

# mhsla news

MICHIGAN HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION

No. 26

WINTER EDITION

January 1989

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I want to thank all of you who have agreed to serve on MHSLA committees and who have called to offer ideas and suggestions. Marge Kars from Bronson Methodist Hospital in Kalamazoo has agreed to chair the Ad Hoc Committee on Long Range Planning. The work of this committee will have significant influence on the direction MHSLA proceeds in the coming years. If you have ideas or comments, I urge you to contact Marge. She will appreciate your input.

The Audit Committee which was included in the Bylaws change approved at the Annual Meeting is setting up procedures for that Committee and considering standardizing the book-keeping procedures for the organization. All committees are currently working on goals and objectives for the year and on budget projections. The committee chairs are listed on the cover sheet.

The 15th Annual Educational Conference at Saginaw drew a total of 88 registrants. Comments on the Conference were on the whole quite positive. Our keynote speaker, Wanda Rocha, drew praise in the evaluations, as did Tony Armstrong, the banquet speaker. Ms. Rocha, an internationally-known Futurist, helped focus attention on trends not only in health care, but in society. Mr. Armstrong, President of Bay Medical Center, put the continuing problems of the health care field into historic perspective. My personal thanks go to Betty Crawford - Local Arrangements Chair, Carole Gilbert - Education Chair, and to the members of their committees for their hard work on the Conference.

Although the Conference was judged quite successful by those who attended, the reduction in numbers attending is a concern we need to address. As you know, we try to recover costs while keeping the registration fees as low as possible. If fewer attend we have to budget accordingly, so we need to identify any trend as soon as possible. Barbara Kormelink has circulated a short questionnaire to those members who did not attend our 1988 Conference to see why. A short synopsis appears elsewhere in this issue.

The Local Arrangements and Education Committees are already hard at work on the 16th Annual Educational Conference. Be sure to mark your calendars for 12-16 Sept. at the Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island. It is an elegant setting for our traditionally excellent Conference.

*Lea Ann McGaugh*

Lea Ann McGaugh  
President MHSLA

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! OF INTEREST ! OF INTEREST !

MDMLG meets Thursday, 16 March 1989 at 1 pm at Providence Hospital, Southfield. WANDA WEBSTER FISCHER, Chair of the MLA Credentialing Committee is the speaker. Her topic is the changes in MLA's credentialing program. Call Ellen O'Donnell at 313-343-3734 for details of the meeting.

REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

On 6 December 1988 the Executive Board discussed financial issues. Our current checking account balance is \$3,332.93. Most of the bills for the 1988 Conference have cleared and the balance is down substantially from the report at the Annual Meeting. More importantly, it is also down substantially from the average balance the organization usually carries for operating expenses. It is necessary to maintain a balance sufficient to cover the upfront expenses for the Conference, the cost of producing the newsletter, the cost of MIHSULS, and operating expenses. As a matter of policy, MHSLA attempts to recover the costs of MIHSULS and of the Conference. Operating expenses are traditionally very low because so much of the work is done by volunteers, but the cost of postage and paper has increased markedly over the last few years.

Because of the low attendance and the doubling of air fares between the time of budgeting for the Conference and actually paying for the air fares of our Conference speakers, the 1988 Conference failed to cover its own expenses. The shortfall was over \$3000.00. We hope the questionnaire of the non-attendees done by Barbara Kormelink will help us understand the cause of the low attendance. We are also looking for ways to avoid unforeseen travel expenses for Conference speakers.

The Board has responded to the cash flow crunch by putting a hold on all but essential expenditures. We will be experimenting with how we produce the newsletter in an attempt to keep those costs down. Printing costs for the newsletter are approximately \$700 per issue. At a minimum of 3 issues per (Bylaws requirement) the newsletters cost more than the \$1600 we can anticipate from dues (assuming our current 160 members all renew their memberships in the organization.)

We are looking for solutions. We feel that as an organization we have many things to be proud of - the Annual Conference, our DOCLINE participation, MIHSULS, and the newsletter. However, it is vital that we be fiscally responsible. We are looking for ways to cut expenses, but we do not

want to cut into services provided, if possible. One of the items on the Board Agenda for the next meeting will be a possible request to the membership for a dues increase. If you have suggestions or opinions, talk to your local Area Representative, or call any of the Board Members. We are sufficiently small as an organization, that each of you can have direct input into Board decisions, so let us hear from you.

