

NAHSL – North Atlantic Health Sciences Libraries MLA Annual Report 2002-2003

The North Atlantic Health Sciences Libraries chapter has 189 members from the six New England states; Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont. The Executive Board consists of the officers, 15 committee chairs and 8 representatives to other organizations. The 21 member board coordinates chapter activities and meets 5 times a year.

The Chapter offered its annual spring CE course on March 21, 2002. “Thinking the Unthinkable-Biochemical Terrorism and Disasters: Information Resources for Medical Librarians.” was offered at the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy's Worcester campus in, Worcester, MA. Twenty-five people attended and one participant commented as they left that it was the best CE they'd ever been too. NAHSL is grateful to the CE committee and their efforts in putting together this program.

The other activity is the annual meeting. “Information & Technology: Fitting the Pieces Together”, was held at the Omni Hotel in New Haven, CT from October 14-16, 2001. The Connecticut Association of Health Sciences Libraries was primarily responsible for the planning and running of the conference. This year was a joint meeting with the New York/New Jersey Chapter with 224 attendees and 40 exhibitors. The chapters were honored to have MLA Executive Director, Carla Funk give an MLA update. The program was a success along with the CE classes offered and a profit was realized for the conference.

The Benchmarking Coordinator for NAHSL did a fantastic job in presenting information about the MLA Benchmarking initiative at the annual conference. She then promoted participation throughout the spring. NAHSL tied for first place among the chapters with 50 participants submitting data to the Benchmarking site.

The Marketing Committee expanded upon its project from last year and created a postcard “Top Ten Ways to Market Your Library”. These were distributed at the fall conference. A subsequent posting to the listserv generated even more requests for the card from those who had not been able to attend. The project was submitted to MLA for consideration of the Majors/Chapter Project Award. It wasn't chosen for this year but was suggested to resubmit for next year.

The Electronic Communications committee implemented the use of PayPal for the payment of chapter dues via credit card. Many members took advantage of this in renewing their dues. It's planned to be used for the 2002 fall conference. In addition, work is being done to create an online NAHSL membership directory that will be available from the web page. The website, <http://www.nahsl.org> was migrated from the University of Connecticut Health Center server to the University of Massachusetts Medical Center when the RML contract was re-awarded in the spring.

There was an initial online issue of the newsletter *News Notes* early in the year. However, after the committee chairperson resigned and the subsequent discussion of the merits of the newsletter, it was decided to eliminate it altogether and instead focus on a “What's new”

section of the homepage.

The finances of the chapter continue their modest growth and as a result the Board is looking into ways of subsidizing and bolstering CE offerings.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Donnal, M.L.S.
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The chapter's goals for 2001:

1. NAHSL Finances

- ☐ investigate on-line credit transactions using a secure server

ACTION - Completed. PayPal was implemented for online payment of dues.

2. IFLA 2001

- ☐ NAHSL participation

ACTION - Completed.

3. Committees

- ☐ look at the structure
- ☐ look at membership

ACTION -

4. Annual Conference

- ☐ look at possible restructure of NAHSL's versus state's responsibilities

ACTION – Completed. Decided to continue with current rotation through the states.

5. Calendar of Events

- ☐ create a list of key events for committees, a timeline for activities

ACTION – Partially completed. Carried over to next year.

6. Membership Committee

- ☐ explore a means to have the website membership list represent accurate and up-to-date listing

ACTION – Not completed. Carried over to next year.

The chapter's goals for 2002:

1. PayPal

- ☐ Gain a better understanding of the PayPal process, and write a procedure for the NAHSL manual.

2. Calendar of Events

- ❑ Work on a calendar of events and codify a timeline for Board Committee functions/charges.

3. Membership Committee

- ❑ Fine tune membership list/directory; devise a way to have a running membership directory online.

4. Continuing Education

- ❑ Subsidize CE to a more substantial level, in fulfillment of our mission of supporting education.

5. Consortia deals

- ❑ Explore CAHSL's initiative of offering 140 full-text Ovid journals online to see if this could be region-wide.

6. Committee Structure

- ❑ Revise procedures for Education Committee membership.

7. Chapter Project

- ❑ Become more proactive in NAHSL submitting a Majors Award Project.

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