



Special Libraries
Association

Mid-South Information:

Bulletin of the Mid-South Chapter

Summer/Fall 2003

Volume 25, Number 3/4

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Mid-South Chapter will be Thursday, September 18, 2003.

We will tour ABC Channel 24 television station at 11:30. The station is at Clear Channel 24 Building, 2701 Union Extended. After the 30 minute tour, we will go to the Memphis Pizza Café on Overton Square (2087 Madison) for lunch.

RSVP to Octavia Perryman at 901-272-6522 or okperryman@buckman.com. Let her know if you plan to attend the tour only, the lunch only, or both.

*--Octavia Perryman, Vice President/President
Elect, Buckman Labs*

Memphis' Great Storm of July 2003: Impact at MSCPLIC

On the morning of Tuesday, July 22, 2003, a devastating storm blew through Memphis. With winds up to 100 m.p.h., the storm uprooted enormous oak trees, splintered power poles, downed power and telephone lines, and in 15 minutes left three quarters of the city without power—including the Memphis/Shelby County Public Library and Information Center's Central Library at 3030 Poplar.

Christina Barnes, the Mid-South Chapter's incoming president reports on the power outage at the Central Library.

"I must admit, my storm story is probably not too bad, compared to others. I work at the Central Library of the Memphis/Shelby County Public Library System. As I walked upstairs to where I work—in the Business and Sciences Department—I thought, this will not be too different from a normal day.

There had been no damage on the outside of the library, except for the McDonalds sign laying on library property on the Poplar side of the building. But once I arrived in my department on the third floor, it was a different story.

The floor was partially dark, with scattered lighting here and there. There was no air moving, although it was still cool in the building from being so dark.

The big change was the background noise. There was hardly any: no hum of computer hard drives, no beeping from the print station. It was quiet and strange. I went into the Sciences' staff area to put down my purse. There I heard a loud hum, which I soon realized was coming from a generator. That was what was keeping the lights on, such as they were. At least it wasn't totally dark.

Since no patrons were in sight, everyone pretty much started shelving the books that were

in our sorting areas. Certain areas were more brightly lit than others, and so that was where we mainly shelved.

We listened to storm stories on the department's battery-powered radio. At 1 p.m., we all stopped and listened to the mayor. I think at that point I realized the magnitude of the storm. Without television, it was hard to tell how extensive the impact and path of the storm had been. I now knew.

In the afternoon, patrons began trickling in. They were amazed that we were open. I was too. After wracking my brain, trying to remember where certain sections of Dewey would be, I told a patron that not all our branches were open. Only about half to a quarter were, and most of them were without power. The branches that were open were ones with natural light exposure. Our phones worked so at least they could call in to tell us if they were open or not.

Some librarians used their personal cell phones to call in, if the cells were working. Many cell phone systems failed too in the first few days.

One patron came in with a serious research question. It amazed me how dependent on the Internet I had become. It was interesting trying to work in the "dark ages" again, trying to find those paper statistics.

After a long day, we finally went home at 4 p.m., closing early due to traffic lights being out and before darkness fell.

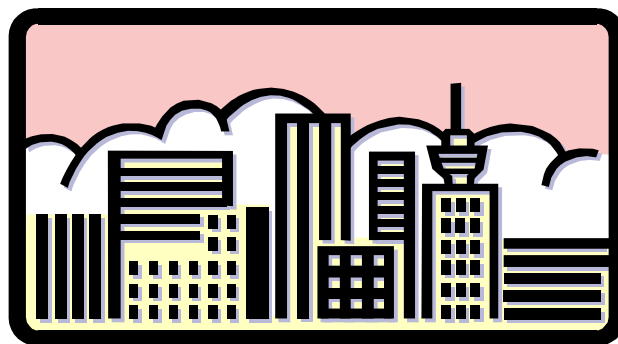
We were lucky at the Central Library. Our power was only out for two days. I know that our branches were not so lucky and some of them were still out after a week. After our power was restored, we were inundated with people wanting to use our computers. It is amazing how dependant we are on them. It was the main way some were getting their news and staying in touch with friends and relatives. (Almost 35,000 people had lost phone service.) Some told me they were in e-mail withdrawal and were desperate for a fix!

I actually I was sort of happy to go to work. My power was still out at home, and it was nice to come in and get cool for a while. Everyone's hairstyles were interesting too, without that styling power. All in all, I don't think anyone around here will forget the storm of 2003, not for a while to come."

--Christina Barnes, Memphis/Shelby County Public Library and Information Center, Science & Business Department, President, Mid-South chapter

Contributions?

Would you like to share your library storm experiences? E-mail Kay Cunningham at laurendakay@yahoo.com with your storm stories, or even interesting things going on at your library.



Mid-South Information is the official bulletin of the Mid-South Chapter of the Special Libraries Association. It is published four times a year in the Fall, Winter, Spring, and Summer. The deadline for submitting material for the next issue is October 1, 2003. Please send information to be included to the editor:

Kay Cunningham, Editor
Mid-South Information
 4950 Normandy Lane
 Memphis, TN 38117
 email: kaycunningham@itt-tech.edu
 Or laurendakay@yahoo.com

Special Libraries Association assumes no responsibility for the statements and opinions advanced by the contributors to the Association's publications. Acceptance of an advertisement does not imply endorsement of the product. by the Special Libraries Association.

