

1. *Newsletter of Alabama Health Libraries Association INC.*
2. the point at which a nervous impulse passes from one neuron to another



President's Column

Welcome to a challenging new year! I feel like I haven't slowed down since the Holidays. Most of us are dealing with budget cuts, proration, and less personnel. Even though we have less to work with, we're being asked to do more. Our jobs have expanded to include much that is not, in a traditional sense, library related. Personally, I've had to remember that it's okay to be outside your comfort zone and to take it as a compliment when you're asked to take on a new task. Libraries and librarians have hung on through tough economic times before, and I'm hopeful that they'll continue to do so.



The ALHeLA Executive Committee will be meeting soon to carry on with the business of the organization. We're going to experiment with Dimdim.com, web-based meeting software. With travel budgets being so tight this year, Dimdim may allow for some board members to attend virtually. Look to future Synapse issues to see how this progresses. There are several new additions to the committee this year. Our Vice-President/President-Elect, Trey Lemley, is busy making plans for the 2009 annual meeting, to be held in the Mobile area. Katy Allen is our new Secretary. Our new Members-at-Large are Margaret Alexander, Inga Moten, and Andrea Wright. Andrea will also be serving as Web Co-Coordinator with Justin Robertson. Our

returning officers and committee chairs include Lee Vucovich as Past President, Lee Clemans-Taylor for Bylaws/Handbook, Jana Slay for the ALHeLA Directory, Nicole Mitchell as Treasurer, Kay Hogan Smith for the Liaison Committee, and Jason Baker and Paul Mussleman as Synapse Co-Editors. Thanks to all of them for their continuing support of ALHeLA. We also have several new faces. Robert Britton will serve as CE Chair for our next annual meeting. Errica Evans will serve as Membership Chair and our new Listserv Moderator is Lisa Ennis. Thanks to you all for taking on these roles.

I hope that many of you were able to attend our joint meeting with the Southern Chapter of the Medical Library Association. Lee Vucovich, Kay Hogan, and I staffed the ALHeLA/Health InfoNet booth in the exhibit area. The food for the Welcome Reception was excellent and I enjoyed seeing so many attendees. We gave out many ALHeLA pens and pads, plus candy. I have learned that if you have chocolate, they will come! We had a wonderful array of speakers and contributed papers, and it was sometimes hard to choose which presentations to attend. Ross Bridge was beautiful, and I'd like to return sometime just to relax.

Please don't hesitate to let us know of any ideas or suggestions you have for ALHeLA. I look forward to working with everyone this year.

Nelle Williams



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Conference Reports from Recipients of Scholarships for Librarians with Limited Institutional Support

2008 SCMLA / ALHeLA Joint Annual Meeting
Making the Magic Flow

Birmingham, AL



Beverly Rossini
Outreach/Information Resources Librarian
University of South Alabama
Baugh Biomedical Library

It was an honor to be chosen as a recipient of the ALHeLA Scholarship for Librarians with Limited Institutional Support (SLLIS) and to attend the 2008 Making the Magic Flow Annual Meeting of the Southern Chapter of the Medical Library Association in Birmingham this past October, 2008.

As a new Outreach Librarian for the University of South Alabama Biomedical Library, I have many opportunities to share what I learned at the SCMLA conference: the new developments in the field of medical librarianship and the new products and services offered by our specialty vendors; the personalities, talents, and uniqueness of the SCMLA membership; about the Southern Chapter organization and its parent - the Medical Library Association (MLA), and about how I might get involved in the coming years.

In the continuing education classes I had a chance to learn from and to interact with fellow medical librarians. The vendors' exhibits were informative and an opportunity to put a face with a product. A tour of EBSCO gave me a better appreciation and understanding of the mechanism behind the information giant's services and of its local roots. Of course, it was hard to leave the "castle" since our accommodations at Ross Bridge were the utmost in comfort and convenience, but we were back in time to hear the bagpipes at sunset. The outings, the food, the company, and the place (Ross Bridge) all exceeded my expectations.

Of course we came for the company, but also for the information. Contributed papers and posters presented varied and important research. The plenary speakers, Peter Morville, David Levy, and Rachel Singer Gordon provided excellent commentary and strategies for managing information and the overload we all encounter on the job. Being able to turn to a fellow medical librarian and share thoughts about what we had just heard was an opportunity that could only happen at a chapter conference. The perspective gained really did "make the magic flow."

