



UPPER HUDSON LIBRARY SYSTEM

Together. For Better Libraries.

Chair: Sarah Clark

Vice Chair: Mindy Fowler

Secretary: Whitney Gitman

IP	APLM – Deanna DiCarlo		NGRN – Mary Klimack
O	ALTM - Joseph Burke		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
IP	CAST – Melissa Tacke	IP	SNLK - Melinda Fowler
	COHS – Ray LeMay		SCHG - Nick Matulis
IP	COLN – Elissa Valente	IP	STEP - Kim Roppolo
O	EGRN - Jill Dugas Hughes	O	TROY – Tim Furgal
O	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: February 7, 2025

Others in Attendance: J. Favreau; J. Thornton; J. Wines; Julie Weston from VAFL

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

Welcome Julie Weston, the incoming VAFL Director. Long-time patron, library volunteer and board member of the library – she’s looking forward to what’s to come!

Minutes

MOTION: M. Tacke moved to accept the January 10, 2025 minutes.
G. Kirkpatrick seconded. Unanimous.

Updates from UHLS

Tim

- Advocacy Day: Wednesday seemed to go well but we’ll know how effective it was in April when the budget is adopted. The executive budget from the Governor was at the minimum by law to fund libraries, a .67% increase. Construction grant funding is back down to \$34 million statewide in the executive budget as well. T. Furgal asked how the NYLA Legislative Committee came up with their ask because it seems unrealistically high. M. Fellows who serves on the NYLA Leg. Committee, shared that the idea is to send a message that we’ve been under funded for so long, this would help bring us up to where we need to be. They played with the idea of shooting more modestly, but that hasn’t worked in the past. J. Burke reiterated that we are funded way below where we should be.
- Library Calendar project: 19 member libraries opted in (8 currently using or transitioning over to Library Calendar on their own, 2 opted out). The implementation fee is \$3,500 - UHLS will be approaching our board next week with a request to withdraw funds from our restricted automation savings account. We won’t move forward until the Board votes next Wednesday.
- We received an email from III a couple of weeks ago that Encore is shifting to a limited service plan effective February 1. They’ve been marketing Vega as the replacement and we’ve looked at the product in the past but we never moved forward with it. We are still waiting for pricing information and timing of an implementation. We’ll be in touch but we anticipate this transition in 2025.
- Federal/DLD funding discussion - The question was brought up whether some of the recent federal level decision making and policy trends are likely to impact state and local library funding and activities here in UHLS. Tim explained that UHLS receives no federal funding, only state and member library support (UHLAN), so we are well insulated from these decisions from a funding perspective. He also pointed out that the NYS Library receives a significant amount of annual funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and much of that money goes to support staffing and services at DLD, so reductions or elimination of federal funding could seriously impact state library staff and services.

Joe

He’s still in the very early stages of this but OCLC may become a possible replacement for SkyRiver. Because we moved away from them for cataloging, it’s disrupted ILL searches on the

administration side. This change would deliver a more up to date catalog for ILL and hopefully by the end of the year they'll have this issue resolved.

Judith

LibCal – thank you to everyone who followed up on this. Our goal is to have this up and running by May for summer programming and it will help with annual report statistics.

Feb 28th at 3PM there will be a hearing assisted systems show and tell at BETH.

Every year she sends a “unique users” report to directors – it is now available for all libraries on the UHLS website under ‘monthly reports.’

Mary

She held a successful SRP programming workshop last week, with two more coming up on February 25 for children and March 11 for teens. In April she's hosting a ‘Welcoming LGBTQIA+ Youth in the Library’ workshop virtually – check out the UHLS website for more details.

Jona

Annual Report season! Please reach out to her if you have any questions – trying to get as many submitted by March 1 as possible.

Old Business

New Business

Guest from APL Head of Public Safety will be at the next DA meeting, Matt Leibowitz.

L. Neuman attended the Empire State Library Network's “New Laws in the New Year” webinar and found it extremely helpful. She'll send out an email with further details for those interested, especially if you don't have an HR representative on staff.

A. Powarzynski asked if our Equity Challenge would be going away based on what's happening in Washington? No, this money is built into our budget and we're ready to fund this work. Our funding is coming from state sources, not federal.

Committee Reports

UHLS Board & Finance Committee – J. Burke reported that the UHLS board welcomed two new board members from APL and TROY.

UHLS Administration Committee – no meeting

UHLS Services Committee – no meeting

Equity Committee – Kudos to GRAF for submitting work! Not only did they complete that area of the challenge, but they reviewed their findings and found areas of improvement.

Automation Advisory Committee – no meeting

Central Library Advisory Committee – Did not meet however J. Wines reported that the NYT usage is increasing. The Language Lines training has happened and she has yet to see the invoice for January so we don't know the usage (yet).

eContent Advisory Committee – G. Kirkpatrick shared that the committee did meet and wanted to open a conversation in regards to increasing our minimum spend amount from the current 5%. For some they noted that it would have to be a small incremental number for this fiscal year as budgets are set. No decision was made but the directors will continue to discuss.

Open Forum / Library Status Updates

D. DiCarlo mentioned that she'll be sending out an email next week with an anonymous survey regarding homelessness. She'd very much so appreciate your participation.

11:38AM meeting adjourned.

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