

## **Directors' Association**

Upper Hudson Library System

Friday, June 3, 2005

**Attending:** Jeff Cannell (APLM); Julie Zelman (BRUN); Darlene Miller (CAST); Deborah Canzano (COHS); Bob Jaquay (COLN); Debbie Shoup (EGRN); Barbara Nichols Randall (GUIL); Carol Gaillard (HOOF); Lenny Zapala (MEND); Pat Sahr (NASS); Judy Felsten (RCSC); Rebecca Lubin (RVLL); Jane Minotti (SNLK); Paul Hicok (TROY); Phil Ritter (UHLS); Barbara Schoen (WVLT); Elaine Albrecht (WSTR)

**Visitors:** Lauren Teachout, Interim Director, STEP; Mary Fellows, UHLS

**Meeting convened at 9:08AM**

### **Minutes:**

**Motion:** Schoen/ Cannell to approve April 1, 2005 minutes. Carried.

**UHLS:** Phil Ritter

- **Riverway Storytelling Festival:** Mary Fellows, UHLS Youth Services Consultant, reported on the successful Riverway Storytelling Festival held in April. The Festival has grown in the number of programs offered and overall participation; this year, 954 people participated in 23 events which took place over seven days. The event raised \$7,380, cash, and \$21,850, in-kind donations, and generated a great deal of positive publicity. Mary and Phil requested that library directors encourage and support Youth or Adult Services staff in participating on the Festival Planning Committee, which will meet year-round once a month. Next year's festival is scheduled for May 1 – May 7, 2006. The Festival will be highlighted at the UHLS Annual Dinner on June 8. The "Storycrafters" will be the featured presenters.
- **NOVEL cards:** As a component of the NOVEL data base grant, marketing cards were printed by CDLC to distribute to library patrons. Phil passed out the cards which provide information on the NOVEL data bases. A large quantity has been printed and are available from Jo-Ann Benedetti.
- **State Construction Grant 2004-2005:** Phil has been notified by the Division of Library Development that an additional \$2,500 has been awarded to STEP for their construction project. TROY/ Lansingburgh also benefited from a surplus of construction funds distributed by DLD. Phil encouraged directors to begin planning now for projects in next year's grant cycle.
- **PULISDO Conference:** Phil described the PULISDO Conference which took place at the Flushing (NY) Library, a very heavily-used facility. There were several worthwhile work sessions and a visit to the Corona Branch Library which relies solely on RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) for the processes of electronically checking books in and out, sorting, and tracking. The newly-elected President of ALA, Leslie Berger, was keynote speaker. She referred to federal legislation introduced by Congressman Hinchy which would allocate funds for library construction. UHLS staff also attended a worthwhile session presented by Linda Wallace on communication strategies when dealing with the media.

**Administration Committee Report:** No report

### **Nominating Committee:**

B. Jaquay and D. Canzano presented the Directors Association slate of officers for July 2005 – June 2006. Nominations are: President: Barbara Nichols Randall; Vice-President: Rebecca Lubin; Secretary: Jane Minotti. There were no nominations from the floor. Election of officers will be held at the July meeting.

### **Introduction and Welcome:**

Phil introduced and welcomed Lauren Teachout who is Interim Director at STEP. STEP is actively working to fill the vacant Directors position.

**Services Committee Report:** R. Jaquay

The Services Committee met on April 13 to approve Outreach Mini-grant applications, and to award Program of the Year awards. A decision was made not to award an "Advocate of the Year" award, and to examine the current criteria for this award.

**Central Library Committee:** P. Hicok

The Central Library Committee met in April and voted not to renew the subscription to "Dear Reader", (formerly "Chapter-a-Day"). The committee met again in May to address the sudden over-usage of the "Times Union" account. At \$1 / article to view a full-text article, the account had been used to the maximum primarily by a genealogist. The Committee voted to add an additional \$1500 from the Central Library's fund. Discussion was held on the implications of providing unlimited access to the public for this service, and the committee emphasized that this situation could occur at any library.

**Finance Committee:**

J. Cannell reported that the Committee approved the 2005 Central Library Development grant budget, and that UHLS received a clean bill of health in its annual financial review.

**UHLS Board:**

Phil reported that the Board approved an agreement with Time Warner to change from T-1 lines to TW's fiber optic network. This will provide both telephone and internet access. The change will increase band-width at a lower cost and improve service. The transition is expected to take place in August.

**Central Library Report:** J. Cannell

Albany Public Library will present a referendum to the public for new construction and is planning to work with the Dormitory Authority on design, construction and management, which requires legislative approval. The proposal is now in legislative committee. APL will be taking delivery of a bookmobile next week, which was purchased from Mid-York Library System. It is hoped that the new bookmobile service will be in place in parks later this summer, three days/week.

**Old Business:**

B. Nichols Randall reported on the successful Crossgates Story Hour venture with GUIL, BETH, and APLM which will be concluding in June. Each week new people have come, with many returning regularly. She noted that attendance on a sunny day was 33, while 75 came in on a rainy day. Most of the audience is age three and younger, with several boys with fathers or grandfathers as caregivers. Adults are asked to register when they come in, and 2 or 3 new children's books are given away in a drawing each week. Information will be analysed to see how many participants obtain library cards. J Cannell noted that the results of this project cannot be quantified. The program provided positive visibility to all libraries in the system, and it is hoped that the story hour, as well as other possible programs, will be continued in the fall at Crossgates.

D. Canzano asked if the Directors Association Conference was being planned for the fall. B. Nichols Randall affirmed that it is. It was suggested that other systems be invited to participate, and a possible topic would be techniques for responding to media events and inquiries.

**Nuts & Bolts:**

- **GUIL:** Barbara spoke about the June 2 media coverage of a GUIL trustee's proposal to have an orange or green sticker on each book in the Young Adult fiction collection. J. Daly has proposed the Collection Development Policy be changed to include that librarians read each book and then place orange color-coded labels on books which depict graphic sexual themes. The purpose of this would be to alert parents that their children were reading books with sexual content. Discussion took place on several aspects of this proposal, including setting a precedent of labeling which would require the themes of violence, racism and anti-Semitism to be labeled as well, and the implication that parental responsibility for children's reading habits would be transferred to the library. The proposed amendment was not recommended by the policies committee, but will be presented at the monthly Board meeting June 9.

- **WVLT:** Barbara has announced her retirement at the end of August and asked that directors help spread the word that this position will be available.
- **COLN:** Bob is on the ALA Stonewall Book Award Committee which selects award-winning literature with gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered themes. Nominations for 2006 awards are being sought.
- **RVLL:** Rebecca reported that the Rensselaerville Institute will install a wireless hub at the Library to better serve this remote area. She asked for suggested sources for funding. An additional \$8,000 is needed.
- **MEND:** Lenny announced that MEND now has a six-figure budget; the library's budget has doubled in 5 years due to rapid growth and increased usage.
- **STEP:** Lauren shared that STEP has started an "Adopt a Book " program which is accessible through Amazon.com. The library now has a membership to the Norman Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge; patrons can check out the membership card to visit the museum at no cost.
- **EGRN:** Debbie Shoup has been appointed the new Director and was congratulated.

**Motion:** (Jaquay/Zapala) to adjourn at 10:55AM. Next meeting July 8, 2005 at 9 AM.

Submitted by,

Jane Minotti  
June 6, 2005