

## **NORTH ATLANTIC HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARIES (NAHSL) CHAPTER**

This report covers the period of May 2008 through April 2009. The 2008 NAHSL Annual Conference was held in Lowell Massachusetts October 19-21 and the Annual Meeting held on the last day of the Conference. 2008 marked the 50th anniversary of NAHSL's founding. The Electronic Communications Committee and a special Task Force on the 50th anniversary revised and updated the historical content found on the NAHSL web site to give an overview of the past 50 years. To see the historical materials go to <http://www.nahsl.org/enterhistory.htm>.

### **Recruitment, Membership, and Leadership in the Profession**

NAHSL ended 2008 with 228 members an increase of 6 from the year before. Twenty one members were new to the organization. NAHSL offers free membership to students and has promoted this in the region's library schools. We are fostering the development of leadership in our organization by including more of the membership on Committees and active nominations. At our annual meeting we had two excellent candidates for each of the offices of Treasurer and Secretary. This speaks well for both the vitality of NAHSL and the quality of our members. The Credentialing Liaison is on the NAHSL Board and provides a great service for members considering the AHIP credential. The requirement of members of the NAHSL Executive Board to be members of MLA was extended to the liaisons to NAHSL from the state health science library organizations. The Bylaws change was voted at the 2008 Annual meeting.

### **Life Long Learning**

NAHSL's goal is to promote life long learning among medical librarians in the New England region. To meet this goal, NAHSL offers MLA credited courses throughout the year and grants professional development funds to members to attend MLA or NAHSL conferences. The Region offered the spring and fall MLA webcast at two locations and held 6 CE classes at our annual meeting. Our annual meeting CE classes were attended by 119 people. The topics were expert searching, clinical skill for librarians, free online tools, Web 2.0, the healthy librarian, and library services, planning and implementation. Our active CE committee also is sponsoring or co-sponsoring three additional CE class between January and May 2009. The Professional Development Committee awarded 9 grants for MLA 2008 and 14 grants for NAHSL 2008. A total of \$6,135 was awarded. The NAHSL annual meeting keynote speakers were Beatrix Hoffman "A century of battles over universal health coverage in the United States", Betsy Humphreys "Prologue to the future: 50 years of medical librarianship" and Carolyn Clancy "Driving change through research: future trends in health care quality and access". 185 people attended the conference. NAHSL 2009 will be held in Rockport, ME

### **Advocacy**

NAHSL's goal is to be an advocate for medical librarians and libraries throughout New England and to communicate our value within and outside of our profession. NAHSL honors members within our profession with its annual Achievement Award. The 2008 award was given to Len Levine, MLS AHIP, University of Massachusetts Medical

School, Worcester, MA. Len has been a constant advocate for medical libraries and has been involved at both the regional and national levels. NAHSL's government relations committee keeps member updated with what is occurring on the national level through emails with links to contact members' state and federal legislators. NAHSL has developed a working plan with the NNLM-NER, to advocate for hospital libraries.

### **Creating and Communicating our Knowledge**

NAHSL has launched a new blog <http://nahsl.wordpress.com/> in April 2009 to help members access and share ideas and information. NAHSL members presented posters at MLA 08 conference and 14 posters were presented at NAHSL 08. All of which help inform and encourage the exchange of knowledge. The NAHSL executive board meetings are moving toward more online meetings which will enable more members to participate and save travel money. Two of the three breakout sessions at NAHSL 08 were run by NAHSL members allowing more in house knowledge to be shared. A Task Force Chaired by Past-Chair Janene Batten, Yale University, was formed to study possible alternative Conference Planning strategies and make recommendations.

### **Building a Network of Partners**

NAHSL works in partnership with the NN/LM- New England Region and the 5 state chapters of medical libraries. This allows members to be supportive at the state and regional levels. The Marketing Committee conducted an outreach program to invite health science or science librarians in academic, public and community college libraries to join NAHSL expanding the group network.

### **MOTION**

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Andy Dzaugis, Chair NAHSL 2008-2009

#### **Elected Officers 2008-2009**

- Andy Dzaugis, Chair
- Marianne Burke, Past Chair
- Dina McKelvy, Chair Elect
- Linda Kaczmarczyk, Treasurer
- Bette Bissonnette, Secretary
- Janet Cowen, Chapter Council Representative
- Len Levine, Chapter Council Alternate

#### **Committee Chairs**

- James Craig, Archives
- Marilyn Pitman, Bylaws
- Dina McKelvy, Conference 2009
- Alison Clapp, Co-Chair, Education
- Nathan Norris, Co-Chair, Education
- Sally Gore, Electronic Communications

- Linda Kaczmarczyk, Finance
- Margo Coletti, Government Relations
- MaryEllen Bowen, Marketing
- Penny Glassman, Membership
- Hongjie Wang, Professional Development
- Marianne Burke, Nominating

Appointed representatives and Liaisons

- Javier Crespo, RML Representative
- Joan Yanicke, Credentialing
- Shirley Gronholm, Benchmarking

State Representatives:

- Mary Ann Slocomb, ARIHSL (Rhode Island)
- John Gallagher, CAHSL (Connecticut)
- Claire LaForce, HSL-NH/VT (New Hampshire and Vermont)
- Megan McNichol, HSLIC (Maine)
- Sally Gore, MAHSLIN (Massachusetts)