

**CHLA/ABSC Chapter President's Report
2003-2004**

Official Chapter Name: Northern Alberta Health Libraries Association (NAHLA)

Current operating year: October – September

Number of Members for the operating year: 38

Executive for the operating year:

President: Marlene Dorgan
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Past- President: Denise Koufogiannakis

Vice-President/President Elect, and BMC Correspondent: Janice Varney

Secretary : Ellen Crumley

Treasurer: Seana Collins
Obianuju Mollell (October to December 2003)

Outline of Activities for the Current Year:

On September 29, 2003 the Northern Health Libraries Association met in Corbett Hall on the University of Alberta campus for its annual general meeting. An election was held for the new Executive, and members gathered for a catered dinner following the business meeting.

The NAHLA annual Christmas luncheon was held at the Faculty Club at the University of Alberta on December 4, 2003. An excellent meal and visit were shared by all. The “recycled” gift exchange was a fun way to celebrate the season, and a reservation has already been made for a private room at the Club for the 2004 Christmas luncheon.

Once again, NAHLA contributed to the Partners in Education Program at the School of Library and Information Studies at the University of Alberta. The program provides an opportunity for the students enrolled in the MLIS program at the University of Alberta to connect with the professional community by partnering for a day with library and information professionals in the workplace. The funds support the Partner's Day reception which is celebrated at the end of the week.

NAHLA sponsored an information workshop on 'blogging' on February 10, 2004. Geoffrey Harder, and Randy Reichardt, two librarians from the University of Alberta Science and Technology Library shared their experience and expertise with this fast growing technology which is used for sharing news, links, and information on the web. The workshop was well attended, and the NAHLA Executive will pursue the feasibility of using weblogs to communicate with members. A hands-on blogging workshop is being planned for the summer.

The Second NAHLA Trends Mini-Conference was held at Edmonton Public Library on April 23, 2004. This conference has proven to be very popular and sold out very quickly. The presentations included the following:

Designing Effective Questionnaires: Techniques for Health Sciences Librarians

(Lisa M. Given, Assistant Professor and Graduate Coordinator in the School of Library and Information Studies at the University of Alberta);

Staking a Claim in the Customer's Mind (Della Paradis, Branch Manager for the Edmonton Public Library);

Can I Really Be as Funny as I Feel? (Darlene Blischak, Coordinator of the Grey Nuns Hospital Rehabilitation Outreach Services).

The topics were selected according to the results of a member survey. The Mini-Conference which ended with a catered reception, received very high evaluations from participants who indicated that they look forward to the Third Trends Mini-Conference in 2005.

NAHLA has been in existence for 20 years as a very active Chapter of CHLA. The present NAHLA Executive has initiated a project to document the history and activities of the Chapter, with the additional goal of systematically organizing existing NAHLA documents so they may be delivered to the Alberta Provincial Archives. To that end, and also in order to note the contributions made building the capacity of CHLA in Northern Alberta, an application for funding to assist with the project has been submitted to the CHLA/ABSC Chapter Initiative Fund. Funding decisions will be made by the CHLA Board at the May meeting.

Keep up to date on NAHLA activities – check out our NAHLA website:

<http://fi2.freenet.edmonton.ab.ca/~nahla/nahla.htm>

Submitted by:

Marlene Dorgan, President, NAHLA

May 12, 2004