Last, but certainly not least attending this chapter conference was an opportunity to meet my fellow ALHeLA members and to learn about the other medical libraries in Alabama. Their hard work

Conference Reports from Recipients of Scholarships for Librarians with Limited Institutional Support (cont.)

and dedication made it possible for me to attend the conference, support my director Judy Burnham who was this past year's Southern Chapter President, to contribute to the profession by presenting a paper and a poster, and to be a participant for the first time in a professional MLA conference. I want to sincerely thank ALHeLA for allowing me the opportunity of attending, and I hope that I will be able to attend and to contribute again in the future.

Andrea Wright
Technology Librarian
University of South Alabama
Baugh Biomedical Library

This year, in my first year as a medical librarian, I was honored to receive one of the ALHeLA Scholarships for Librarians with Limited Institutional Support, and I am especially thankful for the experience it provided me. Having the opportunity to spend time with so many of the librarians whom I had heard or met in passing throughout my first months on the job was such an encouraging and edifying experience. Not only did I present my first poster and gain valuable knowledge and ideas through hearing about new projects and services offered by those present, but I also realized what a supportive community I had joined through becoming an ALHeLA member.

The speakers at the conference were timely. As a technology-loving multi-tasker, David Levy's talk made me seriously reflect on how much time I spend plugged-in with constant interruptions, and whether the technologies of which I'm so fond are serving me in the ways that I believe they are. As the web mistress at our library, Peter Morville's topic included a great deal of practical information for me. I was excited to get back home to use some of that new knowledge right away. Finally, Rachel Singer Gordon's advice on goal setting and career happiness was very useful to me as a new librarian adjusting to professional and academic life.

This scholarship also made it possible for me to attend the Technology Planning for Health Sciences Librarians CE at Lister Hill Library on Monday. Having a conversation with the instructors, as well as other librarians, about the future of information technology was exciting. Hearing details from librarians about how they use these tools to meet the needs of their patrons and about specific benefits and drawbacks was particularly useful.

This scholarship allowed me to grow my knowledge and build relationships with other librarians in ways that simply would not have been possible as an observer from home. I would like to thank ALHeLA for this experience. I hope I will be able to attend again in the future and continue to connect with other health librarians in Alabama. I also hope that many others will be afforded the same opportunity with this worthwhile scholarship.

News Around the State

USA Participation at the 2008 ALHeLA/SCMLA Conference

University of South Alabama librarians Robert Britton, Beverly Rossini, Geneva Staggs, and Andrea Wright accompanied USA Biomedical Library Director and Southern Chapter MLA Chairperson Judy Burnham to Ross Bridge for the Annual Meeting in October, 2008.

- University of South Alabama librarians presented the following papers and/or posters at the conference: “Take Charge! Information Resources for Consumer Health Education: A Joint Outreach Project between the University of South Alabama and the Mobile Public Library”, a paper detailing programming efforts geared towards teaching two different audiences (seniors and college students) to locate authoritative Internet consumer health resources.
- Assistant Director for Hospital Services Geneva Staggs presented a poster with Beverly Rossini detailing their participation as a pilot site with the MLA’s Health Information Literacy Project during the spring and summer of 2008.
- Technology and Information Services Librarian Andrea Wright presented a poster “Using Google Analytics to Build a Better Library Website “ which she co-authored with USA Biomedical Library’s Assistant Director for Public Services Justin Robertson as they built a new library website this past year.
- SCMLA Chair, USA Biomedical Library Director, and Department of Physical Therapy Liaison Judy Burnham presented a poster “Mapping the Core Journals of Physical Therapy Literature” which she co-authored with Dennis W. Fell MD PT, Chair, Department of Physical Therapy, University of South Alabama, and Melanie Buchanan, Heidi Horchen, Joel Scherr, students in the Department of Physical Therapy at the University of South Alabama.



University of South Alabama Assistant Director of Hospital Services Geneva Staggs explains the pre- and post-study statistics to Laura Cousineau, Associate Professor of Library Science & Informatics and Pediatrics at the Medical University of South Carolina.

News Around the State (cont.)

