



SYNAPSE

NEWSLETTER OF ALABAMA HEALTH LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION INC.

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Winter 2004

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Welcome to a new year with ALHeLA. And welcome to the new members of the Executive Committee: Secretary, Lee Clemans-Taylor; Treasurer, Sylvia McAphee; Members-at-Large, Cindy Mitchell and Justin Robertson; and Continuing Education Committee chair, Lee Vucovich. Cindy was appointed to finish out the term of Gerald Jackson, who has changed jobs and resigned his position on the Executive Committee.



This is starting off to be a busy year. Tracy Powell is planning, hosting and moderating a discussion about health information outreach with a group of people representing agencies and institutions from across the state who will be able to help plan for future dissemination of health information in Alabama.

Judy Burnham, Jana Slay and I are exhibiting the databases of the National Library of Medicine at the annual meeting of the Alabama Library Association. At the same ALHeLA members, Judy Burnham, Nancy Gray, Bob Schrimsher, and Tracy Powell will be speaking at an exhibitor's showcase program called Health Science Librarianship as a Career. They will be sharing with interested librarians, paraprofessionals and library students how they came to have a health related position and what makes their jobs interesting and challenging.

Our Vice-President/President-Elect, Martha Verchot, is busy on plans for the 2004 annual meeting, to be held in Huntsville. Lee Clemans-Taylor is assisting with the local arrangements and Lee Vucovich is planning the continuing education opportunities. If you have suggestions for the meeting, don't hesitate to provide them to these planners. They are interested in hearing ideas that would make this a good meeting for you. Go ahead and mark September 16-17 on your calendar and plan to join us in Huntsville.

Geneva Bush Staggs, 2004 ALHeLA President

ALHeLA Hosts Statewide Planning Meeting on Health Information Outreach

ALHeLA hosted a planning meeting on health information outreach March 11-12 at the Wynfrey Hotel in Birmingham. Funded through an award from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, Southeastern Atlantic Region (NN/LM SE/A), this meeting brought together health information providers and users from throughout the state to discuss issues related to health information outreach.

Representatives from public and academic libraries, library organizations, state agencies, professional organizations, and non-profit health care agencies shared information and discussed methods for identifying the needs of health information users and for providing needed information effectively. ALHeLA members present included Tracy Powell, Past President and meeting facilitator; Geneva Bush Staggs, President; Judy Burnham, Kay Hogan Smith, Cindy Mitchell, and Scott Plutchak. Many goals for new collaboration were generated during the session, and ALHeLA will play a coordinating role in moving these efforts forward. There will be many opportunities for you to get involved, so stay tuned!

Submitted by Tracy Powell

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Tracy Powell Recognized

Tracy E. Powell, ALHeLA's 2003 President, was presented a plaque by Geneva Staggs, ALHeLA's 2004 President. The plaque was in recognition of Tracy's outstanding service to ALHeLA as president for the 2003 year.



Tracy Powell (left) and Geneva Staggs

Thank you, Tracy!

Presentation of Plaque at ALHeLA Executive Committee Meeting, January 2004



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2004 Executive Committee

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ALHeLA Executive Committee Meeting

Friday, January 23, 2004
Alabama Public Library Service
Montgomery

Present: Robert Avant, Lee Clemans-Taylor, Michael Fitts, Sylvia McAphee, Tracy Powell, Justin Robertson, Jana Slay, Geneva Staggs, Martha Verchot, Lee Vucovich, Diane Williams

