Issue no. 8, August, 1991

CLS ELECTS OFFICERS, CELEBRATES

Members elected Section officers for 1991/92 are:

Chair-elect: Christine Fleuriel, Dana Farber Cancer Institute

Secretary: Karen M. Albert, Fox Chase Cancer Center

Treasurer: Gale Abelove, Roswell Park Memorial Institution

Nominee to Nominating Committee: Paul Kittle, Loma Linda University Medical Center

Dorothy Hawthorne, Mayo Medical Foundation, automatically became chair at the conclusion of the 1991 meeting of MLA. Jeanne Becker, Memorial Sloan Kettering, and Phyllis Rasnick, Johns Hopkins, continue as Section Council Representative and Alternate respectively. Mary Edith Walker, St. Jude, was reappointed editor of the newsletter.

Wednesday, June 5, 1991, was a red letter day for the Cancer Librarians Section. The morning was devoted to a series of three papers on AIDS and new drug controversies, which we co-sponsored with the Pharmacy and Drug Information Section. Following the afternoon business meeting, members enjoyed refreshments and visiting in celebration of our 10th year as a Section.

PLAN NOW TO BE WITH US IN WASHINGTON!
CANCER LIBRARIANS SECTION

SECTION OFFICERS 1991/92

Dorothy Hawthorne, Chairman
Mayo Medical Library, Mayo Medical Foundation
200 1st Street SW
Rochester MN 55905
Phone: 507-284-8797  Fax: 507-284-2215

Christine Fleuriel, Chair-elect
Professional Staff Library
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
44 Binney Street, JFB 415
Boston MA 02115
Phone: 617-732-3508

Gayle Above, Treasurer
90 Old Lyme Rd. #5
Williamsville NY 14221
Phone: 716-845-5966

Karen Albert, Secretary
Library, Fox Chase Cancer Center
7701 Burholme Avenue
Philadelphia PA 19111
Phone: 215-728-2710

Jeanne Becker, Section Council Representative
Medical Library, Nathan Cummings Center
Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center
1275 York Avenue
New York NY 10021
Phone: 212-639-8487  Fax: 212-717-3048

Phyllis Rasnick, Section Council Alternate
Oncology Center Library, Welch Medical Library
Johns Hopkins University
1900 E. Monument Street
Baltimore MD 21205
Phone: 301-955-8850  Fax: 301-955-8020

Cancer Librarians Section NEWS is published three times each year by the Cancer Librarians Section of the Medical Library Association. It is distributed to Section members as part of their membership benefits; others may subscribe for $5 per year. Please send information for the newsletter to: Mary Edith Walker, Newsletter Editor, Biomedical Library, St Jude Children’s Research Hospital, PO Box 318, Memphis, TN 38101
CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

FORWARD WE GO! says Dottie M. Hawthorne, Special Projects Coordinator, Mayo Medical Center Libraries, Rochester, Minnesota. A very warm welcome to all Cancer Section members and interested colleagues. We are moving forward into a new decade of service, research, and innovative practices for librarianship. I would like to say rise up to those challenges that face us and glean as much satisfaction from those pinnacles of success as possible.

I was unable to attend the MLA meeting in San Francisco but understand that the talk on AIDS research that our section cosponsored with the Pharmacy section was well attended and very stimulating. I also understand that our business meeting was well attended and that our tenth anniversary party was a very festive occasion. I look forward to attending the 1992 meeting in Washington, D.C. and especially to the opportunity to meet with those of you who will also be able to attend. I will keep you informed as details for our program crystallize.

I don't know about other major medical centers, but Mayo Medical Center and its affiliated Mayo Group Practices has embarked on an institution-wide study on cost containment and income enhancement. We are being asked to work "leaner and smarter". While this can be frightening, it also provides an opportunity for revitalizing an organization and preparing us for the century ahead. I would be interested to know what other organizations are doing to deal with similar challenges. Libraries can be easy targets in tough times, and we need to resist attempts to constrain our budgets which will impact on collection development and overall services in this time of increasing information demands from our many users. I feel that this is an area in which we can help each other. Is their any interest in discussing this topic in future issues?

