NORTHWEST NOTES

Pacific Northwest Chapter of the Medical Library Association

Letter from the Chair

Leilani St. Anna *lstanna@u.washington.edu*

It's been a challenging, but rewarding, year for me as
PNC/MLA chair. I could not have made it through the year
without the help of a great set of Board members. I'd
especially like to thank the outgoing members of the board:
Suzy Holt, Vicki Croft, Terry Wiggins, and Mary Wood. I'd
also like to thank the committee chairs and members for all of
their hard work.

PNC had a great meeting in Whitefish, Montana this fall. The
setting was wonderful, the weather fantastic, and the meeting
itself substantive and full of thought-provoking ideas. The
Board had two all-day board meetings this year. In another
article Jan Schueller will describe the proposed changes to the
bylaws. Board members, the professional development
committee, and others are working on a survey that will be sent
to all members in the next few months. In 1997 the Board will
be re-doing the Chapter Map and the survey results will set the
direction that the Map will go; Chapter goals to the year 2000.
An ad-hoc committee was created to look at issues dealing with
our yearly conference. The Board continues to work on
documenting PNC's work to orient new board members and to
keep the wisdom of past years from being lost.

PNC exists and thrives because talented members spend many
hours doing the organization's work. Please contact any of the
board members to volunteer to serve on a committee and to
make your concerns and needs known. I look forward to
continuing to work on the Board with Marcy as Chair. Thanks
again to all of you and have a Happy Holiday season.

Reminder - MLA will be in Seattle next May. Help show off the
Northwest by staffing the hospitality desk or by hosting a dine-
around dinner to your favorite Seattle restaurant. To volunteer,
please contact Jackie Morton <jmort@cen.ghc.org>, Leilani St.
Anna <lstanna@halcyon.com>, or call 209.326.3393.

INSIDE

1997 PNC Board & Committee Chairs

Chair Marcia Horner _hornerm@kmc.org_
Chair-Elect Maryanne Blake _blakema@u.washington.edu_
Past-Chair Leilani St. Anna _lstanna@halcyon.com_
Recording Secretary Janice Bacino _jbacino@wln.com_
Membership Secretary Natalie Norcross _norcross@ohsu.edu_
Treasurer Pamela Spickelmier _spickelp@slrmc.org_
Chapter Council Representatives
 Nancy Press _pressno@u.washington.edu_
 Bonnie Chadbourne (Alt.) _chadbrn@wln.com_

Committee Chairs

Archives Janet Schnall _schnall@u.washington.edu_
Automation & Technology open
Bylaws Jan Schueller _schuelle@battelle.org_
Education Carolyn Olson _olsonc@ohsu.edu_
Governmental Relations Kathy Martin _martink@teleport.com_
Nominating & Elections Leilani St.Anna _[see above]_
Program _Portland '97_ Caroline Mann _cmann@linfield.edu_
Publications/Newsletter open
Research Nancy Griffin _grifnanc@isu.edu_
Liaison to MLA/AHIP Kim Granath _kimb@selway.umt.edu_

Governmental Relations

Kathy Martin _martink@teleport.com_

As 1996 draws to a close, one of the most important issues affecting all libraries is the international debate on copyright law in the digital age.

During December, the World Intellectual Property Organization is debating this issue in Geneva, Switzerland. Library supporters, including the Medical Library Association, fear the treaties being considered at the conference will severely limit the U.S. Congress' ability to preserve Fair Use, encourage basic scientific and academic research, and to facilitate browsing on the Internet. Supporters also fear that the pending treaty will hinder efforts to use digital technology for library preservation efforts and that it will bar the manufacture of devices that facilitate distance education.

This is a very complicated area of law, and library supporters worry that it will limit Congress' flexibility in adopting policies that will work for both business and the public. Other international proposals, if adopted, would require Congress to enact new laws governing databases now outside the scope of copyright, such as compiled raw scientific data.

The Clinton administration has decided not to leap prematurely into ratifying these treaty proposals. The digital frontier is still too new and the Executive Branch feels that action on the treaty would be premature.

This issue is important to medical librarians since we are often in the forefront of the digital frontier. Any international law governing copyright could affect our functions profoundly. The PNC Government Relations Committee will continue to watch this issue and others which will impact us all.

