

MLA WINTER BOARD MEETING REPORT TO CHAPTER COUNCIL

The MLA Board of Directors held its winter meeting February 8-10 at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel in Chicago. <http://www.mlanet.org/members/mla-focus/mla-focus-current.html#content378>

The meeting began with a presentation by President Jean Shipman on the progress made to date on her priorities and other projects already underway when she assumed office. A major accomplishment has been securing the \$250,000 grant from NLM to conduct a research project on health information literacy. This began Sept. 30, 2006, negotiations are underway to hire a coordinator for the project and this will be announced soon. (See the most recent MLA-Focus. <http://www.mlanet.org/members/mla-focus/mla-focus-current.html#content378>) More information about this is available at: http://www.mlanet.org/resources/healthlit/hil_project_overview.html

A second grant for \$80,000 has been awarded to the association by Elsevier for library training in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Eight distance ed courses will be offered. Lenny Rhine will teach classes starting in March. Mention was also made of the possibility of participating in a joint task force with NLM to consider personal health records.

Mark Funk , President-Elect, had earlier given the board a draft of his priorities for 2007-08. At this meeting he presented a finished document and the board approved a motion to accept his priorities. His theme is “Only Connect!” and he is concerned with the adoption of new technologies by the association. He stated that Web 2.0 resulted from a change in the way people are using the Internet. He would like to see the routine use of blogs, WIKIs, etc. and explore how they can help the committees, task forces, etc. conduct their business.

Dixie Jones, Treasurer, presented the 2007 business plan which was approved by the board. The year (2006) ended with a \$6,000 overage. Funding for projects like a management system for the association and the Lindbergh scholarship were discussed.

The Philadelphia meeting will include 3 open forums:

1. Librarians Without Borders
2. Results of the AHIP survey (received 1033 responses)
3. The NLM funded health information literacy project.

A number of research vignettes are being created to be used during the meeting. They will be similar to the vignettes that focused on libraries affected by Katrina, and will likely be shown prior to the plenary sessions. As you all know, Wednesday will be Health Information Literacy day. The session sponsored by Section and Chapter Council will be in the morning and a CE will be offered in the afternoon. The joint planning group has done an excellent job and this promises to be an excellent program. I do hope that all Council members will be present for this program. Participation by public librarians in the Philadelphia area is encouraged.

Honors and awards were considered in executive session. Needless to say, I was happy to hear that a recent Chapter Council member, Jan LaBeause, was selected as Academic Librarian of the Year. To see awards go to:
http://www.mlanet.org/awards/awards_2007.html

Margaret Bandy attended the annual conference of the American Nurses' Credentialing Center. She found this to be an excellent conference and her participation will result in the production of two documents:

1. Library/Nurse Collaborations
2. How librarians can help to achieve magnet status.

The board approved a bilateral agreement between the MLA and the Korean Medical Library Association.

A request from CAPHIS to begin fundraising for a consumer award to recognize librarians who provide consumer health information was approved by the board.

As part of the Vital Pathways Project a web site has been established that provides a form to report change in status of hospital libraries. This is available at:
http://www.mlanet.org/resources/vital/status_form.html

At the libraries' requests there have been nine letters written by MLA in support of libraries. Good feedback has been received. More than 6,000 responses have been received from the Hospital Library Survey conducted as part of this same project.

A motion was passed to accept, with thanks, the document generated by the Task Force to Revise the Educational Policy Statement. The task force revising the Research Policy Statement is focusing on the use of research for professional practice. They are working on 5 general recommendations.

PCI, the public relations firm that MLA uses, reported to the board on several placements recently accomplished including **on** in the *AARP Magazine*, in a magazine entitled *Fitness*, and in *Nursing Spectrum*. A column by Julie Deardorff in the *Chicago Tribune* was subsequently picked up by numerous other publications, greatly increasing our visibility. **PCI** also reported that they are producing 3 more Medspeak brochures on the topics of HIV, Stroke and Eye Diseases. They will provide the "Swap & Shop" again in Philadelphia and will offer a more formal version of the training session, "How to Market Your Library."

There will be two Cunningham Fellows this year who will attend the annual meeting and visit with a host library for several weeks. This test of an alternative approach for the Cunningham Fellowship will continue for one more year.

Craig Haynes represented MLA at the "Librarians of Color" meeting **in** Dallas. He reported a highly successful meeting that will probably be held on a 3 or 5 year schedule rather than annually. MLA exhibited at this meeting.

The following was included in the legislative update:

- There is still activity on the EPA closures. Nothing has been resolved to date.
- The revised MLA Copyright Brochure is now available on MLANET. <http://www.mlanet.org/members/copyright/index.html> ALA also has a six page brochure on copyright. Both MLA and ALA continue to work with the Library Copyright Alliance.

The group (primarily CAPHIS members) working with the Google Health Co-Op have successfully annotated 1744 sites and completed the original commitment made to this project.. It is felt that this has been a worthwhile endeavor and there is a possibility of extending MLA's involvement.

As recommended by the PDCAMM Task Force, consideration is being given to a means for granting AHIP credit for employer sponsored courses. Also intend to add the designation ISIC to existing courses that are pertinent for this specialization.

The editorial process has been streamlined for *JMLA* and is now reduced to about 2 weeks. A "members only" area has been launched for prepublications, and a blog has been established that has had 1067 visitors since it began in October. Plans are underway to develop an online tutorial for reviewers.

There will be an open forum on Librarians without Borders at the annual meeting. An award, named in honor of T. Mark Hodges, has been established.

The MLA Membership Committee held its winter meeting in Chicago and conducted another phone-a-thon to contact lapsed members. They have requested a table for new members in or near the registration area at the annual meeting and are considering a member survey.

Imaginary Landscapes has the contract for the redesign of MLANET. They hope to have this ready (at least for view) by the annual meeting.

Future locations for annual meeting:

- 2008 Chicago, IL
- 2009 Honolulu, Hi
- 2010 Washington, D.C.

The Oral History Committee is celebrating its 30th anniversary. They are planning a number of activities, including posters with pictures of many of the people who have worked on the project, a badge sticker, and an article in *MLA News*.

The Committees involved in the Vital Pathways project are working and plan to have deliverables by the annual meeting.

Dale Prince has accepted the position of editor for the CORE. It currently contains 200+ records.

MLA's management of ALISE is working out very well and the contract has been extended until March, 2008. Their annual meeting in January received very good evaluations from the members.

MLA and NLM are considering a joint task force to look into personal health records and explore possibilities for library involvement.

The Katrina awards were closed on Sept 1, 2006. There are additional funds in the Medical Library Disaster Relief Fund for libraries that need emergency assistance due to natural disasters, etc. Assistance has been offered to the library at the Sumter Regional Hospital in Americus, GA, that recently received a great deal of damage due to a tornado.

MLA appears in the current *AMA Career Directory* in the category "Allied Health Professions."

Please keep in mind that this report is informational and is not the official report on the meeting. MLA Board meeting highlights are made available on the "members only" section of MLANET at: http://www.mlanet.org/members/organization/board_docs.html