



UPPER HUDSON LIBRARY SYSTEM

Together. For Better Libraries.

Chair: Pete Petruski

Vice Chair: Elisa Valente

Secretary: Whitney Gitman

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

Directors' Association

Date: February 6, 2025

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

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

Minutes

MOTION: T. Furgal moved to accept the January 2nd, 2026 minutes.
M. Tacke seconded. Passed.

Updates from UHLS

Chris: Advocacy Day Debrief - We got our message across, and there are things in mind to improve for next year (like communication).

There is interest in forming a CDLC Legislative Committee for more information sharing and opportunities to implement more advocacy. The goal is to include member library directors.

There is an advocacy curriculum being worked on.

On February 24th there will be a watch party for a webinar on how to respond to ICE in libraries.

A vendor has been selected for the New York State Annual Report - Counting Opinions. The report is not completed but the question numbers should remain the same unless there are new questions. Chris and Jona will make sure new directors have what they need. The April 1st deadline for the report is still solid. Jona sent out a worksheet document to get everyone started.

The State is offering training for member libraries.

The New Director Handbook has been updated, and the New Director Handbook Book Club is on March 13th.

BOCES school librarians are preparing students to be library users! There are more ways for libraries to share information than we often think of.

WCAG - our websites need to be updated for accessibility by April 1st. There are guidelines for member libraries and a webinar on February 10th that will be recorded. We are changing the way we're thinking about accessibility.

Mary: The SRP workshops are getting lots of good feedback! There are more virtual workshops coming up. There's a teen workshop in March and the children's workshop has been recorded and timestamped. Presenters are welcome to apply for the March workshop.

Libraries are encouraged to make the sexual health resources provided by UHLS available to patrons.

There is a CDLC Digital Collections and Resources grant designed to fill urgent technology gaps. Libraries should think creatively about how to apply.

Judith: There is a bookstore in Medina called Author's Note that may be able to fill the Baker & Taylor gap. They have been providing services to medium/large libraries across the state. They do processing, and there's a volume discount of 24%. Judith will set up a meeting with them.

Remember to sign up for March Manga Madness! MMM involves setting up displays with manga that the library owns.

Joe: Expiration dates on patron library cards will be automatically extended for patrons in good standing. About 900 patrons will be automatically renewed. Emails are being sent to patrons.

Links for Encore have been redirected to Discover. There are no subject headings in item records in Discover, which makes it harder to search. The cookie pop-up is gone thanks to Sean at Sandlake!

Old Business

The Troy Library is sunsetting Hoopla.

UHLS officers will be contacting member library directors shortly with questions about the Director's Association and more!

M. Tacke asks about items that libraries are willing to loan to each other that they wouldn't loan to the public. Judith will help with making a list of these items to libraries know what they could borrow for things like programming.

New Business

After a discussion about disaster preparedness plans, Chris mentions that he will find out what libraries need and compile resources. In general, libraries can make a sheet with "if _____ then _____" information that can be updated with contact information for who to call in different disaster circumstances. This sheet can be kept in a pocket-sized folder for easy access in an emergency.

Committee Reports

UHLS Board & Finance Committee – The Executive Director evaluation process has been approved. Six member directors will be asked to participate in the evaluation.

UHLS Administration Committee – No meeting

UHLS Services Committee – No meeting, but voted to ask UHLS board to change Juneteenth to an observed holiday.

Equity Committee – There's a Getting It Done meeting on March 6th. It hasn't been decided which libraries will be invited to present. Reminder - there is grant money as an incentive for completing areas of the challenge with a total of \$116,000 if every library completed every module. There is no volume commitment for joining the challenge.

Automation Advisory Committee – No meeting

Central Library Advisory Committee – No meeting

eContent Advisory Committee – No meeting

Open Forum

If there are libraries contemplating broadband, please contact Chris so he can pass that information along to the appropriate legislator.

Discussion about what level of safety (or lack thereof) warrants canceling a program. The consensus is that if a presenter is unwilling to come, you have to cancel the program, but if they are willing to continue, there's no need to cancel.

Discussion on the school district tax cap override. How long before the election does a library have to say they're going to override the tax cap? It's voted on at the same time as the budget. If the voters vote no, the library will get last year's levy.

Kits about people knowing their rights have been offered to APL by a patron. The kits were offered with and without a 3D printed whistle. APL's attorney deemed that it would need to be approved by the board. There was concern about having whistles in the library. Other libraries have been approached with this same offer.

The Rensselaer Library was approached regarding information on the Information Science field. Other libraries might see students coming in and asking for tours.

The next meeting will be held Friday, March 6th at 10AM.

MOTION: A. Nicolay motioned to adjourn. N. Matulis seconded. Passed

11:57AM meeting adjourned.