

\* \* \* \* **The 80s:** *Reagan president . . . US boycotts Moscow Olympics . . . Mt St Helens erupts. . . Iranian hostages . . . toxic shock syndrome . . . AIDS identified... Sandra Day O'Connor appointed to Supreme Court . . . aspartame approved ... gene for Huntington's disease identified ... Amadeus ... Christo wraps everything ... lasers used to unclog arteries . . . U2, David Bowie, Whitney Houston . . . Irangate/Oliver North . . . Glasnost/perestroika (openness, reconciliation) . . . smoking on transcontinental flights banned . . . Berlin Wall comes down . . . George Bush president . . . Tiananmen Square . . . San Francisco earthquake 6.9 ... Exxon Valdez .. 80 nations ban chloroflourocarbons .*

The MLA bylaw changes associated with the group restructure were presented to the membership for ratification in the fall of 1980; chapters would have two years after passage to bring their bylaws into compliance. The MLA meeting that year discussed the changes, and an NCMLG member who attended noted that "all bylaws would have sailed through cleanly were it not for California." Another said, "people at the MLA meeting thought California groups had problems." A third noted that there was a "total difference in philosophy between Eastern and Western members." An NCMLG Ad Hoc Committee had been appointed at the May meeting to examine the by-laws and bring them into conformity with those of MLA. A Special NCMLG Board meeting in December drafted the letter of intent to affiliate with MLA. The Board asked the President, Lisa Dunkel to appoint a Chapter representative and alternate for the interim until a mechanism for their election was put in the bylaws. Nancy Zinn was appointed representative, Linda Grix, alternate.

A salary survey of the membership, was proposed by Maryann Zaremska in 1980, and designed and administered by the Education Committee in March 1981. Seventy-eight percent of the membership replied. The availability of a "databank of members' salaries" offered possibilities for comparison with similar surveys in the region and a source of information for prospective employers and employees. The report of the survey results was distributed as part of the *Newsletter* in the August 1981 issue. The salaries reported at that time ranged from \$14,000 to \$31,000; the average salary for all types of libraries was \$22,700. Accompanying tables categorized the information in a variety of ways, including type and size of library, primary responsibility, education level, years of experience, gender and certification.

In 1978 the Exchange Committee (whose first chair was Leonard Shapiro) offered its first lists to 39 member libraries. The next years saw exchange membership grow – to 110 in 1980 – and concerns for increasing costs led to development of a "subscription-based duplicates exchange program," which offered four lists a year for a \$10 fee.

At the February 1978 meeting Eleanor Benelisha proposed that NCMLG consider sponsoring a union list. Those present tabled discussion until the Group could examine similar lists published by the San Francisco Biomedical Library Network and the MLGSCA. Following discussions with PSRMLS about logistics of preparing the information, and review of NCMLG finances, the issue was approved. An initial budget of

\$1000 was approved in October 1982. The Union List of Serials Committee (chaired by Ysabel Bertolucci) carried out the project with the support of PSRMLS, and with the aid of numerous members who volunteered to help with the coding.

The first edition appeared in the fall of 1983, incorporating the holdings of 85 libraries -- 3900 titles. The list cost \$40, and sales (\$3770) earned more than enough to cover the production and mailing costs (\$2462). Beginning with the second edition, future updates would be produced from the NLM SERHOLD database (1985). By the end of the decade participation in the list would be limited to libraries with collections of 25 or more titles. For the fifth edition (1992) the cost of the list ranged from \$50 for member/contributors, to \$100 for non-members. In 1988 David Anderson, then chairman, raised issues about the considerable amount of time and effort required for preparing and distributing each edition, and wondered if the Committee should be enlarged. A variety of issues, he believed, needed to be addressed: DOCLINE participation (introduced by NLM in 1988), the future of the list (whether it was to be a profit-making venture), and the fairness of the ILL process.

Declining membership in 1981 and 1982 raised concerns for financial stability; by January 1982 there were only 163 paid members, down from a high of 206 two years earlier. Discussions of ways of increasing renewals and attracting new members focused on greater advertising and wider distribution of meeting notices. Whatever the mechanism responsible, membership climbed to a high of 294 by the end of 1985.

The August 1981 *Newsletter* announced that the name of the group had changed once again. "NCNMLG? Yes, that's us now, better get used to it." The acronym for the Northern California and Nevada Medical Library Group, reflected the breadth of the membership, the agreement of Nevada medical librarians to formally be represented by NCMLG, and the newly reiterated borders resulting from the MLA group restructure.

The Legislative Committee was established in 1982 to alert members to pending state and national legislation related to libraries in general and medical libraries in particular. For example, members were asked to respond to proposed cuts in the Medical Library Assistance Act, and to HCFA legislation deleting a requirement for libraries in hospitals. The committee distributed a Legislative Source-book at the joint meeting in San Diego (February 1983). It was compiled by committee chair, Susan Russell, and published jointly with MLGSCA.

Housekeeping concerns – mailing list policy (its availability to others), mailing label production, location of permanent mailbox/address, future sites and types of meetings and a new logo for the group – were the subjects of discussion during the decade. In September 1983, Lane Medical Library at Stanford University took over the computer production of labels, directory, and mailing list from UCSF. A new logo for stationery and the newsletter was unveiled in the spring of 1985.

Another regional health sciences venue for information sharing developed in the mid-80s, largely due to the efforts of Pamela Jajko: the FORUM for Information Special-

ists. The Medical Library Group of Santa Clara Valley sponsored the FORUM, offering monthly meetings on a wide range of topics. NCNMLG provided support to this group as well, and meeting announcements were sent to all Chapter members.

The Medical Library Association went through a strategic planning process and in 1984 asked that the Chapters do the same, developing goals and objectives for their membership. In May 1984, NCNMLG President, Jacqueline Wilson, reported on a meeting with MLGSCA on the topic, which resulted in a Board retreat (October 1984) led by Alison Bunting. The process was thoroughly documented and the recommendations outlined in the *Newsletter*. Members were urged to participate in task forces on communication, professional development, services and governance. Follow-up meetings and discussions about implementation followed. Chief among these was the creation of an Advisory Council with representatives who could improve communications with distant areas of smaller membership.

The end of the decade saw a great electronic leap forward: in 1988-89 some NCNMLG officers began to use CLASS ONTYME email to communicate and for transmission of meeting minutes. This movement would gain momentum in the 90s as more libraries developed electronic mail capabilities, and the group addressed those members whose institutions were not connected.