



SYNAPSE

NEWSLETTER OF ALABAMA HEALTH LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION INC.

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Summer 2001

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Good things are happening to the members of the ALHeLA executive committee. Jan Burns has accepted a position in Reno, Nevada as Chief, Library Services of the VA Medical Center. Jan has been the chair of the Directory committee and has made many improvements to its format as well as secured funding for the printing costs. Her dedication to the organization is evident not only in her projects, but also the fact that she takes personal leave to attend meetings and conferences. Best wishes Jan and we will miss you. And thank you CJ Bryant for agreeing to finish out Jan's term this year.

At the end of June I will leave Providence Hospital and move to Kansas City to become the reference librarian for KU Medical Center. It will be good to get back into an academic setting and work in a team environment. I have enjoyed my association with ALHeLA and it has contributed to both my professional and personal growth. A special thanks to Martha Cook and Lisa Rain-Russell for urging me to become involved in ALHeLA activities. After finishing their medical librarianship class I knew I wanted to become a medical librarian. Also, I want to express my appreciation to Mary Fran Prottzman for encouraging me during my rookie year and keeping me informed on hospital library issues.

Marian Morris will step in as President and she is already moving forward on some new projects. I will keep up with the ALHeLA group through the Web site and wish for its continued success.

Susan Williams, ALHeLA President 2001

The second ALHeLA Student Scholarship Award winning essay is included in this issue. See previous issue for first essay.

ALHeLA Survey 2001 ... The Results Are In

Thanks to the 24 ALHeLA members who participated in the survey; these 24 responses resulted in more than a 45% participation rate.

September was the most popular answer to the question of when to hold future meetings, so we'll go back to having our annual meetings in the fall. The next annual meeting and conference will be in mid-September, 2002.

Continuing Education is the principal factor in your decision to attend or not attend the annual meeting. Hospital librarians also ranked Institutional Support and Cost as important factors.

Suggestions for future meetings include: an opportunity to meet each other and learn about specific libraries, more planned time to enjoy local attractions, recommendation to investigate CE instructors and classes thoroughly before scheduling, and an opportunity for more CE hours. (See **2001 Survey Results and Suggestions** on Page 2.)

Submitted by Marian Morris

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2001 Survey Results and Suggestions

CE Choices in Order of Preference (highest to lowest)

Continuing Medical Education and Health Sciences
Libraries : Partnership Opportunities
Creating and Measuring Customer Satisfaction with
Library Services
Grant Writing : Writing Winning Proposals
Five Star Customer Service
Developing a Professional Poster, Paper or Presentation
The Grant Writer's Toolbox : Strategies for Developing
Competitive Proposals
How physicians are trained, etc.
Computer security (viruses, inappropriate patron behavior,
etc.)
Management for Solo Librarians and Others
Nursing Resources
Library staff malpractice
How managed care, etc. affects physicians, etc.
How computer viruses, etc. impact the medical library

Additional CE Suggestions

Teaching PubMed to health care professionals
Specific software tools (i.e. WebWhacker, FrontPage,
PhotoShop)
Online journals (including database and IP issues, remote
access)
Network troubleshooting
Writing reports or writing for publication
Marketing and promotion strategies
Follow-up class on bringing library resources to the web
(more advanced)
Beginning classes to attract additional attendees
(introduction to MeSH, basics of searching, etc.)

Overall Comments

Most enjoyed the joint meeting, but would like to return to a solo ALHeLA meeting after having two joint meetings back-to-back. The preference is to have CE on the first day and the business meeting on the second day. The Outreach Panel was well-received. (Additional feedback specific to the March meeting will be available when the conference survey forms are received.)

Submitted by Marian Morris

News from NN/LM and NLM

Last Printed Issue of SEA Currents

SEA Currents is the bimonthly newsletter of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, Southeast Atlantic Region. March/April 2001, volume 19, number 2, is the last printed issue of SEA Currents. With the May/June 2001, volume 19, number 3 issue, SEA Currents will be an electronic newsletter, only. It will be available on the NN/LM SEA Website at:

www.nlm.nih.gov/sea/publications/seacurrents/index.html

To receive announcements of issue/article postings to the Web site you must subscribe to the SE/A ListProc.

NLM Classification Goes Online

The National Library of Medicine is pleased to announce the online beta version of the National Library of Medicine Classification, 5th edition, revised 1999; its URL is: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/classification/>

Web-based access to the Classifications provides the user with greater maneuverability through the schedules and their index. The new searching tools enhance access to the Classification and present the data in new ways, relating concepts and class numbers to one another. Class numbers in the schedules are directly searchable. The schedules are browsable and references to class numbers are linked throughout the schedules. The index is also browsable and term/word searching retrieves all occurrences of a word or MeSH descriptor in the index. Links from MeSH descriptors in the index to the MeSH browser provide direct access to definitions and applications.

