



# 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
O	ALTM - Joseph Burke		PTRB – Anita Wilson
	BRLN – Sara Rogers	O	POES – Donna Riley
O	BERN – Kathy Stempel	IP	RCSC – Lisa Neuman
	BETH – Geoff Kirkpatrick	IP	RENS - Jane Chirgwin
	BRUN – Sara Hopkins		RVLL – Patrick Wynne
IP	CAST – Melissa Tacke		SNLK - Melinda Fowler
	COHS – Ray LeMay	IP	SCHG - Nick Matulis
IP	COLN – Elissa Valente		STEP - Kim Roppolo
IP	EGRN - Jill Dugas Hughes	IP	TROY – Tim Furgal
O	GRAF – Leanna Sweet	IP	VAFL – Julie Weston
IP	GUIL – Pete Petruski	O	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: December 5, 2025

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

## **Hybrid meeting called to order by P. Petruski at 10:05AM.**

### **Minutes**

**MOTION:** N. Matulis moved to accept the November 14th, 2025 minutes. T. Furgal seconded. Passed.

### **Updates from UHLS**

*Chris*

Member libraries are encouraged to fill out the NYS construction survey that went out. This helps present a case for the needs of libraries. There's a webinar about construction happening in March. Construction projects should be a year-round thought for libraries. For cost estimates on the survey, DLD doesn't need exact, real numbers. Just close enough that they're feasible.

*Mary*

UHLS has a Sex, Accurate Information for Youth, and Libraries (SAIYL) program to help libraries provide the best information to youth and families. There are SAIYL resources located on the UHLS website with book lists, training materials, marketing materials, and more. UHLS will even print out requested marketing materials for libraries (within reason). There are also opportunities to partner with Planned Parenthood to provide a variety of programs at no cost to libraries.

There will be a Summer Reading Program workshop on January 15th.

*Judith*

Comics Plus is good to go for the January 1st launch date. Marketing material is coming soon. We got a new, lower quote for the Wall Street Journal, but still no invoice. Language Line is still a resource libraries can use too. There's an adult program swap on January 14th focusing on adults with dementia and their families.

The Unique Resources Database that UHLS is working on received some feedback and Judith clarifies that this is supposed to increase accessibility and awareness, not be all-inclusive. This can be a staff-only resource if that makes it easier for libraries. Let Judith know if there's anything libraries don't want included in the database. New deadline for this is 12/15.

*Jona*

UHLS is operating on a cash basis through the end of the year. Please pay your invoices.

### **Old Business**

AAC mentions that there is not a lot of manipulation possible of Vega facets. We're good for a January 1st rollout. If libraries need new links on their websites and can't do it themselves, please let UHLS know. It appears that reading history from Encore will roll over to Vega.

### **New Business**

Guilderland Library is looking for health insurance consortium recommendations. It was mentioned that Albany County might be forming one. L. Neuman says this is the preferred way to go if possible. J. Dugas Hughes had a recommendation, but says they have no portal to use. There is currently no updated information on how NYS Annual Reports are going to be done.

## **Committee Reports**

UHLS Board & Finance Committee – No December meeting. The 2026 budget was approved with additional UHLAN funds and additional spending for things like WorldCat.

UHLS Administration Committee – No meeting

UHLS Services Committee – No meeting

Equity Committee – Brunswick Library’s marketing was reviewed. The Getting It Done meeting happened. Next meeting is TBD

Automation Advisory Committee – Already reported

Central Library Advisory Committee – No Meeting

eContent Advisory Committee – Committee looked at Central Library funds and decided 50% should be allocated to new nonfiction and 50% to filling high-demand holds.

Albany Public and Menands are both dropping Hoopla. UHLS patron types will also be losing access to Hoopla. If other libraries are considering dropping, there is a 2-month lag time.

Committee is looking into a digital simultaneous mystery collection after the success of the romance collection. This is a collection they hope to “crowdsource” this collection for 2026.

## **Open Forum**

DA officers plan to begin reaching out to all DA members to ask about their concerns, needs, what they want to see, etc. These will be informal temperature checks about how we can all help each other.

Castleton Library is seeing a decrease in physical circulation and patron visits and is wondering if other libraries are experiencing this. Other libraries are seeing mixed statistics. UHLS will share statistics so libraries can compare.

L. Neuman mentions the importance of getting cardholder percentages up in the context of strategic planning.

E. Valente says Colonie’s patron survey revealed that patrons still want physical items.

A. Nicholay will send out Albany’s Hoopla sunset plan.

The next meeting will be held Friday, January 2nd at 10AM.

**MOTION:** E. Valente motioned to adjourn. A. Powarzynski seconded. Passed

**11:55AM meeting adjourned.**