**President’s Report**

**Health Science Librarians of Illinois Fall 2023 Board Meeting**

**Friday, September 8, 10:00-11:30 AM CDT**

**Past and Current Activities**

Most of my recent work has focused on guiding the 2023 Conference Planning Committee. I appreciate the Committee’s willingness to think creatively about how to make this year’s one-day meeting on September 22 work, including adjusting to overcome any obstacles. As an example, the Committee originally planned to hold a raffle. Due to possible legal issues, however, the Committee pivoted to the “traditional” Silent Auction format. The main concern right now is increasing the number of paying registrants from 21 (as of August 28) to approximately 40, which will be necessary to break even financially.

I am encouraged by the number of people relatively new to HSLI who have chosen to take on an active role, as this bodes well for the organization’s future, especially with retirements and other forms of attrition an ongoing concern. Several members of the Conference Planning Committee have recently joined HSLI, and I hope they will use the experience and connections they gain to further their HSLI involvement. I would like especially to acknowledge the newest member of the HSLI Board, Cara Forster, who has agreed to serve as the Co-Chair of the Legislative Committee, along with taking an active role in planning the next “ad hoc” webinar, on liaison librarianship. They are also the current HSLI Member of the Quarter.

I also appreciate people’s willingness to take on temporarily roles they had held in the past. As an example, Molly Horio, who chaired the Nominating & Elections Committee for a number of years before stepping aside, agreed to manage this year’s elections. This was due to a possible conflict-of interest, since the current Chair, Betsy Sterner, was on the ballot for President-Elect.

**Future Activities**

I look forward to working with whoever wins this year’s elections over the second year of my presidency, and also continuing to work with Treasurer Jonna Peterson to ensure that HSLI meets all of its financial requirements. Again, I welcome opportunities to collaborate with other organizations, including the Wisconsin Health Science Library Association, and also possibly the Medical Library Association’s Midwest Chapter. Pursuing these types of opportunities will enhance the educational and networking opportunities HSLI can offer its members, along with increasing the organization’s profile within the region and nationally.

I would also like to thank Cynthia Reynolds for her four years of service as HSLI President-Elect, President, and Past President. Cynthia led this organization through a very challenging time, including taking the steps to regain the organization’s tax-exempt status and planning two virtual Annual Conferences to accommodate COVID-19. Her efforts have strengthened HSLI in the long run and made my job as the current President easier.

Respectfully submitted by Eric Edwards, 2022-24 HSLI President, on August 28, 2023.