

A short synopsis of the SLML Brainstorming Dinner/Meeting of 20 November 2008.

Upon ideas drawn up at the last board meeting, a brainstorming session/dinner was scheduled for the evening of 20 November, 2008.

The meeting first started with dinner. There was a short period of time prior to the meeting for networking and renewing contacts from those SLML members in attendance.

Cheryle Cann called the meeting/session to order and asked for the *raison d'être* of our being together; e.g. what were we there for, which is the best direction for the organization, which is at a crossroads for where it wants to be in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

One of the key reviews of the meeting was the survey which was drafted in March 2008 and placed on the SLML server. The survey provided a waypoint for the subsequent topics discussed during the meeting. A final written review of the survey was distributed to the attending members. From there, we addressed the future “programming” of the group.

Jennifer Platt brought the factor of the timing of future meetings; especially whether evenings were an acceptable time. Jennifer mentioned the importance of the timing of future meetings, for the next few will involve both social and educational aspects. Jennifer stated that the past two events were not well attended whatsoever; these were:

1. The recent MLA teleconference on environmental preparedness, etc.
2. A presentation by Kristi Holmes on basic bioinformatics and the many good resources of the NLM and the genome databases.

Jennifer provided a list of forthcoming dates for SLML:

- Annual SLML Christmas/Holiday party to be held at the Hacienda Restaurant on December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2008 (from 5 – 7p.m.).
- February time frame – a presentation by Betsy Kelly on Logic Model.
- Another presentation in the spring, which would incorporate a guest speaker who would present current problems with medical errors – Judy L. from St. Louis College of Pharmacy would deliver this.
- Annual awards meeting and business meeting at Matthews Book.

Planning for a change in the time which meetings would be held was enhanced by an idea by Phil Skroska. He suggested having SLML meetings to be held in the morning during a business day, preferably at **0900**. Phil said that this might be a good time for membership to gather, and possibly, to offset the inconvenience of meetings in the evening during the business day. Many who attended were encouraged/interested about having morning meetings. However, it was mentioned that some may have problems with this meeting time, as some librarians open their libraries in the morning (particularly if they are solo librarians).

The trend of poor attendance in the evening perked the interest to; perhaps, shift the format and timing of the meetings. Format was discussed, particularly focusing on educational sessions and as always, more food! The group showed its appreciation for the dinner planning/format – officially, there were 18 people who attended the meeting, with some coming later in the evening.

Jackie Hittner wanted to emphasize the idea of using the technology of teleconferencing, web meetings and presentations, etc. She said that they should be interactive in nature – this is something which should be explored, particularly for educational sessions.

Cheryle mentioned that perhaps some members are tired of business meetings, and that there hasn't been interest/impetus to have frequent meetings. We have options such as posting activities to the list-serve, but this is only a tech option used for making announcements.

Cathy Sarli said that the web-site database is updated quite often, and the information is filtered to the list-serve.

Jennifer suggested the interest in our group having a session(s) on the major aspects of Web 2.0, with emphasis on resources/courses dealing with new technologies.

There was an emphasis during the meeting that there should be more **programs** vs. regular meetings.

Cheryle deferred to Cathy about the question of removing the “institutional membership option” on the basic member application. This type of membership seems to be a vestige of an earlier era in which libraries and organizations were more interested in having a collective membership – it was decided that the institutional membership should be discontinued for the future.

Cheryle mentioned the importance of providing discounts to the members who are ordering print resources from sites like Amazon. Also, there was a suggestion about having a consortium deal for pricing of literature.

It was mentioned about the potential merger of the MOBIUS and MOLinc(k) interfaces. The essence of this short discussion led to the belief that SLML should deal with, and interface with information consortiums.

The group decided to defer discussion on student membership dues for the next board meeting.

Jackie mentioned about a joint 2014 conference with other Midwest/Regional associations. Who in 2014 will be tasked with hosting a conference?

Cheryle received and listed some of the important reasons which are driving the group at this time. Some common reasons are:

- A desire to “want to be a part” of a group of like minded professionals – a network of professionals.
- An opportunity to see other librarians, to have personal interactions with them, etc.
- Establishment of personal and professional friendships.
- Face-to-face interest with other medical librarians.
- A strong desire to visualize a good future for the SLML. Mentioned that it is advantageous for all of us being a part of a “community”.
- A desire for the organization to remain relevant.
- A desire for professional development in relation to relevant programming.
- A desire to get the perspective of other professionals, and how to avoid a “burn-out”.
- A mutual “two-way” role between groups and medical libraries – in essence – to know what other libraries do, and what they are doing to advance the profession.

It was mentioned that the SLML organization was approaching its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Jennifer would be working with Phil and Mary Sue Schaffer in review and acquisition of historical archives of the organization.

Others, such as Patrick Hendershot, mentioned the importance of SLML to “network” with other organizations, such as the SLA. SLA has a broad appeal of all types of special libraries, and Patrick mentioned that they attempt to have some type of event every month. Patrick mentioned that the SLA will be having their Centennial Anniversary soon, and that it would be good if SLML could participate with the SLA membership.

Social networking was an important theme of the discussion, with Phil providing the group with an invite to the monthly Dewey Decimal Drinks event – a type of happy hour type gathering.

In conclusion, Cheryle brought the consensus of the group together that SLML should have more programming events, less meetings, and greater social access. Also a possible emphasis on renewing some type of “members-at-large” position(s) could help provide more communications lines between members.

Phil stated, again, to emphasize that SLML stays relevant, that there be a good amount of engagement, and for members to offer their perspectives (speak their minds).

Cheryle suggest that perhaps we should have an update over the course of the next several months/years to develop a strategic plan, and to prepare the organization to flourish in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, with the encouragement of providing best practices in and for our profession. We want to get as many people as possible who would be involved with the “strategic planning” process.

Other inputs were asked for, but the meeting came to a very good conclusion at around 7:30 p.m.

Jennifer reminded everyone of the Holiday event at the Hacienda on the 11<sup>th</sup> of December 2008.