If there is please feel free to share your concerns: Dottie Hawthorne, Special Projects Coordinator. Mayo Medical Library, Mayo Medical Center, 200 First St. S.W., Rochester, MN 55905 507-284-3240

SECTION GOALS

Dottie Maucione announced the Section's goals for 1991/92, which were approved at the Section business meeting:


2. Sponsorship of a program at MLA Annual Meeting in Washington, May, 1992. If you have suggestions for speakers or topics, please contact Chris Fleuriel.

3. Publication of 3 issues of the newsletter.

4. Production of a recruitment brochure.
CLINICAL ONCOLOGY: A SELECTED LIST OF NEW BOOKS 1988-91

The long awaited booklist of Clinical Oncology sources reviewed by fellow Cancer Section members will be available early November. The publication will cost $10 each. Please submit a check made payable to MLA-Cancer Section and forward to:

Susan J. Michaelson
Texas Medical Association Library
401 West 15th St.
Austin, TX 78701-1680
512-370-1541

NAME

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MLA CANCER SECTION
MINUTES
ANNUAL MEETING 1990

MEMBERS PRESENT: Amy Butros, Dorothy Mauzione, Ann Nista, Jeanne Becker, Marv Edith Walker, Dottie Hawthorne, Annelie Sober, Ann Hutchinson

The ninth meeting of the Cancer Section of MLA was called to order by Chairperson Amy Butros on Tuesday May 22nd at Cobo Hall in Detroit, Michigan. The minutes of the 1989 annual meeting were approved by a motion from Jeanne Becker and seconded by Ann Nista.

The Nominating committee's report was presented by Jeanne Becker, Chair of the committee:

Chair-Elect -- Dottie Hawthorne
Secretary ---- Laura Brown
Section Council Representative --- Jeanne Becker

A motion was made that a unanimous slate be accepted for these elected offices and was seconded. Motion carried.

A report from the membership committee indicated that we currently have 61 members in the section.

The treasurer's report was read by Amy Butros in Julie Kesti's absence. We have $1,270.50 in our treasury.

Marv Edith Walker, newsletter editor, reported on the newsletter. During the fiscal year 1989-1990, three issues of the newsletter were distributed.
Information to be submitted for the next issue should be in by mid-July.

Amy Butros reported on the cost of the cover sheet for the newsletter. Included in this discussion was a lengthy discourse of the technical and logistical problems of copying policies within different institutions.

Jeanne Becker presented the Section Council Report. There currently are twenty-four Sections in MLA. The newest approved is the Chiropractic Section. She clarified what "Special Interest" group status is. These groups are too small to qualify for section status but still want to be able to share similar/common interests. This might be an interim step prior to full section status. She indicated that a positive aspect of MLA's centralized dues collection has been an increase in membership for all sections. The call for papers for the 1991 meeting in San Francisco was issued. The deadline date for submission of topics/abstracts is firm. All sections are encouraged to establish continuing education courses and to participate in continuing education courses. Jeanne brought back for Section discussion the following item: should the Head of Section Council be elected by the whole MLA membership or should the current method for election by section council membership be maintained. As background she indicated that the Chairperson of Section Council votes on all MLA issues that are relevant to all section's needs. She feels that the person should be very knowledgeable about MLA protocols and that the general membership won't know the person well enough to vote knowledgeable. Ann Nista also commented against the proposal. She felt that the individual should be elected by "section" council membership who best know of their commitment and dedication to the organization. The consensus was to leave it as is. The current process is working well. It is important to leave the decision of electing the Chair of Council to the Council membership. The Council membership was elected to represent the various Section memberships and have been given the responsibility to act in the best interest of the section they represent which includes electing the Council Chair who will represent this body in the most responsible manner.

Ann Nista commented briefly on the Neoplasia-CE course. She encouraged our membership to consider being involved as instructors for this course. The course will be revised to reflect changes that have been made in the Cancer file. Currently, Martha Watkins is scheduled to be the instructor.

A discussion on the Cancer Section's Bibliography/Booklist, led by Dottie Hawthorne, produced a number of suggestions. Increasing the cost of the booklist was definitely endorsed. The group concurred that $10 was a good figure to consider, especially if we are going to have a better printed product. An informal committee was formed to recommend members who would be willing to serve as editor of the project. Committee: Amy Butros, Dottie Hawthorne, and Jeanne Becker. Another consideration is to explore the possibility of sponsorship by one of the large publishers, Lippincott, or Cancer database producers, Silverplatter, to help in the printing costs.

