Connecticut Association of Health Sciences Librarians  
Annual Report  
2008-2009

Introduction

The 2008-2009 year was characterized by broader participation by membership and recognition of major developments at the national level that has the potential to affect the professional environment of CAHSL members, and by extension the focus of our organization. These issues include in random order a global economic crisis, uncertainty about the swine flu pandemic, proposed health care reform, new educational guidelines or mandates confronting the health professions we serve and ongoing issues facing health sciences librarianship, such as the significance of the library to our organization and incidents of library closings or erosion of library resources. Conversely, positive developments such as the electronic health record and ongoing application of new information technologies, greater emphasis on evidence based practice and expanding roles for nursing and allied health professionals to name a few are likely to present opportunities for health sciences librarians in Connecticut and across the nation in the years ahead.

Meetings

CAHSL held seven business meetings combined with programs, and one separate program combined with the annual holiday luncheon meeting eight times in all:

September 12, 2008, CHA Headquarters, Wallingford

November 12, 2008 Middletown Library Service Center, Middletown

December 4, 2008 Annual Holiday Luncheon and Program, Union League Cafe, New Haven

January 21, 2009 Hospital of St. Raphael, New Haven

February 25, 2009, CHA Headquarters, Wallingford

March 25, 2009, Middletown Library service Center, Middletown

April 29, 2009 Middletown Service Center, Middletown

June 18, 2009 Tymes Inn, Hamden

The programming for this year reflected a commendable effort of time and talent, and met an increasingly varied range of interest in technology related topics, health related
subject matter and issues of wide professional interest. Programs included two MLA Webcasts, topical presentations by local experts discussing health-related issues, such as UCHC’s Dr. Scott Wetstone and also Dr. Lisa Newton from Fairfield University, and others, and a couple of "how-to" presentations, both on ground (Dr. Matt Moran on Zotero) and Adobe streaming video (Pub Med update with Lauri Fennell) and more.

CAHSL conducted business for the 30th time since its inception in 1976, and remains a vibrant and dynamic state organization that stands as a model for special library organizations everywhere.

An infusion of new members was evident this year, and many individuals were either introduced formally or officially joined the ranks of CAHSL members and our institutions' libraries, and represented diverse backgrounds, demographics and experience.

Membership participated in a couple of surveys: one to determine interest in programs and the other to gauge preferences for organizational structure and meetings

CAHSL members continued to participate in many professional activities, from MLA to NAHSL and other library organizations, teaching, publishing, serving on boards and committees and presenting at meetings and conferences.

Major Issues

Several issues emerged over the past year and many will continue to require time and attention of the organization for the foreseeable future. These include:

Challenges:

Ongoing need to review Bylaws, economic forces affecting library budgets and even viability of library operations, establishing a stable meeting location, difficulty balancing work obligations with professional development activities, ensuring smooth transition/succession of officers and committees, integration of continuing medical education with library services, harnessing new technologies and ensuring library participation in information technology decision-making in our institutions, proactive efforts to maintain strong operations within our institutions - to name a few.

Accomplishments:

Major accomplishments for CAHSL included a slight increase in membership and meeting attendance over last year, increased involvement of our regional medical library Outreach Coordinator, completion of programming survey and utilization of CAHSL Web site, initial exploration of potential consortia packages, review parliamentary procedures and standard format for minutes, minor changes/clarification of bylaws, and structuring a day-long annual event replacing dinner with a formal lunch.
Reports of Standing Committees, Officers

Treasurer's Report

Below is current year data compiled by Treasurer Lynda Grayson. Funds are generated primarily from membership dues, and were used this year to pay for some CE programming, clerical costs and to offset charges for banquet facilities. While CAHSL funds are averaging close to recent end of year amounts, the Executive Board agreed not to increase membership dues, but instead to encourage more consistent payment from in active members or those who have not renewed for a couple of years or more.

The table below documents final year-end income and expenditures for the 2008-2009 year, with a decrease of only $51.12 from a year ago.

July 30, 2009-May 31, 2009

Beginning balance 4003.42

Ending Balance 3952.30

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<th>EXPENSES</th>
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Please note the deposit for the holiday luncheon and payment of the June CE are not included in these figures as they occurred outside of this time frame.

- Lynda Grayson, Treasurer

Programming

Program Chair Report:

The 2008-2009 programming year began with a survey in an attempt to develop an understanding of topics that would interest CAHLS membership. The survey was disseminated via Survey Monkey, 37 members responded. Through the survey members indicated an interest in Current Awareness topics as well as advances and updates in databases such as CINAHL and PubMed. Members also expressed preference for live presentations over telecast/web conferences and the continued desire to meet during the morning at CHA. It is also expected that in the future the functions and identities of CAHSL Programming and CE will merge within the organizational structure.

