

**Letter from the President (1)**  
**Originally published in the *Oregonized Librarian*,**  
**September, 1998, Vol. 25, No. 3**

Hello, and welcome to another year of the Oregon Chapter, Special Libraries Association. This is my first "president's letter," and I am very pleased to have this chance to talk to all of you about the coming year. I'd like to talk about my "theme" for the coming year, and what I plan to work on for the coming year.

First, my "theme." It's become a tradition for each president to choose a theme for their year, and I have finally chosen mine. After some hard thought, I've elected to use "An Oregon chapter for the new millennium." What does this mean? It means that I will focus on the changes and technologies our chapter needs to move into the new millennium as a strong and vital organization, fit to help our members meet their professional futures.

As I see it, there are five key factors that contribute to building a strong and vital organization. These include: (1) membership growth (2) a high level of membership participation and communication, (3) good solid ties with our headquarters organization, (4) financial stability, and (5) exciting programming that leads members to new knowledge, skills, and technologies for our professional futures.

Building a strong and vital "millennium class" chapter will take work, from all of us. Active membership growth includes: ongoing recruitment of new members and students, a commitment to work with peer professional associations to expand membership horizons, a public relations project to "get the word out" about our profession's value in the business world, and a consultation program that expands employment opportunities in our area. A high level of membership participation and communication means: building a chapter web site for the interactive exchange of information, chapter news, and mutual professional support regardless of geographic location or the kind of job we have. It also means an ongoing commitment from all members to recruit, welcome, and mentor our new members. Building good solid ties with our headquarters organization means: paying attention to and respecting the requirements of our large, international parent organization, doing reports on time, following guidelines, and cleaning up the by-laws! Last, but not least, exciting programming should lead us to new knowledge, skills, and technologies for our professional futures in the new millennium, and it is the glue that binds us together.

Here is what I plan to work on for the coming year: (1) establish the chapter's web site, (2) attract new members (3) set the foundation for a successful regional conference, (4) re-charter our by-laws, (5) work on fundraising, including increasing vendor contributions and advertising revenue, and (6) try to stay in compliance with headquarters' requirements! How do I plan to do this? Not by myself! I'll do it with the help of outstanding officers, Team Leaders and team volunteers, and the time and energy of our chapter members. If we can get these jobs done, and done well, we'll all be building "An Oregon chapter for the new millennium."

**Gretchen Leslie**

**Letter from the President (2)**  
**Originally published in the *Oregonized Librarian*,**  
**November, 1998, Vol. 25, No. 4**

Hello! I hope this newsletter finds all of you in good spirits, charging toward the new millennium. Or, at least not hiding under your desks trying to avoid it!

In the last "president's letter" I had outlined a plan of action to build a strong and vital "millennium class" chapter. With this letter, I'm asking for your ideas and opinions on "reinventing SLA" for the millennium.

I'm part of SLA President Suzi Hayes' virtual task force on "reinventing SLA." We're challenged with providing input on what works, what needs to be improved, what radical changes have to happen, and what directions SLA needs to go, to meet the future of our profession and be an organization of value to its members.

So far on the task force discussion lists, I've seen ideas addressing the value of networking and continuing education and talk about changing the name of the organization to reshape our identity around "information vs. libraries." There's a call for re-focusing on regional conferences, and how SLA should get behind and drive the changes needed in graduate school curriculum so that our profession has the training to meet the new millennium's demands.

Criticism about a "not nimble" SLA unable to meet change fast enough has surfaced, and I intend to send in my favorite - use technology to bring members more continuing education opportunities that are cost-effective, easy to get to, and relevant. What do you think?

I'd appreciate your ideas and opinions. I will faithfully fold them into my posting to the discussion list, emphasizing the grass-roots involvement of the Oregon Chapter in this task force. Please e-mail me at [gretchen.k.leslie@intel.com](mailto:gretchen.k.leslie@intel.com), or call me at 503/613-6541. Thank you!

**Gretchen Leslie**

**Letter from the President (3)**  
Originally published in the *Oregonized Librarian*,  
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Hello! I hope you can all take a moment and really read this letter from me. It's about talking to each other -- sharing ideas and news, contributing your opinions, and taking the time to participate in our newsletter, web site, and meetings.

I'd like to us to do more talking to each other -- virtual or in person. It's the most fundamental way we can create participation in the chapter and continue to build a solid community of "millennium class" professional librarians and information specialists

So, how can we talk to each other more?

Make sure people can find you to talk to you. Check your contact information in the [directory](#), both print and web versions. Send in corrections and additions promptly.

Take time to send notes about your professional accomplishments

**[Gretchen Leslie]**

**Letter from the President (4)**  
Originally published in the *Oregonized Librarian*,  
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Hello everyone. I hope this newsletter finds you all well and enjoying the first signs of spring.

I'd like to talk about the word "participate" in this president's column. That's "participate" as paraphrased from Webster's dictionary to mean "to take part in something, usually in common with others..."

To participate in the Oregon Chapter of SLA is critical for both the chapter and you. When our members take part, together, in managing the chapter and attending our events -- that's when the chapter and the member benefits from

the shared good ideas, the networking, the team building, and professional associations we build together. Participation is key to our chapter's continued growth and vitality.

I realize that everyone is busy with his or her work and his or her personal lives. I understand the limits of budgets to pay for participation and the geographic barriers to attending events. But I want to emphasize that we have a lot of ways to participate in this chapter that are free, unfettered by geography and I-5 traffic, and limited only by your imagination. Take a minute please, and consider the following ways you can participate in this chapter:

Contribute a column to this newsletter: highlight a project you are working on, a paper you presented, web resource you built for your library's site, or collect a subject bibliography of links we would all find useful.

Tell us "member news:" just send the newsletter editor a short paragraph about yourself and your library, new job developments, notes on what other professional or SLA division activities you're busy doing.

Check our website on a regular basis: bookmark [www.sla.org/chapter/cor](http://www.sla.org/chapter/cor) and make a habit of going there for news of the chapter. Send links you find for papers, conferences, research resources, new books, and new professional resources to our webmaster. You'll help keep the content of our site fresh and current, while you stay connected to the chapter.

Hold local meetings: if you cannot get to Portland for meetings, call me and see what we can do to help you arrange local meetings in your area. I know we can help with e-mail notices, and pay for the cookies!

Come to the Annual Dinner: it's Friday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. Participation details are in this newsletter.

Choose one of these, and give it a try. *We need all our members to be active in this chapter.* Thank you.

**Gretchen Leslie**