

# URBAN LIBRARY ADMINISTRATORS CONSORTIUM (ULAC)

## MEETING MINUTES

Friday, May 13, 2022, 10:00am

### Meeting in-person, at Rodgers Memorial Library, Hudson

Attendees: Sylvie Brikiatis (Windham), Yvette Couser (Merrimack), Todd Fabian (Concord), Erin Matlin (Londonderry), Linda Pilla (Hudson), Eric Stern (Derry), Denise Van Zanten (Manchester)

1. **CALL TO ORDER** - 10:07 – *Linda gave us a tour of Rodgers Memorial Library, which lasted until approximately 10:40. We then returned and went into other business.*
2. Treasurer’s Report – Betsy was not in attendance, but reported via email that the balance on 3/31 was \$6,213.92. An additional \$200 of membership dues were collected since that balance date, and there will also be the usual pennies-worth of interest.
3. Association reports
  - a) NHSL/NHAIS – No report
  - b) NHLA – Denise reports that the strategic plan has posted, and that Lisa Houde stepped down as VP. Denise, in spite of her protestations, is destined to be the “perpetual” president of NHLA ;-)
  - c) NELA – Denise reiterated that the conference is in October.
  - d) ALA; PLA – No report
4. Old Business
  - Reminder of upcoming gathering on the MS Mt Washington (Friday, 6/10, arrival time TBD. Rain date Wednesday, 6/22)
    - Randy Brough (Laconia) reported to Eric that he will be retiring between the 6/10 date and 6/22 rain date – so we are definitely hoping for good weather on 6/10. ☺ This promises to be a memorable event – so everyone in ULAC is encouraged to attend, to wish Randy well in his next adventure... retirement!
  - Covid Update
    - Discussed Covid notifications to staff members (close contact protocols)
    - Each library is doing different things, in keeping with their local policies and directives
  - Todd addressed the email issues that the ULAC listserv has been having. Eric reported that he and his IT guru changed some settings, and that the problem with bouncing emails *may* have been fixed. Eric will continue working to fix this issue if it crops up again.
5. New Business
  - Discussion of pay rates, and our respective challenges in hiring and retaining staff
    - Group had a lengthy conversation about the challenges of staff doing work remotely. Some felt that working remotely should end at this time for library staff.
    - Group discussed “work-life balance” changes brought on by the pandemic, and Yvette noted that Merrimack now allows a certain % of

everyone's work to be done from home.

- Group felt that Covid was a "reset" for many workers
- Discussed starting rates of pay in various libraries
- Discussed changed hours of operation in the libraries, with many questioning the need to be open as much as we had been pre-pandemic
- NHLTA Conference Redux
  - Skipped due to time constraints
- Tour of Rodgers Memorial Library
  - *Did this to start the meeting*

## **6. ADJOURNMENT – 12:22PM**

*Next meeting: Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup> – in-person, aboard the MS Mt Washington! (Rain date 6/22)*