NMLM at the USA Biomedical Library

Librarians at the USA Biomedical Library spent much of National Medical Librarians Month this past October raising awareness about the library's services by taking the Biomedical Library to its users at the two USA hospital locations and to all campus locations.

Biomedical Librarians Judy Burnham, Geneva Staggs, Jie Li, Clista Clanton, Justin Robertson, Trey Lemley, Robert Britton, Andrea Wright, and Beverly Rossini demonstrated the library's databases, electronic journals and books, and the new article linker Serials Solutions during regularly scheduled dates at the College of Medicine on the USA campus; at the College of Nursing, both the Baldwin and the Spring Hill campuses; at the College of Allied Health's Spring Hill campus and at the USA Commons; and at the two hospital locations: USA Medical Center and Children's and Women's Hospital.

Biomedical Librarians also featured vetted consumer health information accessible through the MedlinePlus.gov website which features over 750 health topics and multiple language capabilities.

The faculty, clinicians, students, and staff expressed appreciation to the librarians for the specialized services that the USA Biomedical Library provides.



Biomedical librarians Andrea Wright and Robert Britton discuss the consumer health resources found in MedlinePlus with University of South Alabama Medical Center employee Romerius Sewell during a National Medical Librarians Month exhibit.

News Around the State (cont.)

USA Biomedical Library's Medical Center Site Moves

The University of South Alabama Biomedical Library's Medical Center site has moved onto the third floor of the hospital from their previous location which had been essentially an academic building located near the hospital. Over the last six months a space has been renovated into what is now being called the Health Information Resource Center.

Preparing the collections for the move, usage statistics were analyzed, prudent weeding undertaken, new electronic items purchased, and the collections split into two sections. The collection now available in the new Health Information Resource Center has been shaped into a 'just in time' instead of a 'just in case' collection. The less frequently used items are housed in a storage collection three floors down in the hospital. With the emphasis on online resources additional computer workstations were added and wireless antennas installed in the new library space.

A new emphasis for this library site is consumer health information. Almost as soon as planning started on the renovation and move, hospital administration asked that we add a consumer/patient information service. To gear up for this change, the library applied for and was accepted to be one of only nine sites in the United States and Canada to help develop and test a new health information literacy curriculum focused on increasing health care provider and patient use of consumer health resources, and on promoting the role of librarians as key providers of health information literacy resources and services.

The University of South Alabama Health Information Resource Center also hosted a graduate student intern from the University of Alabama School of Library Information Studies to develop what has become a consumer health information kiosk located in the Health Information Resource Center.



(Left and Above) USA's New Biomedical Library Medical Center Location



News Around the State (cont.)

USA Biomedical Library's New Webpage is Live

In order to make the site easier for our users to navigate, we have set up portals for the three colleges, the hospitals, and the general public. Each portal directs the user to resources important for his specialization. Also new to the website is the ability to subscribe to the Biomedical Library news by either RSS feed or e-mail.

The new web page will run concurrently with the existing web page (<http://southmed.usouthal.edu/library/index.html>) until the summer at which time we will switch the library's only webpage to the new one with a re-direct from the old URL.

The webpage is a constant work in progress, but we are pleased with the usability and new design elements. Andrea Wright, our Technology Librarian, along with Justin Robertson, our Assistant Director for Public Services, did the re-design.

Resources:	Library Services:	About the Library:
Find Articles Database List, Journal Search, PubMed, CINAHL, Cochrane	Ask-A Librarian Chat, E-Mail, SMS/Texting, Phone, In Person	Welcome
Find E-Books E-Book Search, E-Book List	Home Access Troubleshooting, Distance Education	Hours
Find Books Catalog Search, Checking Out Books	Computing, Study, & Meeting Spaces	Directory & Contact
Find Websites Medical Matters Wiki (trusted online resources by subject area), Consumer Health Information	Library Instruction Tutorials, Library Courses	Biofeedback Newsletter
Evidence Based Healthcare EBM/EBP Databases, EBM/EBP Tutorials, EBM Rotations	Order an Article/Book Request Interlibrary Loan, Frequently Asked Questions, Request for Purchase	Employment
Mobile Devices	Faculty Services	Related Sites:
	SouthMed/Outreach	University of South Alabama
		College of Medicine
		College of Nursing
		College of Allied Health
		University Hospitals
		University Library

USA's New Website

News Around the State (cont.)

