REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

September 21, 2026
Uplift Office

Presiding: President, **Merilynn Kessi**
Recording Secretary: **Liz Quealy**
Parliamentarian: **Linda Stimpson**

Merilynn Kessi: Welcome and Call to Order

Guest speaker: Jenny Hill, Care Communities Coordinator, Utah Foster Care
Mission: …to serve Utah children by finding, educating, and supporting families to meet the needs of children in foster care.

Recording Secretary: **Liz Quealy**

Minutes of the August 17, 2026, Regular Meeting were approved.

Officers' Reports

1. **President, Merilynn Kessi** – **Reporting**

    - Introduced new members: Cheryl Scott, Terresa Newport, and Pam Feltman.
    - Acknowledged Yom Kippur, the holiest Jewish holiday.
    - Presented the *Wind Beneath Our Wings* award to Katie Voytovich in recognition of her work in Housewares at Uplift Thrift, her service as Assistant Treasurer, and her other contributions to Uplift Community Alliance.
    - Community Nursing Services (CNS) will offer flu and COVID-19 vaccinations at the October Regular Meeting.

2. **President- Elect, Trish Oba** – **Reporting**

    - Reviewed the "What Works and What Doesn't Work" survey results for Uplift Thrift and Programs Office
    - Programs Office improvements included thermostat repairs, lighting improvements, elevator safety enhancements, relocation of ADA parking spaces, and other updates. Uplift Thrift improvements included dressing room lighting and parking space realignment.
    - Research into potential Programs Office renovations is ongoing.

3. **1st VP, Philanthropic Programs, Debbie Smith – Marilyn Hildebrand Reporting for Uplift School Kids**

    - Bagging for Uplift School Kids (USK) will begin next week on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.
    - Members are also needed for ordering, clerical work, restocking, and delivery.

4. **2nd VP, Community Relations, Linda Hilton – Kim Shemwell Reporting**

    - An open house for donors and community partners will be held on September 28 at the Programs Office. The event will include lunch, a tour of Uplift Thrift, and tables highlighting Uplift Community Alliance programs.
    - The Annual Report is expected to be available by the end of November.

5. **3rd VP, Member Services, Jeannette Shaffer – Reporting**

    - Business cards are available for members who would like to share them with others.
    - A New Member Luncheon will be held on October 26.
    - IT continues to work on a solution for the printed directory.

6. **Treasurer, Wendy Holloway -- Reporting**

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

As of the end of August, we are 25% through our fiscal year. We have received 23% of our budgeted revenue and spent 36% of our budgeted total expenses (including both program and operating expenses).

	Current Year	Prior Year
Total YTD Ordinary Revenue through 8/31/2026	$601,377	$534,114
Total YTD Expense through 8/31/2026	$556,360	$405,677
Net Ordinary Income	($231,509)	($105,827)
Total Net Income Including Investment Income	($216,190)	($62,490)
Uplift Thrift Revenue 06/01/26 -8/31/2026	$276,526	$234,264
Total Cash in Bank Accounts as of 8/31/2026	$954,026	$1,042,473
Total Invested Assets as of 8/31/2026	$745,757	$656,737
Total Cash plus Invested Assets	$1,699,783	$1,699,210

Our return to the community percentage for the fiscal year-to-date ending August 31, 2026, is 83%.

Standing Committee Reports

7. **Bylaws, Margo Simmons** – Reporting
    - Members were asked to replace the job descriptions in their procedure books with the updated documents.

8. **Strategic Planning, Billie Tolman** – No Report

9. **Technology, Ann Plantin** – No Report

10. **Uplift Thrift, Stephanie Hatton-Ward** – No Report
    - Susan Erickson recognized Betty Thomas for collecting Halloween costumes throughout the year for sale in Uplift Thrift during the fall season.

