



*SLML Newsletter*  
*March 2003*

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**I WISH....From the Editor**

By Jackie Hittner

Chair, Communication Committee

I WISH....

In June I moved back to St. Louis after spending 14 years away. When I emailed Sandra Brenner at St. John’s Mercy Medical Center and asked her what organizations I should become involved with, she answered the St. Louis Medical Librarians. Little did I realize that I would immediately be asked to be involved as the Communication Chair. It has been a privilege to work with the committee to recreate the website and resurrect the newsletter.

However, I wish...

I had writer skills. I can write a letter home to the folks that is halfway entertaining, especially when describing moose sightings, but a newsletter uses different skills.

I had editing skills. My committee will get the opportunity to do that on this first newsletter.

I had newsletter layout skills. Writing, editing and newsletter layout skills are not abilities one must prove one has to obtain the Masters in Library Science or Business Administration. Who knew I would be trying to pull off a newsletter someday?

As we move through this year that more members will want to contribute to the newsletter. The next opportunity will be after the June business meeting!!! Members want to know if a member:

- presents at a conference or for that matter attends a conference
- gets published (and it can even be in a hospital newsletter)
- is working towards a degree
- becomes a grandparent, parent
- retires or is promoted or gets a new job

The website becomes an important vehicle all members use to become more informed about SLML and hopefully become involved with the organization.

On a lighter note, I wish I could put my winter coat and boots away for the season.

Enjoy this issue of the newsletter. If there are articles you would like to see in future newsletters let a member of the Communication Committee know.

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### **Baby Boomers R Us**

By John Chesmelewski  
President

We've all heard it on the evening news or read it in the papers: the Baby Boomers are getting ready to retire! That generation is the 500-pound gorilla sitting in the room. When we leave there will be a lot of empty chairs to fill.

So, how does this affect SLML? Our membership has its share of Baby Boomers and over the next three or five years we could be facing huge membership and leadership issues within SLML. Like my fifty-year-old head of hair the ranks are thinning. My intention is not to be an alarmist. I am not ready to sit in the rocker just yet.

Now is the time to think about the future of SLML. What is our direction? Who will be our leaders? Who will sit in those empty chairs?

If the members of an organization are active and involved then the organization is seen as active and involved. And people will want to join. I would encourage everyone to take a moment and read the SLML Strategic Plan currently in place. We have decided to place our focus on the development of the membership by offering educational and learning opportunities. Great words, but it is the members who must make those words a reality. People willing to serve as officers, committee chairs, and committee members are needed. Members willing to step in as we Boomers step out.

At this moment the Nominations Committee is seeking members for a slate of officers for the upcoming 2003-2004 business year. Don't be modest. Encourage yourself or a fellow member to serve the membership, to put the words of our Strategic Plan into action.

If you want to get your feet wet before jumping into the pool as an officer, then volunteer to serve as a committee chair or member. The committees do the planning and development of all the programs, activities, and initiatives offered to the membership.

The name of our organization is the ST. LOUIS Medical Librarians, yet we have many members located outside of St. Louis. There are members from Springfield, MO; Belleville, IL; Jefferson City, MO; and Farmington, MO. Distance is not an obstacle to participation. Kathy Behm from Edwardsville, IL is currently a Member-at-Large. Email and telephone conferencing can be utilized to facilitate your involvement in committee activity.

Even if your decision is not to serve as an officer or to work on a committee, as a member of SLML, your input is vital. Got a great idea for a program or a lead on a speaker or an issue that you feel needs to be addressed? Communicate your concerns and ideas to the officers and committee chairs of SLML. Make your input part of the planning, part of the discussion.

So, as we Boomers depart step up and fill those chairs. You have three great opportunities to do so: run for office, serve on a committee, become an active member.

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### **Get Informed about the USA Patriot Act**

By Kim Lipsey  
President-Elect

On October 25, 2001, Congress passed the “[Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act](#)” (USA PATRIOT Act.) This law broadly expands the powers of federal law enforcement agencies investigating cases involving foreign intelligence and international terrorism. (cited from the ALA home page:

<http://www.ala.org/alaorg/oif/usapatriotact.html#usapatriotact>

Why is this law important to the library community? There is a fear that the Patriot Act will curtail Americans' civil rights. This affects the library community because users have always felt that whatever research they did in a library or the material they checked-out was always held in the strictest confidence. But after attending the satellite teleconference “*Safeguarding Our Patrons’ Privacy: What Every Librarian Needs to Know About the USA Patriot Act & Related Anti –Terrorism Measures,*” cosponsored by, American Association of Law Libraries, American Library Association, Association of Research Libraries, Medical Library Association and Special Libraries Association, I think that it is important for libraries to be aware of the recommendations suggested in the broadcast. For example, in the handout there is a section listed below which has useful information. Strong emphasis was placed on training your library staff and knowing the policies of your library.