**Meeting times and locations:**

Since CAHSL lost membership status at CHA a few years back, planning meetings and booking speakers has been challenging. CHA only allows CAHSL to book a room, if available, one to two months in advance. Furthermore, after booking CAHSL has been "bumped" many times. The CAHSL Executive Board has been conducting ongoing discussions with CHA in an attempt to regain the organizations lost status.

All CE courses, as well as one membership meeting have been held at the Middletown Library Service Center. The Service Center has been very accommodating insofar as scheduling meeting space and use of equipment. This location has been booked for all CAHSL meeting during the 2009-2010 programming year. If membership at CHA is reinstated, the Executive Board will move meetings back to CHA.
The program chair would like to thank Pat Wales for hosting the January meeting at the Hospital of St. Raphael's.

Programs:

Over the past year the Program Chair, and Executive Board, attempted to provide programming that addressed various topics related to current awareness (on a national and global perspective) as well as database updates.

The September 24th meeting was held at CHA and included a presentation on Doctors Without Borders by Kelly Grimshaw, RN, MS, PRN, CCRN, Medical Coordinator Medicine Sans Frontieres. This meeting also included a presentation by Erin McDonough on the new CINAHL search interface.

CAHSL hosted the MLA webcast "Survival Tips and Stories: Expanding the library's Services in Times of Disaster" in conjunction with its membership meeting on November 12th at the Middletown Library Service Center.

On December 4th CAHSL hosted a luncheon and presentation by Susan Keane-Baker on customer service at the Union League Café in New Haven. The program was well attended bringing together CAHSL membership as well as hospital administrators.

The topic of our January 21st meeting was "Ethical Imperialism and the African Ladies: An Issue of Individual Autonomy and Cultural Constraints" presented by Lisa Newton, PhD of Fairfield University.

At our February meeting we hosted a presentation by Dr. Scott Wetstone entitled "Critical Appraisal of the Research Literature: A Workshop Based on Common Sense." This interactive program was very well received by those in attendance. Many have expressed interest in have Dr. Wetstone present at another CAHSL meeting in the near future.

CAHSL hosted the MLA webcast "Finding Work-life Balance: Strategies for Your Institution" in conjunction with its membership meeting on March 25th at the Middletown Library Service Center.

Our April meeting included a presentation by Dr. Matthew Moran of Sacred Heart University on Zotero, a free online citation manager. The meeting was hosted at the Middletown Library Service Center.

It is hoped that CAHSL programs will secure a single and central location for the future, and anticipated that CAHSL programming will continue to reflect relevant issues to the health care environment, the resources and technology that information professionals use, significant trends and developments within our profession.
Bylaws

CAHSL Bylaws 2008-2009

This was an active year for bylaws. In fall 2008, we proposed changes to Article VII Standing Committees. At the January 21, 2009 meeting, the changes were discussed, and a vote approved and accepted the proposed changes. The changes included additions to Article VII; Section 3. Term of Office, Section 4. Capacity, and Section 5. Vacancies. The Bylaws were updated.

Also, at this meeting discussions began regarding the process of dissolution of CAHSL and the distribution of funds. Lynn Sette contacted Ray Naegele, Director of Financial and Administrative Services at the Medical Library Association. Mr. Naegele stated MLA would be able to retain CAHSL funds pending reinstatement, although Connecticut State Law only allows reinstatement after dissolution if it occurs within 120 days. After consultation with an attorney, the Executive Committee determined it would be beneficial to seek legal advice to write the dissolution clause. This is pending.

Two weeks before the April 29, 2009 meeting, another proposed bylaws change was sent to the CAHSL listserv. This proposal recommended a change to Article IV Officers, Section 3. Term of Office. The change proposed modifying the term of office from one year to two years. A discussion ensued and the proposed change was amended to create 3 positions: President Elect, President, and Past President to allow a greater time period on the board for continuity. A vote followed to approve and accept the amended changes.

- Lynn Sette, Bylaws Chair

NAHSL

CAHSL representative to NAHSL John Gallagher reported that there were required four meetings this past year and that the primary focus was on two areas: Preparations for the annual conference, and secondly, the possibility of a name change for the regional organization. The status of the name change will be determined in the fall when membership will have a chance to vote on recommendations or keep the same name. Connecticut is looking ahead to hosting the annual conference for the Fall of 2010, and the NAHSL Nominating Committee is evaluating names of Connecticut individuals.
recommended for the role of Conference Chair/President Elect of NAHSL. There will also be a NAHSL representative to the MLA Nominating Committee.