11. **Uplift Associates, Christine Mezek** – No Report

Unfinished Business (from Bylaws):

> **MOTION: I move to amend Bylaws Article 5 Nominations and Elections Section 5.03 Notice. to read "The Nominating Committee shall present its slate of nominees at the March regular meeting. The slate shall be recorded in the Recording Secretary's minutes and reported to voting members."**
>
> **Rationale**: The proposed change aligns Bylaws with our organization's historic custom and practice. This is a clarification regarding notice to members. It is recommended that the slate be announced to members via Constant Contact after the March regular meeting.
>
> **PASSED**

New Business:

Formation of the Nominating Committee.

The Nominating Committee shall consist of two (2) Board members and one (1) Board alternate, along with three (3) membership representatives and one (1) membership alternate.

No member is eligible to serve on the Nominating Committee for two consecutive years.

Nominated Representatives:

- Board Representatives: Linda Hilton and Jeannette Shaffer
- Board Alternate: Wendy Holloway
- Membership Representatives: Lou Ann Stevens, Ann Staples, and Randy Christiansen
- Membership Alternate: Lu Anne Lewis

MOTION: I move to nominate Linda Hilton and Jeannette Shaffer from the Board, with Wendy Holloway as alternate, and Lou Ann Stevens, Ann Staples, and Randy Christiansen from the membership, with Lu Anne Lewis as alternate, to serve on the 2026–2027 Nominating Committee.

PASSED

Adjourn Next meeting October 19, 9:30 social, 10:00 meeting.

Merilynn Kessi, President **Liz Quealy, Recording Secretary**

ACTIONS OF THE BOARD
Board passed September 17, 2026
No Member Vote Needed

From Bylaws:
MOTION: I move to approve revised job descriptions for board Parliamentarian and Bylaws Chair FIN September 2026.

From Uplift Thrift:
MOTION: I move to implement a progressive vacation/PTO schedule for full-time employees effective after Board approval.

Rationale: Recruitment and retention.

Years of Service	Vacation	PTO	Total Paid Days Off
0–3 years	5 days	5 days	10 days
4–7 years	10 days	5 days	15 days
8–14 years	15 days	5 days	20 days
15+ years	20 days	5 days	25 days

2026-2027 Calendar

October 2026

October 12	Board Reports Due
October 12	Uplift Teens, Office 6:00 pm
October 15	Board Meeting, Office 9:30 am
October 19	Regular Meeting, 9:30 am
October 21	Uplift Associates, Office 5:00 pm

November 2026

November 9	Board Reports Due
November 11	Uplift Teens, Office 6:00 pm
November 12	Board Meeting, Office 9:30 am

November 16	Regular Meeting, 9:30 am
November 18	Uplift Associates, Office 5:00 pm

December 2026

No meetings	
December 7	Holiday Party & Luncheon at Hoof & Vine
December 9	Uplift Teens, Office 6:00 pm

January 2027

January 13	Uplift Teens, Office 6:00 pm
January 18	Board Reports Due
January 20	Uplift Associates, Office 5:00 pm
January 21	Board Meeting, Office 9:30 am
January 25	Regular Meeting, 9:30 am

February 2027

February 10	Uplift Teens, Office 6:00 pm
February 15	Board Reports Due
February 17	Uplift Associates, Office 5:00 pm
February 18	Board Meeting, Office 9:30 am
February 22	Regular Meeting, 9:30 am

March 2027

March 8	Board Reports Due
March 10	Uplift Teens, Office 6:00 pm
March 11	Board Meeting, Office 9:30 am
March 15	Regular Meeting, 9:30 am
March 17	Uplift Associates, Office 5:00 pm

April 2027

April 12	Board Reports Due
April 14	Uplift Teens, Office 6:00 pm
April 15	Board Meeting, Office 9:30 am
April 19	Regular Meeting, 9:30 am
April 21	Uplift Associates, Office 5:00 pm

May 2027

May 10	Board Reports Due
May 13	Joint Board Meeting, TBD
May 17	Annual Meeting & Luncheon Millcreek Commons
May 19	Associates, Office 5:00 pm