

Directors' Association

Upper Hudson Library System

Friday, November 4, 2005 At UHLS

Attending: Jeff Cannell (APLM); Nancy Pieri (BETH); 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 Felston (RCSC); Jane Minotti (SNLK); Paul Hicok (TROY); Phil Ritter (UHLS); Gail Sacco (VOOR); Elaine Albrecht (WSTR)

Visitors: None

Meeting convened at 9:01AM

Minutes:

Motion: (Jaquay/Zapala) to approve August 5, 2005 minutes. Carried.

UHLS: Phil Ritter

- Phil reported that the "Big Read" grant submitted by Jo-Ann Benedetti to the National Endowment for the Arts did not receive funding, but it was one of the 13 finalists nation-wide. Ten grants were awarded, and Jo-Ann was encouraged to apply again next year.
- UHLS will be obtaining 200 copies of the new Handbook for Library Trustees of NYS edited by Jerry Nichols, which will be available for distribution to member libraries for new trustees.
Motion: (Sacco/ Nichols Randall) That UHLS consider planning a "new trustee" orientation event for new library trustees. Carried.
- UHLS received \$10,000 from a legislative member item, which has been spent as follows: purchase of an additional 800 plastic delivery bins and purchase of 1,000 small black zippered bags. The nylon bags were ordered in quantities of 500 each in 2 sizes: 10 x 12" and 11" x 14" to be used for protection of documents, CD's, DVD's, etc., in transit. Plastic ties have been ordered and will be distributed for use with the bags.
- The Outreach Grant deadline has been changed to January 1, 2006, at Jo-Ann Benedetti's request. This will enable grant programs to be underway earlier in the calendar year.
- Discussion took place on the Annual Meeting and whether tables should be organized into discussion groups. It was decided that the focus should remain a social event, but the venue should be changed. There should also be more emphasis on library events with digital photos submitted for a slide show.
- Vacant space owned by UHLS has not been leased to an interested party yet. UHLS will need to utilize reserve funds to balance the FY2006 operating budget.
- No changes in the 2005 Annual Report are anticipated from NYS DLD.

UHLS Administration: No meeting/No report

Services Committee: B. Jaquay

NASS had to withdraw its construction grant application. Therefore, the money had to be re-distributed to the remaining libraries. Variances for 2005 were approved for BRUN and STEP to resolve space issues. J. Zelman reported that BRUN was offered a 3000 square foot space, which was former Town Office space, and she hopes that the 414 vote on Election Day will be approved to fund the library and building expenses.

Finance Committee and UHLS Board: No report

Central Library: P. Hicok

The Central Library will contribute \$20,000 for the purchase of Overdrive audio book and electronic book materials, and UHLS will contribute \$18,000 to pay for the annual subscription. CLAC representatives will meet on November 7 to discuss the proposal of the Central Library to reduce the amount of money contributed for databases, which are seen as underutilized, and to use funds for the purchase of new DVD's, which would be available for loan to all libraries. G Sacco distributed a letter in opposition to this proposal.

New Business:

B Jaquay, a member of the NYLA Legislative Committee, reported that NYLA has prepared tip sheets and other information for advocacy, available on the NYLA web site. Directors are reminded that member item requests should be submitted each year. Currently, there is no indication that cuts have been proposed in next year's budget.

Old Business:

Directors Conference: Barbara reported that the Conference broke even; ½ of participants left following lunch. Discussion took place on whether to hold a conference next year, or, make it ½ day. Next year's NYLA conference will be held in Saratoga Springs. Directors expressed an interest in pursuing professional and continuing education issues in workshops. J Zelman, D Shoup, J Cannell and B Jaquay volunteered to serve on a committee to address this.

Nuts & Bolts:

- **VOOR:** Gail spoke on PLS of NYLA, on the issue of system services and library services. A survey will be sent to PLS members to obtain more adequate up to date information on library services to present to legislature. Deadline for return is November 15.
Motion: (Sacco/ Zapala) to recognize with appreciation the efforts of the Directors Association Conference Committee chaired by Barbara Nichols Randall. Carried.
VOOR Librarian Suzanne Fisher was selected to receive the "New York Times Librarian of the Year Award".
- **GUIL:** Barbara described the political action committee which she is chairing called "New Yorkers for Better Libraries". The group is independent of NYLA and focuses on informing politicians of current library issues, by sending NYLA Executive Director to political fundraisers. More information is available on the NYLA website.
- **SNLK:** Will be starting "Sit, Stay, Read", a program where children read to certified therapy dogs. It is directed towards reluctant and emerging readers. Phil pointed out that Heidi Fuge is available to do this in libraries and has many resources on this service.
- **COLN:** Is very near completion of TV studio, which will be first to provide Public Access TV in the community. Bob is President of NYLA's LAMS (Library Administration & Management Section) and encouraged all directors to become active members of the group.
- **RCS:** Has been very active issuing library cards to all elementary students at one of the district's elementary school. Judy will begin a Reading to Assistive Dogs program tomorrow with her pet. She mentioned TDI, Therapy Dogs International, as a local resource. Judy began a Hurricane Relief community service project for young people, which involves making cloth books for children affected by the hurricane. She has received very positive feedback from the Dallas Public Library's bookmobile.
- **WSTR:** Elaine reported that all three of her employees passed the County Civil Service exams.
- **EGRN:** Held a Meet the Candidates session that was very well attended. The publicly- voted library budget passed by a close margin in September. Debbie is interested in discussing staffing patterns with other directors.
- **COHS:** Their mini-grant series, "Computing for Seniors" began. 11 participants enthusiastically attended the first session.
- **BRUN:** All residents of Brunswick are encouraged to vote for the 414 proposition on the ballot on Election Day.
CAST: Darlene reported that 2 middle school students, participants in the "Riverway Storytelling" program, would be attending a national storytelling competition in Tennessee. CAST will have a Book Fair at Barnes and Noble on December 3, 11AM – 8 PM; 20% of all book sales will be donated to the library. CAST trustees have been notified by DLD that a revision of their charter needs to be submitted which clearly defines their service area.
- **APLM:** The Grand Opening of the new North Albany Branch will be held on Monday, November 14, at 3 PM, with the new bookmobile on the road at the Opening.

Motion: (Jaquay/ Zapala) Meeting adjourned 10:59AM. Next meeting: December 2, 2005, 9 AM.

Submitted by,

Jane Minotti
November 28, 2005