



# UPPER HUDSON LIBRARY SYSTEM

Together. For Better Libraries.

Chair: Pete Petruski

Vice Chair: Elisa Valente

Secretary: Whitney Gitman

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

Directors' Association

Date: October 3rd, 2025

Others in Attendance: J. Thorton; J. Wines

## **Meeting called to order by P. Petruski at 10:01 AM.**

### **Minutes**

**MOTION:** T. Furgal moved to accept the September 2025 minutes. S. Kerr-Mace seconded. Passed.

### **Updates from UHLS**

*Chris*

Chris discussed the New York State Alliance of Library Systems' budget and legislative priorities, including a request for \$176.8 million in operating aid and support for various policy initiatives. NYLA Lobby Day will be February 3rd, and the Pre-Advocacy Day will be held the day before. The New York State Library may be adding to the information libraries need to provide on the New York State Annual Report. Test questions may be added to future reports. NYSALS is looking into creating a curriculum for library advocacy skill sets. All UHLS library construction grant applications have been submitted to the State, and the Upper Hudson budget is set to go before the UHLS Board of Trustees.

*Joe*

Joe provided an update on ongoing projects, including Vega Mobile and Vega Discover, highlighting challenges with self-checkout and e-book integration. Vega Discover is almost ready to go, but is not finished because UHLS patron records need to be “ingested,” and bad patron addresses are posing a problem. There was some discussion about what customization options libraries will have on their individual Discover pages. The group agreed it might be a good idea to come to a consensus on a “default” template at a later date. The Automation Advisory Committee could help with this process. Joe mentioned that UHLS’s records in OCLC are not up to date and that we’ve been quoted \$20,000 to do a one-time cleanup of the records. Instead, UHLS will become a full member of OCLC, which will update all our item records, show UHLS items in WorldCat, and make some cataloging functions easier. Judith mentioned that this can only happen after the contract with SkyRiver is up and that OCLC will hold our quote of \$29,000 per year until then.

*Judith*

Period Product Mini-Grant update: all 10 libraries that applied are getting almost entirely funded for this project. There’s a Program Swap scheduled for October 28th, and many UHLS libraries are presenting programs. There are already 96 people signed up! Judith reminded everyone that there is a Library Calendar widget that can be added to libraries’ individual websites. She also mentioned that the system’s subscription to the New York Times is still successful and is being used by legitimate library patrons. We can now see how many patrons from each library are using the services. Lastly, there is a Talking Book and Braille Library training happening on November 19th.

**Old Business: None**

## **New Business:**

T. Furgal asked how long libraries are keeping DVDs as non-requestable items. Most libraries hold on to them for 1-6 months.

E. Valente brought up the decline of Baker & Taylor and asked what vendor other libraries are turning to. Brodart and Ingram are two choices, though Amazon is also getting into the business of vending to libraries.

A. Nicolay announced that the CAC will be hosting a serials cataloging workshop given by Lisa Pitkin.

A. Powarzynski asked if any libraries had policies for auditing library items and office supplies that are ordered after concerns from her board. Judith mentioned a Finance 101 training given by UHLS that may be helpful. Other libraries suggested keeping invoices and packing slips together, as well as having a staff member sign off on packing slips for incoming packages.

P. Petruski heard that there will be changes coming to New York State Civil Service and asked that if anyone hears anything concrete, to bring it to the group.

## **Committee Reports**

UHLS Board & Finance Committee - The report of the UHLS annual audit came back with everything clean. Thank you to the UHLS staff for keeping everything above board! The Committee voted to approve the Services Committee's recommendation of the distribution of construction funds. There is an opening on the UHLS board. Prospective candidate from the Westerlo board.

UHLS Administration Committee - Did not meet.

UHLS Services Committee - The revised recommended distribution amounts of construction grant funds were settled.

Equity Committee - The Guilderland Library has been invited to be interviewed about outreach in Guilderland. The next Getting it Done meeting will be before the next DA meeting and will focus on marketing.

Automation Advisory Committee - Did not meet.

Central Library Advisory Committee - Discussed the distribution of \$228,100 in funds. The main goal is to reduce eContent wait times. Budget breakdown as follows: Overdrive Platform Annual Subscription \$12,000. Overdrive Magazine Collection Annual Access Fee \$25,000. Vega Mobile App Annual Subscription \$19,712. NY Times Digital All Access Subscription \$20,000. WSJ Digital All Access Subscription \$4,000 Staffing for APL - Collection Development Support \$55,944. Overdrive Digital Content \$91,444. The budget has been approved by the Committee and will go on to the UHLS Board.

eContent Advisory Committee: The Committee proposes Comics Plus as a replacement for comics and graphic novels should libraries drop Hoopla. This would cost \$7600 for the consortium. It has a wide range of comics and libraries that use this service confirmed that it has the best selection of materials for those interested in comics and graphic novels. It was suggested

that the adoption of Comics Plus be coordinated with dropping Hoopla. The committee asked if UHLS libraries would want to cut off unchartered patrons from Hoopla services. The discussion was tabled for a later time.

**MOTION:** J. Dugas Hughes motioned to remove the “Search in Hoopla” facet from the UHLS app in preparation for dropping Hoopla. S. Kerr-Mace seconded. L. Neuman abstained. Passed.

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

East Greenbush is hosting its first Night at the Library fundraiser sponsored by the Friends Group on October 18th from 6-9. There will be a silent art auction and raffle baskets. Tickets can be purchased online! Participants don't have to be there to win!

J. Weston wanted to reach teens for programming and see what items would work for YA raffle baskets. Snacks and gift cards were recommended.

J. Chirgwin mentions that the Rensselaer Library put a minigolf kit in the Library of Things for others to use.

J. Burke talked about how there is a need in every local food pantry and bank. Altamont is doing a Charlie Brown Friendsgiving Fundraiser to get together as a community and build connections while collecting donations for the local food bank. He also suggested that other libraries can do an Annual Library Lights Fundraiser, where the community can contribute \$5 to dedicate a light to a loved one for the names to be read off at the lighting ceremony.

Melissa - Shouted out Bring on the Spectrum. They are in phase 2 for helping libraries create spaces and programs for neurodivergent communities. Information will be sent out.

The Next DA meeting is set to take place during NYLA.

**MOTION:** J. Burke motioned to move the meeting to November 14th. A. Powarzynski. Passed

**MOTION:** L. Neuman motioned to adjourn. N. Matulis seconded. Passed

**12:04 meeting adjourned.**