

## **Directors' Association**

Upper Hudson Library System

Friday, March 3, 2006

**Attending:** Jeff Cannell (APLM); Judith Wines (ALTM); Julie Zelman (BRUN); Darlene Miller (CAST); Deborah Canzano (COHS); Richard Naylor (COLN); Michael Catoggio (EGRN); Barbara Nichols Randall (GUIL); Carol Gaillard (HOOF); Pat Sahr (NASS); Judy Felsten (RCSC); Rebecca Lubin (RVLL); Jane Minotti (SNLK); Paul Hicok (TROY); Phil Ritter (UHLS); Ginger Hewitt (WVLT); Elaine Albrecht (WSTR)

**Visitors:** Marybeth Hassett-Murphy, Student-Intern (COLN)

**Meeting convened at 9:03 AM**

## **Minutes**

**Motion:** (Canzano/ Lubin) to approve February 3, 2006 minutes. Carried.

**UHLS:** Phil Ritter

- Phil circulated a flyer from Chris Painchaud, an account executive for eTapestry, professional fundraising firm. There was some interest on the informational workshop, "The Internet Unveiled: the Newest Tool and Website Trends for Relationship Building". Phil will contact Mr. Painchaud to schedule.
- A notice on the Gates Foundation Workshop "Sustaining Public Access Computing in your Public Library" was distributed. This workshop will be held at the Mid-Hudson Library System Auditorium in Poughkeepsie on Wednesday, May 3, from 9-4:30 PM. There is no fee and libraries are eligible for up to \$104/ library in reimbursement. All MHLS and UHLS libraries that serve a population under 25,000 are asked to send at least one representative and all libraries are invited.
- "LifeLinks" contacted Jo-Ann Benedetti regarding a demonstration of their assistive technology for the deaf. UHLS will schedule a demonstration of "LifeLinks" video relay service.
- Phil reported on "Overdrive" usage; 732 unique patrons have used the service with 1588 check-outs in the first two months. Of those, 1234 have been audio books. COLN and APLM have purchased new items which have been added to the collection. The question came up on Overdrive's compatibility with i-pods; Richard Naylor explained that the patron must burn the item to a CD first and transfer the file to the i-pod from the CD.
- NYLA Lobby Day will be held on Tuesday, March 14. A rally will take place in the well at 11:30 AM. Phil circulated the schedule; revisions will be e-mailed. Those planning to attend Lobby Day should RSVP to Phil. Jeff Cannell reported that he is optimistic about the legislative agenda, after recently meeting with Senator Bruno's staff with "Friends of the NYS Library".
- Phil highly praised all Directors for their action on the NYS Annual Reports. UHLS was the first system state-wide to send in the system report, which was submitted 10 days in advance of the deadline.
- Due to a resignation, an opening existed on the UHLS Board of Trustees from a small library in Rennselaer County. It was filled by Richard Young, HOOF, pending Board approval.

## **Administration Committee Report:**

The Administration Committee is looking for suggestions for a speaker at the UHLS Annual Dinner. Any ideas should be sent to Phil.

**Services Committee Report:** No report

## **Finance Committee and UHLS Board:**

Directors are reminded that nominations for the UHLS Annual Program of the Year, Trustee of the Year and Advocate of the Year Awards are due Monday, March 27, 2006, ATTN: Phil Ritter.

### **Central Library Committee:**

Jeff reported that the APL Bookmobile will be parked on State Street in front of the Capitol on Lobby Day, and that "H.B", the mascot bear will attend.

### **New Business:**

Judy Felsten shared her concerns about the quality of the phone message for telecirc notifications, which she will share with Joe Thornton.

The need for a facilitative discussion on differences in philosophy on service within the consortium was addressed. This was suggested at the ASC meeting in February during an extensive discussion of the creation of itypes and the restrictions on loaning of items that currently exist. In order for such a discussion to be effective, high attendance and an outside facilitator are necessary; Judith Wines volunteered to approach the "Council for Community Services" to find a facilitator for a future meeting.

The "Times Union" will print a story on EGRN's policy which requires written permission from a patron whenever anyone other than the patron picks up materials. The story was generated by a patron's experience, who wrote a "Letter to the Editor." The policy is based on the protection of privacy; valid photo ID and written permission from the borrower are required to pick up books on someone else's behalf.

### **Old Business:**

Discussion on DVD's was deferred.

Because the NYLA Conference will be held in Saratoga Springs this fall, there will not be a Directors Association Fall Conference.

### **Nuts & Bolts:**

**GUIL:** With the departure of the Assistant Director, Margaret Garret has been appointed interim Department Head.

**SNLK:** Will hold a fundraising organizing workshop with professional organizer, Andrea Feldman. A portion of the registration fees will go to the library.

**TROY:** Author Bill Patrick will present a Beginning Fiction Writers Workshop for adults. The response has been enthusiastic.

**APLM:** A new book discussion group, "Book Tastings", is proving very popular. It combines food and books, and meets at various restaurants.

**RCSC:** RCSC has successfully finished their first full week of school vacation programming.

**HOOF:** Trustees have arranged for the Library to be open from 11 AM – 4 PM on Fridays.

**BRUN:** Julie has been coping with major staff shortages due to illness; the Library is continuing negotiations with the Town Board on moving into the former Town Office Building.

**COHS:** During a recent heating system failure, unionized library employees were not required to work due to the lack of heat.

**WTVT:** The Friends group is starting up again.

**ALTM:** Will be creating a fiberglass pig as part of the popular community-wide agriculture program.

**NASS:** Lots of interaction with Town in 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. Beginning Reading to Therapy Dog program.

**CAST:** Heidi will visit in March with her therapy dog.

**COLN:** Four students are taking production classes at HVCC as part of new studio venture at Library; circ staff re-organization has led to senior clerks training the pages, which has been positive for everyone.

**RVLL:** Volunteers have organized activities for Poetry Month – 3 workshops and a poetry slam. Library is beginning book discussions with residents of Camp Cass, Youth Detention Facility.

**EGRN:** Will begin giving library tours on Sundays to celebrate 5 year anniversary in new building. EGRN is about to go wireless this month. Programs are coming up on Women in the Civil War and an Irish American Heritage concertina performance.

**Motion:** (Wines/Felsten) to adjourn at 10:55AM. Next meeting April 7, 2006 at 9 AM.

Submitted by,  
Jane Minotti  
March 21, 2006

