



# UPPER HUDSON LIBRARY SYSTEM

Together. For Better Libraries.

Chair: Pete Petruski

Vice Chair: Elisa Valente

Secretary: Whitney Gitman

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

Directors' Association

Date: August 1, 2025

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

**Hybrid meeting called to order by P. Petruski at 10:04AM.**

**Minutes**

**MOTION:** T. Furgal moved to accept the June 4, 2025 minutes. N. Matulis seconded. Unanimous.

**Updates from UHLS**

*Judith*

Preliminary applications for NYS Construction Aid are due today in the portal. Please email Judith and Chris after submission for review and don't hesitate to reach out with questions throughout the process.

An email went out earlier this week: she's offering a mini grant for period products. Applications are due Sept. 24.

E. Valente asked about a possible group purchase for NewsBank. J. Wines has already asked those who are currently purchasing NewsBank what they are paying. Many of you have confirmed that people are consistently reading the Times Union. Last year's quote for the group was about \$25k – J. Wines will be in touch soon.

J. Thornton's update: The new app deadline has been extended to 8/13.

*Jona*

Annual Narrative reports are printed! She'll email the group following the meeting – let her know how many copies you'd like and she'll send them via delivery.

*Mary*

Alisa Brancatelli is the new YFS staff member. The department has a bunch of training opportunities coming up this fall: SAIYL grant training (no specifics yet), the Science of Reading on Sept. 24, the Power of Play in Oct., GOAT is once again being hosted at EGRN, Storytime Bootcamp, and a Middle Childhood Summit.

**Old Business**

Hoopla: G. Kirkpatrick shared the short survey results: 13/22 respondents are willing to get rid of Hoopla. L. Sweet asked if member libraries can subscribe on their own - no. E. Valente asked if we can replace Hoopla with Libby? The cost per circulations are much higher costs but yes. An assumption can be made that the money saved from Hoopla would go into Libby, ultimately reducing the wait times. J. Burke noted that the case for Hoopla is the long tail stuff that isn't offered anywhere else. He personally doesn't think we should put all of that money into Libby – we need to buy the other interested items.

M. Metzger shared that APL is dropping all non-books as of Monday. L. Sweet shared that as of Sept 1, they are getting rid of Hoopla altogether. FYI: they do require a 60-day notice. K. Roppolo said that STEP will continue to try and use it because they get new users each month. S. Kerr-Mace is going to pushback to see if they can turn off all of the AI content.

It was agreed on by the group that this discussion would be ongoing. There are some very strong tools if you're not ready to get rid of Hoopla to lower the cost.

The eContent Advisory Committee recommends increasing the yearly contribution rate from 5% to 7.5% (what was on the table last month). Because a number of member libraries are in the middle of their next budgeting cycle or already locked in for 2026, the committee suggests everyone aim for 7.5% starting in January 2026 but this change will be effective for January 2027.

**MOTION:** G. Kirkpatrick moved to accept ECAC recommendation, raising the yearly contribution rate to 7.5% effective January 2027. J. Chirgwin seconded. Unanimously passed.

G. Kirkpatrick has served a number of years as the DA representative to the Administration Committee and is ready to step down from that role. Sarah Clark has offered to step up for this position.

**MOTION:** G. Kirkpatrick moved to appoint S. Clark as the DA representative to the UHLS Administration Committee. E. Valente seconded. Unanimously passed.

### **New Business**

S. Clark ask about tutor management: have you had success reaching out to the school district to manage the number of tutors in your space? All of the quiet spaces at VOOR were filled at the end of the school year and it spilled out onto the public floor. J. Chirgwin had the suspension tutoring in the library. She did bring in the principal and he witnessed the aggression and moved it to the Boys & Girls Club. RENS only allows tutors to use a study room, they can't use the main floor. COLN has struggled with that issue – tutors are only allowed up in the mezzanine – they don't let them in the meeting rooms. At one point COLN was going to have a self-service sign in for specific tables; they haven't had to implement this but it was an option at one point.

P. Petruski noted that GUIL has had issues with payments being made to tutors. There is NO exchange of money in the library, period. BETH has this issue too – they encourage them to go outside or Venmo. Solicitation rules are in place for a reason.

### **Committee Reports**

UHLS Board & Finance Committee – J. Burke shared that the board now has two new trustees: Georgia Gray from VOOR and Mark Kissinger from BETH. A slate of officers was voted on: S. Wyner of STEP is the President, M. Savage of COLN is the Vice-President, J. Marino is the Secretary, and F. Wobrock is the Treasurer. The Board did have a discussion re: performance review of the Executive Director; his 6-month review will happen in late December, early January.

UHLS Administration Committee – No meeting

UHLS Services Committee – No meeting

Equity Committee – July meeting cancelled due to the holiday but has received a number of submissions – so thank you!

Automation Advisory Committee – J. Dugas Hughes shared a proposed updated email that someone will receive once signing up for a temp. card number. The email encourages them to visit a library to pick up their permanent library card.

Central Library Advisory Committee – No meeting

eContent Advisory Committee – G. Kirkpatrick distributed the contributions spreadsheet that was also emailed out yesterday – good job! Keep spending!

### **Open Forum / Library Status Updates**

K. Roppolo shared that they had a wonderful presentation on the Erie Canal – it's \$150 for an hour presentation. If anyone wants to borrow the 9 panels she had made for the exhibit, she's willing to share with you. Both APL and BETH got 200 posters – if anyone wants one/some!

J. Chirgwin asked if anyone has loaned out Wi-Fi phones for patrons to use, maybe with a Google number? They've had people check out the hotspots but they never come back even when we turn them off. No one in the room has.

E. Valente asked if anyone has checkout limits – no.

K. Stempel will take any extra Color Your World posters if you have them!

J. Burke shared that registration just opened for 2025 NYLA in Saratoga – please do consider coming to the luncheon on Friday. M. Tacke emailed the group how to see this year's schedule.

J. Dugas Hughes asked if anyone has created physical or digital marketing materials for small businesses in their community. They are partnering with their chamber, and they really want to reach the small businesses, especially those without brick and mortar shops. T. Furgal is working with their BID and will be in touch. J. Wines suggested looking at what Rochester is doing.

N. Matulis noted that it's construction aid season. We know there's a limited pool of money and a lot of projects: is there a way in the future for the member libraries to work together to discuss prior to applications being submitted so that we can get maximum funding? For small libraries we need as close to the max. as possible, otherwise the projects are out of reach. J. Wines shared that she and C. Sagaas have discussed this and with the next cycle may initiate conversations months in advance for this reason and so that estimates are easier to obtain.

J. Burke ask if anyone has the Adobe suite on a public facing computer? APL does in the maker space.

L. Sweet shared that GRAF, PTRB and STEP are all participating in the Rensselaer County Summer Food Service Program providing free meals to children and teens 18 and under during the summer when school is not in session. Grafton has 77 participants. Food pickups happen twice a week. Any library can do it, but you do need volunteers and a way to store meals that weren't picked up in the morning.

P. Petruski shared that GUIL will be hosting author Mallory O'Meara on August 22. It'll be an author talk at 6:30PM (after hours event) with custom cocktails and mocktails.

The next meeting will be held Friday, September 5 at 10AM.

DA Meeting 08/01/2025

**MOTION:** J. Burke motioned to adjourn. S. Kerr-Mace seconded. Passed

**11:28AM meeting adjourned.**