The Library expects to have an updated version of the Classification available sometime in 2002. The update will include appropriate additions and changes to MeSH through MeSH 2002, updated references to Library of Congress class numbers, and revisions to the schedules as appropriate. Future plans are to keep the Classification up-to-date on an annual basis following the MeSH pattern.

Since the online beta version of the NLM Classification is under development, NLM welcomes comments and suggestions. Please submit them through the NLM Customer Service e-mail: custserv@nlm.nih.gov.

NLM Announcements

Sylvia McAphee
ALHeLA Student Grant Essay
January 26, 2001

The opportunity to go to this year's ALHeLA annual meeting would have a definite impact on my career and education in Library Science. I work at Lister Hill Library of the Health Sciences in the Serials Department, Birmingham, AL. I am very happy and excited to work for a medical library because of the very specialized clientele we serve. I also volunteer at our Information Desk (Reference) two hours a week. The medical community is coming up with new and innovative technologies and cures every day. When I answer a patron's request about a new book the library just received or I bind a heavily used volume of Cancer, I am making a difference in the medical community. Though my contributions might seem small to some, they are what glorify the medical librarian profession. Medical librarians are always giving of themselves without ever looking for something in return. The medical librarians I work with at the desk always teach me as much as possible on how to offer the best service possible here at LHL. Their skillful acts of mentoring help me to aid the patrons as skillfully and accurately as possible as well as draw me to this highly rewarding profession. Knowing that each new medical, nursing, or health-related professions student I help may one day save my life, or someone else's life, is a reward within itself. When I am working in Serials, I always think about how the bindery items that I process every month will undoubtedly be viewed by hundreds of thousands of patrons for at least the next twenty or thirty years. Just knowing that alone makes everything I do worthwhile. Therefore, it makes me want to continue pursuing a career in medical librarianship.

Along with working at Lister Hill, I am also presently working on my M.L.I.S. at the University of Alabama. In class we are always talking about how networking in the library community is a definite necessity because it allows you to make lasting connections with library professionals from virtually all areas of librarianship. I would like to attend this meeting because I know I would love to meet other librarians in

Continued on Pg. 4

the medical librarianship field so that I can benefit from all of their extensive knowledge and skills. This opportunity would also allow me to attend seminars and classes offered at the meeting that would be of benefit to me as I work towards finishing library school and entering the medical librarianship profession. In addition to meeting other librarians and vendor representatives, this opportunity would also give me valuable practice as to how to conduct myself at a formal meeting and what to expect, as well as and what is expected of me, in the medical library community when I graduate. The experiences I would gain at this event would aid me to be a better medical librarian and, thus, allow me to someday become a contributing factor to the library field of science as a whole.

Note: Ms. McAphee's essay is on a different topic than the one by the other student award winner. At the time Ms. McAphee wrote her essay the previous year's topic was the one still posted on the ALHeLA web page.

Good-bye to Jan Burns and Susan Williams

Jan Burns leaves Alabama and ALHeLA for a position as Chief, Library Services of the VA Medical Center in Reno, Nevada. Jan has been serving as the Co-Chair of the ALHeLA Directory Committee.

Susan Williams has been serving as the ALHeLA 2001 President. She leaves us to become the reference librarian for KU Medical Center in Kansas City, Kansas.

Thank you Jan and Susan for your work with ALHeLA. We wish you well in your new positions.

Check Out ALHeLA Online!



<http://www.uab.edu/lister/alhela>

The web page has information about the Executive Board, annual meetings, membership, and grants and awards available. You can also find links to libraries within the state and other library associations. The page is maintained by Pat Higginbottom, who welcomes your comments and suggestions. (phiggin@aub.edu)

Submitted by Pat Higginbottom

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Alabama Health Libraries Association
Executive Board Meeting
Friday, June 15, 2001

Present: Everly Brown, Jan Burns, Pat Higginbottom, Yvonne Kozlowski, Marian Morris, Inga Moten, Tracy Powell, Lisa Rains Russell, Ellen Sayed.

