



UPPER HUDSON LIBRARY SYSTEM

Together. For Better Libraries.

Chair: Sarah Clark

Vice Chair: Mindy Fowler

Secretary: Sara Hopkins

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

Directors' Association

Date: June 7, 2024

Others in Attendance: J. Favreau; M. Fellows; J. Thornton; Charity Thorne; Natalie Hurteau (online); Nate Heyer (online)

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

Minutes

MOTION: J. Chirgwin moved to accept the May 3, 2024 minutes. G. Kirkpatrick seconded. Unanimous.

Updates from UHLS

Tim

- Construction Grants: On Wednesday, June 5 the portal opened. On Thursday, August 1 the bare bones application is due to UHLS (quote and description of work being done). Wednesday, August 28 the completed application is due to UHLS and October 2 is the due date to DLD. With this year's updated budget we'll have approximately \$1.388 million to distribute to our member libraries.
- As a reminder, every public library trustee is required to complete 2 hours of training, every year. UHLS offers a number of options online found under the 'Services' tab on the UHLS website.
- An update for Judith: for those of you who were interested in hosting the memory project, we did hear from one of our assembly representatives and they will pay for it entirely – it's going to happen, she'll be in touch soon.

Mary

The Pride Parade is this Sunday – sign up by noon tomorrow if you're interested in joining us and she'll then respond with her contact information and where they're going to meet. There should be about 70 people – so much fun! She hopes you consider coming.

SAIYL grant is underway - if you are deploying the tool that we've recommended, we'd love to hear from you. She recently met with a representative from Planned Parenthood – there are a library of options available for us all to utilize.

Summer reading is coming up, please reach out if you're looking to get READsquared set up, would like to borrow a kit or two, and we also have PA system you could borrow for programming.

Jona

The 63rd Annual Celebration will be on Wednesday, June 12 at 5:30 at the Albany Country Club. See you all there!

Old Business

Charity Thorne, Director of the SCPL is here to chat and answer any questions the directors may have. She explained that the SCPL has received a \$1.2million increase in funding from the County over the last 2 years – all stakeholders are very supportive right now and invested in the well-being of our patrons.

J. Chirgwin asked if SCPL had an option of just resource sharing vs. becoming a member, what they would choose. SCPL would be interested in becoming a member of UHLS, she thinks there are a lot of benefits for both SCPL and UHLS.

E. Valente shared COLN has concerns being a bordering library. They are currently feeling MAXED out in terms of staffing capacity. They are already considering shifting to resident only programming because they are maxed and are already turning SCPL residents away. C. Thorne noted the Woodlawn Hill branch is getting some of the COLN residents. E. Valente noted that don't know if SCPL are visiting because COLN is closer or they want UHLS items.

P. Petruski asked what the timeline would look like should a decision be made in favor of this arrangement. T. Burke explained that the UHLS board is the decision maker and the decision could be as early as July. He's unaware of how long the migration would take, hopefully it could be wrapped up by the end of the year. To note, this timeline is only for ILS sharing and not the full membership piece which would require charter action by NYS and both organizations.

J. Burke asked T. Burke when you give the question to the board in July, what the question is going to be. Are you asking us to share the ILS or suggest full membership? T. Burke noted that DLD will have to decide / weigh in as to whether or not SCPL can join UHLS and he hopes we do pursue a full relationship and bring in DLD for consultation. He is seeking further information regarding rechartering because this hasn't happened since the 80s but he's heard from DLD and it's not necessarily a yes or no stamp.

J. Dugas Hughes asked what value this relationship would bring to UHLS and our communities. C. Thorne noted that a tri-city or Capital Region Library System would be a good demographic fit. They are a large library with a robust staff, resources, collection and are facing similar challenges as APL and it would be great to collaborate on finding solutions.

T. Burke noted that state aid to UHLS would go up if SCPL became a chartered member of UHLS.

J. Dugas Hughes asked if there would be a staffing impact. T. Burke doesn't foresee it being a huge impact because it's only one more library but it's a lot more money in NYS aid, so we could hire another staff member if needed.

J. Burke noted the increase of work for the staff at UHLS, the added cost for SCPL, the loss of jobs for MVLS and keeps personally circling back to what is the problem that we're trying to solve. He has heard that it's hard to work with the JA and admits that they need an overhaul, but he'd like to hear what the problem is that justifies this solution that we're moving toward. C. Thorne stated that there's not a willingness of JA to reform and questions whether it is a fiduciary responsibility for SCPL to reform them. She hopes and assumes a merger of staff to SALS from MVLS would happen if SCPL were to join UHLS.

