



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

Directors' Association

Date: October 4, 2024

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

Hybrid meeting called to order by S. Clark at 10:06AM.

Minutes

MOTION: E. Valente moved to accept the September 6, 2024 minutes.
N. Matulis seconded. Unanimous.

Updates from UHLS

Tim

- There is no new news in regards to SCPL. The UHLS board took no action on their tabled motion, so it's dead. Until there is news from SCPL, we won't be furthering this discussion. SCPL is establishing their own ILS which is planned to be up and running by the end of the year.
- Construction Grants: all of the 2025 applications have been submitted to DLD. The board approved the recommendation, the libraries have been notified. Thank you to the applying libraries for making this process work. They'll be reviewed by DLD and then DASNY. Last year's grant cycle update: the awards have been certified, legislators have been notified and those checks should be in hand soon (90% amount). A. Powarzynski shared that a local newspaper called and was asked to comment on the funding that the legislator secured for the library. N. Matulis thanked the committee for tackling this pickle and making it a positive outcome for everyone.
- UHLS has been looking into Vega from III: they have an app and calendar system that at first were attractive but J. Thornton, J. Wines and he have been meeting and have determined that they may not be worth pursuing at this time. UHLS is also considering a shared calendar from Library Market and is researching if there's a way to do an aggregated calendar for all the member libraries to participate in. Five of our member libraries already use the Library Calendar product. J. Wines is aware that those who already have it, may not want to feed into ours. UHLS would set it up for reporting (ease for the annual report), there would be a cost savings but there would be some loss of branding control. A. Nicolay voiced that her immediate concern surrounding booking a room – every library has a different policy and she doesn't want to create confusion for staff or patrons. She'd also like to see what it would look like as a joint system. J. Dugas Hughes requested to be brought into the conversation because they're already users of Library Calendar. Could this possibly be an AAC topic of discussion?

Judith

NYS has a local Independent Living Center offering digital equity audits/assessments – it's a 3rd party audit of technology. She needs to let the ILC know which libraries are interested in participating. They've already confirmed that they can't do everyone. This clearly ties in to the facilities and equipment aspect of the Equity Challenge. She'll email everyone more information this afternoon.

Thank you for the Bookpage updates! If she hasn't heard from you, she's assuming there's no change from this year.

Mary

She's arranging a free trial of Educate Station, a curriculum for homeschoolers. SNLK is already a user and paying between \$200-300 range per year. She'll send out info next week.

SAIYL grant training is happening on Oct. 15 at GUIL 9:30-3PM, with lunch included. This training is a collaboration with ADULT and YOUTH services. Last day for registration is today and is free of charge. Her department is working on getting a lot of materials in. There will be a webinar with a book talk, and they're thinking of putting the books into a bin for review in order to make informed decisions. This webinar is happening in November.

On Dec. 10 she's partnering with 5 folks from the across the state to put on a virtual program called "Smart Program Risk Management." G. Kirkpatrick and the BETH board President and S. Hopkins and the board President from BRUN will be presenting. This discussion will not be recorded. It is trustee training appropriate as well, and will count toward the state's requirement.

Old Business

New Business

Shared collection agency/small claims services: P. Petruski share that they have one patron who took out a ton of their new games - \$6k worth over a handful of libraries. What if anything have any of you done in the past toward patrons like this? T. Burke noted that UHLS can't take the lead on this because we don't own any of the items that have been stolen. G. Kirkpatrick noted that BETH had taken someone to small claims court and the judgement was in their favor... but nothing can be done to make the patron pay. It cost way more money in staff time than the value of what was stolen. He reiterated that if we (the member libraries) can't accept this cost of business, then we shouldn't be in the business for offering those items. A. Nicolay shared that she had a collection agency at her last library and it came to nothing – she does not suggest pursuing this.

Provocative political attire/behavior: P. Petruski has had reports from GUIL staff that a patron came in wearing a Nazi associated symbol on their shirt and asked to be shown their collection on the Holocaust. He's reiterated that someone like that could be trying to provoke them to a reaction. He told his staff to "kill them with kindness." Is there more that can be done? G. Kirkpatrick noted that they (the directors) are obligated to protect them (staff) from harassment. This meets the guidelines of harassment but not enough to kick them out immediately; choices are somewhat limited. Customer behavior policy is key but they may argue about free speech. A. Nicolay pointed out that there are a lot of assumptions being made. If their behavior was appropriate, then why would be looking to remove them from the space? "You're interrupting our day to day business," is a phrase to be used when business is being interrupted and an intervention needs to happen but in this one example, their behavior didn't disrupt service.

Sunday/Summer hours: P. Petruski comes from a system that had set hours all year long but for UHLS, GUIL is closed like many on Sundays in the summer. He's considering being open on Sundays in July and August and closing November/December when the weather and holidays are more of a factor. GUIL also hosts their farmer's market on Sundays while closed. A. Nicolay shared that APL made this change last year: the staff will hate it, but the community will LOVE it. It was the right thing to do for the APL community. She grounded her message to staff with

their mission and as an equity discussion. They also figured it would be a needed cooling station in the summer months. Door counts this summer support their decision.

Committee Reports

UHLS Board & Finance Committee – J. Burke shared that it was a good, standard meeting. The SCPL decision that had been tabled wasn't acted on, the construction grants applications were approved, and the following slate of officers passed: Susan Keitel – President, Marcy Savage – Vice President, Fred Wobrock – Treasurer, and Scott Wyner – Secretary.

UHLS Administration Committee – did not meet

UHLS Services Committee – S. Clark noted that the committee gave a virtual thumbs up to the CLAC budget.

Equity Committee – A. Nicolay shared that they did meet and prepped for the meeting that was held this morning – thank you K. Stempel and E. Valente for sharing your experience. The facilities and equipment discussion this morning was great! J. Wines sent out the survey – please complete this month. Their goal is to share those results on Thursday, Oct. 24th.

Automation Advisory Committee – Did not meet but L. Neuman has agreed to co-chair with J. Dugas Hughes and noted that the meeting date and time may change.

Central Library Advisory Committee – J. Burke walked the group through the proposed CL budget for 2025. Items to note: new this year is a NYT All Access Subscription for all member libraries. This subscription will now reduce the costs spent for our member libraries that already subscribe. The committee turned down a TU subscription, as it was more than the NYT. The Language Line Translation Service is also new for 2025. This service doesn't cover phone calls made outside of the library, it is just for library services, not calling outside. 99 cents per minute for phone, \$1.99 for sign language, \$1.25 Spanish, \$1.35 for all other languages on video. Flat salary rate from APL, thank you!

eContent Advisory Committee – Did not meet but G. Kirkpatrick distributed the spending spreadsheet per usual. Everyone has spent 75% or above, right on target!

Open Forum / Library Status Updates

L. Sweet asked who is offering health insurance for staff and if it could be purchased as a group? J. Dugas Hughes had asked NYLA and the pool of librarians is smaller than the small business sector, so they were unable to offer that service. G. Kirkpatrick shared that the school consortiums do not want to include us. L. Neuman noted that Albany County is going to the NYSDFS board to investigate the creation of a consortium (municipal and school libraries will be eligible to participate).

K. Stempel noted that the general public has enjoyed the 'Survivors' display at BERN.

The next hybrid meeting is scheduled for 11/1 at 10AM.

11:35AM meeting adjourned.