The Board meets again on Friday, 17 March 1989 at Flint Osteopathic Hospital.

*Lea Ann McGaugh*

Lea Ann McGaugh  
President MHSLA

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MLA SALARY SURVEY

The third Medical Library Association Salary Survey will be coming out during January of 1989. Please give it your time and consideration. In order to be truly reflective of Health Sciences Librarians it is essential that MLA receive a large response. In these sensitive economic times, up-to-date salary information could prove useful to librarians and administrators.

I appreciate your attention to the survey, please respond as soon as possible, and thank you very much.

-Richard S. Klein  
Member, Status and Economic  
Interests Committee, MLA

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## MHSLA ANNUAL CONFERENCE SURVEY 1988

President Lea Ann McGaugh asked me to prepare and send out a survey to people who had attended our Conference in past years and to those on our mailing list who did not attend in 1988 in an effort to understand lagging attendance.

I sent out 116 questionnaires and received back 52 which was a good return. Forty-three indicated that they had not attended the 1988 Conference. The major reasons cited were financial reasons and program not suitable to needs (15 and 16 respectively). Other important reasons included: administration did not approve attendance-8, no coverage for library-7, too far away-6, and conflicting date-5.

To the question does your institution pay for any or all of your expenses, 27 answered all (if approved); 8 said some (variable in different budget years); and 9 said none.

To the question do you have to choose between state, regional and national conferences? 30 said yes and 12 said no. The only reasons cited by more than one respondent were national for the varied program, state because closer and less expensive, financial reasons, and travel out of state prohibited.

To the question how can MHSLA be more helpful to you in gaining access to continuing educational programs, there were a variety of interesting answers which have been forwarded to the MHSLA Board. Almost all were given by one respondent and offered little to summarize for this report. The answers often conflicted with each other, i.e., 'offer more for the new grad or new librarian' versus 'tired of basic courses', and 'need more on computers' versus 'sick of stuff on computers.'

I included a question on a possible roommate matching service to help defray some of the expense. Sixteen people said yes and 20 said no. On the date of the Conference six said they would like a different date and 30 said no, the date is okay.

I also asked whether the respondent was planning to attend the Mackinac Island Conference in the fall of 1989. Nineteen said yes, 15 said no, and 16 were not sure. Those who said no or were uncertain cited the following reasons: no budget, library not primary responsibility, financial reasons, too far away, and administration will probably not approve.

There was one open-ended question asking for any other comments or concerns. Twelve people wrote comments ranging from one sentence such as: go to places that are not so expensive, to long thoughtful analyses of the problem. All of the answers were forwarded to the board.

If anyone is interested in further details of the answers to this questionnaire, please contact me.

-Barbara Kormelink  
Bay Medical Center Library  
517-894-3782

!!! Important Information for 3 hour Course Participants at 1988 Saginaw Conference

MLA has awarded credits for these classes as follows:

1. Basic Intro to Clinical Research: techniques for quality filtering  
Sherrri Fuller 3.9 contact hours.
2. Managing multiple priorities  
Penny Griffith 4.5 contact hours.

COURSE PARTICIPANTS MUST KEEP TRACK OF THEIR OWN CREDITS EARNED. MLA does not send certificates, although they maintain a record for locally arranged classes.

SLA certificates for the Friday classes at Saginaw have been received and the Education Committee will mail them out to course participants,

- contact Carole Gilbert 313-424-3294

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CALL FOR PAPERS CALL FOR PAPERS

The MHSLA Education Committee invites all members to participate in the Contributed Papers Session planned for the MHSLA Annual Educational Conference 13-15 Sept, 1989 at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island.

The session is open to anyone who wants to share information on a project, or program that turned out well; a new approach to an old problem; or an 'I done it good!' experience. The presentation of the paper should be 10-15 minutes in length.

Contact: Gayle Williams  
Bi-County Community Hospital Library  
13355 East Ten Mile Road  
Warren, MI 48089  
313-759-7345 FAX 759-1490

SCHOLARSHIP FUND SCHOLARSHIP FUND

A request for funds to endow the MIRIAM T. LARSON SCHOLARSHIP FUND has come to MHSLA members. Ms. Larson died 20 November 1988 and was in charge of the Medical Library Science program at Wayne State U.

