



UPPER HUDSON LIBRARY SYSTEM

Together. For Better Libraries.

Chair: Sarah Clark

Vice Chair: Mindy Fowler

Secretary: Whitney Gitman

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

Directors' Association

Date: January 10, 2025

Others in Attendance: J. Favreau; J. Thornton; J. Wines; Meghan from GRAF

Hybrid meeting called to order by S. Clark at 10:05AM.

Welcome Tim Furgal, new Director at the Troy Public Library!

Minutes

MOTION: A. Nicolay moved to accept the November 1, 2024 minutes. N. Matulis seconded. Unanimous.

Updates from UHLS

Tim

- Advocacy Day: February 5 – The agenda will be emailed out to everyone this afternoon. Gabriella Romero is our only new face but we've heard she's a supporter of libraries.
- Trusting Training – J. Burke noted that the ALTM board trustees report out on their training throughout the year. They've also split up their board to attend the handbook book club so that not everyone is taking the same chapters. T. Clague asked if her board president can't attend the Board Leadership Training, can she come alone – no, try to encourage the President to attend.
- Website feedback: A. Powarzynski noted that she found the ILL information but doesn't get an autoreply like she used to. J. Thornton made a change in the Google forms and it should be working now. J. Burke received one yesterday, it's 3 pages long now. K. Stempel has to use her personal Gmail account to access the Google Forms, but the Microsoft account from the library doesn't work. G. Kirkpatrick suggested she make a Gmail account that forwards to your work Microsoft account but can be used to edit docs, fill out forms, etc.

Judith

A joint purchase of the library calendar looks to be happening! Look for more information next week. J. Thornton and she met with a door count technology company: cost ~ hardware \$800 per door. Monthly cost: \$14 exterior, \$9 interior She'll reach out to set up a meeting if enough libraries are interested. A. Nicolay asked if there's a mobile door counter we could use and rotate around? L. Neuman added that security cameras can now count people and can help identify lost / missing persons. This is how APL counts, and practices principles of privacy.

She can only provide system wide statistics for NYT by library: up 83% in December from November. COLN puts their code on a dedicated page that counts who visits to get click stats.

Jona

Annual report season is upon us and the portal is open. Please reach out if you have any questions. Reports are due to her for review before submission on 2/14. K. Stempel noted that a couple of trustees don't want to include their home addresses on the annual report, is that okay? T. Burke will follow-up with DLD.

ERO invoicing – if you need that invoice broken up, just let her know.

Joe

The statistics for the annual report are not ready yet, but will be available either today or early next week.

Old Business

New Business

There will be a meeting at 9:30AM with Roger Noyes from the Office of the Aging prior to next month's DA meeting on Friday, 2/7.

Hoopla: GRAF has asked that any items available on OverDrive to be removed from Hoopla to save some money. J. Wines noted that this is called deduping – she's curious to see what the impact is and will review in 3 months for any other library that may be interested in this strategy of saving funds.

Committee Reports

UHLS Board & Finance Committee – J. Burke shared that the board reviewed two months of finances and a reconciled 2024 budget will be coming in February. Everything else is in good shape. There are two new trustees from APL and TROY.

UHLS Administration Committee – no meeting

UHLS Services Committee – no meeting

Equity Committee – A. Nicolay shared that the charge and composition for the committee has been overhauled, as there is no longer a single focus just on a racial injustice. The committee is suggesting a change from 9 to 7 members, with no longer the need to stagger membership, and approximately 12 meetings per year.

MOTION: The Equity Committee made a motion to change the bylaws as presented. J. Dugas Hughes asked why they were looking to “water down” the scope of work. A. Nicolay shared that they are now looking at access, reviewing demographic changes, as well as including disabilities instead of focusing just on racial equality. Passed unanimously.

The committee is also looking for a small/medium library director. The meetings are held over Zoom – A. Nicolay is willing to speak with anyone interested.

Automation Advisory Committee – no meeting

Central Library Advisory Committee – no report

eContent Advisory Committee – G. Kirkpatrick distributed the final 2024 numbers, look at all that spending! UHLS is fantastic compared to other systems in the state. The group would like to know the circs and hold times for other systems in the area and if they have an ERO or equivalent. J. Wines noted that because we've decentralized econtent purchasing and haven't focused on Advantage spending, this is why we're seeing great results.

Open Forum / Library Status Updates

T. Furgal will be presenting Pathways to Librarianship at an ALA conference in Phoenix next week.

Search Committee update for the UHLS ED position: A. Nicolay is the DA representative, Susan Keitel (WSTR), M. Fellows, Corie Dugas (GUIL), Marcy Savage (COLN) and Scott Wyner (STEP) are the other committee members. They're going to meet weekly in February and it will remain a confidential process. She's been meeting with some of you and if you'd like to chat with her, she'd love to sit down with you as she wants to know what's important to all of us in the UHLS ED.

N. Matulis shared that Year 7 of "Let's Make a Song" has wrapped up! Ages 6 to 72 of song writers. The program airs on Sunday at 2PM WEXTradio.org – then they post it on their website.

M. Tacke asked if anyone was phasing out their CDs and Audiobooks? EGRN stopped funding music CDs years ago (gave them all away) and this year they stopped funding audiobooks. BETH is down to focusing on what's not available in Hoopla or Libby but it's not decreasing. RENS would be interested in grabbing some of the discards.

EGRN is seeing an increase in adult day-hab groups. Yesterday they had 45 people. Yes was the resounding answer. GUIL reached out to the parent groups to introduce themselves, share expectations – they have them sign in like they do with any large group policy. APL too has a group policy however they are seeing many smaller groups in attendance. J. Wines mentioned a presentation from Rensselaer County ARC a couple of years ago – she'll reach out to see if they'd be willing to come back.

12:07AM meeting adjourned.

Next meeting to be held in person at UHLS with a hybrid option available Friday, February 7 at 10AM and don't forget about the 9:30AM presentation before the DA meeting.