

Newsletter

Spring 1999

From the Director

This winter has been one of achievement for the Executive and Board of Directors. With much discussion, we have seen our Public Relations Campaign mature into a productive, meaningful initiative. One of the greatest measures of this success is the realization of the OALT/ABO display booth. As of this time, a small display board and signs have been purchased. This is a key tool in allowing our volunteers to project a positive, professional image at trade shows, career promotions and other events.

The Executive and the Directors are looking to harmonize OALT/ABO by standardizing our membership fees and providing central management of the incoming requests for membership. This will streamline the process of joining/renewing OALT/ABO membership, while improving our image to potential members. Centralized management allows consistent welcoming practices to new members and frees up the resources of the regional treasurer. We are working out the bugs in this plan, but believe that the result will be a more constant, efficient association.

Once again we are investigating a list of potential members that may qualify for 10-year or 25-year awards. The mandate is that the member must have been a consistent member of OALT/ABO (minimum provincial level membership required). Consistency is a member that remained in good standings for the given duration of time. We have compiled our list of nominations and will be releasing it for the May conference. The Provincial Ex-Official has investigated and arranged for a mass purchase of 25-year awards.

Centralized administration is being looked at in the aspect of how easy it is for potential members to find our association. During our Halton-Peel/TALTA Brainstorming session in late February, this topic

was hotly discussed. The basic thrust of our opinion is that we as an association must attempt to make ourselves more accessible to potential members. It has been mentioned that this would be done by obtaining a central (voicemail) phone number and fax number. This would include us in local print and global online phone directories. I am personally in the process of investigating this initiative and will report my findings to the Board of Directors later in March. Another issue that was raised in the H-P/TALTA Brainstorming session was that our provincial web site needs to refocus and aim to deliver information in a more productive manner. I have taken some time to take a second-look at the provincial web site (www.interlog.com/~oaltabo), and will report my opinion to the Internet Committee. I am only one opinion and invite other members to send their comments to me at: info@oaltabo-hp.on.ca

Best regards,
Sean Crowe

~Salary Survey Reminder~

When you received your survey Pam Casey's address was omitted. Please return the salary survey by March 31st to:

Pam Casey
350 Camelot Court
Burlington ON
L7L 2G3
or fax to 905-819-3096

Super Conference is a Super Opportunity!

January 1999 was the first time the Ontario Association of Library Technicians took part in the annual Ontario Library Association Super Conference. As part of the now famed OALT/ABO Public Relations campaign, a display board was acquired and signage was purchased. As the event approached, Marg Bushell from Lohania Region gathered various memorabilia from the last 25 year for us to display at the conference. Thanks to Marg, and to Marian Doucette for shutting these items down with her. Jill Anderson researched and organized the display while I co-ordinated our sign order. Gislane, our Provincial PR Co-ordinator, organized and made multiple copies of several OALT/ABO publications that were to be shipped to Toronto and handed out during the conference. Nanci Abbondanza (OALT/ABO President) designed and printed several hundred business cards and Vice-President, Pam Casey, produced our semi-annual salary survey forms so that they would be distributed to various library institutions throughout Ontario. On the Thursday and Friday of the conference we were represented, in a most professional manner, by several dedicated members. At this point, I would like to give credit to a key player in this effort. Without her contribution this opportunity would not have become a reality for OALT/ABO. Jill Anderson, Director for Lohania, was instrumental in co-ordinating the display, offering her hotel room as storage, and putting in a full two days of quality time at the display booth. I would also like to extend my many thanks to the following individuals who also offered their time at the booth (*my apologies if I missed a name, just write me and I will make the appropriate amends*):

- Doug Wilford - OALT First President
- Nanci Abbondanza - Current OALT President
- Pam Casey - Current OALT Vice-President
- Nancy Drew - Halton-Peel President
- Glenn Berg - Halton-Peel Vice-President
- Christy Moye - Halton-Peel Editor/Webmaster
- Jennifer Gardner - Sheridan Student

It is the dedication and devotion of our members, such as the people above, that makes good things happen for all of us.



