



INC.

SYNAPSE

NEWSLETTER OF ALABAMA HEALTH LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION

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Winter 2002

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Happy New Year to everyone! Your Executive Committee has begun another busy and exciting year for ALHeLA. Last fall we elected Everly Brown to one of the Member-At-Large positions. She recently moved to Maryland and resigned her position. This left a vacancy on the Executive Committee. In accordance with the Bylaws and Handbook, the Executive Committee has appointed a replacement. Geneva Bush Staggs has graciously agreed to serve as our third Member-At-Large for 2002.

Other new members to the Executive Committee are Kay Fowler, Jana Slay, and Jodi Upton. A complete list of the 2002 Executive Committee can be found inside this issue of Synapse.

Thanks to those of you who have already renewed your membership and we hope the rest of you won't be far behind! We have one new member already this year, Michael Fitts of Lister Hill Library at UAB. Welcome Michael!

Tracy Powell is already hard at work planning the annual meeting; and Pat Higginbottom is working on coordinating the CE courses. The meeting will be held at the Wynfrey Hotel in Birmingham. We will be going back to the traditional format of continuing education courses on Thursday, followed by a speaker/panel and business meeting on Friday. I hope that the location of this year's conference will provide an opportunity for several students to attend; of course, I hope lots of our regular members will attend, too! Look for more conference details in the next issue of Synapse.

Marian Morris, ALHeLA President

<http://www.ALHeLA.org>

The ALHeLA website has a new, much easier to remember address, <http://www.ALHeLA.org>. The site hasn't moved, but the domain name was registered and a redirect set up to allow us to use the much shorter address. Now, either address will work. Be sure to check the web site often for information about our organization.

Pat Higginbottom

New Scholarship Being Designed



Your Members-At-Large (C.J. Bryant, Kay Fowler and Geneva Staggs) are working to complete plans for a new scholarship to support meeting attendance by individuals having little or no institutional support for professional travel. A proposal will be presented

to the Executive Committee at the April 5, 2002, meeting. Depending on approval by the Committee the award will be available for the Fall 2002 ALHeLA meeting in Birmingham. Watch for details and apply if you have a need.

Geneva Staggs

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News from NN/LM

Ten Wonderful Ways to Use and Promote MEDLINEplus

1. To search for a disease or wellness topic under "Health Topics":
<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/healthtopics.html>
2. To find more information about your health or wellness topic in the Medical Encyclopedia:
<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/encyclopedia.html>
3. To find a doctor, dietitian, hospital, or hospice under "Directories":
<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/directories.html>
4. To look up words (even non-English words) in a medical dictionary under Dictionaries:
<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/dictionaries.html>
5. To read health news, search by date:
<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/newsbydate.html#116>
or topic:
http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/alphanews_a.html
6. To run a search to find articles on your topic in MEDLINE.
7. To research a drug or pharmaceutical product under "Drug Information":
<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/druginformation.html>
8. To use the interactive tutorials to hear and read health information topics:
<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/tutorial.html>
9. To look up images in the medical encyclopedia, for example:
<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/002130.htm>
10. To use the Medical Encyclopedia to find surgery or diagnostic testing information, in addition to disease, nutrition, and wellness information.



*Jana Allcock, Consumer
Health Outreach
Coordinator
SEA Currents Vol. 19, No. 6
– Nov./Dec. 2001*

<http://nnlm.gov/sea/publications/seacurrents/2001/2001n6.html>

Photos Anyone?

In an effort to jazz up the ALHeLA web site, photos from past meetings, of past executive boards and of past award winners have been posted, if available. To see what's been added go to the history link from <http://www.alhela.org>.

It would be great to add even more photos. I encourage all of you to go through your albums and scrapbooks and send me anything you can find related to ALHeLA. Especially helpful would be pictures from our founding (notice I didn't say old) members.

Send them by mail to: Pat Higginbottom
1530 3rd Ave. S
Birmingham, AL 35294-0013

or as attachments to: phiggin@uab.edu.

Please let me know if you would like your photos returned.
Thanks!

Pat Higginbottom

ALHeLA Member Named MLA Academic Librarian of the Year

Judy Burnham, University of South Alabama Biomedical Library, has won the 2002 Estelle Brodman Award for Academic Medical Librarian of the Year. She will be honored at the Awards Luncheon during the Medical Library Association Annual Meeting in May.

The MLA web site states that:

The Estelle Brodman Award recognizes an academic medical librarian at mid-career level who demonstrates significant achievement, the potential for leadership, and continuing excellence. The award was established in 1986 with a gift from Irwin H. Pizer, and presented for the first time in 1988.

