

## Chapter Council Representative and Alternate Report September 2005

### MCMLA Chapter Council Reports – Representative - Lisa Traditi Alternate – Marie Reidelbach

- Lisa and Marie proposed a change in the term of service for the Chapter Council Representative and Alternate for MCMLA. The recommendation was approved by the Executive Committee via an email vote. Marie and Stephanie Weldon will work with Executive Committee, the Nominating Committee, and the Bylaws Committee to work out the details of this change before the next election of a new CC Representative and Alternate.
- Lisa attended the Chapter Council Meeting in San Antonio, TX on Sunday, May 15, 2005.
- Marie served on the Chapter Sharing Roundtables Committee.
  - o The final registration was 357 attendees at 52 tables on 29 topics
  - o Marie coordinated the table topics.
  - o Lisa assisted the committee on the day of the event.

For 2005,

- o Marie is compiling the table topics for the roundtable discussions.
- Lisa served on the Continuing Education Committee.
- Chapter Council Business
  - 1) **Electronic voting software** – During her report at the CC Meeting, Carla Funk reported on MLA's use of electronic voting software for the 2004 elections. MLA contracted with an outside company for the last election. The cost was about \$4,000. MLA will check with that company to find out what the cost would be to do chapter elections. She said there is also a possibility that another association may be selling voting software. For the recent MLA election, the company developed the ballot and sent out reminders to members. Tabulation was very fast with the results being ratified in a few days compared to past elections where volunteers counted manually. Electronic voting actually cost less. Most chapters are seriously interested in electronic voting with cost being the major issue. The fact that chapters have their elections at different times needs to be considered. When Carla has more information she will let Chapter Council know via Sarah Gable.
  - 2) **MLA charges for hosting chapter web sites** - MLA currently hosts three chapters and is happy to host others. She acknowledged that MLA's hosting charges may be higher and service hours fewer than commercial hosts since that is not MLA's core business. The base charge is \$360/year, and there may be additional charges for complex web sites.
  - 3) **MLA hosting online directories for chapters** - MLA can now host online directories. It would be included in the \$360/year fee for hosting web sites. The software is in place with the capability of password protection. Carla said that setting up the directory is somewhat complex and needs to be done correctly, so MLA would require that any chapter person working on it be very computer-savvy. Melissa Just said that since her chapter's web site (MLGSCA) is already hosted by MLA she thinks they would probably be willing to be the first to try the online directory. Since many chapters may want to continue using a commercial or academic web host, Carla will check to see if a chapter could mount an online directory without using MLA to host its web site. Contact Kate Corcoran at MLA for more information.
  - 4) **The New MLA Chapters brochure** that will be mailed to new members. It was available at MLA at the Chapter Council display table, and handed out at the new members breakfast.
  - 5) **Free seating for new members at Chapter Council Presents Sharing Roundtables** - MLGSCA, Midwest, and NAHSL for contributing \$400 to match the \$400 paid by MLA. Those chapters showed a willingness to promote recruitment even though they could not be sure that their members would benefit directly. Some other chapters paid for attendance for some of their own new members. The roundtables are the most visible sign of chapters at the annual meeting. Sarah Gable is not sure if MLA will contribute money next year. The timing was wrong for some chapters since the initial emailed proposals

about free seats didn't coincide with chapter board meeting schedules. Sarah Gable hopes that next year each chapter will support at least two seats.

6) **MLA/Majors Chapter Project of the Year** – The 2004 winner was the Pacific Northwest Chapter of MLA (2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row) for their innovative e-journal group project on consortial buying for librarians at both the chapter and national level

o Chapters are encouraged to apply for the 2005 award - and quickly! The deadline is fast approaching, November 1, 2005. The award information sheet and pdf form - <http://www.mlanet.org/awards/honors/index.html>

▪ Marie or Lisa forwarded the following messages and requests for information:

1) Various Roundtable messages, including:

o Solicited facilitators and recorders for the 2005 meeting  
o Solicited Roundtable topic suggestions for 2006 meeting

2) Calls for nominations for prizes, grants and scholarships, including:

o Call for Nominations and Grants and Scholarships - forwarded to MCMLA-L listserv  
o Majors/MLA Chapter Project of the Year Award Call for Nominations  
o Daniel T. Richards Prize  
o

3) MLA Mentoring Ad – forwarded to website editor and newsletter editor

7) Gather chapter recruitment activities (email text attached for MCMLA Executive Committee)

