

Medical Library Association

North Atlantic Health Sciences Libraries, Inc. (NAHSL)

Mid-Year Activity Report

This annual report covers the period from May 2016 through October 2016. The NAHSL Annual Meeting was held October 23-25, 2016. The new NAHSL Chair, for 2016-2017, is Debra Berlanstein. Ellen Brassil is Chair-Elect, and Denise Hersey is the Nominee to the MLA Nominating Committee. Heather Johnson was chosen as 2018 Conference Chair.

Rationalize MLA programs and services, and streamline and clarify organizational structure:

The NAHSL Executive Board continues implementation of its 3-year strategic plan (<http://nahsl.libguides.com/NAHSLstrategicplan>). This working document continues to guide NAHSL in setting priorities, and ensuring a commitment to transparency and accountability to our membership.

The Board continues reviewing its Executive Board Handbook (EBH). The new draft was approved in March 2016, with the knowledge that it will need occasional revisions after this substantial reworking. This document covers the details of the operations of the organization, and includes position descriptions for each of the officers and committee chairs.

A new Policy and Procedure is being written, to guide the Executive Board officers and committee chairs regarding frequently asked questions about the nuances of each position.

Align MLA programs, services, and governance with new professional member needs and expectations:

At the time of the annual meeting in October 2016, there are 183 total members: 161 Regular members, 9 Retired members, and 13 Student members. We are pleased to report there are 20 new members. NAHSL continues to actively recruit library students and health sciences librarians and information professionals in our region. The Membership and Marketing committees have formed a working group to aid in outreach to the broader library community, including state library groups and public libraries. At the NAHSL annual meeting, a welcome reception will again be offered to new members and first time conference attendees.

16 members applied for and were awarded professional development funds to attend the annual NAHSL conference. Every state in the NAHSL region was once again represented with the awards.

The amount of funding provided for MLA was increased, 11 individuals applied to attend MLA 2016 in Toronto. 4 individuals received awards. Three of them were first-time MLA attendees, and 2 were new members of NAHSL.

Strengthen MLA's educational curriculum and offerings:

The NAHSL Education Committee offered a webinar in January, 2016: *Measuring & Enhancing Research Impact*, with individual attendees from all over the country. They also presented an in-person class, *Crucial Conversations*, at UMass Med Center June 24, 2016. (16 attendees). Three

courses were offered at the 2016 Annual Meeting: *Bravery & Brevity: Developing Effective Presentation Skills*; *Measuring What Matters to Stakeholders*; & *Poster Perfect*.

NAHSL continues to honor its members within our profession with its annual Achievement Award. This year's award went to Katherine Stemmer-Frumento. A Jay Daly Award was presented to NAHSL Narratives, a fledgling oral history project by NAHSL.

Rationalize and transform MLA information and communication systems:

NAHSL continues efforts to improve communication between the NAHSL Executive Board and our NAHSL members. An update from the Chair goes out after each Executive Board meeting. We continue to promote the NAHSL Blog (<https://nahsl.wordpress.com>) as a venue for all members to post ideas, events, legislative updates from our Government Relations chair, initiate discussions, etc., and we keep our NAHSL LibGuide up-to-date.

NAHSL works in partnership with the National Network of Libraries of Medicine New England Region and with the 4 state health sciences libraries organizations in the region. NAHSL members continue to serve on the NN/LM Regional Advisory Committees (RAC). MLA and the NN/LM will again exhibit at the October conference, and Barbara Epstein will give the MLA update.

Support and advance health information research and evidence-based practices in healthcare by developing and implementing strategies to improve the research skills and competencies of health sciences librarians, grow the body of health information knowledge, provide better access to research that supports evidence-based practice, and advocate to employers, members, and the public the value, impact, and benefits of health sciences libraries and librarians:

We continue to maintain a list of advocacy-specific resources available to our members from the NAHSL website: <http://nahsl.libguides.com/advocacy> and have established an Advocacy Special Interest Group. In addition to our own education programs, we promote best practices and success stories among our membership specific to proving the librarian's value at our hospitals and academic institutions.

Motion: This report is informational and requires no action by the MLA Board of Directors.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Belcinski, NAHSL Chair, 2015-2016

Elected Officers 2015-2016:

- Donna Belcinski - Chair
- Cindy Stewart – Past Chair
- Debra Berlanstein - Chair-Elect
- Anne Fladger – Treasurer
- Lori Bradshaw – Secretary
- Janene Batten - Chapter Council Representative
- Dina McKelvy - Chapter Council Alternate

Nominee to MLA Nominating Committee

- Melanie Norton

Committee Chairs:

- Gary Atwood - Government Relations
- Valori Banfi - Membership
- Anne Conner – Education
- Fran Delwiche – Bylaws
- Anne Fladger - Finance
- Jeannine Gluck - Conference 2016
- Sally Gore - Marketing Chair
- Martha Meacham – Conference 2017
- Melanie Norton - Professional Development
- Rebecca Reznik-Zellen – Archives
- Nathan Rupp – Technology Support

Liaisons and Appointed Representatives:

- Mary Piorun – NN/LM, NER
- Meredith Solomon - Credentialing Chair

State Representatives:

- William Anger – ARIHSL
- Lisa Carter – CAHSL
- Maureen Dunn – NH/VT
- Beth Dyer – HSLIC
- Meredith Solomon – MAHSLIN