Continuing Education Committee Annual Report

Carolyn Olson _olsonc@ohsu.edu_

This year's annual meeting offered an excellent roster of CE courses, three of which were created and presented by our own members. This was an ambitious roster for a resort setting meeting. Fifty-six members attended CE and the courses actually generated a small profit. Hats off to _Janice Bacino_, the one-person local CE chair and committee, for providing this year's excellent offerings:

 Copyright Law in the Age of Technology _by Laura Gasaway_
 Clinical Genetics for the Medical Librarian _by Suzy Holt_
 Alternative Medicine Resources _by Deborah Caplow_
 Finding and Creating on the WWW
   by Nancy Ottman Press & Michael Boer

In past years the CE committee altered its agenda and structure in order to have better geographic representation, take a more active role in course selection and develop a broader curriculum of classes that would balance immediate needs with more fundamental medical librarianship courses and those that challenge us to push out the boundaries of our traditional roles.

We are also seeking to identify courses, well in advance of annual meetings, that our own members can develop and teach. This will allow instructors plenty of time to plan their classes. Seed money is available through PNC for course development _[see later article]_ and instructors receive honoraria as well. Please contact a member of the committee if you have a course you would like to teach or if you know of someone that should be _strongly encouraged_ to develop a class.

This year we have been focusing on an in-depth needs assessment that would be a better indicator of continuing education needs. We had a brainstorming/planning session in Seattle in May to discuss this issue and continued our work at the meeting in Whitefish. Progress is slower than anticipated, but it looks like we will end up with a survey that will provide us with a broader picture of continuing education needs that can form the basis of a longer-range plan.

Most committee members have been working together for the past 2-3 years and we are seeing the benefits of this long-term participation. The extended participation of the local CE chair is particularly valuable. (Janice Bacino was on the committee for 2 years before assuming local CE chair responsibilities for this year's meeting.) Upcoming local chairs are Carolyn Olson for Portland ('97) and Lea Starr for Banff ('98). The Banff CE chair may change as meeting plans develop.

Our committee's lack of representation from Idaho was conveniently solved by Mary Ellen Lemon, who moved to Boise and will continue her work with the committee. Committee members are:

 Philip Arny, Washington
 Doreen Smith, Alaska
 Mary Ellen Lemon, Idaho
 Janice Bacino, Montana
 Cliff Cornish, British Columbia
 Lea Starr, Alberta
 Nancy Ottman Press, RML Liaison
 Carolyn Olson, Oregon, Chair

PNC/MLA Automation and Technology Committee - 1996 Report

Submitted by Robin Braun, Acting Chair *robinb@comtch.iea.com*

This year the Automation and Technology Committee has been re-evaluating its role. We feel that the Committee should be re-named the *Electronic Resources Committee*, to better reflect our present focus. This recommendation will be submitted to the Bylaws Committee for inclusion in the 1996 revision. The Committee will be submitting questions on library automation and electronic resources for inclusion in the PNC Compass survey that is currently under development.

We are willing to serve in lieu of a proposed PNC Task Force to consider the matter of electronic publishing within PNC. The first product for consideration will be the PNC newsletter, *Northwest Notes*. It is possible to load this now as a full-text document for general HLIB-NW distribution or, eventually, as a Webber hotlink on the PNC homepage. One basic question is how closely the HLIB subscription list matches PNC membership? Another question is whether Northwest Notes is felt to be a primary benefit of PNC membership and therefore should be restricted only to paid and life PNC members? If members feel that only paid and life members deserve the newsletter, a user code file can be created that would restrict viewing and retrieval to current members. Electronic publishing should result in a savings of $1,200 to PNC, based on 1996 newsletter printing and postage charges. [Discussion at the Business Meeting revealed no objection to trying a pilot project to publish *Northwest Notes* electronically via HLIB. Therefore, the final 1996 issue will be distributed electronically, pending the editor's approval.]

Members without E-mail access will receive a paper copy through the mail. The Committee will identify those PNC members without E-mail access and try to help them find funding to get basic PPP service. PNC will make Collaborative Internet Access Grants available for this purpose. There is also a question of archival procedures. Although UW server files are automatically backed up and archived, we recommend that Janet Schnall, the PNC Archivist, print off a clean paper copy of each issue for storage in the PNC Archives.