Help U Better Opens at Lister Hill Library

In an effort to make the library's services and resources even easier to access, the Lister Hill Library has created the Help U Better desk or HUB. The HUB is a unified service point where library patrons can obtain or gain access to our services and resources.

In the past patrons had to go to a variety of locations throughout the library to obtain that which they sought. For instance, in the past a patron wanting to reserve a group study room to create a PPT presentation which would include information from a book on course reserve as well as information from some articles on their topic, would have to:

- Go to the circulation desk on first floor to reserve a group study room
- Go to the reference desk on first floor for assistance finding articles
- Go to the ground floor to Collection Access Services desk to check out course reserve book

Now patrons can accomplish all of those tasks and more by simply going to the HUB. The HUB is conveniently located on the first floor of the library next to the library entrance. Here patrons can check in and out books, course reserves, equipment, and group study rooms. At the HUB patrons can receive assistance with ready reference questions or for more involved questions, obtain the assistance of a reference librarian. The HUB is also where patrons, upon entering the library, show their IDs to the greeter.

After much brainstorming, research, and planning, the HUB opened for business on January 5th. Our preparation, which has included a number of training sessions, has the HUB off to a good start, and we will continually work to improve the service provided from it.

We are more than happy to share our experience with our venture into having a unified service point. For more information on the HUB, contact either Lee Vucovich by phone at 205.934.2230 or by email at lvucovi@uab.edu, or Michael Fitts by phone at 205.934.5442 or by email at fitts@uab.edu.



Michael Fitts & Lee Vucovich cut the ribbon at the HUB grand opening

News Around the State (cont.)

ALHeLA and Health InfoNet Receive Grant

ALHeLA and Health InfoNet of Alabama have been awarded a \$5600.00 subcontract by NICHSR (National Information Center on Health Services Research and Health Care Technology - see <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/nichsr/>) and PHPartners (see <http://phpartners.org/>) to promote the role of libraries in community health initiatives. The primary health initiative targeted by this funding is the Jefferson County Department of Health's "Health Action Partnership" (HAP), based on a national public health model with a goal of improving the health and quality of life of the county through the involvement of multiple organizations and community activists. Kay Hogan Smith has been a member of the HAP "Access to Services" subcommittee, working to increase residents' awareness of current programs and resources available to them. This subcontract will allow this committee to purchase space on billboards or buses promoting Health InfoNet, United Way's 211 service, and any other local broad-based health services referral program. It also provides support for up to forty students of public health to attend the 3rd annual "Health Action Summit" on April 8th to learn more about this wide-ranging initiative. Through this and other means, libraries are shown to be active participants in improving public health as well as educating future public health workers. For more information about this project, please contact Kay Smith at 205-934-2208 or khogan@uab.edu.

Annual Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Note: Both the minutes from the 2007 annual ALHeLA business meeting and September 5, 2008 meeting are contained in this newsletter.

ALHeLA Business Meeting Friday, September 28, 2007 Tuscaloosa, AL

1. **Call to order:** President Lee Vucovich at 1235 PM.
 - a. Announcement about Ellen Sayed leaving.
 - b. Discussion about 2005 minutes.

2. **Approval of Minutes:**
 - a. Changes were mentioned for the 2005 minutes to be made by Secretary Mr. Paul C. May.
 - b. A motion was made by Ms. Geneva Bush Staggs to approve the minutes with the corrections. The motion was seconded. Ms. Martha Verchot. The motion passed
 - c. The minutes for the 2006 meeting were discussed.
 - d. A motion was made by Ms. Kay Hogan to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jason Baker. The motion passed.

Annual Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

(cont.)

