

Directors' Association

Upper Hudson Library System

Friday, April 6, 2007 at UHLS

Attending: Tim Burke (APLM); Julie Zelman (BRUN); Darlene Miller (CAST); Deborah Canzano (COHS); Bob Jaquay (COLN); Debbie Shoup (EGRN); Barbara Nichols Randall (GUIL); Lenny Zapala (MEND); Margie Morris (POES); Judy Felsten (RCSC); Candy Wilson (RVLL); Jane Minotti (SNLK); Paul Hicok (TROY); Phil Ritter (UHLS); Ginger Hewitt (WTVT)

Visitors: Michael Borges, Executive Director, New York Library Association

Meeting convened at 9:06 AM

Minutes: March D.A. meeting was a strategic planning workshop with UHLS Management Team. Notes, taken by Heidi Fuge, are available from Jane Minotti.

NYLA: Michael Borges

- Michael thanked NYLA members for advocacy efforts which resulted in \$5million increase in approved 2007 budget beyond \$20 million allocated in 2006. He emphasized importance of keeping efforts on continued funding and communicating with legislators. Extend invitations, members appreciate positive feedback.
- UHLS will get approximately \$87,000 additional; Library Construction Grants will continue
- Mini-Lobby Day set for May 22 for passage of 3 bills:
 - To allow Association libraries to opt into NYS Retirement System
 - To allow a Board of Trustees to place a Chapter 414 on ballot to establish or increase tax levy
 - To bundle small construction projects together for cost effectiveness in order for small libraries to benefit from Dormitory Authority bonding
- Michael highlighted several initiatives including:
 - Online "Training on the Go" sponsored by Gates Foundation thru "Web Junction"
 - Library Assistant/ Technician Training Program at Schenectady County Community College
 - Libby Post, consultant for libraries working on referendum or fundraising campaigns
 - Importance of NYLA Organizational Membership- In addition to benefits with partnering companies, membership numbers bring better informed and mobilized advocacy
 - NYLA Leadership management Academy- 18 month process
 - NYLA website has Career Center, and will have Policies and Procedures feature

UHLS: Phil Ritter

- "Riverway Storytelling Festival" begins April 23. "Kids Cooking" segments will begin airing in April; cookbooks and DVD's will be available. Contact Mary Fellows with questions.
- "Big Read" kicks off on May 4 with the Afternoon Tea in GUIL which will host Lucy Hurston. Over 100 events have been scheduled. Tickets for bus trip to Harlem must be purchased by April 12. Cost is \$90 which includes tour and lunch.
- UHLS Annual Meeting will be held on June 13 at the Albany Country Club; Rachel Baum will be Keynote Speaker.
- Applications are due May 11 for the Gates Hardware Grant; libraries who qualify have been contacted. Jonathan Koppel will be the UHLS contact person.

Committee to Nominate DA Representative to UHLS Board of Trustees: D. Shoup

Motion (Shoup/Minotti) Nancy Pieri be appointed to represent the Directors Association on the UHLS Board of Trustees. Carried.

Motion: (Morris/Felsten) Barbara Nichols Randall be appointed to represent Directors Association on the UHLS Board of Trustees Administration Committee. Carried.

Impact of NYS Budget on UHLS Budget:

Phil summarized 2 income items approved by the NYS Legislature:

- 2006 appropriation of \$51,716 was also approved by legislature in 2007, but was not budgeted in UHLS 2007 budget.
- Additional \$87,700 (estimate) was approved; should not be considered permanent appropriation.

In determining how these funds be allocated, Phil is seeking suggestions from Directors Association. Some ideas include: clerical/personnel, pool collection, web site development, professional development, future automation funding, and system-wide programming. Please e-mail further suggestions to Phil.

UHLS Board: No report

UHLS Administration:

Phil reported that negotiations are taking place with "Asian Arts Studio", a potential tenant for small rental space.

Services Committee: R. Jaquay

"Boys Will Read" Family Literacy Grant was approved. Review of UHLS Annual Awards nominations will take place at next meeting.

Finance Committee: P. Ritter

Finance Committee approved monthly warrant.

Central Library: T. Burke

Tim Burke has been appointed Interim Director of APL and Patrice Hollman has been appointed Interim Assistant Director. There will be four vacancies on Board of Trustees in May.

New Business:

Discussion on revision of D.A. by-laws regarding appointment of representative to UHLS Board. No action taken.

Old Business:

None

Nuts & Bolts:

APLM: Tim reported that the New Scotland branch is closing and the collection will be unavailable until further notice. New Scotland, Pine Hills, and Delaware are slotted for renovations as capital improvement phase begins.

SNLK: Will begin computer literacy classes for seniors funded by Rubin Foundation grant.

EGRN: Board has reviewed and revised salary scale to bring greater equity; beginning Librarian I salary increased to \$38,000; beginning Librarian II salary increased to \$42,000.

POES: "Market Day" will be held on Saturday, May 12, featuring Book and Bake Sale, plants and other goods.

COHS: Debbie shared successful results with "Better World Books" for selling donated and withdrawn books.

BRUN: "Garden Day" will be held Saturday, May 12, featuring Book and Bake Sale, plants and other goods. The \$50,000 member item grant has been re-written for alternative building location site.

WTVT: Ginger reported a successful fundraiser in February and that the Children's Room will be renovated.

CAST: Youth storytellers will be participating at NYS Museum during Storytelling Festival. "Kids Cooking" show will begin airing on April 16 on Time Warner.

RVLL: Ann Wolf has been appointed Director. Candy will distribute donations of paperbacks in good condition to be sent to local troops in Iraq. Send them thru the courier to RVLL.

GUIL: Many programs scheduled, including new jazz series. Barbara is exploring reorganizing professional staff in response to programming and public service functions, and in anticipation of future building expansion.

RCSC: Judy reported she is looking to create an additional half-time position.

TROY: Salary schedule has been re-vamped to bring salaries to levels comparable with other libraries.

Adjournment

Motion: (Jaquay/ Wilson) Meeting adjourned at 10:45 AM. Next meeting May 4, 2007 at 9 AM at UHLS.

Submitted by,
Jane Minotti

April 29, 2007