

Connecticut Association of Health Sciences Librarians
Annual Report
2009-2010

Introduction

The 2009-2010 year was characterized by stable participation by CAHSL membership and the Executive Boards realization that CAHSL needs to develop a plan to provide the organization with future guidance, prevent stagnation and ensure financial stability. While looking towards the future the CAHSL Executive Board understood the importance of remaining grounded in the present.

Many CAHSL librarians continue to balance a climate characterized by increased financial instability and subsequent erosion of invaluable resources. With the guidance of the Shared and Consortial Services chairperson, the Executive Board examined ways the organization might ease financial strain and make popular resources more affordable. The process of consortial purchasing is not an easy one and will remain an important item for future consideration even as the economic climate improves.

Although the challenges of this year mirror those of the last, there have been many positive developments in the profession:

- Meaningful Use -- Incorporation of clinical decision support systems into EMRs that support CDSS technology.
- Continued expansion of nursing and Allied Health.
- Integration of new technologies such as iPads into the hospital environment.

The Executive Board will continue to closely monitor the financial environment and take all necessary steps to help ensure the financial viability of the association's members facilities. Understanding the importance of librarians proving their value, the Executive Board will continue to encourage CAHSL members to find new and exciting ways to become involved within their parent organizations.

Meetings

Understanding the diverse nature of the institutions represented by CAHSL members, the Programming Committee is to be commended on the diversity and relevance of the presentations given this year. CAHSL again hosted a number of topical lectures by local experts on health-related and academic issues, including talks by Dr. Scott Wetstone of U CHC and Linda Strong, PhD, of Sacred Heart University and Dr. Michael Crystal of Myriad Development. CAHSL was also pleased to host two presentations on technology and one on consumer health.

At the beginning of the year, CAHSL membership again expressed the interest in offering CE outside of MLA Webcasts. As a result, educational programs this year included two CE offerings, one MLA Webcast and one live course. The "live CE" was taught by Janene Batten and received very favorable reviews.

September 3, 2009: Debbie Herman, New Web Technologies

December 9, 2009: Linda Strong, Public Health Nursing & Teaching the Adult Learner

February 3, 2010: Michelle Eberle, NLM Consumer Health Resources

April 1, 2010: Michael Crystal, Dealing with Difficult People (Canceled due to weather)

May 5, 2010: Scott Wetstone, Critical Appraisal of the Research Literature

June 24, 2010: Michael Crystal, Dealing with Difficult People (Rescheduled)

Continuing Education

November 4, 2009: Janene Batten: CE: Evidence-Based Practice Nursing

March 24, 2010: MLA Webcast: Now's the Time: Understanding the Electronic Health Record Maze

Special Programs

May 18, 2010: Athens Demonstration

For the duration of the year CAHSL members continued to be well represented in many professional activities including MLA and NAHSL, teaching, publishing, serving on boards and committees as well as presenting at professional conferences.

Major Issues

Several issues immersed this year that will require the time and attention of the organization in the future. These include:

Challenges:

Bylaws: Although the organization has come a long way in its revision of the Bylaws, more work is needed in the areas of membership requirements as related to consortial purchasing.

Economic forces: The economic environment is slowly improving, however, there is still the risk of a "double dip" recession. Over the next year CAHSL will continue to have to address this issue through concerted effort to help librarians find new ways to demonstrate their value to the organization.

Accomplishments for CAHSL during 2009-2010:

- Beginning process of developing a five-year plan to provide a roadmap for success and financial stability.
- Amendments to the organizations Bylaws:
 - Article IV sections 1 & 3
 - Article III section 4
- Development of a relationship with the Middletown Library Service Center which has provided CAHSL with a stable meeting location throughout the year.
- Trend to onsite CEs rather than MLA Webcasts
- Finalization of a consortial relationship with Books@OVID
- Beginning of negotiation of consortial purchasing with EBSCO

Reports of Standing Committees, Officers

Vice Presidents and Bylaws Chair Report

Programming

Athens Presentation

On Tuesday, May 18, CAHSL sponsored a presentation by Ronna Davis, Sales Manager-North America for TDNet and Lyn Norris, Business Development Manager for Athens. The 2-hour meeting was held at the Middletown Service Center and offered useful information for those interested in remote access for their patrons.

Bylaws

The bylaws remained stable this year until the last meeting of the year. Several issues were raised 1) what is the definition of "good standing"? An amendment was proposed to clarify this phrase. 2) Should there be a deadline for dues payment? The renewal notices are sent out in the fall and currently (May) some members have not paid for the year. 3) Modification of Article VI. Section 3. Nomination and Election of Officers to change members of the nominating committee.

