

Directors' Association
Upper Hudson Library System
Friday, March 4, 2011 at UHLS

Attending:

Judith Wines (ALTM)
Carol Nersinger (APLM)
Judy Petrosillo (BERN)
Nancy Pieri (BETH)
Julie Zelman (BRUN)
Amy Peker (CAST)
Sukrit Goswami (COHS)
Richard Naylor (COLN)
Evelyn Butrico (EGRN)
Barbara Nichols Randall (GUIL)
Carol Gaillard (HOOF)
Lenny Zapala (MEND)

Pat Sahr (NASS)
Margie Morris (POES)
Judy Felsten (RCSC)
Jane Chirgwin (RENS)
Kim Graff (RVLL)
Mindy Fowler (SNLK)
Laurenne Teachout (STEP)
Paul Hicok (TROY)
Tim Burke (UHLS)
Amanda Chiplock (WTVT)
Sue Hoadley (WSTL)

Visitors: Suzanne Fisher, representing VOOR

Minutes:

Meeting convened at 9:05AM – when Judith let's march forth!

Motion: (Gaillard/Butrico) To approve minutes of February 4, 2011 meeting. **Motion carried.**

UHLS News: Tim Burke

- Noted that **21 member libraries** were represented at the last meeting.
- Kudos to everyone on the **State Ed annual report** – Heidi had very few problems. All reports have been submitted and we are now waiting on edit checks. The UHLS annual narrative is due on March 14th. It can be up to 500 words in length.
- **Summer Reading Mini-grant Challenge** – this went out last week. The theme is connecting with local schools.
- **State funding** – UHLS is expecting to receive the 2010 funds by the end of March. Not sure of exact amount. 2011 funding – proposed 10% cut for library aid.
- **Lobby Day** – 10 libraries represented. Talked to legislators about funding cuts. Tim plans to do a follow up visit in the next few weeks. Bob Reilly is now the chair of the library committee for the Assembly. UHLS will be reaching out to him more often as he is a local representative. Tim encouraged everyone to invite representatives to library events. The worst they can say is no. Nancy reported that when she spoke to Steve McLaughlin, he suggested libraries get information about member libraries out beyond our communities. This could be similar to the APL ad that is running on TV. That was paid for with a grant. Nancy suggested maybe UHLS should do something like that on behalf of member libraries. Discussion of how to “make noise” about libraries. There was a suggestion for a billboard. Tim stated that this Lobby Day did a better job of focusing on the systems and what they provide to member libraries and their communities.

UHLS Board & Finance Committee: N. Pieri & T. Burke

- Approved moving banking services from First Niagara to NBT. UHLS has been happy with the change and service provided.
- Approved ending Aquabrowser (contract is through June) and starting Enterprise. There is no start date at this time.

UHLS Administration: J Zelman

No meeting

Services Committee: R. Naylor

- Approved all outreach mini-grants – 10 for \$500 and 1 for \$300.
- Award announcements sent out. March 18 is due date for nominations for UHLS Annual awards.

Central Library: P Hicok

No meeting

Old Business:

eBook collection development – had asked Advisory Councils for input by April 15th. Will discuss this topic at a later date.

New Business:

Overdrive/HarperCollins – Effective March 7th, the rules for downloading HarperCollins (HC) eBooks are changing. After purchasing an eBook, 26 checkouts/circulations will be allowed and then a new book must be purchased (reportedly at a lower price than the original). This came as a surprise to Overdrive and everyone else. This issue and others surrounding e-publishing are indicative of rapid growth. The library community as a whole is very upset by this change. Tim had sent information out to all directors regarding this issue. PULISDO discussed a boycott of HC and is considering the idea of sending a letter signed by all the NY systems. Tim reported that 24% of the current UHLS ebook collection in epub format is from HC. There was a discussion of what to do as a system. Some of the comments were:

- Using taxpayers' dollars to buy only 26 circs is a misuse of public funds
- Prepare a letter for patrons to sign and send on to HC
- Other publishers are watching this
- Need to know imprints if boycotting
- Need to be vocal about this from the beginning
- Buy used copies from Amazon and other vendors – not supporting HC
- Contact HC authors and let them know our displeasure
- Need a report to see what number of books were purchased through HC

Motion: (Goswami/Nichols Randall) UHLS boycott of new HarperCollins products and make effort to collaborate with other systems statewide on this issue. **7 yeas, 14 nays – motion did not carry.**

Discussion points for motion:

- Need to educate public
- Setting precedent
- Actions may not make an impact but shows at least some concern
- Adversarial relationship between publishers and libraries.
- Suggestion to boycott only eBooks, not print
- Not spending enough on eBooks to have an effect
- Need to respond quickly

Motion: (Naylor/Zelman) UHLS boycott of eBooks from HarperCollins and make effort to collaborate with other systems statewide on this issue. **14 yeas, 7 nays – motion carried.**

Other points made:

- UHLS will draft a letter to hand to patrons to communicate with HC and also a letter to go to HC. The system letter to HC will also be a press release
- Libraries can decide for themselves what to boycott

- Pull HC books from displays, story hours, book groups
- International issue
- Concern about control of patron use and restriction to service area
- ALA is working on digital rights

Notable Programs:

None

Problems/Solutions:

Lenny has a skunk issue he is working on. ☺

Open Forum:

None

Adjournment

Motion: (Chirgwin/Zapala) To adjourn meeting. **Motion carried.** Meeting adjourned at 10:25 AM. Next meeting is April 1, 2011 at 9 AM at UHLS.

Submitted by,
Margie Morris

Meeting followed by a presentation on eBook ordering and statistics – Rob Carle & Jo-Ann Benedetti – for those interested.