Members of this Committee should assist with the PNC Homepage and serve on their state's home page committee to facilitate links and minimize some of the development work. Arleen Libertini will serve on the WMLA Homepage Committee. Current committee members are: Robin Braun (Acting Chair), Arleen Libertini, and Kim Granath. We need membership from each state and province in the region. Please consider joining the Committee!

Research Committee

Nancy Griffin *grifnanc@isu.edu*

Paula Palmer from the Health Sciences Library at UW reports that she is working with a focus group to revise the library's web pages. This focus group is made up of a variety of people with varied backgrounds. Surveying them entirely by e-mail, she will then collate and post responses for discussion.

I have been working with the Education Committee to prepare a survey instrument. PNC/MLA wants to know about members' needs and whether or not the association is now or should be answering those needs. Results of this survey will be used in the association's strategic planning process.

The Executive Committee has agreed that the status of the Research Committee should probably be changed from standing to ad-hoc. This will require a formal change in the bylaws. Look for information regarding this process to appear soon.

HTML Word Processing Add-ons

Michael Boer *boerm@u.washington.edu*
Systems Coordinator NNLM/PNR

Are you ready to make a home page for your library? Do you have information you want to publish on the Web?

Did you know that recent versions of the popular word processing programs can be taught HTML as a second language?

By installing an add-on program, you can turn most word processing programs into HTML editors. This is useful for converting existing word processor files into HTML, as well as for creating new HTML files from scratch. This kind of support is especially helpful if you need to create tables.

These add-ons also simplify the process of importing HTML files into other programs. For example, you can take a table of data from a Web page, bring it into your word processor as a table, then cut and paste it into a spreadsheet file on your own computer to do your own statistical analysis.

To find out if an HTML add-on is available, visit the home page of your word processing program's publisher. What you need may be hidden away, so you may need to scan for words like "free," "download," "Internet tools," etc.

For example, I use Microsoft Word for Windows95. On the Microsoft home page <http://www.microsoft.com/> there is a link for "Download Free Software." That link takes me to a long list of free stuff, including "Web Publishing Tools." This is where I found "Word Internet Assistant." If I were a Word-Perfect user, I'd start at the Corel home page and follow the links for free stuff until I reach a page that lists "WordPerfect 6.1 Internet Publisher" <http://www.corel.com/freefunfantastic/freebies/index.htm>.

Once you've downloaded and installed the add-on, take a moment to read the included help files -- some HTML features may work in ways you wouldn't ordinarily expect. It's even possible that some HTML features are not implemented at all. However, don't hesitate to try these tools. They are pretty good for creating a first draft. You can always tweak your HTML codes manually later to get the effects you want.

For an HTML author, there is simply no substitute for a thorough understanding of basic HTML, but that doesn't mean you have to do all your coding from scratch. With an HTML add-on, you can take advantage of what you already know about your word processing program. *(For more information on HTML, see NN/LM's "Guide to NetInformation Resources" <http://www.nnlm.nlm.nih.gov/netinfo.html#web>.)*

Around the Region

Alaska

Kathy Murray is now at the University of Alaska, Anchorage managing the Health Science Information Service "library." New e-mail address *<afktm@uaa.alaska.edu>*

Idaho

Rand Simmons of the Idaho State Library is facilitator/ leader of the new Idaho Information Technology Task Force. This group is exploring designing an Idaho Library Website. It is planned that this will provide all Idaho libraries with access to all Idaho library catalogs. Rand also reports that the State Library has accepted the RML's offer to become a Resource Library in the NN/LM PNR's new contract arrangement.

Madison Memorial Hospital is beginning the first of a two-stage construction program. *Kathy Nelson* is serving as facilitator for the hospital marketing team.

Judy Balcerzak, Library Director at St. Alphonsus in Boise, tells us that a new library is in the works thanks to a substantial donation by the Kissler family. It is expected to open in early 1997. The library is working with Healthwise and will include its Knowledgebase program to increase provision of medical and wellness information to consumers in southwest Idaho. Web pages are being designed for the hospital's Intranet and an electronic reference collection is being designed in cooperation with the hospital's Information Resources department.

Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center is now *Columbia Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center* and can be found under that name on the web. In fact, the hospital's home page is getting rave reviews. *Coleen Winward*, Medical Librarian, says that this site allows access to regional newspapers.

Five years ago *Nola Higley* presided over the establishment of a medical library at Magic Valley Regional Medical Center in Twin Falls. Now the facility is running out of space. Three new pentium computers were acquired this year. A part-time employee was hired as library assistant and, as part of her training, took an introductory library science course at the nearby community college.

Pam Spickelmier, St. Luke's Regional Medical Center in Boise, has been assigned additional leadership responsiblities within the Human Resources Division. She will now spend about 25% of her time outside of her duties as Director of the medical library. Outreach activities include patient education activities and a networked consumer health database in Nampa and Meridian.

The Idaho Health Sciences Library continues to market its services in a variety of ways. We have mounted a number of databases on our Infoshare server. These could be accessed through the Internet. We will offer other libraries access to these at a discount. *Terry Wiggins*, Director, has exhibited at the Idaho Hospital Association annual meeting and the Idaho Healthcare Conference at ISU. The Health Literature Access Project, which offered health information services to primary care providers throughout the state, has undergone revision. This project was funded by the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. Since that agency has not received the funding it expected from the federal government, we hope the program will survive.

Joan Hust returned to Idaho from New York and is now head of the DeArmond Consumer Health Library of Kootenai Medical Center in Coeur d'Alene.

Oregon

The Planetree Health Resource Center is proud to announce its Website. The site was written and developed by *Michele Spatz* with the help of her very talented husband, Dan Spatz. The Resource Center page is part of Mid-Columbia Medical Center's comprehensive Website. An information by mail service is also launched on the Resource Center's web page. It is called House Call (for those of you who have visited us, it makes perfect sense, since we are located in a renovated Victorian home from the 1870's). Please visit us at *<http://www.gorge.net/business/planetree/>* The Planetree Health Resource Center is also planning to go live on Gorge LINK in mid-December. Gorge LINK is a multi-type computerized network of libraries in the Columbia River Gorge and was funded in part by an LSCA grant.

Online Northwest '97, the annual computerized information retrieval conference, will be held on Friday, January 24, 1997 at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland, OR. The conference is sponsored by the Oregon State System of Higher Education's Interinstitutional Library Council. Registration information was sent out in early November. If you did not receive a registration brochure, you may contact Cari Olmstead at Portland State University, 503/725-4815, or E-mail her at cari@ses.pdx.edu.

Washington

Southwest Washington Medical Center Library has hired a new part-time library technician, *Eugene Perkins*. The automation project in cooperation with Fort Vancouver Regional Library System, Clark College, and Camas Public Library is progressing well. Retrospective conversion should begin in December or January, with automation of the circulation system following closely. The vendor is Dynix. This will open holdings up to anyone in Clark, Klickitat, or Skamania counties!

New PNC Members

Please welcome:

Laurel Egan
St. James Hospital   Joanne Osborne
Butte, MT   Vernon Jubilee Hospital
                            Vernon, British Columbia

Marianne Farr
St. Patrick Hospital
Missoula, MT

Bylaws Committee Annual Report 1996
Jan Schueller *schuelle@battelle.org*

Members of the 1996 Committee were: *Doreen Smith*, Fairbanks, AK; *Nancy Turrentine*, Seattle, WA; and *Jan Schueller*, Seattle, WA, Chair.

This year the Committee initiated the process of an extensive bylaws review. PNC Bylaws were last updated in 1990. Since then the Chapter has been incorporated, MLA has made changes in the national bylaws and produced new Model Bylaws, and PNC officers and members have made suggestions for changes. Committee members critically reviewed the existing bylaws and the chair met with the Chapter Board at the annual meeting and subsequently made a presentation to the members at the Chapter Business Meeting. An article was prepared for *Northwest Notes* to apprise all members of proposed changes. *[see below]* The chair will prepare the final proposal for Board review. At that time we will undergo formal review by the MLA Bylaws Committee prior to submission to membership vote early in 1997.