M. Tacke asked if there has been any other public library system in NYS that has changed their charters to expand/contract their service areas. Not since the late 1980's, no.

K. Roppolo asked if UHLS says no, what does that mean for SCPL? C. Thorne said they could discuss managing their own ILS - financially it's doable but they could also reach out to other systems.

J. Dugas Hughes asked if she could elaborate on autonomy and flexibility – UHLS has done a lot of work for making a loan rules the same or very similar. C. Thorne shared that they're looking

forward to managing their own staff permissions in the ILS because right now, they don't have that right now. SCPL spends a lot of time and energy finding work a-rounds for access – she herself cannot access everything. She noted that J. Thornton has been very encouraging in finding solutions for ideas she has if she joins. She's not opposed to standardized loan rules.

G. Kirkpatrick reported on behalf of ECAC – the committee has concerns with resources and with SCPL's addition which would be a strain on digital resources. They're suggesting SCPL make a significant investment to bring something to the table right away. C. Thorne reported that they currently allow 10 borrows per month for Hoopla – they spend about \$160k per year on that resource but are interested in shifting cash to OverDrive once they have access. T. Burke shared that he thinks its bad customer service to limit our resources and not allow certain patrons to access what we have, so if SCPL were to share the UHLS catalog it makes sense to share digital content as well.

J. Dugas Hughes asked what dollar amount Tim is suggesting SCPL pay while sharing our ILS. 20% of overall UHLAN fees plus the full cost of migration and additional delivery fees.

It was asked what the proposed mechanism of collaboration was - ECAC and AAC not YSAC etc.

J. Burke asked how long it takes to migrate. C. Thorne has been told it is doable within 6 months with III. They are contemplating spending about \$70k which includes training.

P. Petruski asked what we as a system are going to do if this is negative to our patrons and staff. Does SCPL have any concerns of our patrons coming to you? Is this going to be a difficult transition for your patrons? C. Thorne said that she does not have any concerns in regards to sharing resources.

L. Neuman asked if their problem was with MVLS and not JA since Saratoga does all of the work. C. Thorne explained that SALS does the work so they as a system have more flexibility. L. Neuman followed up and ask if their board considered the impact on the smaller libraries. Yes but nothing will change other than access to materials because right now SCPL doesn't have access to the money or decision making process as the Central Library, that would remain with JA.

E. Valente said that she shares a lot of the fear expressed by GUIL. The in-between is where they are really struggling to grasp how this is going to personally impact them. P. Petruski expressed that GUIL is not feeling the same urgency to get SCPL "out of the house," it's not a hard no but feels we really need to take our time in this decision.

J. Dugas Hughes expressed concerns with the municipality and a change of people – what will happen with a new administration at the county, would the agreement be lost?

New Business

L. Neuman shared that she'd be tabling at an event at Lawson Lake on Saturday, June 22. If you have anything you'd like to add to her table, reach out, she'd love to include it.

Committee Reports

UHLS Board & Finance Committee – J. Burke noted that it was a good meeting. The board approved the proposed amended budget to reflect the increase in state aid. Within this new budget included a retroactive 4.5% COLA increase for the staff. The board also approved the use of NYLAF for investing moving forward.

UHLS Administration Committee – G. Kirkpatrick reported that the committee met to review the annual awards nominations that will be presented at next week's annual celebration.

UHLS Services Committee – S. Clark reported that the committee met to review the annual awards nominations that will be presented at next week's annual celebration.

Equity Committee – M. Fellows noted that the committee is supporting the member libraries who are participating in the challenge.

Automation Advisory Committee – J. Chirgwin shared that she's stepping down, so there's an open seat. Meetings are virtual and are the second Thursday of each month. No one volunteered to join at the time of the meeting.

Central Library Advisory Committee – no report

eContent Advisory Committee – G. Kirkpatrick distributed the spending spreadsheet via email and in hand at the meeting. Keep spending, you're doing great!

Open Forum / Library Status Updates

M. Tacke asked if anyone had been contacted in regards to the Rensselaer County summer youth employment program? Do you have any placements? No one in the room had been contacted.

J. Dugas Hughes noted that Rensselaer County made a summer activity guide and no libraries are included. She'd like to work together to be listed!

J. Burke asked if we've heard anything regarding bullet aid this year. T. Burke shared that Chris Tague gave the system the money toward the memory project. Breslin gave ALTM a \$25k SED grant if they could pull together a proposal in 23 hours... which they did but it won't work for the generator they were hoping to purchase.

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

12:29 PM meeting adjourned.

S. Clarke will send out a doodle poll re: the next meeting since it's scheduled for July 5th and a number of us may be off. The group agreed that the next meeting should be an all virtual meeting.