3. **Treasurer's Report:**
 - a. Sylvia McAphee presented the treasurer's report to the meeting.
 - b. Nicole Mitchell will be taking over as Treasurer now.
 - c. Ms. Vucovich asked for a "Thank You" for Sylvia and the meeting in unison thanked Ms. McAphee for all of her hard work and dedication.
4. **Student Award:**
 - a. Ms. Valerie Gordon announced the winner of the Robert Avant student award for the meeting. Ms. A'Llyn Ettien who is attending the SLISS School online from Boston, MA.
 - b. Ms. Ettien read her paper for the assembled meeting; the paper was entitled "How will emerging technological advances affect providing medical information in the future?"
5. **Committee Reports:**
 - a. By-Laws: Lee Clemans-Taylor (not present)
 - i. Check for Update/Changes will bring to executive board/synapse
 - b. Directory: Jana Slay
 - i. No report.
 - c. Liaison: Judy Burnham (not present)
 - i. Ms. Vucovich asked for a "Thank You" for Ms. Burnham for all of her hard work and all assembled thanked her for her work.
 - d. Membership: Martha Verchot
 - i. Ms. Verchot reported 52 members and 11 new members. Her report showed also 15 possible new members.
 - ii. Ms. Verchot also asked all members to get their dues caught up for 2007.
 - iii. Ms. Geneva Staggs recommended that a current address be located for Mr. Robert Avant.
 - e. Synapse: Lisa Ennis (Jason Baker)
 - i. Reminder to all members that there is nothing too big or too small to be added to the newsletter and requested members send in articles and photos of events.
 - ii. The membership voted to have all future issues online.
 - f. Web Coordinating: Justin Robertson
 - i. Report
 - ii. Kay Smith asked if a core list of consumer health titles on the web can be done.
 - iii. Justin Robertson is requesting someone to take over the website.
 - g. Members at Large: Marian Morris (Valerie Gordon, Katy Allen)
 - i. Had one recipient for student grant this year.
 - ii. Ms. Vucovich recommended to all assembled to encourage coworkers/friends to apply for next years meeting.
6. **Old Business:**
 - a. 2007 Annual Meeting
 - i. Exceptional turnout
 1. 34 for luncheon
 2. 36 for dinner
 3. 30 for conference

Annual Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

(cont.)

4. 38 total for entire meeting
- ii. Thank you to Mr. Steven MacCall for the SLIS event
- iii. Dr. MacCall wanted to thank Liz Lorbeer for all of her work
- iv. Vendors received a thank you for their support
 1. EBSCO - donated money
 2. MDConsult - donated money and helped with the dinner
 3. STAT-Ref - Provided breakfast
 4. Wiley - donated money
 5. UAB - room rates
 6. Ovid - t-shirts, pens, door prize
- v. Ms. Vucovich wanted to thank the following people:
 1. Ms. Lorbeer - her help with the meet and greet
 2. Ms. Shelia Snow-Croft - for the CE
 3. Dr. MacCall - help with local arrangements
 4. Ms. Williams - help with local arrangements
 5. Dr. MacCall - for the best CE ever
- vi. Michael Lindsay will get the plaque to Ellen Sayed.
- vii. Dr. MacCall thanked to all of the people who helped setup for the meeting and events.

7. **New Business:**

- a. Nominating Committee: Cindy Mitchell, Geneva Staggs, Tracy Powell
 - i. President - elect: Nelle Williams
 - ii. Secretary: Paul C. May
 - iii. Treasurer: Nicole Mitchell
 - iv. Members-at-large: Valerie Gordon, Marian Morris, Trey Lemley
 - v. A vote was called by Ms. McAfee on the above nominated persons it was Seconded by Ms. Ennis and unanimously approved.
 - vi. Questions were raised about the executive board to discuss:
 1. Gas costs/stipend for travel for the meeting?
 2. Dr. MacCall stated that due to the distances he would support this measure.
- b. Go Local: Kay Smith
 - i. Need to spread the word about the site and its capabilities
 - ii. She asked for financial support for the project from ALHeLA
 1. She has pledges from APLS, UAB, USA so far:
 - a. APLS \$1,200 annually
 - b. UAB \$700 annually
 - c. USA \$700 annually
 2. Money will be used for brochures and promotional materials
 3. A motion was made by Mr. May to approve \$700 for this year and seconded by Mr. Lindsay.
 4. Tracy Powell asked if the treasury can support it and Ms. McAfee said need to keep the treasury at \$3,000 to \$3,500 annually and we could afford it at this time.
 5. The assembled members discussed the idea.

Annual Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

(cont.)