8) Questions on website hosting to Website Editor

9) MLA's Leadership and Management Section's Career Development Survey

10) Survey about Revising MLA Chapter Council Website

11) Questions on chapter CE activity to Chair of Education Committee

12) Questions on chapter research activity to Chair of Research Committee

13) Submitted short article on 2004 MCMLA Chapter Award winners for MLA News

14) Submitted MCMLA's contribution to the One Minute Chapter Reports from CC Minutes - (attached)

15) Information on the annual chapter meeting to the editor of MLA News

Report on the Chapter Council Meeting

MLA San Antonio, TX – May 15, 2005

MLA Executive Reports

### **MLA President Report - Joanne Gard Marshall,**

Joanne visited many chapters and found those visits to be the highlight of her presidential term. Though her theme “Past, Present, Futuro Magnifico” implies looking forward we need to remember the past and build on present strengths of chapters and sections. She reviewed her priorities that built on those of her predecessors:

1) Embracing diversity both locally and globally.

2) Advocating for the profession.

3) Enabling lifelong learning - all of us need to pursue this and we need to support each other.

4) Building and sharing our knowledgebase. The CORE (Center of Research and Education) task force has built a structure we can use to share a wide variety of digital objects. CORE relies on members to contribute content.

5) Recruitment and retention. Given the imminent retirement of many medical librarians, we need to recruit new librarians and create ways to retain current ones.

Joanne asked Chapter Council what issues the President and MLA need to address.

? What to do to prevent hospital libraries from closing?

A. Joanne replied that MLA is planning several efforts relating to this. One problem is that MLA doesn't really know how many hospital libraries there are since not all hospital libraries are institutional members. Pat Thibodeau is heading up a group along with the Hospital Libraries Section to draft a survey that will be distributed to hospital libraries this summer or fall. One issue is “what is a hospital library?” They are using the definition from the AHA Survey of Health Sciences Libraries in Hospitals which was done in 1989/1990. A task force on the role of health sciences libraries in medical education

is also being formed. That task force will look at additional roles for libraries such as in patient safety and consumer health. It will consider standards such as those from the ACGME. MLA is advocating for health sciences libraries by educating administrators about the limitations of internet resources and searching and about the essential role for librarians in creating and ensuring access to a usable set of resources. Joanne said there are some encouraging signs. One Denver hospital library closed but may reopen. Lisa Traditi added that as a response to that closing the Colorado Council of Medical Librarians (CCML) has been actively trying to prevent other closings. CCML created a letter that the Midcontinental RML sent to administrators during National Medical Librarians Month. It documented that hospital libraries provide a good return on investment. Many librarians reported a positive response from administrators to the letters. CCML also gives out an “administrator of the year” award to recognize administrators who support libraries. Lisa reported that the Denver hospital that closed its library is thinking about rehiring a librarian to work with electronic resources even if they don’t reestablish a physical library. Carole Gilbert commented that by the time rumors get started about a library closing it may be too late to stop it and that librarians continually need to prove their value to the institution. Two hospital libraries closed in Detroit during the past year. Local academic medical library access mitigates the loss somewhat, but the hours and total range of services is not the same. Linda Hartman said that MLA needs to target members of the American College of Healthcare Executives. Joanne reiterated that hospitals need librarians to provide instruction, support, electronic resource selection, and contract negotiation. She hopes the survey will determine the true status of what is happening to hospital libraries and that the task force will develop ways to help libraries that are showing signs of trouble. Carole Gilbert mentioned that when designing new library space we must educate administrators about the continued need to store physical materials along with the need for enough computers. Evelyn Morgen said we need standards that include specific and realistic annual budget minimums required to maintain a hospital library in the current print/digital environment. Some of the data is in the MLA Benchmarking Database and in the AAHSL statistics for academic libraries.

? What about the status of the latest benchmarking round?

A. Melissa Just replied that the input period is closed and that the Benchmarking Network Editorial Board (BNEB) is analyzing the data before posting it to MLANET. There were fewer participants this time, and there is still a problem with under-representation of small libraries. The BNEB is considering a shorter survey next time. Shirley Gronholm commented that there really needs to be a push to get smaller facilities to participate. Joanne acknowledged the problem and asked chapters to play an active role in encouraging small libraries by emphasizing the positive uses of benchmarking data. Anyone interested in the benchmarking project should contact Rosalind Dudden. Melissa also said that the BNEB is deciding how frequently to repeat the survey. They may do mini-surveys every year and a longer one every couple of years.

? What about MLA’s input to accreditation standards such as JCAHO and ACGME?

A. Joanne replied that the MLA Board is very active in this area and does have liaisons to accreditation organizations. Jean Shipman said there are a wide variety of other standards that MLA tries to influence including those of state associations.