During the discussion at the May 5th meeting it was noted that in Article III. Section 4. Membership Requirements and Suspension include the following statement:

Annual dues shall be due and payable at the beginning of the fiscal year. A member's rights and privileges may be suspended until payment of said dues. Individuals who are three months or more in arrears may not vote, be nominated for or hold office, or hold a seat on any committee. When the treasurer receives dues from a new member, all rights and privileges of the Association shall be granted to that new member.

It was decided we need to add December as a deadline for dues payment and the bylaws should include a statement that clarifies that members will forfeit the benefits of membership until dues are paid. The bylaws need to also include the phrase "good standing".

The bylaws will be modified and voted on at the June meeting.

Strategic Planning

The strategic planning committee (Lynn Sette, Ellen Brassil, Lori Bradshaw, and Jessica Kilham) met on March 10, 2010 and June 2, 2010 to begin work on a 2010-15 strategic plan. Four goals were created with goal statements and posted on the CAHSL website for membership review.

Goal 1: Advocacy

Goal Statement: Advocates and promote the understanding of health sciences librarians' role and skills in the management of the knowledge-based information and elicit strong support within Connecticut's health care system for health sciences libraries and librarians.

Goal 2: Professional Growth and development (adopted from MLA Vital Pathways)

Goal Statement: Develop and strengthen the knowledge and skills of member librarians to meet the patient care, research, and educational needs of Connecticut's health care providers.

Goal 3: Cooperation, Networking and Communication

Goal Statement: Strengthen cooperation and networking to its internal and external constituencies.

Goal 4: Organization

Goal Statement: Oversees and maintains the organizational structure, strength, viability, and integrity.

Treasurer's Report

The report below details the current year's financial data as compiled by Lynda Grayson. CAHSL raises its funds primarily from membership dues which are used to pay for CE programs and various other social events throughout the year. As a result of the current financial environment and sundry other considerations, the CAHSL Executive Board agreed not to raise the cost of membership dues for 2009-2010. However, if the organization wishes to offer more robust programming options, an increase in dues might be necessary. CAHSL dues have not increased with inflation so, as prices for services and speakers increase, CAHSL accounts continue to stagnate or decline.

As of May 2010, CAHSL has realized \$1,920.00 in income and spent roughly \$1290.40 leaving the organization with a net gain of \$629.54. Although funds are roughly \$850.00 above where they were at this time last year, it is important for the Membership and Executive Board to realize that our organization needs to remain in the black in order to offer high-quality programming and ensure financial viability in the future.

Membership

50 people have renewed their CAHSL membership, one of which is a student. Many responded late so the goal this Fall is to receive membership renewals before the end of 2010.

Pat Wales, membership chair

Programming

Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee faced multiple challenges this year with the departure of our Past President, Ellen Brasil who was to serve as Chair per CAHSL Bylaws. As a result, the Executive Board, with the approval of CAHSL Membership, transferred this responsibility to the Secretary for a one year period.

Although membership remains active, finding members to run for open seats was challenging. As a result, CAHSL will not be able to fill the positions of Bylaws chair and Archives Chair.

President: Lynn Sette
Vice President: Lori Bradshaw
Secretary: Lisa Adriani
Treasure: Kandace Yuen
Bylaws:
NAHSL Rep: Todd Lane
Membership: Pat Wales
Programming/CE: Mary Ellen Bowen
Shared Services: Kate Cheromcha
Archives:
New Technology: Amanda Pomeroy

Shared Services

Report on Shared Services 2009-2010

Old business:

Electronic book collection/ Rittenhouse: Committee members Jill Golrick and Nancy Goodwin finalized group purchase opportunity for E-book collection from Rittenhouse. Offered to CAHSL membership fall 09.

New business:

Option for CINAHL consortial purchase proposed to membership in fall '09. Response did not support consortium purchase.

Options for group purchases on various EBSCO information resources offered to membership in spring '10. Response indicated that budget constraints and fiscal uncertainty make it difficult for membership to predict available support and ability to join group purchases. Discussed with rep the option that EBSCO offer discounts on products when licensed by CAHSL members – similar to discount offered by Doody's. No definite response given.

Planned business:

Determine interest level in group purchase of Visual Dx. Discussed w/ Visual Dx rep; very receptive to group purchase discount.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Cheromcha, MLIS

Goals for 2010-2011

- Continued revision of the Bylaws
- Continue to support CAHSL members in demonstrating the value of librarians to their institutions
- Continue to explore consortial relationships with library vendors
- Continue to build on and expand the five year plan which is currently being developed
- Encourage membership to be actively engaged in the NAHSL 2011 Conference by volunteering to serve on a committee or through other means
- Find new ways to encourage CAHSL members to become involved in CAHSL. Our membership is made up of great minds which need to be tapped to ensure the future success of the organization.
- Host two "Live CE's "

