

Directors' Association
Upper Hudson Library System
Friday, October 5, 2007 at UHLS

Attending: Judith Wines (ALTM); Tim Burke (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 (HOOFF); Lenny Zapala (MEND); Pat Sahr (NASS); Margie Morris (POES); Judy Felsten (RCSC); Candy Wilson (RVLL); Phil Ritter (UHLS); Gail Sacco (VOOR); Ginger Hewitt (WTVT); Elaine Albrecht (WSTL)

Minutes:

Meeting convened at 9:00 AM. Debbie Canzano presided in the absence of Paul Hicok.

Motion: (Pieri/Gaillard) To approve minutes of September 7, 2007 meeting. Motion carried.

Motion: (Gaillard/Hewitt) To appoint Margie Morris as secretary to fill term of Jane Minotti. Motion carried.

UHLS: Phil Ritter

- **Big Read** – UHLS has received \$20,000 for the 2008 Big Read ([The Age of Innocence](#) by Edith Wharton). They are applying for a matching grant through the Standish Fund with the Community Foundation. The Writers' Institute is very excited about the book chosen. The Big Read will probably take place in March, but it has not been set yet. Anyone interested in helping should contact Jo-Ann Benedetti. UHLS hopes to make this an annual event but it takes a while to get it going.
- **Asian Arts Group** – Distributed brochure from Asian Arts Group (UHLS tenants). The brochure states, "Dedicated to advancing the practice of TAI CHI." Phil is still trying to gather price information from them. They hold classes at night. He suggested that anyone interested should contact the Asian Arts Group directly. [489-1458 or www.AsianArtsGrp.com for those not at the meeting. *mmm*].
- **Trustee Workshop** – Distributed survey response. Seventy-seven people registered and the survey responses were very positive. Everyone seemed please with the format, dinner, location, etc of this year's workshop. UHLS plans to do the same thing for next year. Pat Sahr added that her trustees who attended last year talked it up and more of them wanted to attend this year. Nancy Pieri said she always has three or four trustees attend and they always get something out of it. Darlene Miller agreed, she had three trustees attend and they would like to implement some of the changes they heard about. Lenny Zapala suggested that positive comments from attendees be included in next year's brochure.
- **Erate check** – Some libraries will be getting checks earlier than usual. Several of the vendors have automated their systems for erate to be done online which speeds up the process.
- **Summer Reading** – Participation was down about 20% this year. This is very concerning and the numbers need to be brought back up.
- **Annual Meeting** – June 11, 2008 at the Albany Country Club.
- **Karen Hyman program** - (October 26) at BETH is almost sold out.

UHLS Board: N. Pieri

- New officers were elected at the September 12th meeting.
 - President - LouAnne Lundgren (POES)
 - Vice President – Mary Muller (TROY)
 - Treasurer – MaryAlice Molgard (BERN)
 - Secretary – Hawley Zwahlen (COLN)
- LSTA Grants were reviewed
- Committees were formed/rearranged
- Library video promotions were shown

UHLS Administration: B. Nichols Randall

- Worked on criteria for awards – Trustee of the Year and Advocate of the Year – it should be finalized at the next meeting
- Discussion of Asian Arts Group
- Reported that blacktopping was completed

Services Committee: R. Jaquay

- There was no quorum - meeting was not held.

Finance Committee: N. Pieri

- Discussion of RVLL problem and the money they owe UHLS. The UHLS Board will continue to carry them for this year.
- Proposed 2008 budget has gone to the Board. Budget hearing will be held at 4:00pm on October 24.

Central Library: T. Burke

- Determined which databases would be funded. They cut off databases that cost over \$5.00 for usage.
- Allotted \$6,000-9,000 for Overdrive
- Jane Minotti left as representative of medium-sized Rensselaer County libraries. Julie Zelman will replace her.

New Business:

- No new business

Old Business:

- Overdrive videos – Lenny reported that \$5000 was spent on 311 titles. They will be available in about two weeks. Everyone thanked Lenny for working on this. He viewed all of the videos selected. Gail asked about publicity for the downloadable movies. There was discussion about the titles being for very specific audiences. Barbara said that GUIL will share whatever they create for publicity.

Nuts & Bolts:

APLM: They are working on the branch improvement plan schedule. Pine Hill and Howe will close in March 2008 and construction starts in April. They have temporary library space at the southern end of Pine Hill. Delaware will stay open until the new building is completed. The three renovations are expected to open February 2009. Construction on the new branches will start August 2008 and is expected to be complete by late 2009/early 2010 – New Scotland and Arbor Hill/West Hill. APLM is working on details for the courier, etc.

