



## Mid-South Information: Bulletin of the Mid-South Chapter

Spring 2009

Volume 31, Number 3



### Minutes of the Mid-South Chapter SLA May 9, 2009

#### Annual Charity Meeting

The Mid-South Chapter of the Special Libraries Association met on Saturday, May 9 at 9:00 a.m. on the Navy Exchange parking lot at the Naval Air Station in Millington, Tennessee.

In attendance were Genni Arledge, Octavia Ashby, Christina Barnes, Maureen Fitzer, Donna Foster, Rosemary Nelms, Jan Smith, and Pam Walker.

The Red Cross was sponsoring an event for I.A.'s and their families. Individual Augmentees are service men and women who have been called to duty individually rather than by unit or division.

Although the weather was threatening, the group set up a table outside near the Red Cross van

to display the books to be given away. Pam brought plastic Ziploc® bags to protect the books from rain.

The children's books chosen by Octavia and Donna included copies of 4 titles geared toward children with a parent who was going away for an extended period (*A Paper Hug*, *When Dad's at Sea*, *The Magic Box: When parents can't be there to tuck you in*, and *You Go Away*). In addition to these 43 books, a dozen more just-released children's books from *The Commercial Appeal* review copies were contributed by Jan and Rosemary.

A few children chose books before the rain turned into a downpour. The Naval representatives in charge of Individual Augmentee families readily agreed to take the books and distribute them to these families.

Donna informed that SLA had formed a committee to review the geographic designations of SLA chapters. This review is meant to determine if Chapters would be more efficient with adjusted geographic boundaries and/or consolidation. She had drafted a proposed response and wanted our members input prior to submitting it on behalf of the Chapter.

Donna explained that the Louisiana/Southern Mississippi Chapter has 51 members. Fifty members are from Louisiana (many from LSU) with one member from Mississippi. The Southern Appalachian Chapter has 53 members, most them UTK students or located in and around the Nashville area.

Before we departed, Donna reminded us to fill out the survey that had been sent out jointly by MALC and our chapter to determine the membership's preferences for the Joint Meeting

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going forward. Specifically the survey was seeking member input into whether to continue the endeavor and, if so, did the format of the Joint Meeting need to change or remain the same. Comment areas were included in the survey design for members to utilize to make preferences known.

**--Respectfully submitted**

**Rosemary Nelms, Commercial Appeal, Secretary-Treasurer**



### SLA Mid-South Chapter/MALC Joint Meeting April 16, 2009

The Mid-South Chapter of the Special Libraries Association participated in a joint meeting with the Memphis Area Library Council on Thursday, April 16 at 5:30 p.m. at the Memphis Public Library & Information Center.

Chris Matz, president of MALC, and Keenon McCloy, MPL Library Director, welcomed the group.

SLA President Donna Foster and Chris Matz of MALC introduced the other officers of their respective organizations.

The 2009 MALC Award of Excellence was presented to Darlene Brooks, Rhodes College Library Director, after an introduction by Dr. Robert

Johnson, Dean of Information Services at Rhodes. Darlene graciously thanked the group for honoring her.

Guest speaker, Austen Onek, a meteorologist at WREG-TV3 (Memphis), spoke amusingly of his adventures as a weatherman and presented useful information on handling weather disasters.

Hors d'oeuvres and light refreshments were served.

**--Respectfully submitted**

**Rosemary Nelms, Commercial Appeal, Secretary-Treasurer**



*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 August 10, 2009. Please send information to be included to the editor:

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### Minutes of the Mid-South Chapter SLA April 8, 2009

The Mid-South Chapter of SLA had its second virtual meeting on April 8, 2009 at 12:00. Again, attendees used Interwise access hosted by Donna and Schering-Plough.

Members who logged on were: Genni Arledge, Octavia Ashby, Maureen Fitzer, Donna Foster, Jan Smith, Rosemary Nelms, and Tony Stankus.

