

*\*\*\* The 40s: the war ends, troops returning . . . many women leaving the workforce . . . United Nations founded here in San Francisco . . . Col. Joseph McNinch heads Army Medical Library . . . Penicillin becomes available to civilian population . . . swing music and bobby sox, Christian Dior and the "New Look" . . . structure of streptomycin elaborated , . . Truman president . . . Marshall Plan for post-war European recovery . . . cortisone used to treat rheumatoid arthritis.*

The Medical Library Group, San Francisco Bay Area, was called into being sometime in the latter part of 1947. As no records survive from that year, we can not identify the attendees of the first meeting, or the substance of the discussion, but it may have been held at the California State Department of Health. However, in an anonymous report (1949?) the initial year's (1947/1948) group and activities were noted. The first president was Mary Elsie Caruso, then librarian of the Veterans Administration Hospital, Ft. Miley. She was also chair of the Constitution Committee and on the Program Committee with Alba W. Eldredge, Dental Librarian at the University of California in San Francisco. Eva Olson, of the School of Public Health, UC Berkeley held the post of secretary that year, and the following. A librarian at the California State Department of Public Health (later at Napa State Hospital), Mrs. Jeannette Barry, was treasurer. Four committees were formed: Policy (which became Constitution, with Caruso, Margaret Butler [UC Medical School, San Francisco], Barry, Anna P. Kennedy [Alameda Co. Medical Society], and Ardel Thompson [VA Library, SF], Program (Eldredge and Miss Bolling), and Nominating (Edane Rowell, [UC Medical School]), and Membership (Constance M. Hoover [Langley Porter Clinic, San Francisco] and Louise F. Barr (US Naval Hospital, Oakland)).

By March 1948, the group had issued an information leaflet (accompanied by a membership application) addressed to "Medical Librarians." It stated the aims of the group: To advance interlibrary cooperation among medical and allied scientific libraries in the Bay Area through facilitation of interlibrary loans and interlibrary service; To increase opportunities for social and professional contacts in the group; [and] To promote the advancement of medical and allied scientific libraries in the Bay Area and to increase the services of these libraries to the patrons." The announcement projects an ambitious schedule of meetings (monthly except July and August), and annual election of officers.

At that time the Medical Librarians saw themselves as an "independent organization" with ties to no other group. In the intervening years the specific activities envisioned for members have changed little in intent, greatly in execution. They included: "1. Promotion of interlibrary loan and interlibrary cooperation in general; 2. Discussion of methods and procedures; 3. Visits to medical and allied scientific libraries in the Bay Area; 4. Lectures on recent advances in medicine; 5. Participation in the activities of other medical and library associations as a medical group." The organizational outline noted that the dues were "\$.50 for this year," and hoped that "After we become better acquainted with each other's interests, we may modify these policies and no doubt will find additional activities of value."

Visits were made to the California State Department of Public Health (Berkeley), Lane Medical Library (then located in San Francisco), Veterans Hospital in Oakland, and the Psychosomatic Library. Two speakers addressed library issues: Mrs. Garrison talked about

the VA library services, Miss Rains presented and discussed a Navy film on Rehabilitation, and Margaret Uridge, from UC Berkeley, talked about interlibrary loan.

A membership roster for 1949/50, the first available, lists 32 members (see Appendix A), and included representatives from many of today's NCNMLG members' libraries. Some institutions are no longer represented: Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., American Red Cross, Letterman General Hospital and US Naval Hospital, College of Physicians and Surgeons.

In November 1948, Louise Darling inquired on behalf of a group of medical librarians in southern California, who contemplated organizing a similar group. Eva Olson responded that "We have only one type of membership; it includes both professional and non-professional, and is personal rather than institutional." She noted they were meeting monthly (except in December), generally after gathering for dinner. The southerners followed suit, establishing their group the following year, with Ella Crandall as president, followed by Louise Darling in 1950.

The Bay Area group's initial constitution and bylaws adopted in 1948 codified the earlier stated policies, establishing a quorum (20% of membership), choosing *Roberts Rules of Order* as the parliamentary authority, and establishing election methods (secret ballot at the annual meeting) and office requirements. These were to change little over the following years.