Amy reported on how well we had done in meeting our objectives for the 1989/90 meeting year. We had fully met objectives # 1-5; for #6 we had formed an informal committee; #7 was fully met. She also mentioned that our Cunningham Fellowship donation was received and acknowledged with a thank you.

Ann Nista reported that we are not out of compliance with MLA if we do not have a Government Relations Representative. Dottie Maucione indicated that she will
serve as our unofficial Government Relations Representative and keep us informed about legislative alerts.

Our stated objectives for 1990-91 are as follows:

1. Write a History of the Section
2. Form a Booklist committee, enlist an editor, publish the Cancer Bibliography
3. Plan program for San Francisco meeting; explore possibilities of cosponsoring with another section. Explore using local or regional speakers.
4. Celebrate the 10th Anniversary in a special way.
5. Publish the newsletter three times before May 1991.

In further discussion on upcoming meetings, Jean Becker recommended that the treasurer prepare a detailed financial report on what the projected expenditures will be.

Topics suggested for the section sponsored lecture included:
- Animal research issues/Rational uses of animal research
- Is the FDA moving quickly enough for AIDS and other experimental drugs?
- Biotechnology-focusing on Genentech or similar recombinant DNA companies.

The consensus was to combine efforts with one or more section(s) for the special lecture component. The group as a whole preferred the following breakdown for the Cancer Section sponsored sessions:

Session to begin in the Afternoon at 1 P.M.
1 hr. for the Speaker(s)
2 hr. for the business meeting of Cancer Section
1 hr. to celebrate the 10th Anniversary

Jean said that she would look into the possibility of sponsorship from CD-PLUS for the 10th Anniversary Social Hour.

Amy shared with us the minor changes in the Bylaws that would affect us. Dottie Maucione volunteered to look over the changes and see if Phyllis Rasnick would go over them to compare ours to the MLA model.

Jean circulated the results of the Section Council Survey.

A special thank you was extended to Amy Butros for her leadership and hard work as Section Chair this past year. A job well done!

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Dottie Hawthorne
Cancer Section Secretary
SECTION COUNCIL REPORT

Jeanne Becker made the following report from the Section Council meeting:

1. The International Cooperation Section met requirements to become a Section of MLA.

2. The Section Council will have operating agreements with all sections beginning in 1992. MLA headquarters will collect dues for us (as they have done the past two years), while each section will be required to comply with MLA guidelines as to number of members, officers, etc.

3. Plans are underway for the 1993 MLA meeting, which will be held in Chicago. The Section voted to recommend a single day devoted to Section programming as was done in 1991.

4. The Section Council has sponsored a staffed table with information about MLA Sections. The Council has questioned the need to staff the table, and Section members agreed that this was not necessary.

5. The MLA Board of Directors has now approved the rules for setting up MLA Interest Groups. They are:
   1. A minimum of 15 members
   2. Statement of purpose that demonstrates that the subject of the interest group is not represented by any one section.
   3. Identified convener

The purpose of Interest Groups is to provide a forum for members to identify and contact others with similar interests without meeting the formal requirements for sections. Such topics may be of interest to only a few members or of intense, but temporary interest.

Interest Groups will be listed in the Annual Conference program and in future MLA directories.

CONGRATULATIONS, PATRICIA HAMILTON

Patricia Hamilton, a member of the Cancer Librarians Section, received a Medical Library Association Continuing Education Award at the 1991 Annual Meeting. This award enabled her to attend a leadership seminar in Rapid City, South Dakota. Ms. Hamilton is Director of the Health Sciences Library at Rapid City Regional Hospital.
NOTES FROM OUR PAST

Marie Harvin, formerly Library Director at M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, was a leader in founding the Cancer Librarians Section. In 1989, she was interviewed about this event by Sara Jean Jackson who is currently the Library Director there. Here are some highlights from that interview:

"My name is Marie Harvin. I was born on a remote farm in Cherokee County, Texas. ... I received my library degree from George Peabody College in Nashville, Tennessee. While in Library School I needed to work part-time, and fortunately there was a student assistant job in the Vanderbilt University Medical School Library. ... Mrs. Eileen Cunningham was the director of that library. ... I have since worked in a number of different medical libraries including a three year stint at the National Library of Medicine in Estelle Brodman’s reference department. ...