Fun Facts About Bylaws You Always Wanted to Know

1. This word first appeared in AD 1283
2. It comes from Old Norse *byr* (settlement) and *lagu* (law)
3. PNC last revised its bylaws in 1990
4. PNC is going to revise its Bylaws 1996-1997

So you may well ask: What has happened in the last six years to necessitate #4? Actually quite a bit! PNC is now incorporated and the *Inc.* is part of our official name. MLA has made changes to its Bylaws, some which affect ours (membership categories, for example). MLA has also issued new *Model Bylaws for Use by Chapters and Sections*. The Bylaws Committee, PNC Board members, and Committee Chairs have noted problems, concerns, and oddities that seem counter-productive or just plain peculiar. (Did you know that PNC members who are also MLA institutional members are supposed to have two votes in Chapter business? Yup! Says so right there in *Article VII. Section 9. Elections and Voting. Eligibility to Vote*). Any document would benefit from a review every five years or so, whether it needs it or not! Still another consideration is that our Bylaws have never undergone the formal MLA review process conducted by the national MLA Bylaws Committee.

Taking all these things under consideration, the PNC Bylaws Committee has reviewed the 1990 version with the general intention to clarify, simplify, and conform as much as is locally reasonable to the current MLA Model. (The model is just that--a model. But it is the basic standard by which the MLA Bylaws Committee reviews Chapter Bylaws.) At the 1996 PNC Annual Meeting in Whitefish, MT, the Chair presented the review to the Board for discussion and then presented the *Cliff Notes* (i.e., abbreviated) version at the Business Meeting.

What happens now? A formal presentation of the proposed revisions is being prepared. After this is reviewed and approved by the present Board, it will be submitted to the MLA Bylaws Committee. The review process takes approximately four weeks. Any mandated recommendations will be incorporated into the proposal and then you, the membership, will vote by mail. The ballot will include original and revised text and the rationale behind the changes. You will have the option of blanket approval/disapproval or item-by-item consideration.

Okay - just what are these changes? To be honest, most will probably seem pretty ho-hum; an *Inc.* here, a voting member there, a Committee title change over there, a rearrangement of sections way over there. However, there was one revision which generated concern at the Business Meeting. This was a request by the current (1996) PNC Board to change the term of office of the elected officers from the current calendar year to the MLA year -- from the close of the MLA Annual Meeting following their election to the close of the Annual Meeting at the end of their term of office. Our Chapter fiscal year would remain the same, January to December, and the PNC Annual Meeting would still generally be in the fall. The rationale? This would bring PNC into *synch* with MLA and the other MLA Chapters (we are one of three that are not) -- all newly elected officers would be *on the same page*. Additionally, new officers would have a period of adjustment to their new duties before the year-end reports and accounting are due. Several issues were raised by members. The current *passing of the guard* and initial meeting of the new Board that occurs at the PNC Meeting would no longer take place, although that meeting of the Board is only one of several during the year. Some employers are more likely to be supportive of a commitment for the calendar year, rather than an arbitrary May-to-May year. The current system has worked well for us: why change, especially when there will be a period of transition and confusion?

You may have other concerns about that change or questions about our Bylaws or the process in general. Please feel free to raise these on HLIB or with me. I am e-mailable (schuelle@battelle.org), phoneable (206-528-3372), and FAXable (206-528-3553). Want a copy of the Bylaws? Just let me know.

PNC/MLA Course Development Fund

In support of the educational goals of PNC/MLA, the Board decided, at its October meeting, to expand the scholarship concept to include course *development* as well as the current course attendance. This additional funding is allocated to encourage the development of timely courses by PNC/MLA members.

The PNC Course Development Fund is designed to encourage PNC members to develop professional courses for our members. The board recognizes that excellent course development is a time-consuming process. The aim of the fund is to take advantage of expertise of members in course development when their own institutions are not monetarily supporting the endeavor.

All applicants must meet the eligibility criteria. The applications will be reviewed by designated members of the Executive Board, and all applicants will be notified of the Board's decisions. The deadline is Dec. 23 for any course that had its first offering in that calendar year. The number of applicants funded will be limited by the amount of funds set aside by the Board at the beginning of each budget year. A maximum of $300 will be awarded per applicant. In cases of multiple applicants, lesser amounts may be awarded. Funds are reimbursed/disbursed to recipients after the first advertised course offering.

Eligibility:

1. Applicant must be a current PNC member.
2. Applicant must not have received PNC course development funding during the past two calendar years.
3. The written application must be received by the designated deadline.
4. The course must not have been developed as part of the applicants regular job.
5. The courses first offering must be co-sponsored by PNC/MLA.