Following up on Tony's suggestion to direct our charity project this year to children of military families, Donna and Genni explained a program at the Naval base at Millington geared toward helping IA's or Individual Augmentee families. Individual Augmentees are service men and women who have been called to duty individually as opposed to by unit or division. The Red Cross is sponsoring an event for these families on Saturday, May 9, at the Naval base in Millington.

After discussion, the group decided that this event would be a wonderful object of our charity this year, and Donna and Octavia volunteered to start ordering children's books to be distributed. Members will await further instructions about where and at what time to meet on May 9.

*--Respectfully submitted*

***Rosemary Nelms, Commercial Appeal, Secretary-Treasurer***



### Minutes of the Mid-South Chapter SLA March 26, 2009

The Mid-South Chapter of SLA held its membership meeting on March 26, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. at Café Eclectic in Memphis.

Members in attendance were Christina Barnes, Kay Cunningham, Donna Foster, Rosemary Nelms, Jan Smith and Pam Walker.

Donna welcomed our guest, Karen Brunsting, visual resources curator at Rhodes

College, and members discussed some of the benefits of SLA membership as well as our relationship with other local library organizations.

Donna reiterated our desire to participate with these groups in providing training and fellowship opportunities for librarians in the community. We also talked about ways to connect virtually to members who don't live or work in Memphis.

*--Respectfully submitted*

***Rosemary Nelms, Commercial Appeal, Secretary-Treasurer***



### Minutes of the Mid-South Chapter SLA March 16, 2009

The Mid-South Chapter of SLA met on March 16, 2009 at 12:00. It was our first virtual meeting; attendees used Interwise access hosted by Donna and Schering-Plough.

Members who logged on were: Genni Arledge, Octavia Ashby, Kay Cunningham, Donna Foster, Jan Smith, Rosemary Nelms, Melinda Pennington and Tony Stankus.

Donna welcomed the group and minutes from the last meeting were approved. Rosemary announced that we have \$2,387.68 in the Treasury, and we expect the allotment check in May.

Octavia reported that the Joint Meeting will be held Thursday, April 16 from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the Memphis Public Library. Austen Onek will be the speaker. Invitations will be e-mailed to school librarians soon. MALC is helping contact public librarians.

Our March 26 membership meeting will be an evening meeting in the bakery of Café Eclectic, an area separate from the restaurant. Donna and Octavia are contacting librarians who belong to SLA and who live in our area, but who are not members of the Mid-South Chapter.

Also the deans of the library schools at the University of Southern Mississippi and the University

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of Tennessee are publicizing the meeting on their listservs. Kay is contacting people at the UofM, and members of MALC and AMAHSL are being notified.

Pam will bring membership brochures to the meeting, and a DVD of an interview with the president of SLA will be playing that guests can view as they wish.

Donna suggested that members who attend be prepared to explain why they value their SLA membership.

Several proposals had surfaced in earlier meetings for the recipient of our annual charity gift including aid to children of prisoners, the Dolly Parton imagination library and donation of books to a senior citizens center. Tony suggested that we consider helping a veterans group, either military personnel returning from Iraq or perhaps the families of veterans who are serving overseas.

Tony will check with the ROTC at the University of Arkansas and Genni will investigate possibilities at the Naval Air Station in Millington. We will have another Interwise meeting to decide on a gift and what organization will receive it.

Donna presented information on SLA's Developing Country membership sponsorship and noted that Maureen was having second thoughts about our donating a membership to someone who might expect conference travel funds in addition to the membership fees.

Tony noted that SLA spends quite a bit already on recruitment in third-world countries. It was decided to limit our gifts to individuals and groups within the U.S.

Donna asked for feedback on the question, "What do we want going forward?" We noted that connecting virtually was a good first step in expanding contacts beyond a core group in the Memphis area.

Donna suggested that we might want to share with MALC, TLA and other library organizations the responsibility for programming of interest to librarians, with each group sponsoring one program a year. Members of the presenting group would attend free of charge and there would be a nominal fee for others. The SLA Web site also offers some free programming.

Kay suggested meetings in which members of various library groups could share problems and solutions, with a question being presented for consideration in advance of the meeting.