6. The motion was amended to provide the funds for 3 years and then will re-evaluate in 2 years. The new motion was to approve \$2,100 over 3 years and then re-evaluate the gift in 2 years time to ensure ALHeLA can sustain it or if Go Local needs more support. Ms. Mary Ann Morris called for a vote on the above amended motion, and Ms. Verchot seconded the motion, the motion passes unanimously.

c. ALLA - Lee Vucovich

i. A question was raised asking if ALHeLA could support sending people to meetings if a grant cannot be gotten.

1. Kay Smith and Geneva Staggs stated if it was a good meeting they would support the idea.

2. Ms. Staggs made a motion to pass the resolution that ALHeLA would financially support the meetings if a grant could not be obtained, the motion was seconded by Ms. Smith and passed unanimously.

3. Sheila Snow-Croft stated that official communications need to be sent to NNLM to try to obtain funding.

8. Announcements and “Spotlights”:

a. From the floor:

i. Steven McCall said the DE Program recruitment was going well.

ii. Kay Smith went to a workshop in Tuscaloosa public library along with Lee Vucovich.

iii. Jie Lee and Judy Burnham will be doing workshops soon.

iv. Geneva Staggs is working on recruiting.

v. Happy Birthday to Shelia Snow-Croft.

b. “Spotlights”

i. The Kirkland Clinic Patient Resource CJ Bryant -> Kirkland Clinic Library

ii. University of Alabama CTSA was from NIH was covered by Nelle Williams

iii. USA Clinical Medical Librarians program was covered by Clista Clanton.

Ms. Lee Vucovich extended a special thank you to all assembled for all for their hard work and help in making the meeting successful.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. McAfee and seconded by Lindsay. The meeting adjourned.

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

ALHeLA Executive Committee Meeting
Friday, September 5, 2008
Alabama Public Library Service
Montgomery, AL

Present:

Lee Vucovich
Nelle Williams
Jana Slay
Lee Clemans-Taylor
Justin Robertson

** Originally, this was the meeting designated to test web conferencing via Skype. It was not successful. It was determined that the APLS does not provide a strong enough wireless signal.*

Call to Order - Lee Vucovich called the meeting to order at 11:30am.

Skype does not work at the APLS location. There was discussion if there might be a better location for future meetings. Jana Slay called Troy University in Montgomery's Rosa Parks Library to enquire if future meetings could be held there and what, if any, was their wireless policies.

MOTION: Lee Clemans-Taylor moved for future ALHeLA Executive Meetings to be moved to the Rosa Parks Library at Troy University in Montgomery in order to use web conferencing (Skype).

Justin Robertson seconded. A quorum passed the motion.

Approval of Minutes:

Amended minutes will be approved via email. Proposed date for minute submission to Synapse was September 10, 2008 (via Lee Vucovich). Synapse will be delayed, while the minutes are being amended.

Treasurer's Report :

Nicole Mitchell submitted a report to the committee. Balance of account as of 9/2/08 was \$5,697.93. Ms. Mitchell does not know of any invoice that is outstanding. Most members have not paid their dues, and Ms. Mitchell has requested that the committee give her a recommendation of what to do for past due membership fees. The committee recommended that she email people with the membership form as an attachment. Ms. Mitchell can work with the listserv moderator, Paul Mussleman, in order to obtain the members' email addresses. In this case, the listserv cannot be used because it does not accept attachments.

For the ALHeLA luncheon at the SCMLA/ALHeLA annual meeting, only current ALHeLA members are eligible for the subsidized lunches for our business meeting. Members must be

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes (cont.)

caught up with their dues. The committee agreed that paying at the luncheon would be fine since online registration will not be able to take into account whether ALHeLA members are current.

Committee Reports:

- a. **ByLaws** -Since last meeting, Lee Clemans-Taylor and Trey Lemley have reviewed the Articles of Incorporation as well as the bylaws. Additionally, Lee Vucovich has searched the Archives housed at Lister Hill Library. The issue ALHeLA is facing is what do we do about the Board of Directors? Since incorporation, most have left the group, rendering them non-active. We cannot change our bylaws without these members of the Board of Directors. The question is how we resolve this. Nothing in our bylaws addresses whether they have to be active Board Members. Lee Clemans-Taylor and Trey Lemley have considered the Alabama Non-Profit model and have also consulted the Alabama Code for incorporated agencies and whether it is necessary for ALHeLA to be incorporated. After this initial review, it is still necessary to continue to investigate options and plans of actions for this issue. Ms. Clemans-Taylor and Mr. Lemley will present an option (recommendation) to the membership at the annual meeting. Possibilities at this point are to contact five (5) of the original seven (7) Board of Directors in order to vote on an amendment to the bylaws in order to bypass this issue in future. Ms. Clemans-Taylor will initiate contact with Board of Director members, since she was an originating member herself. Lee Vucovich also suggested that if we only need 3 active members for the Board of Directors, as soon as we resolve the issue of active vs. non-active Board of Directors members, we should establish a roster of Director members: permanent members being the directors of the Lister Hill Library and University of South Alabama while the third will rotate through the remaining member institutions. Ms. Clemans-Taylor is hopeful that after presenting an option to the membership at the annual meeting, this will be resolved by the 2010 annual meeting.
- b. **Nominating Committee**—The nominating committee has been formed. Lee Clemans-Taylor is chairing the committee, with Clista Clanton and Sylvia McAphee serving. The committee is already contacting people for the VP/Pres. Elect, Treasurer, Secretary and three (3) Members-At-Large positions. Prior to the annual meeting, the slate of officers will be emailed to the membership, at the meeting, the membership will vote and finally, the officers will be announced in Synapse following the meeting.
- c. **Directory**—Jana Slay reported that the directory forms have been sent out via e-mail. She and Lee Clemans-Taylor will review the procedure for this. Currently, different people are passing the membership information between them, and Nicole Mitchell has suggested that this process can be streamlined, possibly with less people needing to exchange information. But as this is not a process defined in the Bylaws, we can make a decision without Board of Director approval.
- d. **Continuing Education**—Katy Allen reported that CE's have been managed through the SCMLA Professional Development team this year because of the joint meeting, and there will be six (6) offerings, the details of which can be found on the conference website. While ALHeLA members are encouraged to attend, ALHeLA has not financially supported any of the courses. Registration is handled entirely through the SCMLA conference website: <http://www.lhl.uab.edu/scmal2008/>.

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes (cont.)

e. **Liaison Activities**—Lee Vucovich presented Kay Hogan Smith’s report. The report is included as is into the minutes. Ms. Hogan-Smith has also been asked to give a 10 minute summary presentation to the membership at the annual meeting. The present members discussed some of the activities as well as how things were funded. Health InfoNet is a strong outreach component.

f. **Membership**—Martha Verchot was not in attendance and had not submitted a report. Nicole Mitchell has offered to help with the collection of membership dues.

g. **Synapse**—no report was submitted. Current edition is awaiting the amended minutes for the May 9, 2008 Executive Committee meeting, which has the issue coming out in mid-September.

h. **Web Coordinator**—Justin Robertson reports that the website is still live. The job postings are present, because it links to the SCMLA job listings. Mr. Robertson wants to re-design the website at some point and will most likely enlist the help of new USA librarian Andrea Wright to assist him with this project.

i. **List Moderator**—Lee Vucovich presented Paul Mussleman’s draft of possible listserv guidelines to the committee. Mr. Mussleman’s recommendation is to have guidelines in place in order to support any decisions made about the listserv, and this would be more in line with other of our contemporary listservs. Currently, we have nothing in place.

MOTION: Jana Slay moved that ALHeLA accept the proposed guidelines as is and that they be submitted to the website.

Nelle Williams seconded. The motion was passed.

j. **Members-At-Large**—Lee Vucovich presented for Valerie Gordon. The award invitations and requirements have been posted in the appropriate places. Decisions will be made for both the Robert Avant Student Award and the Limited Institution Support Award after the respective deadlines. The report is included in the minutes.

Old Business:

Disaster preparedness is exactly as Jie Li submitted to Synapse. Please refer to Synapse for those details.

Web Conferencing—Justin Robertson stated that theoretically it should work with a strong and consistent internet connection. If the committee can find and secure a reliable internet connection at some location, he recommends changing the venue for the meetings in order to open this meeting up to more of the membership. Hospital librarians trying to access the meeting from their jobs might present a problem for this. The committee recognized and acknowledged this, but offers the possibility of attending the meeting from a home computer or a public library computer. The time commitment from hospital librarians doing this would be minimal.