Send your contribution by check payable to: Wayne State U./Larson Scholarship. Mail to Dr. Joseph Mika at Wayne State.

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SLA - UPCOMING MEETINGS - NEWS

Special Libraries Association, Michigan Chapter - call Beth Stanton 313-222-9377

- 18 January 1989 Wednesday Evening. Meeting at Strohaus, Detroit. Matt Grycan, Manufacturing Editor of Crain's Detroit Business will speak on Crain's Communication.
- 23 February 1989 Thursday. Chrysler Corporation. Tour and talk by Head Librarian.
- 14 April 1989 Friday. Tour of the new State Library in Lansing. Joint meeting with SLA Western Michigan Chapter.
- 11 May 1989 Thursday. Business meeting. Detroit Golf Club.

Special Libraries Association, Western Michigan Chapter - call June Hauck 616-385-5660

- 16 March 1989 Thursday. Grand Rapids Marriott. Visit from Joe Ann Clifton, National SLA President.
- 14 April 1989 Friday. Joint meeting (see above)
- May 1989. Annual business meeting, Hope College, Holland

For further information call Nancy Ward 313-256-9596

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Next News will be mailed 22 May 1989. DEADLINE is 8 May 1989. -Nancy J. Winslow 313-257-9427



Patricia Wolfgram, Manager of the Health Sciences Library, Midland Hospital Center was among those invited to present papers and lead discussions at the Second European Conference of Medical Libraries held 2-6 November 1988, in Bologna, Italy. Bologna is the site of the first medical school and celebrated its 900th anniversary.

The theme of the Conference was "Health Information for All -- A Common Goal" and was under the auspices of the World Health Organization and the European Association for Health Information and Libraries.

As the official representative of the American Society for Information Science, Pat read a message of good will on behalf of the 4000 ASIS Information Specialists in North America. The Conference was attended by representatives from European and Eastern Bloc countries and was simultaneously translated into five languages.

(Pat sent the following information when she returned.)

Over 500 Health Information Specialists attended the Conference. The University of Bologna was established in 1088 and its alumni include, Dante Alighieri, Petrarch, and Copernicus.

Among those invited to present papers and lead discussions were Lois Ann Colaianni, NLM, Bethesda, MD; Robert Braude, Cornell U. Medical College, NY; Susan Crawford, Washington U. School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO; Peter Stangl, Stanford U. Medical Center, Stanford, CA; and Patricia Wolfgram, Midland Hospital Center, Midland, MI.

Keynote speaker was Dr. Stephen Lock, Editor of the British Medical Journal. His address was "The professionalisation of information: an editor's view."

A draft of the five year action plan for libraries in the European Community was discussed. In general, the terms of the Plan of Action should promote:

- the availability and accessibility of modern library services throughout the Community taking into account existing geographic discrepancies in library provision,
- a more rapid but orderly penetration of new information technologies in libraries in a cost-effective way.
- standardization, because of its practical consequences and economic impact.
- harmonization and convergence of national policies for libraries,

Four proposed key areas to be addressed are:

- availability of catalogue/bibliographic records in machine-readable form as a basic resource for international exchanges.
- ability to interconnect automated library systems.
- better access to documents held in European libraries through enhanced inter-library loan mechanisms.
- modernizing the skills of library workers.

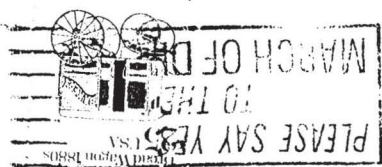
The Proceedings of the Second European Conference of Medical Libraries will be published by K. G. Saur in the Spring of 1989.

While at the Conference tours included the Rizzoli Orthopaedic Institute, Bologna. It includes one of the most complete medical rare book collections, and the renown Putti Foundation. The Library also contains an interesting collection of antique surgical tools from the Late Roman through the Renaissance periods. Another tour offered a visit to the Biblioteca Malatestiana in Cesena. Built in 1452, it is the first public library, and stands as originally built. The 340 handwritten books in the collection are still attached to reading desks by chains.

*Ed. note: Welcome home, Pat! You certainly had an exciting November trip to a prestigious conference. It is nice to know one of MHS LA's 'own' was there!!*

Diane M. O'Keefe  
Wyandotte General Hospital  
Library  
2333 Biddle  
Wyandotte MI 48192

HAMADY HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARY  
One Hurley Plaza  
Flint, MI 48502



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