Minutes of the Mid-South Chapter SLA Board Meeting August 14, 2003

The Board Meeting of the Mid-South Chapter SLA meeting was held at Anderton's on Madison on August 14. In attendance were Christina Barnes, Octavia Perryman, Pam Walker, Kay Cunningham, Maureen Fitzer, and Cheryl Lamb. New president Christina Barnes called the meeting to order at approximately 11:30.

The chief topics of discussion were the dates, locations, and topics of the meetings for 2003-2004.

Meetings will generally fall on the third Thursdays of September, November, January, March, and May. The Joint Meeting with the Memphis Area Library Council falls in April. Since the MLC is in charge of selecting the speaker for the 2004 Joint Meeting, the board thought it best to allow them to choose the date.

There was discussion of the other meetings. Octavia hopes to schedule the long-anticipated television station tour for the September meeting. She will contact either WMC or WREG about visits. It was thought that having the membership meeting at breakfast instead of lunch might be a useful change this year. The Perkins restaurants on Park and Highland were suggested as locations, as were hotels that might have breakfast buffets. The date of the membership meeting will depend on whether an Arkansas meeting can be arranged. Christina still hopes that we might have a meeting in Arkansas this year. Tentatively, we are looking at November as the month of an Arkansas meeting, though specifics will depend on Rosie Dixon at the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*. Everyone thought it would be tempting bad weather to schedule a trip to Little Rock in January. The membership meeting will be scheduled for January 22.

Also affecting us this year is the annual conference in Nashville. Christina said that she would be attending to assist in anyway she could. Kay provided the name of Leslie Reynolds at Vanderbilt as a contact person for local arrangements. It was also thought that we could use the annual meeting in promoting the membership drive; having the meeting so near might attract the attention of potential members. The May meeting will again be the charity meeting.

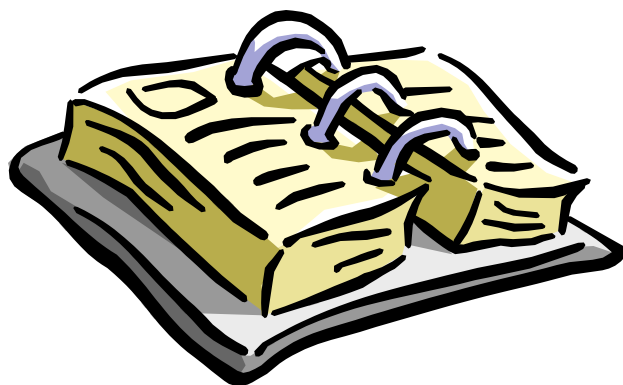
The tentative meeting schedule for the year is:

- September 18, television station and restaurant;
- November 20, Little Rock;
- January 22, membership breakfast meeting at Schering-Plough;
- March 25, St. Jude;
- April Joint Meeting with MALC;
- May 27, Hope House.

The meeting adjourned at 1 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*--Kay Cunningham, ITT-Technical Institute,
Memphis, TN, Secretary/Treasurer*



Executive Board**President**

Christina Barnes
 Memphis/Shelby County Public Library and
 Information Center
 Science and Business Department
 3030 Poplar
 Memphis, TN 38111-3527
barnesc@memphislib.tn.us
barnescm@bellsouth.net
 Tel: 901-415-2734

President-Elect

Octavia Perryman
 Buckman Laboratories International
 Knowledge Resources Center
 1256 N. McLean Blvd.
 Memphis, TN 38108
okperryman@buckman.com
 Tel: 901-272-6522

Past President

Pam Walker
 Crichton College
 255 North Highland
 Memphis, TN 38111
pwalker@crichton.edu
 Tel: 901-320-9770

Secretary/Treasurer

Kay Cunningham
 Learning Resources Center
 ITT-Technical Institute
 ITT Educational Services
 1255 Lynnfield, Ste. 192
 Memphis, TN 38119
kaycunningham@itt-tech.edu
laurendakay@yahoo.com

Archivist

Martha Hurst
 Schering-Plough Health Care
 Technical Library
 3030 Jackson Ave.
 Memphis, TN 38112-2020
martha.hurst@spcorp.com

Bulletin Editor

Kay Cunningham
 Learning Resources Center
 ITT-Technical Institute

ITT Educational Services
 1255 Lynnfield, Ste. 192
 Memphis, TN 38119
kaycunningham@itt-tech.edu
laurendakay@yahoo.com

Consultant

Jan Smith
 The Commercial Appeal
 News Library
 495 Union Ave.
 Memphis, TN 38103
smithjan@gomemphis.com
 Tel: 901-529-2878

Employment

Shirley Sykes
 The Commerical Appeal
 News Library
 495 Union Ave.
 Memphis, TN 38103
skyes@gomemphis.com
 Tel: 901-529-2781

Membership

Rosemary Nelms
 The Commerical Appeal
 News Library
 495 Union Ave.
 Memphis, TN 38103
nelms@gomemphis.com
 Tel: 901-529-2362

Public Relations

Maureen Fitzer
 Buckman Laboratories International
 Knowledge Resources Center
 1256 N. McLean Blvd.
 Memphis, TN 38108
mlfitzer@buckman.com
 Tel: 901-272-8378

Strategic Planning

Cheryl Lamb
 Buckman Laboratories International
 Knowledge Resources Center
 1256 N. McLean Blvd.
 Memphis, TN 38108
cmlamb@buckman.com
 Tel: 901-272-8585