COLN: Bob reminded everyone of the NYLA Conference in Buffalo and encouraged attendance. Authors Susan Cheever and Jeffrey Deaver will be speaking. They had planned to show Kite Runner but are not sure that will be possible due to the controversy surrounding the movie. Gail added that attendees should visit the vendor exhibits as that is where NYLA gets income. The vendors count the visits and what they hand out. Bob said the space is much bigger in Buffalo for exhibits.

HOOF: They received a construction grant and have decided on which lights to purchase.

COHS: Things are going well.

POES: Sent out a survey to the community. The responses verified what the Board believed to be issues – need for full access to the second floor for people with disabilities, increase/change in hours, and more sources of funding. The community is very pleased with the courtesy and friendliness of the staff, the building & grounds, and the collection. They are especially appreciative of ILL due to Poestenkill's limited size and collection.

WTVT: The Wine Event was attended by 150 people and raised \$3000. A politician donated Hannah Montana/Billy Ray Cyrus tickets and a limousine ride as a fundraiser for the library.

VOOR: Gail reported that Bob Barron had just passed away. He was a major figure for libraries at the State Education Department. VOOR also did a community survey. They also put up a new windbreak with Stanley doors. They have had many problems with the installer and Gail warned others. Tim Burke stated that APLM used BESAM (sp?) from Syracuse for new doors and they did a very good job.

EGRN: The Friends decided to have a Children's Book Sale & Festival. It was very successful. They have had problems in the past with book sellers pushing kid out of the way. There were no sellers allowed at this sale. Debbie reported that EGRN is looking at WorldCat for a collection analysis to see if it was meeting the needs of the community. If the books are put on WorldCat they do not have to go out on ILL to everywhere. It costs \$1100 to join for one year and \$500 to set up for a collection of less than 100,000.

NASS: Pat reported that they are trying to bring civility back into local politics. The library is working with the League of Women Voters to hold a moderated forum for community education.

RCSC: They are working on accessibility and have installed new doors. They finished a community survey and are compiling the results. Judy reported the library successfully started a Paws for Reading program and had six dogs at their first event. They are also trying to hire a morning clerk. Judy reported they "broke" the civil service list for an entry level clerk. Nancy Pieri reported that there is a new Albany County Civil Service director.

BRUN: They are making progress on a new building. Phil came and talked to the trustees. Libby Post did a presentation. It is likely the BRUN Board will hire her to help do a feasibility study for a capital campaign.

ALTM: They conducted an in-house survey and changed the library hours as a result.

BETH: Nancy has boxes of light fixtures – long fluorescent fixtures – if anyone is interested in taking them.

BETH is also replacing some doors and she will check on the Stanley installer to see if there have been any problems.

GUIL: They conducted and end of the summer reading club survey. There was a 10% return of the survey and they are still looking at the results. (The Chicago Library has many surveys and Barbara asked if she could use one of them.) GUIL has started long-range planning and are starting and expansion. They are looking at architects for the initial design and should have a concept drawing by Spring. (Phil noted that UHLS has had a lot of requests for information on planning and building construction. UHLS has purchased everything they could find on the topic for the professional collection. Most of the titles are older.) GUIL is planning their 50th Anniversary Gala. The invitations will be sent out. It will be at Western Turnpike on November 17, 2007. There will be speakers and also dancing. Gail also reported that they have had nails thrown onto their parking lot on two occasions. They have been thrown across both entryways. Police reports have been filed.

RVLL: Candy reported that things are starting to get better. They held Board elections and have almost a whole new Board. The officers have all changed and they are working hard to get donations. The new director resigned due to the stress of the issues at RVLL. The funds are frozen. She has spent a great deal of her own money for needed items. RVLL is accepting donations of new titles. Gail suggested that RVLL contact their legislators for help.

CAST: The Town of Schodack did a survey regarding libraries. They used Siena students. They have appointed a steering committee to look into the issue more. CAST held two Teen Game Nights (grades 6-8 & 9-12) using Drug Free Schodack grant money of \$3000. It was very successful – they had video games, poker, chess, and board games.

OTHER:

1. Discussion of paper recycling – TA. Predel & Co in Schenectady picks up paper and old books (hard covers off) free of charge and sends a check for the recycling.
2. Gail – The Automated Services Committee meeting have low attendance. A small group of people are making the decisions. The ASC is looking at a new automated system and more people need to help make the decision. The things that are decided on in ASC have a big impact on each library. More attendees are needed.
3. Send copies of community surveys to Debbie Canzano. She will share them with anyone who needs them.

Motion: (Felsten/ Wines) To adjourn meeting. Meeting adjourned at 10:25 AM. Next meeting will be November 2, 2007 at 9 AM at UHLS.

Submitted by,
Margie Morris