

\*\*\* *The 70s: Nixon president . . . Kent State riot, students killed . . . energy crisis . . . Watergate, president resigns . . . Gerald Ford president . . . Wade vs. Roe . . . DDT banned . . . Genetic engineering (1973) mechanism elaborated . . . Human Growth Hormone synthesized (UC) . . . Rolling Stones, Burt Bacharach . . . mini skirts and beards . . . Legionnaires disease . . . Jimmy Carter president . . . Jim Jones and the People's Temple . . . Pope John Paul II elected.*

The decade saw a new focus on NCMLG's structure, and the beginnings of a formal relationship with the Medical Library Association. In 1970/71, discussions prepared the way for the nomination of a candidate for the MLA Nominating Committee, though the individual was not listed in the *Directory* until later in the decade.

The following year NCMLG addressed the question of formal academic training for medical librarianship; such courses were available elsewhere in the country, including UCLA, where the two part course (Bibliography and Administration) had begun in 1961. MLA certification at level I was based on successfully completing such a course. A letter was sent to the University of California, Berkeley, School of Library and Information Studies in October 1972, asking if they would "sponsor or offer continuing education seminars, or regular courses in Medical Librarianship," noting that they had 125 members, many of whom would attend such a course. Dean Patrick Wilson replied, "We can afford to give a regular course in medical librarianship but lack facilities (a medical library) and competent people to teach it; we can't afford to give continuing education courses at all. If I can think of a way of offering a medical librarianship course that the MLA would accredit, I'll try to arrange it; if I get evidence that there are enough people willing to pay fees to support an Extension course, I'll try to promote it." The course was finally offered at the end of the decade. The first class took place in 1978, and most of those who taught its segments were NCMLG members.

During the 70s significant changes were made in organizational procedures. The ferment in the broader society—concern for greater communication and representation—echoed in the continuing dialogue among NCMLG members, who raised issues of participation in decision-making, particularly in voting. Heretofore voting was done at the meetings, effectively shutting out those who did not attend. Many believed this to be particularly unjust in the case of election of officers at the annual business meeting. The organizational guide was silent on the matter of a mail vote, which it became clear, was a process wanted by most of the members. Another topic of concern was the Nominating Committee, the presidentially chosen chair of which appointed the other members. Some believed that this created a self-perpetuating regime. Discussion of these, and related issues, continued until passage of the revised bylaws, May 17, 1977 addressed the issues.

The new *Bylaws* mandated a three-person Nominating Committee, one member appointed by the President, the other two elected; and stated that "all elections are by mail ballot with provisions for write-in candidates." In addition, "A majority of the quorum [now set at 1/8 of the membership in good standing] at any business meeting may vote to employ a mail ballot on other issues."

In 1978 The San Francisco Biomedical Library Network was established, a group of some twenty health sciences libraries united to explore beneficially cooperative programs in the context of the city. Their relationship with NCMLG was cordial, and in the following years the former provided support for some of the consortium's activities: announcements of meetings, mailing labels and, mailing costs (to NCMLG numbers).

During the period concerns were also voiced about the joint meeting – the amount of time and effort involved, and the difficulty in finding the number of members required to put it on semi-annually. The sense of the membership in 1973/74 (the meeting was in Asilomar that year), was that meetings should be less frequent. The following year there was no joint meeting, and the southern group asked NCMLG to reconsider the decision against annual joint meetings. Though the records do not specify a vote on the subject, the next meetings occurred in Santa Cruz in 1975/76 and in San Diego in 1976/77. That year the membership stood at 147. Discussions of smoking at meetings began in 1974/75, resulting in a ban in the meeting rooms. In the next years compliance was sporadic, calling for the ban to be reiterated in 1977.

The treasurer, Rita Kane, proposed that officers and committees project their needs for the coming year as a means of simplifying the payment of bills. At that time dues were \$5, and would increase to \$10 by the beginning of the 80s. She also advocated compilation of a procedure manual for officers, and offered for discussion an outline of possible contents. The manual sections were distributed in July 1977. NCMLG's 30th anniversary was celebrated that year at the December 12th meeting. Mary Elsie Caruso was the principal speaker and a poster history of the group was displayed. Early the following year at the joint meeting in Sacramento, Louise Darling was the banquet speaker on the history of medical librarianship and medical librarians in Region IX.

Although a Group newsletter was discussed as early as 1972/73, it only became a reality in April 1978, when Linda Grix proposed that a NCMLG newsletter be sent to the membership (similar to that issued by MLGSC, in the south). The first issue appeared in October of that year, edited by Michael Bennett, with her assistance. The newsletter became the vehicle which informed the entire membership about forthcoming meetings, listed the current officers, printed the committee minutes and reports, gave announcements from related groups, and asked for suggestions and information from its readers. The first issue announced three new committees: Continuing Education, Exchange, and Newsletter. The Pacific Southwest Regional Medical Library Service's (PSRMLS) Advisory Committee, on which NCMLG was represented, asked for input from the membership, and the program outline was given for the upcoming MLA meeting in Hawaii.

The initial years' issues appeared quarterly, each in a different color, and averaged seven pages. Subsequent issues carried messages from the president, summarized the PSRMLS meetings, reported on the Governor's Conference on Libraries and Information Services, and on MLA's proposed restructuring.

By 1978 MLA was reviewing its own organization and examining its connection with topical and geographical groups, many of which were newly forming. The Ad Hoc Committee to Study MLA Group Structure<sup>4</sup> presented its report at the 77<sup>th</sup> annual meeting in 1977 and a second report in 1978. It stated that "the central purpose of the proposed

changes in structure is to increase the involvement of groups in the affairs of MLA and vice versa by establishing mechanisms which allow each member's 'specialized' (regional and subject-oriented) interests to be represented at the board level.<sup>4</sup> The result of the acceptance of the report would mean that geographic groups would become MLA "Chapters," which mandated MLA membership for at least two-thirds (later 50%) of the membership, and for officers, and bylaws in accord with MLA's. Each Chapter would send a representative to the Chapter Council, and select a nominee for the Chapter Council's representative on the MLA Nominating Committee. The initial report on the proposed changes was made to the NCNMLG Executive Board in June, 1978; a summary of the changes by Justine Roberts appeared in the September 1979 *Newsletter* which was followed by discussions at NCMLG meetings, and another summary by Paul Hanson in the December *Newsletter*. Spirited discussions were to continue into 1980.

By the end of the decade NCMLG's membership had reached 195 – a 20% increase over the previous year (1978/79). The first duplicates exchange list was mailed.