



SYNAPSE

NEWSLETTER OF ALABAMA HEALTH LIBRARIES
ASSOCIATION INC.

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Spring 2000

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

The quarterly meeting of the Executive Board of ALHeLA was held in the Eric and Sarah Rodgers Library for Science and Engineering at The University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa on Friday April 7.

Several business items were addressed. The Student Scholarship Competition process was discussed and formalized. The list of topics for the paper grew out of a lively discussion about the current status of hospital library job issues, budget issues, and technology issues. Because the 2000 annual meeting is scheduled later in the year than usual, the competition will be open to SLIS students of both the present class and the in-coming class. The 2001 annual meeting is scheduled for Spring 2000 so there will a second opportunity for the incoming SLIS class to compete for the scholarship.

Two joint annual meetings are in the offing. The Fall 2000 meeting, with Southern Chapter MLA, is shaping up to be a grand event in Mobile. Both Susan Deming and Martha Cook updated us on planning, and we look forward to participating in and enjoying a wonderful meeting. The Spring 2001 meeting, with the Georgia Health Sciences Library Association, is in the early planning stages. Pat Higginbottom and Marion Morris will represent our association in the planning and preparation of this meeting that will be held in Columbus, Georgia.

The Alliance Manual update is completed. Judy Burnham coordinated this significant effort and we are most appreciative of her work. Members of the Association wrote, re-wrote, and/or edited the sections for the new edition – a commendable accomplishment! In addition to being an excellent reference source for MASA, the Alliance Manual sales provide a revenue stream for ALHeLA.

Robert Avant, of the Alabama Public Library Service (APLS), sent word to remind us that the current version of Alicat, on CD-ROM, will be with us at least one more year. Please continue to send in your updates.

A number of other items were discussed in the business meeting and more details on all of the items are available in the minutes, found elsewhere in this issue. Please take time to read the minutes and the details of your organization's activities.

Remember to check the ALHeLA Webpage for information on our organization's activities <http://WWW.UAB.EDU/lister/alhela/> . And be sure to join the electronic discussion list; information on joining can be found on our Webpage at the *Electronic Discussion List* button. We have a great organization because we have active, participating members who are interested in their profession!

As always, if you have comments, criticisms, or issues to discuss, please feel free to contact me, or any member of the Executive Board.

Joan Lukins, ALHeLA President

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2001 Joint Meeting in the Works

ALHeLA has been officially invited to participate in a joint meeting with the Georgia Health Sciences Library Association (GHSLA) in 2001. The meeting is scheduled for the spring of next year, specifically March 14-16, 2001. Columbus, Georgia, Georgia's Historic Southern Rivertown, on the banks of the Chattahoochee is to be our meeting location. Meeting planners will be Cathy Woolbright, Marian Morris and Pat Higginbottom. This is the first time our organizations have planned a meeting together so it will be a special occasion. Mark your calendars now and make plans to attend.

Submitted by Pat Higginbottom

Manual for Medical Informatics

The Manual for Medical Informatics has been completed and is ready for distribution by the Alliance for Continuing Medical Education. It is currently being highlighted in the "What's New" section of the Alliance web page -- <http://www.acme-assn.org/>

To date ALHeLA has received \$1552.50 in royalties from the Alliance, with 414 manuals sold. The break-down is as follows:

1997	242 manuals	\$907.50
1998	63 manuals	\$236.25
1999	109 manuals	\$408.75

The Alliance sent copies of the manual for distribution to all authors. The following ALHeLA members participated as authors:

Judy Burnham	Jan Burns
Martha Cook	Kay Hogan-Smith
Jie Li	Marian Morris
Sally Murray	Lisa Russell
Ellen Sayed	Geneva Staggs
Martha Verchot	

Thanks to all of the authors for their contribution, and especially to Sally Murray, Ellen Sayed and Geneva Staggs for their assistance in the final preparation of the manual.

