Report from the HSLIC Chair

Future of HSLIC

The Board has spent a lot of time and energy over the past year assessing where HSLIC has been, where it is today, and where it may be going in the future. We presented our findings at the Spring General Membership meeting last June, and recommended that HSLIC dissolve its organizational structure and reorganize as a Special Interest Group of the North Atlantic Health Science Libraries (NAHSL).

We had a facilitated discussion together that explored ideas and questions around following the recommendation. At the afternoon business meeting, members voted to direct the HSLIC Board to investigate the details of becoming a SIG of NAHSL, and to do the same investigation for becoming a SIG of the Maine Library Association (MLA).

Over the summer, the Board did the research. We met by conference call with the President of the MLA. We approached NAHSL, and their Board appointed a task force to explore the possibility and work out the details.

The NAHSL Task Force included myself as HSLIC Chair, Dina McKelvy as HSLIC Vice-Chair, Debra Berlanstein (NAHSL Chair), Ellen Brassil (NAHSL Chair-Elect), Jessica Patterson (NAHSL Bylaws Chair), Anne Fladger (NAHSL Treasurer), and the state representatives – myself for ME, Maureen Dunn for NH/VT, Dan McCloskey for MA, Bill Anger for RI, and Wendy Urcuioli for CT.

The Task Force met several times and came up with recommendations that NAHSL form the Maine SIG and treat it as a pilot project for the first year to evaluate how things go. The following motion was made to the NAHSL Board and passed:

That the NAHSL Board:

- accept the Task Force report for HSLIC Maine becoming a SIG,
- support a one year (2018) pilot of the Maine SIG, and
- consider the recommendations from the report over the coming year.

As part of the business meeting at the NAHSL conference on October 20, 2017, Dina McKelvy shared information with the members regarding the task force, its recommendations, and the approved motion. There is support from within NAHSL to try this model, and other state organizations are watching closely, particularly those for whom this might be also be an option, such as the NH/VT group that dissolved several years ago.

After this research, the HSLIC Board continues to recommend that HSLIC reorganize as a Special Interest Group of the North Atlantic Health Science Libraries (NAHSL). However, the Board proposes that HSLIC maintain its organization and budget for another year during the pilot year of being a NAHSL SIG, in case we want to return to the way things were or try another tactic.
The last step in this process is approval by the HSLIC membership, which will be a major focus of the November 3 meeting.

The HSLIC Board will ask members to:
- Approve a 2018 budget that includes funding to pay for one year of NAHSL membership for any members who would like to try the SIG.
- Approve a one-year pilot project to be a SIG of NAHSL.
- Approve bylaws changes that reflect a pared-down HSLIC Board and activities, and the NAHSL SIG trial.
- Vote for a 2018 HSLIC Board that will be small and probably only include executive officers.

Changes in HSLIC Membership

We were sad to say goodbye to Chris Fleuriel, our 2017 Cairns Awardee, and wish her well in her new home and job in Albuquerque.

We were also sad to hear that the librarian position at Dorothea Dix Psychiatric Center was eliminated, and though we will miss Ruth Mare at our NAHSL meetings, are happy to know she was given a different position at the organization.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Dyer, HSLIC Chair
10/27/17