

SLA Toronto Chapter Meeting - Executive Committee
February 5, 2003

Attendees: Kolette Taber, Gayle Kiss, Laura Knapp; Caroline Kuchma, Dave Hook and Lindsay Coolidge

1. **Minutes** – Gayle approved. Laura seconded.

2. President's and President-Elect's Report

Winter Meeting – Kolette and Gayle reported back on the Winter Meeting. This meeting, unlike others in the past, provided no training/leadership courses or seminars.

- (a) The majority of the time was spent discussing the association and its workings. In particular they discussed the **Branding committee** led by Stephen Abram. The term "Special" has a specific meaning for the majority of the population. SLA has co-opted this term for our own use. They discussed the two name options, SLA or Information Professionals International. There will be a vote at the AGM in NY. Chapters and divisions need to communicate to members the options and the voting process. Chapters and divisions need to start discussing branding and the financial implications of a name change and factoring this into the coming years' budgets.
- (b) **Vision/Mission statement** – the collected suggestions are available on the SLA web site.
- (c) **Leadership program** – Jane Dysart and the treasurer put forth to the members the possibility of eliminating the winter meeting and moving the leadership portion of this meeting to the beginning of the June AGM, due to financial issues. The majority of members liked the January meeting.
- (d) **Association Demographics** – Linda Broussard talked about the demographics of the association. There are 10300 full time members, 1156 students, 430 retired, 65 retired for over 45 years. 50 lifetime members, 100 organizational memberships, 15 honorary and 2 virtual for a total of 12,159. There are over 7000 non-members subscribed to SLA hosted discussion lists. The executive talked about this as a potential marketing opportunity for the association.
- (e) **Surveys** - The association has access to survey software. Chapters should be contacting Linda if interested in this.

- (f) **Round table discussions** – Gayle and Kolette attended a number of round table discussions including those on mentoring, job hunting, large chapters and geographically dispersed chapters. At the mentoring roundtable, one discussion focused on the use of library schools facilitating the mentoring process. At the session on large chapters, the Toronto chapter discovered yet again, that we are a unique group in that we have a large number of members, who participate in the wide variety and numerous Chapter programs offered. The comparison was made with the New York chapter that has 1300 – 1400 members. Typically, they get 100 people to their Seasonal Social and 60 to a usual meeting. Toronto typically gets a similar number of members to meetings, but with less than 600 members in the Chapter. Most chapters get between 20 – 25 people to their meetings. All chapters are seeing a 20 – 30% drop in membership. One chapter had established a young librarians club/committee (up to four – five years following graduation) that meets four times a year. It is specifically designed for recent graduates with the purpose of retaining these graduates as long time members. Again, Toronto seems to be the exception to the rule. The chapter's programming committee is comprised entirely of new graduates. While there is always room for improvement, we are fortunate in the participation of members in our chapter.
- (g) **Governing Documents** – HQ is looking at putting into place recommended practices/model government guidelines (governing documents) that would eliminate the need for bi-laws at the chapter level. Headquarters would provide a governing document that would provide the minimum criteria. Amendments to the governing document would require a chapter mailout. A sample was distributed to attendees. A number of chapters were concerned about some of these requirements such as a mandatory requirement five executives in a small chapter. This initiative will be mandated for each chapter, although rollout will occur over a number of years. Regardless, the Toronto Chapter will need to budget for this in the coming years.
- (h) **Association Finances** – Dan Robertson discussed the possibility of the association selling the current headquarter building. There are a number of issues with the current location including security issues, poor technology infrastructure which will be difficult to change due to the fact that the building is a historical building and covered under preservation laws. Dan also discussed the possibility of moving the business year with the fiscal year.

3. Treasurer's report

- (a) Laura looked into the use of PayPal. This will not work, but she has been directed to another vendor.

4. Director's Report

- (a) Courier – Margaret will be away until the end of February. A new issue of the Courier is required to communicate the issues from the Winter meeting.

5. Past –President

- (a) Survey – Caroline is going to provide the survey to the executive committee for completion within the next week. They are to follow up with their direct reports to ensure completion. Caroline expects to have the results of the survey for the next executive meeting.

Adjourn – meeting adjourned by Caroline. Seconded by Gayle.

Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday March 18/03.