



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

Directors' Association

Date: May 2, 2025

Others in Attendance: J. Favreau; J. Wines; J. Thornton

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

Minutes

MOTION: N. Matulis moved to accept the April 4, 2025 minutes. M. Tacke seconded. Unanimous.

Updates from UHLS

Mary

Chris Sagaas will be starting June 2 and will be scheduling meetings with each of you. She's had some requests for trainings and is asking if we can we wait until he arrives to schedule, that would be great. She'll be gone this month the 21st- 30th with limited access to email.

There's been a budget-extender for the week, hopefully we'll hear news soon.

IMLS funding: She participated in an event held at BETH with Tonko and Lauren Moore – thank you G. Kirkpatrick for hosting. The bottom line is that we don't really know how this will trickle down to the member libraries. A temporary restraining order was just issued and effective May 4 – so that's a big help. A "Dear appropriator" letter sign-on will be coming out later today urging our representatives to support us; please share with your boards.

UHLS is looking into replacing SkyRiver with OCLC. It's pretty costly to do a one-time clean-up to bring our ILL records up to date. We are seriously considering and will keep you abreast to any changes being made.

Vega will replace Encore. We have our kick-off meeting on Monday and it will probably take 6-8 weeks for implementation. MHLS we've been in contact with and they've been a great resource for us.

Joe

He brought up the Mid-Hudson Library System website to show the group what Vega could look like.

Library Calendar update: 19 libraries have signed on. He noted that we should be able to integrate those calendars with the other 7 libraries who already have it on their own with a program he'll build.

Judith

She emailed a summary document of the 2024 DLD numbers earlier this week for everyone's reference. Monday is the cutoff for registration for the CDPHP Workforce Challenge. Pride Parade is coming up on June 8th and is always loads of fun! Next week she'll be in touch to the member libraries who opted in to Library Calendar because they are getting close to going live.

Jona

All DLD annual reports (except Albany due to their Central Library status) have been officially approved – thank you! Annual narratives were due to her April 30 – please get those in to her if you haven't already to be included. June 11 is the Annual Celebration at Revolution Hall in Troy – invites will go out early next week.

Old Business

New Business

L. Neuman asked about professional development distribution: who has priority? Does anyone have a policy or procedure they'd like to share? G. Kirkpatrick stated that theirs says "at the discretion of the director." A. Nicolay noted that at APL, she relies on the managers and supervisors for their recommendation. G. Kirkpatrick added that it can be a slippery slope for anyone who is non-exempt. You don't want to be accused of time theft.

J. Burke shared that it was NYLA renewal time - now's the time to do it!

J. Burke asked if anyone was having similar issues with Baker and Taylor: wait times are getting longer and longer for new titles and many items are backordered for weeks / months. Does anyone know why this is happening? G. Kirkpatrick shared that Baker and Taylor lost their retail business, so now they are only supplying libraries and they can't demand deliveries from their publishers. Many libraries noted that they switch to Ingram and while they've been overwhelmed with new customers and do have wait times, they've been shorter waits than with Baker and Taylor. Many have also used Amazon but they don't want that to be the solution. UHLS will reach out to the Book House to see if they could do cooperative purchasing locally.

The Nominating Committee, comprised of G. Kirkpatrick, J. Burke and L. Neuman, is putting forth the following slate of officers to be voted on at the next meeting:

P. Petruski – Chair

E. Valente - Vice Chair

W. Gitman – Secretary

S. Clark read the thank-you note that T. Burke sent the group.

Committee Reports

UHLS Board & Finance Committee – The Board had one major agenda item last month and that was determining the next Executive Director. It was also our last meeting with Tim Burke.

UHLS Administration Committee – No meeting

UHLS Services Committee – No meeting

Equity Committee – A. Nicolay thanked everyone who filling out the quarterly reports. Soon J. Wines will be doing short interviews for the work that's already been done to date.

Automation Advisory Committee – No meeting but they are working on an online registration process. J. Thornton explained that right now, anyone anywhere can get an online card instantly to access our system. Rob Carle deletes these as they come in. They will be proposing a registration system where no one would be able to register without submitting some sort of ID, which would result in no more temporary cards. The patron would have to wait until approved by the home member library, which will eliminate abuse.

Central Library Advisory Committee – No meeting

eContent Advisory Committee – G. Kirkpatrick no meeting but he shared the spreadsheet of spending. A. Powarzynski noted that there was chatter at a previous meeting about increasing our

spending totals by a specific percentage. The group agreed to have this discussion at the June meeting – this is not an ECAC decision, but a DA decision.

J. Wines discussed Hoopla and some of the changes many member libraries have made to try and lower expenses. A price cap per item has impact at the \$1.99 level. N. Matulis asked what PR the libraries are putting out with these changes – consensus was, no PR. J. Burke reminded the group that we have a great, curated collection and with that, he wants out of Hoopla and thinks it should be a collective decision. It was asked what would it look like if you used Overdrive for cost per circ. ECAC hears you and it's something that we're looking into. G. Kirkpatrick shared that Clifton Park only uses Hoopla for comics and movies – no books and audiobooks.

Open Forum / Library Status Updates

SCHG – We won an Eddie! The Linda is closing their doors and are going to take their show on the road. Would anyone be interested in having some local radio / music out of their libraries... there was some interest! WEXT did this at Clifton Park when Northern Lights closed.

M. Tacke said that CAST previously used ReadSquared for SRP but are going paper based. Are others moving in that direction? Yes!

L. Neuman asked if are we meeting in July? It will go on the June agenda.

J. Burke shared that NY for Better Libraries received a call from Penguin Press, and are coordinating a fundraiser on May 20. It's coming together quickly at The Hollow – if you can make it, thank you!

11:28PM meeting adjourned.

Next meeting to be held in person at UHLS with a hybrid option available Friday, June 6 at 10AM.