



UPPER HUDSON LIBRARY SYSTEM

Together. For Better Libraries.

Chair: Sarah Clark

Vice Chair: Mindy Fowler

Secretary: Whitney Gitman

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

Directors' Association

Date: June 6, 2025

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

Hybrid meeting called to order by S. Clark at 10:02AM.

Minutes

MOTION: A. Nicolay moved to accept the May 9, 2025 minutes. T. Furgal seconded. Unanimous.

Updates from UHLS

Chris

It's great to be back within the system! He just started this week and plans to visit with everyone over the coming months.

Joe

The Vega migration is underway and will be built off of the page that was shared a couple of weeks ago. We're 6-8 weeks out, and will be big change for users. The Capira app is expected to end at the end of July, so we'll be working on the new app for a cohesive transition.

Judith

Pride Parade is happening on Sunday – many thanks to BETH who will be providing the van. M. Fellows will be the point person for the event and she won't know the meeting spot until she checks in with them. Please have your people fill out that Google form so that she can get ahold of you. The weather forecast is good and it's always a lot of fun.

The shared calendar is up and running and she showed the group. Please use the 'all ages' tag sparingly, as events specifically for teens are hard to find. She will send out an email with further details following this meeting. The aggregated calendar is the one UHLS will promote and is live! J. Dugas Hughes noted that everything is being pulled, even if the event is not library sponsored – Judith can exclude them. UHLS has not publicized the calendar yet and won't until it's worked out. She will email out the link today.

Congratulations to everyone who held votes last month!

Jona

The Annual Celebration is next Wednesday, at Rev. Hall in Troy. With all of the transitions happening, she was unable to wrap up the narrative report but it'll be available soon.

Old Business

New Business

L. Neuman asked about cyber insurance – who has it? Many in the room confirmed they have it and G. Kirkpatrick noted that it's your emails and finances that are the most vulnerable. KnowBe4 was suggested as a resource. The Egg hosts a free cybersecurity event each year and a lot of regional IT folks attend.

Andrea Nicolay asked the group about local elections – how do you support local elections? J. Dugas Hughes noted that they put up a display created by the League of Women Voters. Many in the room agreed that it's tricky to keep track of it all and you don't want to be perceived as intentionally leaving someone or an event out.

Nominating committee: J. Burke on behalf of the Nominating Committee presented the following slate:

Pete Petruski for Chair
Elissa Valente for Vice-Chair
Whitney Gitman for Secretary

There were no nominations from the floor.

MOTION: A. Nicolay moved the presented slate. M. Tacke seconded. Unanimous.

Thank you Sarah for your leadership over the last 4 years!

Both the UHLS Board Services and Administration Committees have DA representatives. At this time, S. Clark will be stepping down from the Services Committee and the Nominating Committee is recommending M. Tacke to become the new representative.

MOTION: G. Kirkpatrick moved to make M. Tacke the DA representative to the UHLS Board Services Committee. J. Dugas Hughes seconded. Unanimous.

Committee Reports

UHLS Board & Finance Committee – J. Burke noted the passage of the NYS Budget with a 2.38% increase. In result, the UHLS Board amended the 2025 UHLS Budget. Awards were determined for the upcoming Annual Celebration. A discussion was had re: a formal evaluation of the Executive Director. J. Burke is currently working through what that process could look like and D. Carr is working on a board evaluation process as well.

UHLS Administration Committee – G. Kirkpatrick shared that the committee met and determined the awards to be presented next week – he’s not going to spoil it; you’ll have to come to find out!

UHLS Services Committee – S. Clark shared that the committee met and determined the awards to be presented next week.

Equity Committee – A. Nicolay said that the committee will start sharing interviews of member libraries who have completed sections of the challenge to boost the initiative and share discovered value. June 26th is the date of the next meeting.

Automation Advisory Committee – There will be a meeting on Tuesday and they’ll be working on the online library card registration that J. Thornton built.

Central Library Advisory Committee – No meeting

eContent Advisory Committee – G. Kirkpatrick distributed the monthly spending report. There was a lengthy conversation re: Hoopla. The committee is going to put out a short survey soon to gather thoughts and feelings about Hoopla. The committee recommends 7.5% as the new proposed (from 5%) contribution amount and the DA decides when that switch is made.

MOTION: G. Kirkpatrick moved to increase the yearly econtent contribution rate to 7.5% from 5%. M. Tacke seconded.

After much discussion, A. Nicolay moved to table the discussion until the next meeting, as many would prefer to loop the Hoopla survey results into that discussion. It was agreed that the DA would need talking points for their boards if as a group we decide to move away from Hoopla.

Open Forum / Library Status Updates

S. Hopkins reiterated that her email to the group this morning wasn't an attack on anyone. She was concerned reading the minutes that were distributed re: the meeting with the day-hab group representatives and their collective decision to have employees opt to sign-in in an effort to help support them should an issue arise. There was a lengthy conversation and many agreed that it might be more helpful to follow-up on an individual basis with the groups.

The first Friday of July is July 4; should we meet? It was agreed that the next meeting will be held on Friday August 1.

12:05PM meeting adjourned.