### **MLA President-Elect report – M.J. Tooley**

Highlighted theme and priorities:

M.J.’s theme is “Transformation.” Transformation is inevitable. Librarians must decide if we want to be drivers or observers. The three specific focus areas are:

- transforming ourselves (e.g., continuing education, professional development)
- transforming our profession (e.g., new roles, new technologies, recruitment)
- transforming our association. MLA is a well-respected organization whose input is often sought, but there are always opportunities to have an even higher profile and be more responsive to members.

M.J. then highlighted a few areas of special interest:

- The Task Force on Global Initiatives and the concept of “librarians without borders.” MLA members could help international organizations such as Doctors without Borders, WHO, and the Red Cross.
- She’s also interested in recruitment and retention and plans on working with students, mid-career librarians, and experienced librarians. A New Member Special Interest Group has been created. One of the open forums at the 2005 meeting was “Nurturing the New, Supporting the Experienced.” The Leadership and Management Section’s Task Force for Professional Development for Current and Aspiring Middle Managers (PDCAMM) created a career development survey to study the leadership and training needs of mid-career librarians.
- Another major focus will be the re-envisioning of MLANET. Changes to the web site will happen over time and not immediately.
- The task force on the role of the hospital librarian in medical education. That task force will also encompass residency programs, academic medical centers, and specialized standards. She envisions a large task force with several small, rapid-response, specialized work groups. She’d like to end with a document similar to the one put out by AAHSL titled *Charting the Future*.

A new email account - [president@mlahq.org](mailto:president@mlahq.org) - is being established in order to facilitate communication by members directly to the MLA President.

**Schedule of annual MLA meetings:**

2006	Phoenix, AZ - <a href="http://mlanet.org/am/am2006/index.html">http://mlanet.org/am/am2006/index.html</a>	May 19-24
2007	Philadelphia, PA	May 18-23
2008	Chicago, IL	May 16-21
2009	Honolulu, HA	
2010	Washington, D.C.	

## **Att. 1**

### **One Minute Chapter Reports**

#### **Hawaii-Pacific [submitted after the meeting]**

- They viewed several of the MLA satellite teleconferences as a group with the Hawaii Medical Library hosting the program.
- The annual meeting was in April and featured a presentation by Pat Thibodeau, former MLA President.
- MLA is now hosting their web site.

#### **Mid-Atlantic**

- The 2004 annual meeting was in Raleigh, NC, and the 2005 meeting will be in Charlottesville, VA.
- They used Acteva to register for the annual meeting and to pay 2005 dues.
- They passed a bylaws amendment allowing revision of the bylaws anytime during the year with a distribution of ballots (instead of voting in person at business meetings).
- The MAC Conference Scholars pilot project is a joint effort of MAC and the Association of North Carolina Health and Science Libraries to recruit library science students and/or paraprofessionals for careers in health sciences librarianship. The goal is to introduce recipients to the diverse opportunities in the profession.

#### **Midcontinental**

- The 2005 annual meeting will be in Salt Lake City. It will be a “green” meeting housed in environmentally-friendly buildings designed for the Olympics. The “conference gift” will be sitting cushions instead of conference bags.
- The Advocacy Committee of the Colorado Council of Medical Librarians was very active. There is a poster at this meeting.
- They updated the chapter’s planning guidelines particularly regarding finance and local planning. They have a meeting planning guide and an appointed planning person.
- They are considering switching from having the Chapter Council Representative and Alternate go off at the same time. If the Alternate is willing he or she would continue as Representative.
- They had a problem with their election so will redo it this summer.

#### **Midwest**

- The chapter awarded two scholarships.
- They donated two seats for Chapter Council Presents Sharing Roundtables.
- The 2005 annual chapter meeting will be in Fargo, ND.
- They have a new distinguished librarian award for \$500.
- They have a new task force to develop library promotional materials for the web.
- They redid their annual finance policy.

#### **North Atlantic**

- They donated support for the free lunches at Chapter Council Presents Sharing Roundtables.
- They had an annual resource sharing meeting with the RML which was attended by 70 people. The meeting is for those who do interlibrary loan and document delivery.
- The 2005 annual meeting will be in Providence, RI. The theme is “Prescription for Progress”. Programs will include EBM, blogging/RSS, and consumer health.
- The Professional Development Committee gave three awards to attend MLA – one to a new NAHSL member and one to a first time attendee.

