Chapter Council Meeting Highlights
By Pam Rees
MLA Chapter Council Alternate Representative

The Chapter Council Meeting was held on Saturday, May 3, 2003 in San Diego, California. In attendance from the Midwest Chapter were Barbara Knight, MLA Chapter Council Representative and Pam Rees, MLA Chapter Council Representative Alternate.

MLA President's Report: Linda Watson gave a review of her "Extreme Librarian" theme activities for 2002-2003 including the completion of the MLA Strategic Plan. More information is available at http://www.mlanet.org

MLA President Elect's Report: Pat Thibodeau outlined her priorities for the year under the theme "Seizing the Power of Our Values" which include: advocate our value by recognizing and promoting our value to our institutions, health professionals, and consumers; build our community through recruitment and retention; encourage lifelong learning by integrating new technical and content expertise into our traditional skills; create a professional knowledge base by promoting research; and embracing global networks through diverse partnerships and international initiatives. More information is available at http://www.mlanet.org/about/leaders/president_03-04/pt_prior.html

MLA President Elect Elect's Report - Joann Marshall led a discussion on "health science librarianship in library schools" as part of the process of determining her priorities for her Presidency in 2004-2005.

MLA Executive Director's Report - Carla Funk reported that a membership survey completed this year showed a shift in the membership from institutional to individual and a slight increase in the 20-29 age group. MLA has a new Professional Recruitment Committee that will concentrate on recruiting people into the profession. Communications Tool Kits can be ordered free of charge by individual members MLA members. The tool kit is a guide for medical librarians to assist them in promoting themselves as a highly skilled information resource for consumers and health care professionals. The information contained in the tool kit is also available at http://mlanet.org/publications/tool_kit/index.html. There is a new mentoring site at: http://www.mlahq.org/mentor/index.html

Chair's Report - Linda Garr Markwell reported that MLA is supporting a joint grant application from Texas A&M University Medical Sciences Library and the University of North Texas School of Library and Information Sciences for an IMLS grant to "Education Librarians for the 21st Century".

Chapter Sharing Roundtables - Ginny Dupont reported that 392 participants signed up for the roundtable discussions, the highest number ever. A task force has been appointed to review the roundtable project. It has been so successful and has grown so large that it can be difficult to organize. National Programming Committee 2004 - M.J. Tooey reported on plans for next year's meeting in Washington, D.C. Innovative programming will have all MLA units partnering with each
other to talk about innovation as it occurs in the particular groups that meet together.

Continuing Education - Roberta Fitzpatrick distributed a "Directory of Chapter-Sponsored CE Courses" that was published in 2002. The committee is working on the specialization programs which include the Consumer Health Information Specialization Program. Information on these programs can be found at http://www.mlanet.org/education/chc/index.html.

Credentialing Committee: Paula Raimondo reported that the committee has approved CE credit for facilitating roundtable discussions as well as moderating panel discussions at chapter and national meetings. There is a new program being tested called the "Independent Reading Program" that will enable members to receive credit for reading an article and responding to questions about it. It is now possible for AHIP members to renew their academy memberships without sending in extensive paperwork as long as they renew at the same level. If members wish to apply at a higher level, they need to resubmit their paperwork.

Majors/MLA Chapter Project Jury: Chair George Wahlert reported that 6 projects were submitted from chapters to compete for the award. A chapter can submit a project up to 3 times if it does not win. Chapters that score within 5 points of the winning score will be given an honorable mention.

Membership Committee - Deborah Sibley reported that a Membership Committee Member Manual has been created. She also suggested that a membership listserv for the chapter membership committee chairs would be useful.

Elections - Sarah Gable was elected as Chapter Council Chair-Elect. Carolyn Ching, Tom Flemming, Julia Kochi, Susan Long, Mary Mylenki, and Anne Seymour were elected Chapter Nominees to the MLA Nominating Committee.

Joint Section/Chapter Council Mentoring Programming for 2003 Committee - Irene Lovas reported on the joint committees' first shared project entitled "Mentoring: Sharing Experiences for Professional Growth". The committee will not have a program every year but will meet with meeting program planners to plan programs two years ahead.

New Business - George Wahlert was thanked for creating a new chapter display banner that will hang above the chapter table booth at the annual MLA meetings.