Donna noted that at Plough, a program called Innovation Friday, allowed employees to address a particular challenge by brainstorming ideas. Could we initiate something similar?

Kay suggested that we might want to consider having a meeting to coincide with the Arkansas Library Assn. Meeting in Hot Springs, Oct. 25-27.

Please let Donna know via e-mail if you have suggestions or ideas for expanding the boundaries of our local area.

Everyone agreed that the Interwise virtual meeting had come off without a hitch, and offered a great way for folks across the Mid-South to connect and share ideas.

Kay's poster, displaying our chapter's charity gifts through the years, was unveiled to great acclaim, and there was some discussion about how to print it and get it to D.C. for the national SLA Conference.

Donna, Tony and Melinda are planning to attend the Conference.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

***--Respectfully submitted***

***Rosemary Nelms, Commercial Appeal, Secretary-Treasurer***

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## **Minutes of the Mid-South Chapter SLA January 29, 2009**

The Mid-South Chapter of SLA met on January 29, 2009 at 11:30 a.m. at Old Timers restaurant in Millington, TN. Members in attendance were Genni Arledge, Octavia Ashby, Christina Barnes, Kay Cunningham, Donna Foster, Rosemary Nelms, and Jan Smith.

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Because we gathered in Millington, member Genni Arledge, of the Spishock Technical Library, Bureau of Naval Personnel, was able to join us, and after calling the meeting to order, President Donna Foster welcomed her to the meeting.

The minutes as printed in the Bulletin were approved, and Rosemary reported a treasury amount of \$2,387.68.

Octavia reported that we now have 30 members, based on the directory on SLA's Web site.

Christina reported on a few employment prospects at the Memphis Public Library, and Kay noted that the University of Memphis Library had lost the positions that they had been trying to fill.

In the "Old Business" part of the meeting, Octavia reported that the joint meeting this year with the Memphis Area Library Council will be April 15 in the Memphis Public Library meeting rooms. Weatherman Austen Oneck will speak (unless there's an extreme weather emergency) and Draper's will do the catering again.

March 26 is the tentative date for the evening membership meeting, and there was some discussion of possible venues and programs. We plan to offer appetizers and ask for RSVPs.

An effort will be made to get e-mail addresses of distance library school students, and Christina will investigate leads from the ALA Directory. Donna mentioned a DVD produced by SLA that gives information about membership, and Kay suggested that we have it playing on a table while we're networking so that potential members can view it if they wish.

We will also have SLA brochures for attendees, and Jan mentioned that at previous recruitment meetings, members had spoken briefly of the benefits of SLA membership.

Our charity meeting is scheduled for May 28, and there was discussion about which group or cause we should donate to this year. Rosemary and Jan remembered an article in *The Commercial Appeal* about an organization which helps children of prisoners; they will search the archives to find the story. Another charity that provides books for children is the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.

Donna wondered if we might want to help the elderly since this is something we had never done – perhaps putting useful reference books in a senior citizen center.

In "New Business," Jan reported that she had received a phone call from Tony Stankus (University of Arkansas Libraries). He attended the Leadership Summit in Savannah and since he was the only Chapter member in attendance, he represented us at this national meeting. Jan will write Tony and ask if he would like to report on the summit, either in the Chapter newsletter or by e-mail.

Donna reported that other SLA chapters were participating in the Developing Country Membership Sponsoring program. Chapters would pay for someone from a developing country to join SLA and in some cases also pay for conference registration and travel. The membership expressed interest in helping to pay for an SLA membership through this program.

Donna also discussed with the membership a proposal to aid members in difficulty because of the current economy to help pay membership dues. Again, the members were in favor of the idea.

This year's Conference will mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of SLA. For the conference in June in Washington D.C., each chapter is being urged to create a poster or display showcasing their area or the work of their chapter. After some discussion, it was decided that we will make a poster illustrating our past charity gifts. Rosemary and Octavia will work on the chronology of our donations, and Kay will create the poster online so that it can be printed in a large size for the display.

Donna ended the meeting with a question: Going forward – what do we want?