#### **New York-New Jersey**

- The 2004 annual meeting was in Brooklyn, NY. The theme was “Steppin’ Out of the Box: the Information Specialist in Context.”
- The 2005 meeting will be a joint one with UNYOC in Lake Placid, NY. The theme will be “Going for the Gold: Librarians as Information Champions.”

- The 2006 meeting will be a joint one with NAHSL.
- They may introduce a new position, Treasurer-Elect, that would overlap with the elected Treasurer for one year.
- They have been using PayPal for dues payment.
- Several libraries within the chapter hosted the two MLA satellite teleconferences.

### **Northern California and Nevada**

- They started using an eBay auction as a fund-raiser. Members sell items on eBay and the money goes into a chapter account.
- They started a new member-to-member recognition program called the Colleague Appreciation Program. Funds raised support another new program called Professional Development Grants.
- They started an outreach program where new members receive a welcome call from a current chapter member in close proximity.
- The 2005 annual meeting was held jointly with MLGSCA in Long Beach. NCNMLG, MLGSCA, and PNC tried to figure out a schedule for regular tri-chapter meetings but issues of weather and time of year (fall vs. winter) made it too complicated. The three chapters will try to meet together periodically.

### **Pacific Northwest**

- The 2004 annual meeting was in Seattle.
- The 2005 annual meeting will be in Portland with the theme “Medical Librarians: Core of Discovery.”
- They are planning a “vendor of the year” award. Members will vote on who should get it.
- They won Majors/MLA Chapter Project of the Year for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year. The project concerned consortial purchasing.
- They are considering creating a new institutional membership.
- They continue to use SurveyMonkey heavily throughout the chapter.
- In 2006 they will host a tri-chapter (PNC, NCNMLG, MLGSCA) meeting in Seattle or Vancouver.

### **Philadelphia [submitted after the meeting]**

- They held a Mini-Public Health School that explored current public health issues with a focus on the information needs of health professionals. Invited speakers included a librarian from the Public Health Library for New York City, the director of the Center for Mental Health Policy and Services Research at the University of Pennsylvania, and a professor of public health from Drexel.
- They held a session on “Improving Your Speaking Skills” and co-sponsored a session titled “Gender and the Information Professional: Is It the Elephant in the Room” with the Philadelphia Chapter of SLA.
- They participated in the MLA satellite conference on electronic resource licensing.
- They analyzed membership for recruitment and for program planning and increased effort to recruit local library science students.

### **Pittsburgh**

- They offered several CE courses including Running with the Squirrels: Providing Library Services to Hospital Administrators; High Tea and History – History of Medicine and the Internet; and Locating Psychological Testing Instruments for Use in Health and Mental Health Settings
- The 2005 annual meeting was in a local area hospital. They held a drawing for one free CE and for one chapter membership.
- The Bylaws have been revised pending a final vote.
- They are paying for one of their members to attend Chapter Council Presents Sharing Roundtables. The attendee will write a column for the newsletter.

### **South Central**

- They hosted two NLM fellows.
- They won the Leadership & Management Section grant for “Mentoring Model”.

- They have a new award called “Librarian of the Year” to recognize significant achievement for a mid-career librarian who has been very active at the local level.
- They created a new procedure manual for planning the annual meeting.

### **Southern**

- They produced a cookbook as a fundraiser “You say cuisine, I say vittles”
- They offered free seats to their new members for the Chapter Council Presents Sharing Roundtables but had no takers.
- The 2004 annual meeting was in Biloxi, MS. The traditional singing of a thank you resolution to their hosts was done to the tune of “The Gambler.”
- Last year they won the Leadership & Management section challenge grant and put on a 6 hour symposium led by Pat Wagner.
- They have a Committee Restructuring Taskforce that is looking at streamlining the committee appointment process.
- The 2005 annual meeting will be in Puerto Rico.
- In 2006 they will have a joint meeting with MAC in Atlanta.

### **Southern California and Arizona**

- They had a joint meeting (with NCNMLG) in Long Beach.
- Next year there will be no joint annual meeting since MLA will be in Phoenix and many MLGSCA members will be involved with that.
- They awarded three scholarships to library school students. This year the process became competitive with students submitting applications and a jury selecting the winner. The scholarship does not have to be for a student in their geographic area.

### **Upstate New York and Ontario**

- They have a vacancy in the Chapter Council Alternate position.
- They have a new service award in honor of Katy Nesbitt.
- They are promoting AHIP more. Elizabeth Irish created a survey about AHIP using SurveyMonkey.
- The annual meeting last year was in Ottawa.
- They have two scholarships – one from New York and one from Ontario.
- The 2005 meeting will be in Lake Placid, NY, and will be joint with New York-New Jersey.