The new OALT/ABO display!

Our display was positioned in a key location of the Exhibit Hall. We were located very close to ARMA, Ex-Libris, and the Freedom to Read organization booths. I think that it is also appropriate to thank the Ontario Library Association for their generous donation of the display floor space. Gestures such as this underline that we are two professional associations that work better when working together.

Many delegates at the conference were library C.E.O.'s or managers. However, a surprising number were also Library Technicians or L.I.T. students from Sheridan or Seneca. Their major interest in our association was based on what sort of workshops and other professional development opportunities we had to offer. Delegates from the more remote parts of the province seemed very pleased that OALT/ABO was a bilingual group that offered regional representation. Being there and letting C.E.O.'s and Trustees know that we are a professional resource for their L.I.T. employees was news for many of them. Most seemed very interested and there was a lot of interest in our institutional memberships. Individual professionals and students liked the regional and provincial networking capacity of OALT/ABO. The whole package allowed us to be seen as professional, united and organized. I can't wait to pull the same thing off at CLA this June!

Upon leaving the conference, it was apparent that we do not, and never will be able to operate on the scale of OLA. At the same time, this does not make us ineffective or redundant. What it means is we

are special in that we successfully represent the interests of Library Technicians regardless of what

our professional differences are. As association leaders, we must look at our strengths and seek to deliver a product to our members that no other organization is able to. As a regional leader, I think that we are able to do this by providing workshops that offer aspects of professional development, personal improvement and networking opportunities. This is not so different from the mandate of the OLA Super Conference but our edge is that we focus on issues of interest to technicians and offer them in everybody's backyard. So if you were at the OLA conference and you enjoyed a session topic, or certain speaker, let all the OALT/ABO Directors know about it over the listserv (oaltabo@faxon.ca). I for one will be listening to your comments and hatching new twists that will inspire future OALT/ABO Halton-Peel workshops.

Best regards,
Sean Crowe, Director

Super Conference Reflections

"All of the Seneca College graduating class of Library and Information Technicians attended the conference exhibits. Quite a few mentioned to me that they visited the OALT booth and were very pleased to meet the people working on the booth. Several said they would join OALT after the conversation. I was also pleased to see the booth there and had a good conversation with a couple of the people there. It is so good to see LIT grads doing well in the library world and progressing wonderfully in their careers."

*Frances Davidson-Armott, Co-ordinator,
Library and Information Technician Diploma
Program*

"I spent an hour of my volunteer time at the OLA Super Conference at the OALT/ABO booth. This was an excellent opportunity to help in promoting library technicians and their many skills. I enjoyed talking to several students in the Seneca Library Technician Program. I also found being at the booth was an excellent way to meet people who are in a position to hire technicians. In the hour I

was at the booth I spoke to several people who are currently hiring or thinking of hiring. This alone made the hour more than worthwhile. Overall I found my time at the conference to be an enjoyable, if tiring, day."

*Christy Moye
Sheridan College Student*

PERSPECTIVES '99

**OALT/ABO
26th Annual Conference
May 13-16, 1999
Sudbury, Ontario**

Don't forget to send in your registration for the annual OALT/ABO conference that is being hosted by the Sudbury Region! Explore new perspectives, join in on the workshops, network with your colleagues, and enjoy the many social activities being offered.

Registration forms are due by April 23rd.

For more information contact:
Linda Davis at (705) 670-5615 or
(705) 566-9374

Or visit the conference web page at
<http://www.interlog.com/~oaltabo/conf99.htm>

We look forward to seeing you there!

OALT/ABO 25th Anniversary Golf Shirts

Get yours today!!

Top quality, attractive white cotton Golf Shirts made in Canada. It has the OALT/ABO logo embroidered on the left-hand side of the shirt.

