

Government & Community Relations Working Group

February 10, 2025 | 1:30pm

1. Roll Call

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| ✓ Jill Leinung, Chair (C) | ✓ Barry Ramage, ex officio |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Peter Carey (P) | ✓ Rebekkah Smith Aldrich (Staff Liaison) |
| ✓ Jenny Post (C) | |
| ✓ Thomas Silvious (G) | <i>Alumni Members</i> |
| | ✓ Richard Swierat |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Mark Wilson |

2. Working Group Purpose Statement: The group reviewed the purpose statement and recommends no changes at this time.

- a. *"To raise the profile of the Mid-Hudson Library System; In a way that ensures stakeholders, such as member library leaders and legislators, understand the value of the System to our member libraries and communities while also promoting the value of our member libraries; So that stakeholders contribute to the financial sustainability of the System."*

3. Alumni Membership

- a. The group thanked Ric and Mark for coming back as alumni to serve on the working group.
- b. Two alumni were identified to join the group, Barry will reach out to them to invite them.
- c. The working group will present a list of alumni that have agreed to serve on the working group for the board's approval at their next meeting.

4. State Budget Advocacy

- a. Aldrich provided a report on activities related to advocating for increased aid through the state budget negotiation process.
- b. All board members are urged to reach out to the state Senators and Assemblymembers that represent the counties that they represent to advocate for increased state aid.
- c. The Working Group discussed long-term efforts to increase library stakeholder engagement in state budget advocacy this year and moving forward.

5. The Working Group discussed upcoming **award nomination opportunities** at the regional, state, and national level.

6. **Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley:** The Working Group asked Aldrich to set up a meeting with a representative from CFHV to learn more about establishing a donor advised fund for MHLS.

7. **Staff Updates:** Aldrich provided updates on the 2025 PR Plan; the status of strategic partnership efforts; and the New York Alliance of Library System's 2025-2026 Advocacy Plan.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40pm.