The Library Respects the Privacy of all its Patrons

- Adopt the confidentiality legislation of your state as Library Policy
- Establish procedures for staff to follow if they are approached by an individual
- Law enforcement at any level of government
- Fellow staff member
- Patron concern

#### Create Relationships

- With law enforcement at all levels
- Other institutions to share information
- With your professional library associations

#### Have Policies & Procedures in Place Before You are Visited

- Review all policies and procedures
- Make necessary amendments now
- Brief your board of Trustees, city officials, general counsel, senior management
- Orient staff in public service and IT functions to library protocol

Many students work the circulation desk on weekends and at night so it is especially important that all staff including part-time employee have the information they need to react properly in any given situation. If your institution/library has a policy (or policies) for addressing issues related to law enforcement and patron privacy, invite someone from the appropriate office to discuss this policy with the group. It may be the case there are both institutional and library policies that are relevant. Make copies of the policies available.

The following are web site addresses, taken from the teleconference handout, which you may want to visit:

Association of Research Libraries. "The Search Seizure of Electronic Information: The Law Before and After the USA PATRIOT Act" (.pdf file)

<http://www.arl.org/info/frn/other/matrix.pdf>

Center for Democracy and Technology. "Response to September 11, 2001, Terrorist Attack" <http://www.cdt.org/security/010911response.shtml>

Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC). "The Attorney General's Guidelines" <http://www.epic.org/privacy/fbi/>

NASULGC/AAU, "Post September 11 Resources for Universities" <http://www.aau.edu/resources/resources.html>

OMB Watch. "Homeland Security Act Resource Page" <http://www.ombwatch.org/article/articleview/943/1/18>

U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Legal Policy. "Attorney General Guidelines Regarding Information Sharing Under the USA PATRIOT Act" <http://www.usdoj.gov/olp/>

**NewsLetter Articles:** Neal, James. "Reaction to Terror: Gauging the aftermath and the Impact of the USAPATRIOT Legislation. "College & Research Libraries News (Forthcoming, Spring 2003)

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## **Up Close and Personal: A profile of SLML member Ellen Dickman**

By Jackie Hittner

Chair, Communication Committee

Ellen Dickman is the Collection Development Librarian at the International Library, Archives and Museum of Optometry. Her responsibilities at the library include acquisitions and reference. The majority of her patrons are optometrists.

Ellen was born in St. Louis but grew up in Jefferson City, MO. She graduated from the University of MO – Columbia with undergraduate degrees in Journalism and English Education. Her library degree is also from the University of MO – Columbia.

Ellen has had a fascinating job path to the wonderful world of library work. She has worked as a telemarketer, on a strawberry farm, in a clothing store and taught English at the junior high and senior high school level. While completing her library degree, she taught the Library Skills course at the University of MO – Columbia. Ellen's other library positions were reference librarian at Webster University and St. Charles County Community College.

Sebastian, Ellen's one-year-old son, keeps her running. This past year, since she is a new mom, her favorite hobby has become sleeping. Ellen loves to travel but it has been awhile since she has been somewhere, as she put it, good. In 2000, she and her husband went to Gettysburg, PA and had a great time. She also planned a trip to Europe but the company went bankrupt so she had to pay for the trip. Ellen admits reluctantly to watching some TV with her favorite shows being American Idol, Six Feet Under, and 24. She enjoys doing needlepoint and cross-stitch and is still working on her son's stocking for Christmas 2002!!

Ellen has been a SLML member since 2000 and she is also a member of SLA.

Are you wondering how Ellen became the first SLML member to be profiled... well, the editor chose a number (it was 15) and started counting in the directory. Number 15 was Ellen. The editor wants to thank Ellen for her prompt response when she was emailed the profile questions.

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### **Treasurer's Report**

By Ruth Lewis

SLML Treasurer

The following is the Treasurer's Report given to the SLML President on Jan.10, 2003.

Beginning balance     \$ 9,031.51

Income                     \$ 250.00

Expenses	\$ 146.40
Ending balance	\$ 9,135.11
Savings	\$ 6,544.66
Net worth	\$15,679.77

The two most used SLML Treasurer Forms are now available in PDF on the SLML website:

Request for reimbursement: <http://www.slml.org/pdf/slmlreimb.pdf>

Deposit request: <http://www.slml.org/pdf/slmldepos.pdf>

SLML members that would like to have a more detailed financial report should contact the Treasurer, Ruth Lewis.

Editor's Note: In conversation with the President the decision was made to make basic financial information regarding the organization available via the newsletter. As John Chesmelewski stated, "Large corporations, public and private, publish their financial information all the time."

