



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

August 17, 2026

Uplift Office

Presiding: President, **Merilynn Kessi**

Recording Secretary: **Liz Quealy**

Parliamentarian: **Linda Stimpson**

Merilynn Kessi: Welcome and Call to Order

- Merilynn welcomed Linda Dunn, a former Uplift Past-President.

Guest speaker: Linda Dunn

- Linda spoke about being president-elect when the decision was made to move the shop to its present location and President for the grand opening. She also spoke about her current chapter of the Assistance League in Beaverton, Oregon, where she serves as Vice President of Retail Sales for the thrift shop and consignment areas.
- She described the Beaverton Chapter's Operation School Bell program which serves approximately 5,500 children through a voucher system at Fred Meyer stores.

Recording Secretary: **Liz Quealy**

Minutes of the June 15, 2026, regular meeting were approved.

Officers' Reports

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

- The monthly "Wind Beneath Our Wings" award was presented to Kim Shemwell for her outstanding work in Marketing and Special Events.
- Community Nursing Services will provide flu and COVID vaccinations at the October Regular Meeting. Sign-up sheets will be available at the August and September meetings.
- Ramona Rudert has new directories available for pickup at the office.
- New cameras have been installed in the office to assist members of the House Operations Committee in determining whether security personnel should respond to an alarm.
- The Bylaws Committee has recommended that individual requests for assistance not be provided because it could compromise our non-profit status. Individuals are encouraged to call 211 for a list of organizations equipped to address their needs.

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

- Trish Oba highlighted the work and expertise of Diane Mackin, House Operations Chair. Diane oversees projects such as the new Thrift Shop parking lot striping, HVAC maintenance, and other repairs and improvements that help keep our buildings in good working order.

3. **1st VP, Philanthropic Programs, Debbie Smith – Reporting**

- Debbie Smith asked for volunteers for the Uplift Teens program.
- Heidi Makowski reported on the Uplift Shopping Events program at Old Navy. Anyone interested in helping with the program in October should contact Heidi.

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

- Linda Hilton highlighted the new billboard on the office building facing the thrift shop.
- The Millcreek Arts Festival donated a booth space to Uplift Community Alliance this year, and the event was very successful. Proceeds from the festival were approximately \$1,800.
- The committee is seeking volunteers to assist with Special Events. Please see Linda if you are interested in participating.

5. **3rd VP, Member Services, Jeannette Shaffer – No Report**

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

- The audit for the 2025-2026 fiscal year resulted in an unqualified opinion with no material misstatements noted.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION	<u>Current Year</u>	<u>Prior Year</u>
Total YTD Ordinary Revenue through 7/31/2026	\$224,359	\$186,864
Total YTD Expense through 7/31/2026	\$406,130	\$264,424
Net Ordinary Income	(\$181,771)	(\$77,559)
Total Net Income Including Investment Income	(\$179,862)	(\$49,833)
Thrift Shop Revenue 06/01/26 -07/31/2026	\$180,135	\$147,503
Total Cash in Bank Accounts as of 07/31/2026	\$1,043,784	\$1,090,071
Total Invested Assets as of 07/31/2026	\$739,190	\$641,872
Total Cash plus Invested Assets	\$1,777,974	\$1,731,944

As of the end of July, we are 17% through our fiscal year. We have received 16% of our budgeted revenue and spent 27% of our budgeted total expenses (including both program and operating expenses).

MOTION: I move that the 2026/2027 budget be adjusted to reflect the following changes:

- **Baby Bundles – increased \$2,500 from \$50,000 to \$52,500**
- **Associates Eye on the Community – increased \$17,000 from \$57,000 to \$74,000**

- Book Bank – increased \$16,000 from \$20,000 to \$36,000
- Eye on the Community – increased \$5,000 from \$15,000 to \$20,000
- Uplift Plus – increased \$2,000 from \$33,000 to \$35,000
- Scholarship Program – increased \$10,000 from \$103,000 to \$113,000
- Marketing and Special Events – increased \$5,000 from \$15,000 to \$20,000

For a total budget increase of \$57,500, which results in a projected deficit of \$57,500.

Rationale:

The current budget projects a balanced budget. Net income for 2025/26 excluding unrealized gains and losses was \$61,802. It is anticipated that to maintain a balanced budget additional spending will be required.

PASSED

Standing Committee Reports

7. **Bylaws, Margo Simmons – Reporting**

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 customs 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.

MOTION REMAINS ON THE FLOOR FOR THIRTY DAYS WITH A VOTE AT THE SEPTEMBER REGULAR MEETING

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

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

10. **Uplift Thrift, Stephanie Hatton-Ward – Reporting**

- Three \$5 coupons were used at the shop on the day of the Millcreek Arts Festival.
- The reading corner, Christmas corner, and now, Halloween corner has been successful.
- Customer appreciation days will occur during the last three days of August at the thrift shop.

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

Unfinished Business:

Postponed motion from Member Services:

MOTION: I move to discontinue the printed membership directory after the final edition published in summer 2026.

Member Services Vice President, Jeannette Shaffer, requested permission to withdraw the motion. No objections were noted.

MOTION WAS WITHDRAWN

New Business:

Adjourn: Next meeting September 21, 9:30 social, 10:00 meeting.

The Board Members will provide a salad bar lunch after the meeting.



Merilynn Kessi, President



Liz Quealy, Recording Secretary

2026-2027 Calendar

August 2026

August 19 Uplift Associates, Office 5:00 pm

September 2026

September 9 Uplift Teens, Office 6:00 pm
September 14 Board Reports Due
September 16 Uplift Associates Meeting, Office 5:00 pm
September 17 Board Meeting, Office 9:30 am
September 21 Regular Meeting, 9:30 am

October 2026

October 12 Board Reports Due
October 14 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	Uplift Associates, Office 5:00 pm