

ST. LOUIS MEDICAL LIBRARIANS  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

October 21, 2003

Minutes

PRESENT: Kim Lipsey, Cheryle Cann, Ellen Dickman, Georgianna Grant, Jackie Hittner, Russ Monika, Carol Murray, Philip Skroska, Christina Sullivan, and Maria Minowitz

The following documents were distributed to the board: meeting agenda, September SLML board meeting minutes, SLML history proposal and announcement.

President Kim Lipsey called the meeting to order.

Philip Skroska, Manager of the Bernard Becker Medical Library Visual and Graphic Archives, presented a proposal for a history of the St. Louis Medical Librarians. He has made contact with Betsy Mueth at Missouri Baptist for the existing archives. Additionally, he would like to interview members who could provide anecdotal remembrances. He wants to know more about members, what they did, their personalities, and why they felt making connections among librarians was important.

There was some discussion about whether to post a request for personal interviews on the listserv. It was then decided that specific members be approached as a sort of introduction for Phil. He can then contact them to arrange for interviews. Some members identified were Sandra Brenner, Jennifer Plaat, Cindy Fedders, Polly Cummings, and Carolyn Taylor. Other contacts may be generated from these initial contacts.

Cheryle Cann asked Phil why he wanted to do this project. He will be joining SLML. He has a Masters in History from St. Andrews and is interested in organizational histories. He hopes to gather the interviews and information by the end of December and have a document ready in March. There was some discussion of forming an ad hoc committee for the history project. This was tabled until the November meeting when Phil will be an official member of SLML.

Carol Murray reported on the program survey that was sent out. Quite a few responses were received, but have not been collated. A general trend noted was that small libraries wanted more practical programs, perhaps as a justification for time away from the job. Also, librarians working in larger institutions may pick up information from other staff.

Georgianna Grant checked the Special Libraries Association website and made some contacts for membership from their list. She is still contacting public and law libraries. The suggestion was also made to check the Becker institutional member list for potential new members. Those who are members at Becker undoubtedly use medical resources and may be interested in SLML.

There was a lengthy discussion about combining the Awards Luncheon and Annual Business Meeting. Russ Monika gave a review of what the meetings had encompassed in the past. The Awards Luncheon was more of a social gathering in the King Center with a complimentary boxed lunch and speaker. Awards for length of membership were given; recognition of any retirements and possibly the SLML distinguished services and/or leadership awards.

The Annual Business meeting has been hosted for SLML by Matthews Medical Books. Matthews provides a buffet lunch for the group. An evaluation of the year's Strategic Plan, along with installation of new officers, and recognition of out-going officers and committee members with certificates are the main items of business. There may or may not be a speaker.

There is some thought that combining the meetings might get more attendance. Getting away for one meeting may be easier. Also some concern about not enough business to justify two meetings. Cheryle pointed out that if a change is made, the schedule for elections may need to be changed. The board was polled, and a majority wanted to keep both the Awards Luncheon and Annual Business Meeting. Kim would like to have the Awards Luncheon at the beginning of April. Annual Business Meeting is sometime in mid to late June.

Jackie Hittner stressed the importance of getting people involved now in events because in two years SLML will need the membership's involvement for MCMLA. As soon as dates are set for events they need to be put on the webpage calendar and sent out in an email on the listserv.

Kim asked that the committee chair people send out information about their committees activities on the listserv.

Russ reported that getting the archive material put on CD is a go. It will cost \$50 to cover the entire project. A digitized copy will be backed up to servers since CDs last about two years. There is also a problem with missing material that is not in the archive. Documents have not been sent there in recent years.

Cheryle asked for comments from all the board members regarding any suggested changes to the By-Laws. Comments can be emailed to her.

Ellen Dickman needs action plans and budget requests from all committee chair people.

Russ said Go Daddy has changed its pricing structure for the SLML website. It is now \$7.95 per month to host the site, which is less than when Russ signed us up. They also now support databases, so Russ will move the directory from Washington University to Go Daddy. He also plans an interactive calendar that will remove past events so they are no longer visible. There was also talk of an interactive membership form on the website. Money would still have to be sent in, but it could be customized to make the listing disappear if payment is not received within a certain period of time. It was decided it would be too expensive to run credit card payments. There are also members who do not want their listings posted on the internet, and these requests will need to be accommodated. The site can't be password protected.

Jackie gave an update on MCMLA preparations. Laurie Shyker is the contact for the Parkway Hotel. She will be contacting her, along with Betsy Mueth to find out what she has learned from this year's post MCMLA meeting. Formal letters to MCMLA will need to be drafted in anticipation of the St. Louis meeting.

Next board meeting was set for November 18 at 2:00 at the King Center. President Lipsey adjourned the meeting.