

Word from the Chair

I am writing this on my deck basking in the lovely summer sun. The Western Chapters joint conference is 3.5 months away and I looking forward with anticipation to meeting medical librarians from the western region. At the MLA meeting in Phoenix I met several Chapter chairs from across the country and other chapters are also starting to meet in regional groups. Please mark your calendars for this date: Seattle, October 15-18 and visit the website for breaking news: <http://depts.washington.edu/pncmla/pncmla2006/>. The Planning Committee, drawn from all four participating chapters, has been working hard to develop a strong program and excellent roster of CE. The "*Missions to Mountains: Believe and Achieve*" theme has certainly peaked my interest and all the suggested speakers will be a draw. Finally, the committee, in conjunction with OVID, have a great opening party planned. It will be a blast. I look forward to seeing you there.

In addition to the annual meeting, the Chapter is working on a few other exciting initiatives. Watch for a revision of the website. Kathy Murray and Leilani St. Anna have received excellent feedback to improve the usability of the site. I want to encourage you to participate in using the website. We will be hosting a member's only BLOG to be used for discussion of topics specific to the chapter. Committee chairs are being encouraged to start topics related to their yearly work and we hope that you will provide them with lots of feedback and ideas.

There are lots of opportunities to participate in the work of the Chapter, through participation on annual meeting planning committees, members of standing committees, or as chair of a standing committee. We are currently looking for a new chair for the CE Committee. Maryanne Blake will be stepping down in the fall after many years of terrific service and commitment. This position provides opportunities to develop your connections with your colleagues across the chapter, and for you to share your ideas and enthusiasm about the skills librarians will need in the future. MLA is blessed with lots of talented teachers and CE events are sought after at conferences so this position is wonderful for getting lots of participation. If you are interested in offering your skills, please contact Maryanne or myself.

Jan Schuller has been working diligently to get the bylaws revised to conform with the decisions regarding membership that we made at our last business meeting in Portland. She met with the Executive Board in April and has since submitted the changes to the Bylaws review committee at MLA Headquarters. These bylaw changes will also allow electronic voting--although we will have to vote by mail, one last time, to ratify the changes!

Our Group Purchasing committee continues to meet with vendors and trial new databases. The finalization of our bylaws providing for Institutional membership will allow for additional opportunities in purchasing packages. You will be hearing more from Group Purchasing when we have surmounted this final hurdle. Group Purchasing is another committee looking for additional membership. The original team has taken on new responsibilities. Cheryl Goodwin is our chair-elect so she would really like to assist

someone new with taken on this work. She says its lots of fun and very rewarding. This committee is certainly a direct benefit for your work and your personal development.

Christian Patrick, is leaving OVID and PNC/MLA would like to express their thanks to his support and encouragement in working towards group purchasing for our chapter.

As many of you know, Bill Fraser, a founding member of the PNC/MLA chapter, died this past fall.

(<http://www.pubmedcentral.gov/articlerender.fcgi?tool=pmcentrez&artid=1435843>)

Many chapter members expressed interest in remembering Bill's work and contributions. The Board has made a contribution to the Bill Fraser Scholarship endowment fund at the UBC School of Library, Archives and Information Science. Bill taught medical librarianship in this program and the award is given to students with excellence in this area.

The Executive Board spent an entire day reviewing and revising our MAP, during our Spring meeting,. We met again in Phoenix to finish work on the last goal and review our previous suggestions. The revised MAP will be forwarded to committee chairs for their comments and input. Much of the work of the Chapter is done through the various committees, so their commitment to the objectives for the next 3 years is vital. Membership input to the revised MAP is essential. We hope you will see that the objectives meet your needs for your professional association and that you will be interested in further these objectives. Please provide feedback when we share this with you.

Finally, our past chair, Kathy Martin has been actively recruiting nominations for next year's chapter board. The biographies for the slate of nominees will be distributed soon. Thank you in advance to all who let their name stand.

I wish you all a very pleasant summer. A time of rest, renewal, and reflection as you prepare to tackle the missions and climb the mountains.

Lea