



UPPER HUDSON LIBRARY SYSTEM

Together. For Better Libraries.

Chair: Pete Petruski

Vice Chair: Elisa Valente

Secretary: Whitney Gitman

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

Directors' Association

Date: November 14, 2025

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

Online meeting called to order by P. Petruski at 10:01AM.

Minutes

MOTION: A. Nocolay moved to accept the October 3rd, 2025 minutes. S. Kerr-Mace seconded. Passed.

Updates from UHLS

Chris

Reminder that minimum standards are changing, which impacts the Annual Report. We will have to attest that we have selection policies, codes of conduct, meeting room policies, disaster preparedness, confidentiality policies, etc. UHLS will help with templates and make sure everyone gets to check “yes”.

CDLC has started having forums for long-range planning.

There’s an NYS DLD survey for member library construction needs going out. Libraries should put in for projects they want to do. This helps bolster the case for additional funding.

A free webinar series for ebook info.

There are 2 dates left for the 2025 Core Trustee Training. They’re exploring ways to make things more flexible and accessible.

A.Nicolay asked: Would every library training count for the 2-hour requirement? Chris confirms that most trainings would count, depending on who is giving the training.

From Mary

The deadline to sign up for Storytime Boot Camp is today! Also, a reminder about the loanables survey that went out to everyone.

Joe

Our Vega Discover page is pretty much ready to go. We’re going to add an advanced search option. There are different showcases that can be added, but there is currently only one. The search facets are not completely configurable, but some customization is possible. The facet “Persons” has been renamed “Contributors”. Hoopla shows up as a contributor which can’t be fixed unless changed in the MARC record. For now, Discover will just be a search interface and will not include other pages like Mid Hudson’s advocacy page. Nothing is set in stone, and there are things that can be tweaked, but the page is essentially ready to go. catalog.uhls.org will be redirected to Discover when the time comes.

MOTION: J. Burke motioned to aim for January 1st for the Discover rollout. A. Nicolay seconded. Passed.

Judith

TBBL is doing virtual workshops.

If libraries want statistics for Comics Plus, there's a one-time \$100 setup fee. The rollout date is January 1st!

UHLS is working on a “unique resource” database for things like sewing machines and other interesting things. If there's anything that libraries don't want listed, let Judith know.

Old Business

New Business

Committee Reports

UHLS Board & Finance Committee – There's a new member - Laura from Westerlo who represents small libraries in Albany County. There was a lot of discussion about irregularities with Stephentown's budget vote. The 2026 UHLS budget was passed.

UHLS Administration Committee – When UHLS members retire, they are given the option to get health insurance with the understanding that they can't opt into this later after declining. This has been added to the employee handbook.

UHLS Services Committee – No meeting

Equity Committee – Submissions were received from Albany and Guilderland. Guilderland was interviewed. The next Getting It Done meeting is before the December DA meeting.

Automation Advisory Committee – Joe Thorton already shared about Vega

Central Library Advisory Committee – No meeting

eContent Advisory Committee – No meeting

Open Forum / Library Status Updates

Judith worked with United Way to put together a grocery card distribution for SNAP recipients at some Albany County libraries.

J. Chirgwin mentions she has a social work student at Rensselaer on Tuesdays in case anyone needs help.

K. Roppolo mentions that Stephentown is still fighting with the Board of Elections over their budget vote. 240 people signed affirmations that they voted yes to the library budget, and only 60 votes were counted in total. The library is asking for a recount.

The new Stephentown Children's Area will have its grand opening on Saturday at 1 pm.

A. Powarzynski says that NYLA was awesome! Westerlo is also celebrating its 40th anniversary and has put a calendar together for monthly displays and programs.

W. Gitman says that the grocery card event in Watervliet was a huge success and that everyone got what they came for

A Nicolay tells that DSS has canceled the Saturday grocery card events. Albany had around 1400 people come so it was an “all hands” situation. The Albany sheriffs were on hand. Only a few incidents happened even with all those people.

APL has staff communication about Hoopla coming to an end going out in December. Public communication will go out closer to the end date. They are removing Hoopla from their website so new members can't join in the meantime.

Joe Thorton asks if we can remove Hoopla MARC records from our catalog

MOTION: J. Chirgwin motioned to remove Hoopla records. E. Valente seconded. Passed.

The next meeting will be held on Friday, December 5th, at 10 am

MOTION: E. Valente motioned to adjourn. L. Sweet seconded. Passed

11:12AM meeting adjourned.