Judy had earlier been chosen the Academic Librarian of the Year by the Southern Chapter of the Medical Library Association. Her nomination for the national award came as a result of the regional award.

Judy is a long-time ALHeLA member, and has served as ALHeLA president.

Congratulations on a well-deserved honor!

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ALHeLA Executive Committee Meeting

Friday, January 25, 2002
Alabama Public Library Service (APLS)

Members present: Robert Avant, , C. J. Bryant, Kay L. Fowler, Pat Higginbottom, Marian Morris, Inga Moten, Tracy Powell, Jana Slay, Geneva Bush Staggs, Diane Williams.

Members absent: Yvonne Kozlowski, Jodi Upton, Martha Verchot.

Guest: Rebecca Mitchell

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 10:45 a.m, by Marian Morris, President. All members present made introductions.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of the ALHeLA Executive Meeting of September 28, 2001 were approved as written.
3. **Treasurer's Report:** Marian Morris reported on behalf of Martha Verchot, Treasurer. As of 12/31/2001, the balance was \$8,841.44. Martha has received \$300 in membership dues since then.
4. **Committee Reports:**
 - a. **Bylaws** – No report.
 - b. **Directory** – No report.
 - c. **Liaison** – Robert Avant announced that the new Director of APLS is Rebecca Mitchell. She is the former head of Gadsden Public Library, a Past-President of Alabama Library Association, and a Past-President of ALHeLA. Robert also reported that APLS is discontinuing maintenance of the Alabama Union List Service (AULS) and studying the best means of paperless ILL.
 - d. **Membership** – Marian reported for Jodi Upton. We currently have 24 members (23 renewals, 1 new member).
 - e. **SYNAPSE** – Diane Williams reported that new articles and minutes are due to Synapse in two weeks.
 - f. **Web Coordinator** – Pat Higginbottom reported that the Executive Committed Membership list has been updated. The poster that Lisa Russell created, including pictures, is now on the web. Members were asked for pictures of past events to be added to site. Submissions should have names, events and dates on back. We are especially in need of pictures from 1999-2001. Discussion list membership has been updated. The ARIEL link has been removed from the website. Purchase of the alhela.org domain name and redirect from NameSecure were approved by the committee. The annual fee for this service is \$35.00.
 - g. **Members-at-Large** – Task to be reinitiated to set up scholarship for members with limited or no support. Everly Brown is now employed out of state and no longer a member of the Committee.

5. **Old Business**

- a. **2001 Joint Annual Meeting with GHSLA Final Report:** Marian Morris reported the net income as \$1,118.93. We had a total of 22 attendees. When received, the Vice-President and Continuing Education Chair will use survey results for planning the Fall 2002 ALHeLA Conference.
- b. **Handbook Changes:** Proposed changes to be made to electronic version include: deleting Union List and Bookkeeper, and adding Archivist position. These will be discussed in detail and voted upon at a later date.
- c. **Updated Brochure:** The brochure is being updated to reflect the new mailing address and new URL. We will also investigate adding the logo to the front of the brochure. The cost for printing is \$275.00

6. **New Business**

- a. **Student Scholarship Competition:** This year's committee is Lisa Rains Russell, Nelle Williams, and Linda Flavin. No submission deadline has been set.
- b. **Members-At-Large:** Everly Brown's move necessitates replacing one of the Member-At-Large positions. Geneva Bush Staggs was nominated and approved by the committee to be the third Member-At-Large for 2002.
- c. **2002 Annual Meeting:** The meeting will be held in Birmingham at the Wynfrey Hotel or a location along I-280 in September. Meeting format will be CE courses on Thursday with panel and/or speaker, business meeting, and lunch on Friday. Pat Higginbottom will arrange for the CE courses. Suggestions for speaker and topics are Spencer Watts, Dir of Mobile County Public Library as a speaker, Spanish for medical professionals for one of the CE courses. The committee recommended that the program chair receive complimentary accommodations.
- d. **Grant Opportunities from NN/LM Southeastern/Atlantic Region:** Pat Higginbottom suggested that ALHeLA consider applying for this year's Health Sciences Librarianship Promotion grant. (*SEA Currents*, 19:6, Nov-Dec 2001). Various ALHeLA members have already received Exhibiting and/or Training grants.

7. **Announcements:** Robert Avant announced that there has been a 100% return of surveys by health libraries that were issued the APLS "Survey of OCLC AULS Contributors" and the "Survey of Non-OCLC AULS Contributors."

8. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 12 noon.

*Respectfully submitted,
Inga Moten
Secretary*

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