Sizes: small, medium, large, extra large
Quantity: Limited amounts in each size
Cost: \$20.00 (includes taxes) cash or by cheque payable to OALT/ABO

Contact: pcasey@cqocable.net

All orders must be pre-paid before they will be processed. Orders delivered in 2-3 weeks.

A Successful Super Saturday! January 29, 1999 Ramada Inn, Oakville

This year's Super Saturday event was an overwhelming success! Many members attended, and enjoyed, the informative sessions on writing cover letters and dealing with stress. Both Mary Agro and Sharon Stasuik were entertaining speakers. We all look forward to more opportunities to network with our colleagues and attend exciting professional development workshops.

Christy Moyer
Newsletter Editor

Super Saturday Reflections

"I just wanted to say how much I enjoyed Super Saturday. The speakers were great and so was dinner. I appreciate how much work is involved in arranging something like this..."

Thanks again for Super Saturday. Keep up the good work."

Sharon MacMillan

"I want to thank Halton-Peel's executive for arranging such a good Super Saturday. It was said during one of the sessions, that we must have wondered why we were all there on such a wonderful sunny Saturday. Well I must confess I did think that, but I am really glad that I went. I learned tips from Mary Agro and how to manage my stress by laughing from Sharon Stasuik. And the best part was I got to network with my colleagues and chat with my friends. The dinner was excellent and I was home by 8:30.... These workshops are personally rewarding because even if it teaches you one thing and you get to meet one new person, or make a new contact or meet old friends, it is worth it."

Pam Casey
Vice-President OALT/ABO

Super Saturday - Part Two

On February 27th Mary Agro joined the HP/TALTA crowd in Etobicoke for the first ever session mutually organized by two regions. The day started out with a light lunch, then a single workshop, on the topic of resume writing for the information professional, followed by a brainstorming session. Jill Anderson, Director for Lohania region also joined our event.

Mary gave a wonderful rundown of the information industry and the job search market today. Mary was also able to surprise us with a few references geared towards our industry, and how a certain local academic body classifies our profession. Once again handouts were abundant and Mary made herself available for plenty of questions and one-on-ones after the event.

The brainstorming session was short, but made several good points. These will be reported on in full at the Sudbury brainstorming session and an abstract will follow in a few weeks. Basically the members made it clear that they want more workshops and events that allow all OALT/ABO members access to the events of each region.

Communication aspects were discussed and it was expressed that the provincial web site and listserv need to be utilized more effectively. We need more feedback and the listserv is the best way to do it.

Sean Crowe
Director

OALT/ABO Listserv Info

Those of you who already subscribe to our listserv are aware of the many informative discussions that have taken place. The listserv is fast becoming an excellent resource for everyone! Post questions, suggestions, and interesting tid-bits for the benefit of all.

To join the listserv follow these simple instructions:

Send a message to:
oaltabo-request@faxon.ca

Leave the subject line blank and in the body of the message write:
Subscribe

You will receive a message confirming your subscription. Subscribe today!

From the Editors

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves. We're your newly appointed newsletter editors, Susan Chetrat and Christy Moye. Susan is currently a second year student in Sheridan's Library and Information Technician program. Christy recently began working in the library at the Hospital for Sick Children.

We hope that you have enjoyed the first newsletter edited by us. This newsletter was made possible by the generous contributions of your fellow association members. We look forward to continuing to receive exciting and informative submissions.

Please send your submissions to
cmoye@passport.ca or
susan.chetrat@sheridanc.on.ca.

If possible please send your submissions as an attachment in Word or WordPerfect format. We will also happily accept any submissions in plain text format.

In addition to being the Newsletter Editors we are also your new Webmasters. In the upcoming weeks you will see exciting changes to your Halton-Peel Region website. We welcome any suggestions on content that you would like to see.

Yours sincerely,

Susan Chetrat and Christy Moye
Newsletter Editors/Webmasters