Factors to be considered in awarding of grants:

1. The need for the course topic as shown by the PNC/MLA CE Needs Survey.
2. The immediacy and relevance of the course topic.
3. The quality of the course materials submitted with the application.
4. The evaluations of the course itself.

Final Report - PNC 1995 Annual Meeting
Bellevue, Washington

Registration: There were 79 all-inclusive conference registrants, and an additional 41 who registered for one or both days. The total number in attendance was 120.

CE Courses: Three CE courses were offered. There were 80 registrations for CE courses by 64 persons.

Exhibitors: There were 18 paid exhibitors and 2 unpaid.

Sponsors: Four exhibitors also sponsored some events.

Money: Total income was $30,100. Total expenses were $26,027.14. The profit was $4,072.86.

****

PNC 1995 Committee Members

Chair:	Betty Jo Jensen	Exhibits:	Donna Locke	CE:	Philip Arny
Treasurer:	Carolyn Weaver		Marcia Batchelor		Mary Ellen Lemon
Program:	Lisa Oberg	Registration:	Mia Hannula		Nancy Press
	Kathy Murray		Meg Buchanan		*(liaison with NNLM/PNR)*
	Lou Pray	Special Events:	Brynn Beals		Leilani St. Anna
	Philip Arny				

We also had some last minute help from other members, especially Maryanne Blake, Nancy Turrentine, and Cheryl Goodwin.

-- Submitted by Betty Jo Jensen

Pacific Northwest Chapter of the Medical Library Association

Professional Course Development Fund Application

Name _____ Job Title _____

Library _____

Organization _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____ Fax _____

Course Title _____

Date of first offering _____ Location _____

Required attachments: Copy of publicity for the courses first offering and course handouts, syllabus, or outline.

Requested attachment: Tallies of course evaluations or letter from sponsoring group.

I have read and agreed to the conditions for the PNC/MLA Course Development Fund.

Signature _____ Date _____

Send completed application to:

Pam Spickelmier
PNC/MLA Treasurer
3766 S. Rush Creek Place
Boise, ID 83712

Decision   YES   NO   Date notified _____

Northwest Notes is published four times per year by the Pacific Northwest Chapter, Medical Library Association: Alaska, Alberta, British Columbia, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington.

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Statements and opinions expressed in the newsletter do not necessarily represent the official position of the Chapter or the Editor. **News and articles are welcome!** Please include your name, library, address, phone and fax number, and e-mail address (if available). **The editor reserves the right to edit submissions as necessary.**

Articles from *Northwest Notes* may be reprinted without permission; credit would be appreciated.

To join the Pacific Northwest Chapter, send dues to:

Pam Spickelmier   **DUES: $15.00 U.S.**
PNC/MLA Treasurer   **$18.00 Canadian**
3766 S. Rush Creek Place
Boise, ID 83712

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: PNC/MLA

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

_____

_____

(You may use home **or** work address)

Internet/E-mail: _____

Circle those that apply: **Renewal**   **New Member**

Membership type requested: **Individual**   **Institutional**

PNC/MLA 1997 MEMBERSHIP DUES
Due by February 1, 1997

Name
_____

Library
_____

Institution
_____

Address
_____

State/Province _____ Zip Code _____

Mailing Address (if different)

_____

Telephone _____ Internet _____

FAX # _____ Other mail code _____

I am a member of MLA _____ yes _____ no

I am joining PNC/MLA as a _____ new member _____ renewal

Annual dues are:
$15.00 (US) or $18.00 (Canadian)
Dues cover one CALENDAR year

Make check payable to: PNC/MLA

Mail check with this form to:

> Pam Spickelmier
> PNC/MLA Treasurer
> 3766 S. Rush Creek Place
> Boise, Idaho 83712

PLEASE INDICATE IF YOU WOULD BE WILLING TO SERVE ON THE
FOLLOWING COMMITTEES (note first and second choice)

_____ Professional Development   _____ Research
_____ Bylaws   _____ Membership
_____ Archives   _____ Electronic Resources
_____ Governmental Relations

Are you interested in chairing a committee? _____ Yes _____ No

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