- On behalf of John Gallagher, NAHSL Representative

Continuing Education

CAHSL CE chair has been a member of the NAHSL CE Committee for several years and has again met and conversed with other NAHSL CE members this past year. The NAHSL CE and Marketing Committees were pleased to announce the first NAHSL Innovation. This Innovation was submitted by Kate Cheromcha, Grant Health Sciences Library, Windham Hospital, Windham, CT. Kate’s Innovation: her innovative promotion of Mosby’s Nursing Skills & Nursing Consult to her hospital’s nursing staff. With other posts and comments/questions to the Blog. The CE Committee secured generous sponsorship for our annual meeting CE event, and might look to this process for support of future events. Other highlights for the 2009-2010 year:

1. **NAHSL CE Committee Bi-Annual Meeting**
   As the CAHSL CE Chair, Anne-Marie Kaminsky attended the bi-annual NAHSL CE Committee meeting on 1/09/09 at UMass in Shrewsbury. This was the initial planning meeting for CE courses for the 2009 NAHSL Conference to be held in Rockport, Maine, 10/25 thru 10/27.

2. **Continuing Education Opportunity**
   "Nursing Indexes/Point of Care Resources" Tuesday, January 27, 2009 Enders Auditorium, Children’s Hospital, Boston. Sponsored by: MAHSLIN & NAHSL Education Committees

3. **Spring MLA Webcast**
   Spring MLA Webcast in which NAHSL paid the site registration fee for CAHSL. Topic on the Life-Work Balance, and held at the Middletown Service Center in March.

4. **CAHSL Spring CE Event**
   The CAHSL Programming and CE Chairs jointly coordinated the spring CE event to be held in conjunction with the annual CAHSL end-of-year event. This year’s meeting is intended to be more substantial on account of the difficulty for many to attend MLA.

- Anne-Marie Kaminsky, CE Chair

Membership
The membership numbers for CAHSL are based on the numbers of individuals who paid their dues for this year. Membership remained fairly flat, but any losses were recouped such that CAHSL had 45 members for FY 2009, the same as FY 2008. This total includes 42 renewing members and 3 new members.

- Amanda Pomeroy, Membership Chair

Shared Services/Consortia

The two committee members focused on putting together an e-book consortia package. At NAHSL last year they met with a number of vendors to get the basic facts, sent out an online survey to discover what people wanted in an e-book package, and decided to survey the members on what they would actually buy. The majority of CAHSL members responding to the survey wanted a small core collection and books that would be automatically updated. The only vendor offering this is Ovid, so they met with the representative and told her the price CAHSL wanted and to communicate it to her pricing director. Unfortunately, there was an unanticipated delay in getting a price beforehand. More information will be forthcoming in the near future. The Committee has spent many hours going through the vendor lists of books and has come up with an alternate list from R2 which would meet the requirements of a small core collection in our price range, but each hospital would have to update the books on their own.

- Jill Golrick and Nancy Goodwin

Archives

The major accomplishment this past year was to go over past year's documents of CAHSL and collect and sort past meeting agendas, minutes, treasurer's reports, for posterity. A working record of original documentation and organizational papers will be maintained with earlier CAHSL archives and photos.

- Jill Golrick, Archives Chair

Technology

Minimal work was done with the Web site this year and members have inquired about expanding and maximizing the site as much as possible in the future. It has successfully announced meetings this year and lists current officers and membership along with important documents like the bylaws. A change in leadership also occurred towards the end of the year for this committee. For the most part, the Web site was regularly updated with few significant changes. There will be considerable interest in ways to expand usage and potential enhancements and upgrades in the new year ahead.

- Amanda Pomeroy, Technology Chair
Nominating Committee

The President and two members in good standing, as prescribed by the bylaws, conducted a few conference calls and drew up a slate of Officers to be voted on at the annual meeting. Nominating Committee members also discussed Chairperson Appointments to the standing committees for next year as follows:

Programming: Chair Mary Ellen Bowen, with Robert Joven and Jessica Kilham

Bylaws: Brenda Wong

NAHSL: Ellen Brassil

CE: (To be combined with Programming)

Membership: Patricia Wales

Shared Services: Kate Cheromcha

Archives: Jen Campbell

Technology: Amanda Pomeroy and Kandace Yuen

Nominating: Past President and two members in good standing

Goals for 2009-2010

Next year's President, with the assistance of the Executive Board, will be formulating goals for the year and working on issues yet to be resolved. Some of the outstanding items include: Some discussion on the 2010 NAHSL Conference in Connecticut; establishing a consistent meeting location and continuing to explore possibilities at CHA with some type of organizational membership. Supporting members confronting the full array of challenges to their operations resulting from the economic climate; Consider suggestions to refine, update and clarify Bylaws where needed; Support memberships efforts to function in their respective workplace as forceful agents of change and quality health care, review policies to ensure that the organization conforms to MLA procedures; identify and sponsor relevant and valuable professional development activities; assist one another in keeping members apprised of major developments on the health care front and in our institutions; explore ways to further cooperation and explore cost savings opportunities; foster professional growth and promote contributions to the profession by CAHSL members.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Brassil  
President, CAHSL  
June, 2009.