

MID-WINTER REPORT
Pacific Northwest Chapter (PNC)
2005

The Pacific Northwest Chapter covers the largest geographic area of any chapter and includes the states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Alaska, and the provinces of Alberta and British Columbia. Electronic communication, collaboration, and networking are crucial to our chapter. The following activities support MLA's Strategic Plan and Priorities, as well as our chapter MAP.

Goal: Recruitment, Membership, and Leadership in the Profession and Organization

PNC gave three professional development awards to members that allowed them to attend the Fall 2005 meeting in Portland. One student currently enrolled in one of the regional library schools was also awarded a scholarship to attend the meeting.

Membership categories for individuals, based on a recommendation by the PNC board (bylaws to be amended), will include the following: Honorary Lifetime, Emeritus, Student, and Regular. The organization not only wants to encourage library school students to consider medical librarianship as a career with a student membership category, but it also wants to have a membership category for medical librarians who have retired but want to remain active in the organization, as well as a category for retired librarians who have contributed significantly to the organization.

As additional encouragement to library school students to join the medical library profession, each year PNC will offer two free memberships to students in regional library schools, awarded on the basis of merit.

Goal: Lifelong Learning

"Medical Libraries: Core of Discovery" was the theme of the 45th annual PNC/MLA meeting held in Portland, Oregon. Held on October 15-18, the region sponsored three CE classes, the topics of which were: "Evidence-based Medicine," "Your Library as a Business," and "Managing Electronics Resources."

Goal: Advocacy

The PNC chair wrote a letter to a hospital in the Portland area that had just opened which endorsed the idea of forming a medical library in the new facility. The letter offered PNC's support in such an endeavor.

Goal: Creating and Communicating Our Knowledge

The publications committee of PNC revised the organization's website in order to make its format more user-friendly; each PNC committee will now have its own web page; the organization's history, its officers, its archives, links to MLA and other organizations, and pertinent documents are now all there for the membership. The publications committee is in the process of investigating blogging software, with the intent of having a blog replace the periodic PNC newsletter, "Northwest Notes." PNC is moving in the direction of becoming as paperless as possible. We moved closer to this goal by having our conference registration form on a conference website, along with directions to the meeting, and points of interest in the Portland area. Our conference planning manual has also been added to the website, although the organization is investigating the possibility of using a professional conference planning service for our 2007 meeting.

Goal: Building a Network of Partners

The bylaws committee is currently working on a change that will add an "institutional membership" category to PNC, which will allow easier negotiation of vendor contracts as a group, and will allow a variety of hospitals in the region, including rural and urban, small and large to obtain databases that, with a group purchase agreement, are affordable for all. The formation of PNC's Group Purchasing Committee

allowed a number of libraries in the region to purchase a consortial subscription to Ovid's LWW journals, which now includes about 60 libraries with electronic access to about 250 journals. For this project, the chapter received the Majors Chapter Project of the Year Award in 2004. This year the committee also facilitated the purchase of 3 other packages for the PNC consortium: Nursing Books and CINAHL; E-books at Ovid with 70 other medical textbooks; and brand new for 2006 is ADIS, composed primarily of pharmaceutical journals. Participation by members is voluntary and the committee negotiates the contracts with the vendors for PNC participant libraries.

A joint multi-chapter meeting is currently being planned for Seattle in 2006, which will include PNC, along with the Northern California and Nevada Medical Library Group (NCNLMG), the Medical Library Group of Southern California and Arizona (MLGSCA), and the Hawaii-Pacific Chapter.

This report is informational and requires no action by the MLA Board of Directors.

Respectfully submitted, Katherine R. Martin, PNC Chapter Chair, January 15, 2006

Chapter Officers 2005

Chair: Kathy Martin

Chair-Elect: Lea Starr

Past Chair: Vicki Croft

Recording Secretary: Gail Kouame

Treasurer: Heidi Sue Adams

Membership Secretary: Ann Girling

Chapter Council Representatives: Dolores Judkins, Kim Granath

Archivist: Janet Schnall

Publications Editor: Kathy Murray

Web Editor: Leilani St. Anna

Committee Chairs 2005

Annual Meeting: Ann Haines/Ann von Segen

Technology: Neil van der Voorn

Bylaws: Jan Schueller

Governmental Relations: Bob Richart

Group Purchasing: Cheryl Goodwin/Pamela Murray

Mentoring and Recruitment: Dolores Judkins

MLA/Credentialing Liaison:

Nominating/Elections: Vicki Croft

Professional Development: Maryanne Blake