



UPPER HUDSON LIBRARY SYSTEM

Together. For Better Libraries.

Chair: Pete Petruski

Vice Chair: Elisa Valente

Secretary: Whitney Gitman

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IP	BETH – Geoff Kirkpatrick	IP	RENS - Jane Chirgwin
O	BRUN – Sara Hopkins	O	RVLL – Patrick Wynne
IP	CAST – Melissa Tacke	IP	SNLK - Melinda Fowler
	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 –Meagan Salisbury	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: March 6, 2026

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

Meeting called to order by P. Petruski at 10:06AM.

Minutes

MOTION: T. Furgal moved to accept the February 6th, 2026 minutes.
A. Nicolay seconded. Passed.

Updates from UHLS

Chris: Chris will get WCAG information to us about our website compliance.

UHLS is updating its Plan of Service. There is a survey going out about the *current* Plan of Service.

The UHLS Annual Awards nomination committee will be getting the criteria for nominations. April 30th is the deadline for applications/nominations.

The New Director Handbook Book Club is Friday, 3/13.

LSTA NYS grant applications have to be in by May 15th. Reach out if you need help with SAM.

Rochester Library has three public speaking seminar sessions for CE credit coming up.

NYLA conference proposals can be submitted for the next two weeks.

Spring on the Hill registration ends May 1st. The ALA president will be the keynote speaker this year!

Jona: There is still no portal access for the Annual Report. April 1st is still the current deadline to have reports to Jona. Previous years' answers will be prefilled. We can always put a future date in for the board assurance question and go back and make changes later if needed. The new portal looks similar to the NYS website. There's a new look and feel from the old portal. There is no "flagging" capability. Multiple people can be logged in at the same time. There are also multiple note features that can be viewed year to year so we can leave notes for ourselves to look at in the future.

Mary: Mary is retiring!

There's a tab on the UHLS website with a spreadsheet of library to library loanable items. We can fill it in as needed to add items member libraries are willing to loan to other libraries. Libraries should reach out to one another to make arrangements when borrowing items.

In April, there will be a public-facing virtual program for caregivers and parents on talking to kids about anatomy, consent, and puberty. The Chief of Pediatrics from Albany Med will be presenting, as well as representatives from Planned Parenthood. This will be UHLS-branded, so member libraries don't have to have their names attached to the program.

Don't forget, there are dinosaur costumes available to borrow for SRP!

April 29th from 1pm to 3pm will be Mary's retirement party.

Judith: The CDPHP Workforce team challenge is coming up. There's also a Friends event on April 12th focused on helping Friends get started.

We have a new resource called Senior Planet, which is affiliated with AARP. It gives access to 150 courses from basic to specialized topics. There are 'train the trainer' classes that must be taken in order to offer this resource.

There's a change to the shared calendar. Every event will include a disclaimer about reasonable accommodations and how they can be made upon request. This helps bridge the gap in communication and invites conversation without making specific promises.

March Manga Madness is in full swing. Templates are for communal use. The link to the online ballot is on the UHLS website.

Tech Updates: As of April 1st, Skyriver access will end and we will switch to OCLC.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Committee Reports

UHLS Board & Finance Committee – The Executive Director evaluation process has been approved by the UHLS Board. Everyone participating has been notified and sent the evaluation survey.

UHLS Administration Committee – No meeting. There will be one soon to review the UHLS job posting

UHLS Services Committee – No meeting.

Equity Committee – Met about programming challenge areas. There might be a part two meeting to finish up. The Committee received category submissions.

Automation Advisory Committee – No meeting.

Central Library Advisory Committee – No meeting.

eContent Advisory Committee – No meeting. Some of the member library directors got emails from Hoopla about how we have control over AI content. Judith called our Hoopla rep and turned off AI content.

Open Forum:

What is a PRC number, and do we need it (in the context of Prevailing Wage)? The Department of Labor should be able to answer this question. Businesses now have to get this number from the organizations they're working for. It is easy but time-consuming to get this number. It needs to be done for major construction, but it's unclear if it's needed for all projects.

Diver is having it's first Going Deep at the Diver program today! It's a songwriting program that plays off of their Let's Make a Song Summer Reading Program.

April 17th, Colonie is having their Anniversary Gala. There will be food, a bar, and a silent auction!

Rensselaer was approached by Michelle from the Cornell Cooperative Extension about a hotline for tech help for seniors, which is part of Senior Planet.

The next meeting will be held Friday, April 3rd at 10AM.

MOTION: M. Tacke motioned to adjourn. K. Roppolo seconded. Passed

11:19AM meeting adjourned.