

Pacific Northwest Chapter of the Medical Library Association (PNC/MLA)
Bylaws Committee Annual Report
6 October 2010

In November 2009, Membership Secretary Susan Barnes forwarded as informational a document from the PNC/MLA Group Purchasing Committee to the Board suggesting the Institutional class of membership be further divided to Institutional Membership (single institutions) and Hospital System/Multi-branch Libraries. The latter category would pay twice the dues of the first category. This change in membership categories would affect the PNC Bylaws: Article III. Membership. Section 2. Classes of Membership. Ms. Barnes suggested the following new language (changes bolded):

- Institutional members shall be health care or academic institutions, research facilities, government agencies or other entities providing health or health-related information services. **These are institutions with unique administration and budgets.** Each institution shall designate an individual to serve as its representative. That representative shall receive the same rights and privileges as an individual member. Only institutional **and multi-site members** may participate in group purchasing activities.
- **Multi-site members shall be hospital system or multi-branch libraries. These have shared, or umbrella, administration and budgeting. Each multi-site member shall designate an individual to serve as its representative. That representative shall receive the same rights and privileges as an individual member. Only institutional and multi-site members may participate in group purchasing activities.**

At the request of then Chair, Kathy Murray (12/9), the Bylaws Committee considered the draft and suggests the following wording, to be available to the Board for the Spring meeting. Should the Board decide to create the new classes of membership the Bylaws Committee will be prepared to conduct the amendment process.

- Institutional members shall be health care or academic institutions, research facilities, government agencies or other entities providing health or health-related information services.
- Single-site institutions are institutions with unique administration and budgets. Each institution shall designate an individual to serve as its representative. That representative shall receive the same rights and privileges as an individual member
- Multi-site members shall be hospital system or multi-branch libraries. These have shared, or umbrella, administration and budgeting. Each multi-site member shall designate an individual to serve as its representative. That representative shall receive the same rights and privileges as an individual member.
- Only institutional and multi-site members may participate in group purchasing activities.

The Bylaws Committee Chair submitted the changes to the MLA Bylaws Committee May 6. Both the outgoing and incoming MLA Bylaws Committee Chairs, with input from Mary Langman, the MLA HQ Bylaws expert agreed that the Bylaws is not the appropriate location for categories of membership and previous committees that okayed our inclusions were in error. Most Chapters include the categories in their procedures manual but as we do not have one, we may simply create a document which we maintain

and publish on our website and reference in our Bylaws (if desired). The board will be considering this at the Fall meeting on October 8, 2010. The Bylaws Committee will, however, need to amend the bylaws to remove the categories and reference the document.

In August 2010 MLA issued a revision of the *MLA Model Bylaws for Use by Chapters and Sections of the Medical Library Association, Inc.* A brief comparison of the 2008 and 2010 versions shows no major differences. However the 2010 model will be used in the final review of the new revisions.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Schueller, Chair

Bylaws Committee Member: Doreen Smith