I think this early [cancer] legislation was what caused people to perceive a need for the Cancer Librarians Section, and I too credit Dr. [R. Lee] Clark with this legislation, specifically the National Cancer Act of 1971. ... When the act passed, it was largely Ann Hutchinson at Roswell Park Memorial Institute that saw the need for the Cancer Librarians Section. ... Because of this legislation librarians from all manner of institutions ... showed an interest in a Cancer Librarians Section, and, according to the records, we held our first meeting in San Antonio in 1974. ..."

Dennis Serrianne, who was then the librarian in Memorial Sloan-Kettering, was very active in the early days of Cancer Librarians Section. Of course, Dr. Sourya Henderson from the American Cancer Society attended, but we had librarians from ... UCLA, Louise Darling, Adele Curry from Ontario Cancer Institute, even Mayo Clinic, Jack Key was there. Mildred N. Langner from University of Miami. ... they attended because they wanted to track the legislation and the possible funding. ...

[The Section] met every year although we were never officially on the program. ... But we did meet and along came the moratorium on new sections. ... so it was delayed until June 6, 1981 when the MLA Board officially recognized the Cancer Librarians Section. ... [Programs were] largely reports from NCI on what funds were available to cancer libraries and how they might be obtained, and what they would fund and what they would not fund. Most of the meetings were concerned with this issue. ...

I want to stress that is was Ann Hutchinson’s energy and ideas that made this section float at all ..."

The complete transcript of this conversation is in the Section archives at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Library.
NEWS FROM THE SECTION AND ASSOCIATION

Margaret Vugrin, Texas Tech University, reports that she presented a live videoconference on PDQ to more than 20 sites in West Texas via their MEDNET system.

Jeanne Becker, Memorial Sloan-Kettering, observed National Library Week in her library with free MEDLINE, HEALTH or CANCERLIT searches, as well as a seminar on end-user searching of MEDLINE.

Mary Edith Walker, St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, is preparing to move their Library into a long-awaited new facility. Their re-opening will be celebrated with a speaker and reception on September 26.

A packet of job descriptions for non-professionals is being prepared for publication as a new MLA Doc-Kit. It will consist of representative position descriptions for all non-professional staff in all types of health sciences libraries and all levels of specialization (interlibrary loan, circulation, technical services, reference, media center, etc.) Sample job descriptions should be submitted no later than October 30, 1991, to Van B. Afes, Head, Technical Services, Louis Calder Memorial Library (R-950), University of Miami School of Medicine, PO Box 016950, Miami FL 33101. Please indicate whether your library is an academic, hospital, corporate or other type of institution; the institution’s subject specialty; the FTE professional and total staff; and the name and phone number of a contact person.

Naomi Broering, an early member of our Section, has recently been named editor of the Bulletin of the Medical Library Association. Ms. Broering is director of the Biomedical Information Resources Center and medical librarian at the John Vinton Dahlgren Memorial Library, Georgetown University Medical Center, Washington, D.C.

Want to review a book for this newsletter? We receive them from time to time, and many are worth letting members know about. If you review it, you get to keep it. Contact the editor if you want to volunteer.

Treasurer’s Report

Julie Kesti, immediate past treasurer, reports a balance of $1324.06 in the treasury as of May 31, 1991. This report was approved by vote of the officers following the June meeting.

This book is divided into 13 chapters with different highly qualified authors writing on a variety of related topics, such as: Impact of AIDS on the chemical dependency field, the question of routine testing for antibodies for HIV, the effect of alcohol and drugs on infection and treatment of AIDS, and the problems related to needle sharing. On the influence of alcohol and drugs, the authors call attention to deleterious effects on the immune system in general: depression of the number of lymphocytes, depression of their transformation, their natural killer activity and their interferon production. The book blames needle sharing for the transmission of HIV among intravenous drug users while the debate over the provision of sterile needles continues. The book concludes that substance abuse treatment and AIDS treatment must be coordinated and considered as a multidisciplinary problem that requires a multidisciplinary approach.