Before virtual meetings can be proposed, the committee would like to be sure of the technology. Mr. Robertson will head up the initiative and will find out the cost, if any, of a multi-camera setup via Skype. Jana Slay will find out if Skype will work at the Troy University at Montgomery location and will report back to the committee. A suggestion for in-person meetings would be two (2) per

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes (cont.)

year, the annual meeting and the officer transition meeting, while the rest would be virtual. There was discussion whether this affected the definition of ‘meeting’ so much so that we would need to include a definition into the bylaws. It was generally held that in-person or virtually, a meeting is the same as long as the President calls the meeting, sets a time and date and calls it to order. Meetings have to be synchronous.

Annual Meeting Plans—Nelle Williams reported that the ALHeLA membership has been emailed and mailed a flyer for the SCMLA ALHeLA joint meeting. Ms. Williams plans to write a conference blog post on the SCMLA conference site about ALHeLA and our part in the state and at the meeting. She will coordinate that with LHL representatives. There was an issue with the posted time for the ALHeLA Business Luncheon. Originally, it was scheduled for 1-1:30pm when the last speaker ended at 11:30am. That time has since been adjusted to be 12-2pm at our request. The executive committee was polled and decided that a \$20 per person luncheon subsidy was reasonable. The per person cost equates to roughly \$40, so that is a 50% subsidy, plus an additional \$150 setup fee that ALHeLA is responsible for paying. The luncheon will be the baked potato buffet with dessert. If thirty (30) members register for the lunch, that is a \$500 subsidy cost for ALHeLA.

Committee members decided to sponsor a booth at the joint meeting. It is \$250 for a non-profit, plus fees for internet and the cost for swag. Ms. Clemans-Taylor proposed “ALHeLA Goes Green” and highlight future virtual meetings, demoing Skype at the booth. Nelle will find out how much an internet connection will cost at the booth as well as when the exhibitions are open in order to determine how many people we will need to man the booth as well as who can be on the other end of the Skype connection. There are also ALHeLA brochures that we can hand out—Lee Vucovich has those. In light of the theme, she might have one on display with electronic copies on our website. We may need to include it on the website if it is not currently there. We also need to determine what else the booth will hand out. Candy should be there as well as some kind of gift. Jana suggested recycled wooden pens she has seen, and will find more information on that item for the group. Lee Vucovich will also bring some ideas about possible items back to the group. Health InfoNet information should also be included. Ms. Vucovich will coordinate with Ms. Hogan-Smith for those brochures. Another idea was a “Pimp Your Old Conference Bags” contest. The present committee members decided not to pursue that idea at this conference as it might compete against the SCMLA activity.

New Business:

There was discussion about quorum and web conferencing. Definitions of ‘meetings’ and ‘conversations’ might affect the ALHeLA quorum, and as such, it is necessary to lend some clarity to those words for our purposes. The ending statement on this matter was that ALHeLA should leave language vague in order to be encompassing for any future way of meeting. If the current meeting procedure is followed, where the President announces a meeting, sets a date and time and also informs how access to the meeting is obtained, then it’s a meeting, whether that is in-person or virtually.

Nelle Williams made the suggestion that the Secretary should have a digital voice recorder in order to assist with the minutes.

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes (cont.)

MOTION: After some discussion, Ms. Williams moved that ALHeLA purchase a digital voice recorder for secretary to use for meeting minutes. Jana Slay seconded. Lee Vucovich will purchase one as well as a 2GB flash drive.

Jana Slay made a procedural recommendation for this. She suggested that the President bring the digital voice recorder to ensure the device is always present at the called meetings. The file will be transferred to the flash drive at the time, or later transferred via a file share website, to the Secretary in order to transcribe the minutes. The President will also have the digital voice recorder. The committee members present accepted this recommendation.

Adjournment—Lee Vucovich moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:45pm. Jana Slay seconded.

*Submitted by:
Katy Allen, note taker*

From the Editors

Paul and I had a good time editing this issue of Synapse. We want to encourage you to send pictures or send links to your picassa or Flickr sets for images we can use in stories.

For the next issue let us know if you or your library uses twitter and if so how?

Send us your library Facebook page.

Suggest other social networking avenues that we may not be aware of.

I hope that the winter has been gentle on your bones and that spring does not make them soggy.

Thanks

Jason