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## **Governance Report**

By Cheryl Cann

Chair, Governance Committee

The Governance Committee will be meeting in March 2003 to discuss Bylaw revisions. The Bylaws are being revised so they are in sync with the SLML 2002-2003 Strategic Plan. The timetable for revising the SLML Bylaws and the SLML Procedure Manual is:

- By March, 2003 convene Governance Committee to initiate discussion regarding Bylaws revisions required to meet the needs of the SLML 2002-2003 Strategic Plan
- By May, 2003 create proposed Bylaws revisions for presentation to the Board for approval
- By June, 2003 present proposed Bylaws revisions to the Board for approval
- By July, 2003 inform membership of the Board approved revisions to the Bylaws

Several sections of the Procedure Manual are under discussion. These include: Article II, Article III, Article IV, Article V, Article VI, Article VIII, Article X, Article XI and Article XIII. If you would like to read the specific sections under review, then access the SLML Procedure Manual at <http://www.slml.org/pdf/procman5-24-01.pdf>.

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## **Welcome New Members**

By Georgiana L. Grant  
Chair, Membership Committee

The print SLML Membership directory has been completed for the 2002-2003 year and current membership is at 82. Many of our former members have moved, retired or changed jobs but filling their places are five new ones. Two of these members, Christina Sullivan and Russ Monika, are returning after a hiatus from SLML. Both Christina and Russ work at Washington University's Becker Medical Library. Christina is a Reference Librarian in the Communication and Outreach Department, and Russ is a Web Developer in Instructional Technologies and Library Systems. Also from Becker Library is brand new member and recent Library and Information Science school graduate, Marysue Schaffer. Marysue currently works in Archives and Rare books, but will soon be moving to a position in Collection Management. Joining us from Saint Louis University are Dean Cody and Jackie Hittner. Both Reference Librarians, Dean works in SLU's Health Sciences Center Library and Jackie is a representative of Pius XII Memorial Library. I am pleased to welcome all new and returning members to SLML and am looking forward to seeing everyone at the events planned for the rest of the year. Please keep in mind that we are always welcoming new members. If you know of someone in the area interested in joining SLML, ask them to contact Georgiana L. Grant, SLML Membership Chair, at 314-362-8092 or [grantg@msnotes.wustl.edu](mailto:grantg@msnotes.wustl.edu).

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## **Communication Report**

By Jackie Hittner  
Chair, Communication Committee

The Communication Committee was charged this year to find a new hosting server for the SLML website, to revise the website, to publicize the website to SLML members and to start publishing again the SLML newsletter.

Prior to December 12, 2002 the SLML website was sitting on a Washington University server. For many years, the university has given SLML server space for free. However, the time had come to move the SLML website. The major reason for the move was to give SLML the flexibility it needed to update the website.

On December 12, 2002 the SLML website moved to its new server and went live for members to peruse the revised SLML website. The SLML website is <http://www.slml.org>

The focus of the committee will now focus on updating the Communication Committee section of the SLML manual, keeping the website updated and writing a manual on the mechanics of the website.

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## Website Statistics

By Jackie Hittner

Chair, Communication Committee

In the Communication Committee report I stated why we needed to move the SLML website. I wanted to separate this report from the committee report because as an organization a lot of resources – time, talent and money is going into the SLML website. This report gives some of the website usage statistics. Are you getting your money's worth from the SLML website?

<b>Statistic Name</b>	<b>Dec 02</b>	<b>Jan 03</b>	<b>Feb 03</b>
Total number requests for any page in site	2735	1319	1055
	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	
Number of requests	2735	2374	

The week of December 8, 2002 the website had the highest number of requests at 1489. Friday is the website's busiest day for activity.

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## In Memorial

By Cheryl Cann

Chair, Governance Committee

With sadness, we report that Jane Whalen died Saturday, February 22, 2003.

In addition to being a good wife, mother and grandmother, Jane was also a good librarian. Several of our older members (not that we're old, we've just been SLML members for a long time) have expressed kind words about her. Jane was a member of the St. Louis Medical Librarians group from the very early days of its formation in 1960. Jane retired from service as the librarian for Deaconess Hospital and School of Nursing in 1984. Over the years, Jane held a variety of positions within SLML. The most important role Jane played was as a staunch SLML member, and supporter of the organization's activities. As a personal member or an institutional member, Jane's goal seemed to be "let's work together and share"- our collections and our experiences - so that we may all provide excellent library services to our users.

Several years ago, our Annual Award Luncheon was dedicated to Jane for her service and activities for the organization. Even in retirement, she kept up with SLML and was not shy about expressing her thoughts on the matter whenever the question was asked.

Her extended family and friends survive Jane. I believe we were also her friends and will remember her dearly.

The SLML Board voted to send a contribution to the Library of Rosary High School in memory of Jane. We will miss her...