1. **Call to Order:** President Geneva Staggs called the meeting to order at 10:30a.m.
2. **Introduction of New Committee Members:** All of the new committee members were introduced.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the Executive Meeting of June 20, 2003 were approved as written. The minutes of the Annual Business Meeting of September 12, 2003 were reviewed with one spelling error pointed out by Martha Verchot. SYNAPSE printed as SYNPASE. (under 7./New Business/c.)
4. **Treasurer's Report:** Martha Verchot reported that she is in the process of transferring the duties of Treasurer to Sylvia McAphee. It was noted that Sylvia has already been added to the account. Martha reported that the current balance is \$2841.06, and added that she will be sending a copy of the complete treasurer's report by email to all of the Executive Board members within the next few days. 2004 dues have been received from 15 persons.
5. **Committee Reports:**
 - a. **Bylaws:** Ellen Sayed—No Report
 - b. **Continuing Education:** Lee Vucovich—Lee is working on ideas for the 2004 Annual Meeting and asks that anyone with suggestions and ideas for topics/speakers, please email them to her. (lvucovi@uab.edu)
 - c. **Directory:** Jana Slay—No report.
 - d. **Liaison:** Robert Avant—No Report
 - e. **Membership:** Susie Corbett—No Report
 - f. **SYNAPSE:** Diane Williams—Diane asked that anyone who has articles or other information for SYNAPSE, to please email them to her a month from today for the preliminary issue. (dnwillia@jaguar1.usouthal.edu)
 - g. **Web Coordinator:** Pat Higginbottom—Tracy Powell gave the following report for Pat:
 - i. **Web Report:**—There have been 228 hits since September 9th, 2003 (last report.) End of the year pages have been updated. Pat welcomes suggestions for changes or improvements.
 - ii. **Electronic Discussion List Report:**—All ALHeLA members (53 total) are automatically added to the list.
 - iii. **List address:** alhela@lilbit.lhl.uab.edu
 - iv. **List archives:** <http://lilbit.lhl.uab.edu/mailman/private/alhela/>
 - v. **List Information:** <http://lilbit.lhl.uab.edu/mailman/listinfo/alhela>
 - h. **Nominations:** Tracy Powell—Tracy reported that she will build the Nominating Committee.
6. **Old Business:**
 - a. **Grant for Statewide Planning Meetings:** Tracy Powell reported that the funding has been approved for the Statewide Planning Meeting. She is waiting for the actual funds to arrive, so that the final date can be set for the meeting. Tracy is looking at the meeting date to be sometime in mid March 2004 at the Winfrey Hotel in Birmingham.
 - b. **Award for Exhibiting and Program at the ALA Annual Meeting:** Geneva Staggs reported that the panel discussion she will be presenting at the Alabama Library Association Annual Meeting should happen at 2:00-4:00p.m on April 21st or 22nd. The ALA meeting is being held at the Civic Center in Montgomery. The purpose of this initiative is to promote Health Sciences Librarianship. The funding in the amount of \$500 is being provided through a grant that Geneva applied for and received from the NN/LM. Geneva has several presenters already lined up, and asked Tracy Powell if she would be willing to give a brief presentation from the perspective of the hospital librarian experience. Tracy will get back to Geneva with a definite answer.

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- c. **ALHeLA Scholarships:** Michael Fitts and Justin Robertson report that everything is going well.
 - d. **2004 Annual Meeting:** Martha Verchot is thinking of the possibility of holding the Annual Meeting in Huntsville, and asked for discussion from the Board. Discussion followed by several of the members about advantages and disadvantages of the location. The final consensus of the group was positive in favor of considering Huntsville as the location for the 2004 Annual Meeting. Lee Clemans-Taylor offered to assist in scouting out sites in the Huntsville area for the event. It was mentioned that Huntsville is known for its involvement with the U.S. Space Program, so this area may be one to look at for possible speakers (related to scientific research in the medical field). More details will be presented and discussed about the Annual Meeting at the next Executive meeting.
 - e. **Other:** Geneva recognized Tracy Powell with a plaque for outstanding leadership as the 2003 president of ALHeLA.

7. New Business:

- a. **Vacant Members-at-Large Position:** Geneva Staggs reported that Gerald Jackson resigned from serving as Member-at-Large, due to a change in employment in January 2004. Discussion followed on identifying a person from a member group not currently on the board as a possibility to serve as Member-at-Large. The group came up with two names for Geneva to contact.
- b. **Other:** Geneva reported to the group about a suggestion that Judy Burnham has related to a topic that Janice Kelly talked about in her presentation at the 2003 ALHeLA annual meeting. Janice mentioned that NN/LM is looking for instructors to teach public librarians about consumer health. Judy suggested that we consider:
 - ask to do a session at ALLA on consumer health resources.
 - ask for money from NN/LM to support a project where ALHeLA members taught consumer health courses at public libraries through out the state. The funding could cover travel. Teaching could probably be done in day trips, since ALHeLA members are scattered through out the state.
 - ask to a session at LAMP on consumer health resources. These are currently held at about 4 different locations through out the state. After some discussion, the group decided to refer these suggestions to Kay Hogan Smith, to see if she would consider spearheading one or all of these projects.

8. **Announcements:** Tracy announced that the Alabama Museum of the Health Sciences at UAB on the third floor of Lister Hill Library, is hosting a traveling exhibit, *Frankenstein: Penetrating the Secrets of Nature*. The exhibit, organized by the National Library of Medicine and the American Library Association, focuses on the monster of Shelley's novel and the Hollywood versions that came later. A film series of *Frankenstein* movies will accompany the exhibit, which began on January 21st, 2004, and will remain at UAB for six weeks.

9. **Adjournment:** President Geneva Staggs adjourned the meeting at 11:50a.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Lee Clemans-Taylor, Secretary*

September 16-17, 2004
2004 Annual Meeting
Huntsville, AL

Mark your Calendar!!!

Martha Verchot, mverchot@uab.edu – Meeting Organizer
Lee Clemans-Taylor, blct@uab.edu – Local Arrangements
Lee Vucovich, lvucoci@uab.edu – Continuing Education

Synapse

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