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 10:50 am by Marian Morris, President-Elect.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from the March 15, 2001 business meeting were approved as written.
3. **Treasurer's Report:** The treasurer's report was presented by Lisa Rains Russell, Treasurer. The balance as of 6/14/01 was \$11,207.87. This balance includes income from the registrations and donations, but does not yet reflect the expenses of the 2001 joint meeting with GHSLA.
4. **Committee Reports**
 - a. **Bylaws:** No report
 - b. **Directory:** Jan Burns reported that C.J. Bryant has agreed to take on the directory, since Jan is leaving for a new position in Reno, NV. Ten of the directory binders are available; Jan suggested they be distributed to new members as they join. Jan indicated it was almost time to do the surveys for updating the directory again, and she mentioned a plan to send membership brochures to all of the hospitals in the state.
 - c. **Membership:** Marian Morris reported on behalf of Carolyn Holmes, membership chair. The organization currently has 54 members, 52 of which are renewals.
 - d. **Synapse:** The deadline for submissions is in 2 weeks. The first of the winning student essays appeared in the last issue, the remaining one will appear in the next issue.
 - e. **Union List Coordinators:** No report
 - f. **Web Coordinator:** Pat Higginbottom has been working on the web site; among the information updated is the membership page and the highlights of the 2001 meeting. Pat has Synapse up on the website, and also built a survey to question the membership about future meetings. The site has had 398 hits in the last 3 months. Pat questioned whether the officers' email addresses on the site should be links; it was agreed that they should. A question was raised regarding the status of the Ariel project-Pat Higginbottom will contact Janice Kelly for an update.

Not all ALHeLA members are subscribed to the organization's discussion list. The board discussed this issue, and decided that all members should be added to the list when they join the organization.
 - g. **Members-at-Large:** No report.
5. **Old Business**
 - a. **2001 Annual Meeting with GHSLA-Update:** Marian Morris reported that financial numbers from the joint meeting have not yet been received .
 - b. **Scholarship for Members with Limited Institutional Support:** After discussion of this issue, it was decided that we need to gather more information on how we want to proceed. Marian Morris will work with the members-at-large, Inga Moten, Margo Meade, and Everly Brown, to develop guidelines and procedures.

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- c. **Revision of Elections and Vacancies sections of the handbook:** The handbook needs to be revised to cover cases where vacancies have arisen. The following additions were discussed, and a motion to add them to the ALHeLA handbook was approved. Additional amendments to the election section may be necessary; Lisa Rains Russell will investigate and report back to the Executive Board.

Section D, Elections

(insert between paragraphs 2 & 3)

In the event the immediate Past President is unable to serve as Chair of the nominating Committee, the President appoints a member of the ALHeLA Executive Board to serve as Chair of the Nominating Committee. The appointed Chair selects at least two other ALHeLA members to serve on the Nominating Committee. As usual, elected members of the Executive Board may not serve as members of the nominating committee.

Section E, Vacancies

(add to the end of paragraph)

In the event of vacancies occurring in appointed offices, the President may appoint a replacement from the membership for the balance of the term.

(new paragraph at the end)

If the Past-President position becomes vacant, that position remains open until the next election. If the President position becomes vacant, the President-Elect takes office early.

Marian Morris will become President with Susan Williams' resignation. Diane Williams has agreed to chair the Nominating Committee this year. Lisa Rains-Russell will investigate any ramifications of these changes with our articles of incorporation, and report back to the board.

4. Archives: Pat Higginbottom reported that Tim Pennycuff, UAB Archivist, has agreed to handle the ALHeLA archives. Many materials have been located and sent to Tim, and additional materials have been identified and will be on their way. Tim gave us some sample contracts to review, and Yvonne Kozlowski will coordinate the review and report at the next meeting of the Executive Board. The board will need to decide who can access the archives. Lisa Rains Russell will provide the incorporation papers for the archives, and Marian Morris will contact Judy Burnham regarding copies of the MASA manuals for the archives.

When all issues are settled, the contract and a formal letter will be sent to Tim Pennycuff, with an offer of free ALHeLA membership.

6. New Business

- a. **Survey results:** Marian Morris gave an overview of the results of the online survey conducted to gather input from the members on future meetings. We received 24 responses, for a 45% participation rate.

The month receiving the most votes for meeting time was September, followed by March and August. ALHeLA will return to holding the annual meeting in the fall. The next full meeting will take place in September 2002.

The other notable result was that CE is the most important item governing the decision to attend the annual meeting, for librarians in all types of health sciences libraries. Marian will prepare an article for Synapse detailing the results of the survey.

- b. **Thank-you notes:** ALHeLA has received two thank-you notes, one from the artist whose work appears on the membership brochure, and one from Susan Hessler, one of the 2001 student scholarship winners.

7. **Announcements**

- a. Susan Williams is leaving the state for a new position in Kansas City, KA.
- b. Jan Burns is leaving for a new position at the VA in Reno, NV.
- c. The next meeting of the ALHeLA Executive Board will take place in September 2001, at APLS in Montgomery.

8. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tracy E. Powell
Secretary

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