

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

QUO VADIS MHSLA?

AS I ACCEPT, THIS MORNING BOTH THE HONOR AND THE CHALLENGE OF SERVING AS PRESIDENT OF THE MICHIGAN HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION, I THINK IT APPROPRIATE TO REVIEW WHERE WE HAVE COME FROM AND TO EXPLORE JUST WHERE WE ARE HEADED AS AN ORGANIZATION. MHSLA IS NOW AN ORGANIZED, FUNCTIONING GROUP WITH A DEFINED COMMITTEE STRUCTURE, ELECTED OFFICERS, CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS. OUR ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE IS HELD IN VARIOUS GEOGRAPHIC LOCATIONS IN MICHIGAN. BUT OUR ORGANIZATION DID NOT SPRING, FULL GROWN, FROM A VOID. IT ARRIVED AFTER MANY YEARS OF PLANNING. ITS EXISTENCE IS DUE TO THE DEDICATED EFFORTS OF A NUMBER OF LIBRARIANS, MANY OF WHOM ARE IN OUR AUDIENCE TODAY.

IN 1976, THE THIRD STATE WIDE CONFERENCE WAS HELD AT THE PANLAND HOTEL IN GRAND RAPIDS BY THE MICHIGAN HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARIES, WHICH WAS NOT, AT THAT TIME A FORMAL ORGANIZATION. IT WAS AT THE GRAND RAPIDS CONFERENCE, THE THEME FITTINGLY WAS "LETS GET IT TOGETHER WITH PRODUCTIVE COMMUNICATION", THAT THE PROPOSAL WAS MADE TO FORM AN AD HOC COMMITTEE WHICH WAS TO SET UP BYLAWS AND A CONSTITUTION FOR A PROPOSED STATE ORGANIZATION. FOLLOWING A YEAR OF INTENSE WORK THE COMMITTEE PRESENTED THE PROPOSED BYLAWS AND CONSTITUTION AT THE EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE HELD AT THE GRAND HOTEL ON MACKINAW ISLAND (SEPT. 1977). THE BYLAWS AND CONSTITUTION WERE SUBSEQUENTLY APPROVED AND WE BECAME AN ORGANIZATION ON SEPTEMBER 24, 1977. SUBSEQUENT ANNUAL CONFERENCES HAVE BEEN HELD IN FLINT, 1978 AND ANN ARBOR, 1979.

OUR STATED PURPOSE IS: TO PROMOTE IMPROVED HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARY SERVICES, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARIES IN MICHIGAN,

IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS; TO INSPIRE AND EDUCATE HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARY PERSONNEL, TO IMPLEMENT THE EXCHANGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARY MATERIALS AND SERVICES, AND TO FOSTER COMMUNICATION BETWEEN VARIOUS HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARY GROUPS WITHIN THE STATE, REGION AND THE NATION. AT THIS STAGE IN OUR ORGANIZATIONAL GROWTH, I PROPOSE THAT WE LOOK AT OUR STATED PURPOSES AND INVESTIGATE THE AREAS WHERE WE, AS A GROUP MAY BEST LEND OUR EFFORTS TO SUPPORT THESE PURPOSES. THE MEANS TO ACCOMPLISH SUCH A TASK COULD WELL BE THE APPOINTMENT, BY OUR BOARD, OF A LONG-RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE, WHICH WOULD BE GIVEN THE TASK OF INVESTIGATING, COMPILING AND TARGETING REALISTIC ACHIEVABLE GOALS IN KEEPING WITH OUR STATED PURPOSES. THIS COMMITTEE COULD LOOK INTO THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF OTHER STATE GROUPS AS WELL AS TO EXPLORE INOVATIVE IDEAS FROM OUR OWN MEMBERS. I PROPOSE THAT THIS GROUP REPORT THEIR FINDINGS TO OUR NEXT ANNUAL MEETING.

A POSSIBLE TASK, AMONG OTHERS, THAT WE CAN PERFORM THIS YEAR, WITH OUR OWN RESOURCES IS TO PREPARE A STATEWIDE DIRECTORY OF HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARIES AND LIBRARY SERVICES. THIS REFERENCE TOOL COULD ALSO BE A MEANS OF DISCOVERING THOSE INSTITUTIONS THAT LACK LIBRARIES AND LIBRARY SERVICES. WITH THIS DIRECTORY IN HAND, WE CAN THEN BEGIN TO SYSTEMATICALLY DEVELOP LIBRARIES AND LIBRARY SERVICES IN AREAS OF NEED.

IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN OUR CONTINUED GROWTH, VIGOR AND TO GENERATE NEW IDEAS WE MUST ALL BECOME ACTIVISTS AND WORK TOWARDS RECRUITING NEW MEMBERS.

I WANT TO THANK OUR PAST PRESIDENT, CAROLE COLTER, FOR HER DEDICATION, ENTHUSIASM AND SUPPORT DURING THIS PAST YEAR, BUT MOST OF ALL I THANK HER FOR THE CLOSE COMMUNICATION THAT SHE HAS MAINTAINED WITH ME, WHICH ENABLED ME TO ANTICIPATE PROBLEMS AND TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH ON-GOING PROJECTS, THUS PREPARING ME FOR MY ROLE AS PRESIDENT.

IN ADDITION I COMMEND OUR LOCAL ARRANGEMENT GROUP, WHO MET THE CHALLENGE OF

A DEPARTING CHAIRPERSON AND STEPPED INTO THE MIDDLE OF A DIFFICULT TASK, WITH NEW LEADERSHIP. OUR BOARD SHOULD ALSO BE RECOGNIZED FOR THEIR SACRIFICES MADE IN TRAVELLING HUNDREDS OF MILES IN ORDER TO WORK TOGETHER FOR OUR ORGANIZATION.

AT THIS TIME I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE FAITH VAN TOLL, OUR FIRST PRESIDENT, ANIE HUNGERFORD OUR SECOND PRESIDENT COME TO THE PLATFORM:"

"IN RECOGNITION OF SERVICES RENDERED MAY I GIVE YOU THIS ROSE..."

"CAROLE COLTER, IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT, PLEASE STEP FORWARD
THANK YOU CAROLE FOR YOUR TREMENDOUS SUPPORT" PRESENT BOUQUET OF ROSES.