
X	CAST – Melissa Tacke		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
	GRAF – Leanna Sweet		VAFL - Kelly Akin
X	GUIL - Tim Wiles	X	VOOR – Sarah Clark
X	HOOF – Danny Yetto		WTVT – Whitney Gitman
X	MEND – Laura Cernik	X	WSTR – Amy Powarzynski
X	NASS – Tracey Clague		UHLS - Tim Burke

Directors' Association

Date: May 5, 2023

Others in Attendance: J. Favreau; J. Wines; M. Fellows; J. Thornton

Meeting called to order by S. Clark at 10:00AM.

Minutes

MOTION: L. Cernik moved to accept the April 7, 2023 minutes. N. Matulis seconded. Unanimous.

Updates from UHLS

Judith

The NYS Construction Grant portal will be opening on or around June 1. Although funds are returned to other libraries within the state, it would be great to spend all of the funds allotted to UHLS member libraries. She'd like to thank COLN for hosting the Great UHLS Spell Off – a pleasure to work with.

Mary

To date, there are over 8,000 visits for the Expedition! The committee is planning the party for Wednesday Sept. 3rd at the Pruyn House in Latham from 4-7PM. They are looking for entertainment ideas – maybe the SCHG kids can come perform again? Maybe a book cart drill team performance? N. Matulis will happily bring along the kids! Reminder that if you're getting low on supplies, please let her know before you run out. The GOAT teen services meetup was held at EGRN; there were actual goats! T. Burke sent out an email last week detailing a series of training opportunities regarding library book challenges.

Jona

The UHLS Annual Celebration is being held on Wednesday, June 14 starting at 5:30PM at Revolution Hall in Troy. Please get your RSVPs in by the end of the month – we can't wait to celebrate in person with you! Your submissions for the annual narrative report that UHLS distributes at the annual celebrations are due to me by EOD Wednesday, May 10th. DLD has reviewed all of our annual reports. If you've received an email from her with corrections, please have those completed by EOD Friday, May 12th.

Joe

There isn't a report from the AAC but he has removed more than 80k driver's licenses from records. J. Wines and he attended 3 chat gpt webinars and UHLS has started making plans to teach and educating member libraries on this new technology.

Old Business

New Business

A. Nicolay would like to discuss workplace safety. Vulnerable members of the community are coming in frequently and her staff are feeling vulnerable. A couple of weeks ago on April 15 a 17 year old was attacked and stabbed in a branch. Luckily the incident wasn't critical but her staff are rightfully anxious. They have provided de-escalation training and they've taken a number of steps internally (re-forming the safety committee, they're adding more cameras, are adding more community engagement clerk hours) but does anyone have any advice on how to reach out to other groups to talk about community safety? T. Wiles suggested a safety audit - he doesn't know how or who does this, but maybe a separate meeting can be set so that we can discuss. P. Hicok shared that his locations have seen one report a week increase to one a day in

since reopening after COVID. TPL has had a bad experience with security guards and they too don't know how handle this situation. M. Tacke suggested maybe broadening this conversation to other areas within the state, as the smaller member libraries can't offer much but other larger libraries within the state may be experiencing the same thing. G. Kirkpatrick is currently working with an architect and stated that schools are ahead of us when it comes to safety planning. He doesn't know how applicable it is, but the architecture firm has a security consultant in regards to layout. M. Fellows would like to help facilitate this future conversation. C. Gibeau suggested reading The Black Belt Librarian. As a NYLA council member, J. Burke would be interested in adding more education on this for its members.

Committee Reports

UHLS Board & Finance Committee – J. Burke not much to note, a typical meeting.

UHLS Administration Committee – G. Kirkpatrick noted they are meeting next week to review annual award nominations.

UHLS Services Committee – S. Clark noted that they too are meeting next week to review annual award nominations.

Equity Committee – A. Nicolay noted that they met on the 27th and discussed some basic formatting: how to share the resources they've been working on. They've determined a Google document to a link with all the resources will most likely be used. They do need more beta testers and are actively discussing how to incentivize participation. They're also considering whether or not to release everything at once, or roll it out over the next several years. Their next meeting will in person.

Automation Advisory Committee – No meeting but they will be meeting next week. If you have any questions, feel free to email them to J. Dugas Hughes.

Central Library Advisory Committee – no report

eContent Advisory Committee – G. Kirkpatrick emailed an updated report this morning, keep up all of your spending. He also shared some RLA results one month in: UHLS patrons borrowed ~1,200 items and we loaned ~1,700 items to outside UHLS patrons.

Open Forum / Library Status Updates

N. Matulis shared that those at SCHG love the Expedition so much, and there are so many positive symptoms from the experience. They are hearing that visitors love their home libraries!

J. Burke shared a story of RENS patrons who came in for the Expedition and asked for a 36 libraries poster for their young child's bedroom – with A. DuBrey's help, UHLS gave them the final copy. Also, the Albany Pride Parade is coming up and golly does that crowd LOVE librarians!

S. Clark is looking forward to seeing all of those running the CDPHP Workforce Challenge next week!

10:57AM meeting adjourned.

Next meeting to be held in person at UHLS on Friday, June 2 at 10AM with a hybrid option.