REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

October 19, 2026
Uplift Programs Office

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

Merilynn Kessi: Welcome and Call to Order

Recording Secretary: **Liz Quealy**

Minutes of the September 21, 2026, Regular Meeting were approved.

Officers' Reports

1. **President, Merilynn Kessi** – Reporting
   - Community Nursing Services administered flu and COVID vaccines to those who signed up to receive them.
   - The *Wind Beneath Our Wings* award was given to Tawnya Luke in recognition of her merchandising expertise and excellent staging of the Quilt and Fiber Arts display.
   - The Appreciation Open House on September 28, 2026, was a success. Merilynn thanked the Marketing and Special Events team for their excellent coordination and execution of the event.
   - The Annual Appeal was mailed last week to those without an email address on file. An email version will be sent soon.
   - The next newsletter will feature new members.
   - The Uplift Thrift dinner will be rescheduled when Stephanie Hatton-Ward, Uplift Thrift Chair, returns from vacation.

2. **President- Elect, Trish Oba** – Reporting
   - Trish reported about a project to remodel the upper floor of the Program's Office. Three architectural firms have been engaged to submit programming, including input from membership focus groups, and design bids. Once the bids are received, the House Operations Committee will review them and recommend a firm. From there, the Board and membership will determine whether to move forward with the project.

3. **1st VP, Philanthropic Programs, Debbie Smith** – **Barbara Slater Reporting**
    - A total of 1,721 bags are complete for Uplift School Kids Elementary, with 2,780 remaining. Barbara Slater encouraged everyone to volunteer as much time as possible to complete the bagging and delivery for this year before the weather turns colder.

4. **2nd VP, Community Relations, Linda Hilton** – No Report

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

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

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

As of the end of September, we are 33% through our fiscal year. We have received 32% of our budgeted revenue and spent 47% of our budgeted total expenses (including both program and operating expenses).

	Current Year	Prior Year
Total YTD Ordinary Revenue through 9/30/2026	$829,216	$724,093
Total YTD Expense through 9/30/2026	$726,160	$573,803
Net Ordinary Income	($271,494)	($177,252)
Total Net Income Including Investment Income	($270,717)	($119,711)
Thrift Shop Revenue 06/01/26 -9/30/2026	$374,551	$327,542
Total Cash in Bank Accounts as of 9/30/2026	$928,408	$997,629
Total Invested Assets as of 9/30/2026	$729,426	$670,125
Total Cash plus Invested Assets	$1,657,834	$1,667,754

Our return to the community percentage for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, is 83.86%.

MOTION: I move the increase the budget for Uplift School Kids Elementary by $45,000 from $493,500 to $538,500.

Rationale: To allow the Uplift School Kids Elementary to purchase local sweatshirts for the school bagging since the original sweatshirts ordered cannot be delivered on time.
PASSED

MOTION: I move to increase the budget for Scholarships by $100,000 from $113,000 to $213,000.

Rationale: To allow for an offset to the expected year-end surplus.

PASSED

- Geri Mineau reported that we have other options for allocation of the proposed $100,000 scholarship budget increase. In addition to educational scholarships, options include daycare vouchers, food pantry support, funding for dental hygiene applicants, and housing assistance.

Standing Committee Reports

7. **Bylaws, Margo Simmons** – No Report
8. **Strategic Planning, Billie Tolman** – No Report
9. **Technology, Ann Plantin** – No Report
10. **Uplift Thrift, Stephanie Hatton-Ward** – No Report
11. **Uplift Associates, Christine Mezek** – No Report

Unfinished Business:

No report.

New Business:

- **2027–2028 Board Nominations:** Jeannette Shaffer, Nominating Committee Chair, solicited nominations for all Board positions. Each position has a one-year term, with the option to serve a second year. It is hoped that members serving their first year will agree to serve a second term. The positions that will be open following the completion of a second term are President-Elect, First Vice President, Philanthropic Programs, and Uplift Thrift Chair.
- **Parking Issues:** The Board is brainstorming ways to alleviate parking issues while Uplift Thrift is open. Options include but are not limited to:
  - Rescheduling committee meetings to Mondays or morning hours before Uplift Thrift opens.
  - Adjusting back room work schedules to avoid peak shop hours when possible.

Adjourn

Next meeting November 16, 9:30 social, 10:00 meeting.

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

ACTIONS OF THE BOARD
Board passed October 15, 2026
No Member Vote Needed

MOTION from Bylaws: I move to approve the Policies of Uplift Teens Revised October 2026.

2026-2027 Calendar

October 2026

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