



UPPER HUDSON LIBRARY SYSTEM

Together. For Better Libraries.

Chair: Sarah Clark

Vice Chair: Mindy Fowler

Secretary: Sara Hopkins

IP	APLM – Andrea Nicolay	O	NGRN – Mary Klimack
IP	ALTM - Joseph Burke	O	PTRB – Anita Wilson
O	BRLN – Sara Rogers	IP	POES – Donna Riley
IP	BERN – Kathy Stempel	IP	RCSC – Lisa Neuman
IP	BETH – Geoff Kirkpatrick	O	RENS - Jane Chirgwin
	BRUN – Sara Hopkins		RVLL – Patrick Wynne
O	CAST – M. Tacke	O	SNLK - Melinda Fowler
O	COHS – Ray LeMay	IP	SCHG - Nick Matulis
IP	COLN – Elissa Valente	IP	STEP - Kim Roppolo
IP	EGRN - Jill Dugas Hughes	IP	TROY - Paul Hicok
O	GRAF – Leanna Sweet	IP	VAFL - Kelly Akin
O	GUIL – Nate Hayer	IP	VOOR – Sarah Clark
	HOOV – Danny Yetto	O	WTVT – Whitney Gitman
IP	MEND – Laura Cernik	O	WSTR – Amy Powarzynski
O	NASS – Tracey Clague	IP	UHLS - Tim Burke

Directors' Association

Date: May 3, 2024

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

Hybrid meeting called to order by S. Clark at 10:03AM.

Minutes

MOTION: N. Matulis moved to accept the April 5, 2024 minutes. A. Nicolay seconded. Unanimous.

Updates from UHLS

Tim

- Ray LeMay is officially the director at COHS!
- Paul Hicok is officially retiring July 1 from TROY after 36 years!
- The state budget included a 4.27% increase to libraries this year; the largest increase during his tenure at UHLS. Construction aid funding also increased – the rough math shows UHLS receiving almost \$400k in additional funds.
- Speaking of construction aid, we (UHLS) received an additional \$164k more that was returned from other systems from last year's grant cycle. This brought 8/9 applying libraries up to full capacity and brought the final library (TROY) up much closer to a full eligible award.
- The portal for this year's construction aid cycle will open early June.

Jona

All but one member library NYS annual report has been officially accepted! Thank you to everyone for the quick responses, hopefully this means we'll be receiving our state aid earlier this year.

Narratives for the UHLS annual report are due to her today. She only has 6 in hand which means it'll be an empty report as is. If you could please get those in to her today or early next week so that she can get that report printed in time for the Annual Celebration, it would be greatly appreciated.

The Annual Celebration is being held Wednesday, June 12 at the Albany Country Club. Invitations went out this week via delivery and email, please make sure to share with your staff and board of trustees. Hope to see you there – it is an “old” venue for us but with the new format.

Judith

May 9 NYLA will be hosting a Library Friends presentation in Clifton Park, and it's free! We officially have funding to support the Memory Project! Next week she'll be reaching out with further details.

An email was sent out this morning regarding the upcoming Pride Parade being held on Sunday, June 9 at Washington Park. Everyone is welcome to join us – family, friends of the library, staff and trustees -it's a library love fest! The Workforce Team Challenge is coming up on May 16th if you'd like to join our team, runners and walkers can participate.

Books by Mail: This service for mailing large print or audio materials free of charge via USPS is now available! There are three options: you can promote the service and offer it on your own,

UHLS can provide the service, or you could do nothing. It is an honor system and she spoke to a number of colleagues throughout the state and it works great. She'll send out an email next week to gauge interest. D. Riley asked how long does it take for patrons to receive their items? She conducted a test with a known ALTM patron and it only took two days.

Mary

We welcomed Amy Jeansonne this month – there's been a lot of training and bringing her up to speed. We had the annual GOAT meeting this week at EGRN; was a wonderful program. The next YSAC meeting is next Thursday from 10-12pm in person. The RIF books have arrived and will be sent out next week. Summer reading materials are all dispersed – if you think something is missing, please let Mary know.

Old Business

J. Burke shared that he did a lot of research being the DA representative to the UHLS Board in regards to the idea of SCPL joining UHLS' ILS. He does not think the UHLS Board should consider this question at this time. His intention is to vote no unless this group says otherwise. There was a lengthy discussion after J. Burke shared his personal opinion, with many questions left unanswered. The consensus from the group was that the only way to have these questions answered is to explore the possibility of SCPL joining our ILS. At the suggestion of L. Cernik, the DA decided to conduct a straw poll to gauge the position of the DA on this question. The results of that straw pull were: 13 YES, 2 NO, 1 ABSTENTION.

Note: This discussion was paused by a prescheduled presentation and resumed following the new business. Not all original meeting attendees were present when the straw poll was conducted.

New Business

Laurenne Teachout made a TBBL presentation to the group that was engaging and informative. Thank you Laurenne!

G. Kirkpatrick informed the group that the COVID-19 paid sick leave obligation has officially been extended to July 31, 2025.

S. Clark asked the group if they still have any work from home accommodations for library employees. A. Nicolay shared that they do have some that are part of the confidential and management team. J. Dugas Hughes shared that they do have a couple however they have an ad-hoc approval process, which is mostly project based. M. Tacke shared that they just updated their personnel policy that included the detail that the director could have up to 8 hours per pay period.

Committee Reports

UHLS Board & Finance Committee – Usual meeting per J. Burke.

UHLS Administration Committee – G. Kirkpatrick noted that they'll be meeting next week to review the annual awards nominations.

UHLS Services Committee – S. Clark noted that they'll be meeting next week to review the annual awards nominations.

Equity Committee – A. Nicolay noted that they met on March 14. They sent out a welcome letter to the 19 libraries who have signed up. The deadline to complete the tasks is December 30, 2026 – plenty of time! The email prompts will continue to go out throughout the duration of the challenge to all. May 9 is the next meeting. J. Wines asked participants to please submit for reimbursement / funding as you complete the tasks for budgeting purposes.

Automation Advisory Committee – no report

Central Library Advisory Committee – no report

eContent Advisory Committee – G. Kirkpatrick noted that the monthly spreadsheet should be in front of everyone and was emailed out this morning for those of you tuning in online. The committee is discussing how might we think about expanding our RLA. RCLS and Westchester are the two we're eyeing – UHLS has reached out to see if they'd be interested in joining. The committee is also considering doing a new diversity audit. With the possibility of SCPL joining our ILS, they've been reviewing the eContent selection guidelines and exploring what the eContent implications be. The current consensus from the committee is to not allow SCPL access to digital content until they join the system because they aren't bringing any digital content to the table.

Open Forum / Library Status Updates

G. Kirkpatrick shared that they have 8 people running for 3 seats. A. Nicolay reported that they have 12 running for 3 seats. J. Burke noted that ALTM is looking to change their by-laws to include a teen advisory seat on the board.

K. Roppolo reminded the group that her husband Logan has a wonderful children's book program and is willing to take the "show" on the road. Please reach out if you'd like host.

J. Burke motioned to adjourn. G. Kirkpatrick seconded. Unanimous.

12:40 PM meeting adjourned.

Next meeting to be held in person at UHLS with a hybrid option available Friday, June 7 at 10AM.