Submitted by Judy Burnham

CDC Workshop

On April 7, immediately following the Executive Board meeting at the University of Alabama, ALHeLA sponsored a CDC workshop. Sandra Bonzo, librarian with the

National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC) in the CDC presented: *An Inside Look at the CDC: the Organization and its Virtual Offerings*. The workshop was held in the Rogers Library's Scientific Communication Lab and offered hands-on participation. Suggestions for information retrieval from the CDC website, and discussion about the organizational structure of the CDC provided some valuable information for the those of us who need to use the site. We were pleased to see that librarians from several cities in Alabama came to attend the presentation.

Accompanying Ms. Bonzo was Laura Dansbury, NCIPC Webmaster, and member of the CDC Website Redesign Committee. She said that website review, planning and recommendations, and site upgrade, for the entire CDC site have begun, and are expected to take a couple of years to complete. Better integration of the entire site is the goal. The RFP for the initial review stage will be announced within the next few months.

Submitted by Joan Lukins

News from NLM

Extensive Drug Information Added to MEDLINEplus

(Bethesda, Md.)--Recognizing the public's concern for good information about available medicines, the National Library of Medicine has enhanced its consumer health Web site, MEDLINEplus, with extensive information about more than 9,000 brand name and generic prescription and over-the-counter drugs. The site (at <http://medlineplus.gov>) gives information about side effects, dosing, drug interactions, precautions, and storage for each drug. Because the articles are intended for the use of patients, they are written in non-technical language.

The information is provided in MEDLINEplus through a special arrangement with the United States Pharmacopeia, located in Rockville, Maryland. Specifically, MEDLINEplus, now makes available the USP's Drug Information (USP DI), Volume II, "Advice for the Patient." The USP DI, one of the most authoritative sources for drug information in the United States, is now in its 20th edition. Because it is in such high demand, the "Drug Information" link is prominently featured on every page of MEDLINEplus.



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Alabama Health Libraries Association
Executive Board Meeting
April 7, 2000

Members present: CJ Bryant, Martha Cook, Susan Deming, Valerie Gordon, Pat Higginbottom, Carolyn Holmes, Jie Li, Joan Lukins, Pat McGee, Tracy Powell, Ellen Sayed, and Nelle Williams.

1. Joan Lukins, President, called the meeting to order at 11:00 am.
2. The minutes of the January 21, 2000 Executive Board meeting were approved as written.

3. Old Business:

- A. Student Scholarship Competition: Joan read the message which was sent to the SLIS list last year announcing the competition. She communicated with Steven MacCall, who recommended a short essay on medical librarianship as in 1998, as opposed to a paper. He does not plan to include a paper as an assignment in his next medical librarianship course. The board discussed the guidelines, timeframe, etc. and made the following recommendations:

The Prize: free registration, housing, and one CE course at the joint ALHeLA/SCMLA meeting in Mobile, October 2000.

Entry Guidelines: a 2-3 page essay on one of the following themes:

- 1) how do you see the medical library profession defined in five years
- 2) paperless library
- 3) marketing the library
- 4) solo librarian issues of finance, currency, networking, professional development.

Deadline for Submissions: all entries submitted by September 8, 2000. Winner decided by September 15, 2000 and notified on September 18, 2000.

Selection of Winner: Martha Cook, Lisa Russell, and Nelle Williams will review the entries and select the winner.

Publicity: Steven MacCall will be asked to help with publicity. We may be able to include a flyer in mailings to new students.

- B. ALHeLA Brochure: Carolyn Holmes distributed the current brochure. We need to add web page and student scholarship information. Lisa Russell is working on a proposal regarding membership rates, which will be presented to the board in June. Other changes to the brochure can be discussed and voted on at that time.
- C. MLA CE Certificates: The certificates for MLA CE credits for last fall's CE courses were mailed recently to all participants.
- D. CDC Workshop: The workshop on the CDC website will be today following this meeting. Approximately 20 individuals have registered for the workshop. Someone who is responsible for development of the CDC website will be joining us today to get our input on the site. Thanks go to Martha Cook for making all the arrangements for this meeting and the workshop.

