

**SLML Board Meeting, September 11, 2008**

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Room 110

South Campus Classroom Building

University of Missouri – St. Louis

**Minutes**

Present: Maria Minowitz, Donghua Tao, Susan Fowler, Cheryle Cann, Renee Gorrell, Clare McLeod, Brian McFerron (Holly Hubenschmidt was unable to attend)

Meeting was called to order by: **Cheryle Cann**

**Introduction:** Everyone presented themselves; addition of new Interim Secretary: Brian S. McFerron

**Treasurer's Report**

- \$ 11,053.59 currently in account

**Committee Reports** – Several committees were unable to report today.

Cheryle with report: points on milestones – when annual report for committee is given, a report must be given – should not be too difficult to report goals.

Holly passed a message along (was delayed and couldn't attend meeting). States that SLML web site needs to be brought up-to-date. Wants to do membership brochure, and find new ways to utilize the web in conjunction with the addition of a new brochure for our organization.

**Announcements**

Phil Skroska was commended as being a valuable resource person, as he works in the WU Becker Archives and Rare Books section. It is often difficult for Phil to get away to attend meetings.

**Committee Reports** – Several committees were unable to report today.

## **Continuing Education**

Jennifer mentioned that she is leaving for Holland (temporarily). There will be a regular program at the King Center at Washington University Becker Medical Library on 23 October 2008. Kristi Holmes will give a presentation on bioinformatics.

We were reminded that we have a special income via SLML and Amazon.com. For purposes of purchasing any type of medical resource/book, it was suggested to go through the SLML Amazon.com link.

## **Social Events**

A holiday party and awards luncheon will be held – no date or time was given – dependant on expenses.

Clara McCleod suggested doing this event for the Spring of 2009.

A collective suggestion was given that the organization might want to consider a change in the name of the awards luncheon and the date of awards. We could keep the awards luncheon in the month of April, and have it function as (also) a social program. It was suggested that we might be able to get a guest speaker as well – someone who can speak on current topics such as:

1. Off-site storage emergency planning

In the past (it was reported) that we had speakers, e.g. the Director of the Public Health for the City of St. Louis.

We may want to have an annual discussion on this, and other topics, which are relevant to our professional responsibilities.

## **Governance**

Several governance issues were discussed. Cheryle gave hand-outs on the following:

- Goals which are realistic are often never met. We should promulgate a time-line in order to achieve goals.
- Procedure manual revision – this (was decided) to not be continued as a project at this time, although the procedure manual needs to be re-written. It should reflect current practices, and incorporate ideas and suggestions from a membership survey.
- The formation of a Task Force regarding what needs to be done, relative to creating a strategic plan based on current best practices. Past concentrations were part of planning for the MCMLA in 2006 – and as we look forward to the next time that SLML will host this event. A budget of \$ 200.00 was requested for the Governance Committee.

## Membership

As the committee chair, Cathy Sarli prepared a time-line which outlined all of the activities which need to be done.

Susan suggested the submission of dues for members, online. This is perhaps to reduce the time and money presently spent for this task.

Perhaps dues can be submitted with PayPal, but Renee advised that this could cost a lot of money. Susan mentioned this may help with drawing younger membership. Renee said that the SLA reviewed the submission of dues by PayPal, and the cost seemed to be prohibitive. Cheryle states that large chapters use this for their organizations' financial transactions – however – it was observed that not many people utilize it.

Membership Survey – Maria Minowitz briefed the group on the findings. She stated that:

- More than 65% of membership is over 50 – majority does not work in one-person libraries. Majority work in academic libraries and the second highest work in hospital libraries.
- Since members are older and experienced, topics should focus on advanced CE's. 70 % of membership said that an employer would pay for CE credits/courses.

Maria said that Cathy and Jennifer collected information. More advanced topics are preferred for professional development and CE's. For example:

- Evidence-based medicine
- E-journal pricing
- Copyright
- Virtual Libraries

Over 80% want to collaborate with other members in town. These education objectives tie-in to strategic plan.

Other issues discussed:

- Do we need to have the institutional membership category in the future?
- Perhaps there is a communications issue regarding membership interests (in committees).
- There is a lot of work in planning SLML activities and professional efforts. The problems are that planning requires substantial time commitments. Which committees do our members think are the most important? Perhaps an ad-hoc committee should be created to review younger member's interests.

The trend is to have meetings coincide with things like happy hours, at bars/restaurants. Susan mentioned the Dewey Decimal Drinks as an example of how SLML could structure social and professional activities.

Cheryle identified “networking” as strong attraction for young members/librarians. A suggestion was made that this needs to be discussed in a broader meeting environment. Susan mentioned a place like the “Atomic Cowboy” as a meeting place. Perhaps, having a meeting or event by this November could be done – it should be publicized.

Maria emphasized looking through the survey again, very carefully, and posting the interesting points out on the Web site. Do not include age-groups, but perhaps the length of time that one has been in the library field. (The Board later decided to give the full report to the general membership via the SLML-L listserv.)

**Old business** – none

**Meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m. 9/11/2008**