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- E. Fall 2000 Joint Meeting with SCMLA: Susan Deming gave an update on plans for the meeting. It was suggested that our lunch meeting be on Saturday or Sunday, since other groups have lunch meetings on Monday. The board recommended we have the meeting on Sunday. Lynn Fortney has contacted Ann George, the mystery writer, and she is interested in speaking at the luncheon. It was suggested the luncheon be open to all. ALHeLA will conduct its business meeting after the talk, and SCMLA will schedule poster sessions or some other activity for non-ALHeLA members at that time.
- F. 2001 Annual Meeting with Georgia Association: Pat Higginbottom gave an update on planning for the meeting. It will be held in Columbus, GA, March 14-16, 2001. Marian Morris will be incoming president of ALHeLA and will work with Cathy Woolbright (of the Georgia group) to plan the meeting. Pat Higginbottom will help coordinate the efforts of the two organizations. The goal will be to break even financially on the meeting. Any extra costs or surplus funds will be split evenly between the two organizations. All spending decisions will be made jointly by a representative from each association. Marian is looking for input on the meeting-please pass along your suggestions. After the spring meeting next year, we will reevaluate the timing of our annual meetings.
- G. Webpage update: Pat Higginbottom will work with Diane Williams to get the newsletter and put it in PDF format. She proposes to put links to the newsletter from the homepage and include editorial information and the publication schedule.
- H. Membership categories review: Lisa Russell will present a proposal to the board at the June meeting.
- I. Alliance Manual update: Joan Lukins gave a report from Judy Burnham, who gives thanks to all the authors and others who helped put it together. Judy is checking to make sure the royalties sent to the association are correct; we get \$3.75 for each manual sold. The board agreed that Judy should maintain archives of the manual. Judy will be asked to send appropriate reprints to the authors for their records.
4. New Business:
- A. NOTC Training Classes for PubMed: training classes will be held at Lister Hill Library, UAB, in April. Space is available in both classes.
- B. Scheduling additional board meeting for summer: this item was moved to later in the agenda.
5. Treasurer's Report: Martha Cook presented the treasurer's report. The current balance is \$9,311.22. The report was approved as presented.
6. Committee Reports:
- A. Bylaws: no report.
- B. Continuing Education: Martha Cook indicated she had contacted the chair of SCMLA's CE committee, Brenda Green, with suggestions for CE courses at the joint annual meeting.
- C. Directory: Jan Burns has been ill. CJ Bryant reported that she has been doing updates as they are received.
- D. Liaison: no report
- E. Membership: Carolyn Holmes reported that the association currently has 40 individual members, 20 institutional members, and 5 new members.
- F. Synapse: The deadline for the next issue is April 21, 2000.
- G. Union List: Joan received a message from Robert Avant indicating that the current version of Alicit, on CD-ROM, will be with us at least 1 more year. The medical libraries are ahead of most

others in moving towards online maintenance of holdings. Ellen Sayed reported that NLM is still working on the new DOCLINE.

H. Web Coordinator: no report

I. Members-at-large: no report. A get-well card from the board will be sent to Yvonne Kozlowski, who has an illness in her family.

7. Announcements:

A. SLA Alabama Chapter Spring Meeting: Joan reported on this meeting, and indicated that the Alabama SLA would like to foster closer relations with our association. The Alabama SLA website is www.sla.org/chapter/cal.

B. Next meeting of ALHeLA Executive Board: The need for an additional board meeting (in addition to June 9) prior to the joint ALHeLA-SC/MLA meeting was discussed. The board will receive reports on the joint meeting as planning progresses, and a decision will be made at the June 9 meeting on whether an additional board meeting is needed.

C. Info Fair at University of South Alabama: Jie Li announced the Info Fair which will be taking place April 12-13, 2000. Dr. George Lundberg will be the featured speaker.

D. PubMed classes: A PubMed workshop will be held at the Charles M. Baugh Biomedical Library, University of South Alabama, on April 14.

8. Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Tracy E. Powell*

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