Do we want to make a real effort to increase our core membership? Kay pointed out the difficulty of selling SLA because membership is expensive, and most of our potential members have other library organizations that they have to pay dues to first.

However, Donna noted that SLA tends to do more for the individual than other library organizations, and this fact might become increasingly important in the present economy.

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It was suggested that we might want to collaborate with other library organizations, with each group sponsoring an educational program, so that we would have several learning opportunities each year. Kay noted that information professionals are eager to participate in any form of Web 2.0 training.

We have always encountered the distance difficulty – the fact that many of our members are scattered throughout the Mid-South. Genni remarked that, with her one-person library, it was difficult for her to get away for a meeting during work hours.

Donna wondered if there are ways through some type of teleconferencing that we could open up our meetings to members who don't live in Memphis. She will investigate the technology that Plough is using, and encouraged the rest of the membership to suggest ideas that might allow better communication among our group.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

**--Respectfully submitted**

**Rosemary Nelms, Commercial Appeal, Secretary-Treasurer**



## Area Positions

☞ The Putnam County Library Board is seeking a Library Director for the Putnam County Library System. The system consists of a main library and three branches Located in the Upper Cumberland area of middle Tennessee, the Library serves a Population of 69,900 with an annual attendance of 275,000. The staff of 30 energetic employees is dedicated to customer service.

The successful candidate will be a leader within the library and the community. The new director will manage change while advancing a progressive and successful vision of library service in the region. This position requires an MLS from an ALA accredited school and at least 5 years progressively responsible public library experience.

Resumes will be accepted through July 15. Send all correspondence to the Putnam County Library Board, 50 East Broad St., Cookeville, TN 38501 or to [libraryboard@pclibrary.org](mailto:libraryboard@pclibrary.org). A full job description is available at <http://www.pclibrary.org>

**--Diane Duncan, Library Director  
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**SCMLA in Memphis! Jammin' with the Information Flow!**

<http://library.utmem.edu/scmla09>

October 28—November 1, 2009

Come join us in Memphis for the Southern Chapter annual conference! We will have everything ready for a supportive and beneficial connection with colleagues and friends.

Two speakers will talk about information technology and ways medical librarians can use it to professionally enhance themselves and their libraries. A third speaker will give some perspective on the role that Memphis has played in the history of health care.

We are also mindful of the hard economic times that have affected all of our institutions and organizations. Scott Plutchak will moderate a special panel of speakers from hospital, special, and university libraries on *Surviving Hard Times*. After short presentation by the panelists, listeners will be able to comment and ask questions about ways to promote themselves and their libraries when the importance of the library is challenged.

We'll have continuing education classes, contributed papers, and a roundtable lunch to make sure that everyone has an opportunity to make the best use of the conference. There will be many chances to jam on the latest ideas and trends that are affecting our field.

The call for papers has gone out. If you have never presented a paper or a poster, this would be a great opportunity to get your feet wet. And even if you have, this is a great way to share your experience with other health care librarians.

If you can make it to only one conference this year, make it the Southern Chapter annual conference in Memphis!

**--Southern Chapter, Medical Libraries Association**



See the Mid-South  
Chapter poster displayed  
at Annual in the SLA

Centennial Stories and Histories section:  
<http://www.sla.org/content/Events/centennial/stories/index.cfm>

## SLA Offers Free Online Courses Through Click University

*Another way to help members thrive in the bad economy*

### For immediate release

**Alexandria, Virginia, February 26, 2009--** Special Libraries Association (SLA) now offers free online courses as an exclusive benefit to SLA members. The free programming encompasses all non-certificate online courses that are part of SLA's Click University, including programs such as Click U twice-monthly Webinars, the SLA Online Libraries and Click U Replays. Also available to members as part of their membership dues are execuBooks, recorded Annual Conference continuing education courses, 23 Things, the SLA Innovation Lab and SLA Leadership Training.

Click U Premium courses at the SLA Annual Conference and the Click U Premium Certificate Programs in knowledge management, competitive intelligence, and copyright management will remain as fee-based offerings.

"During bad economic times, it is especially important that our members continue to master new skills and technologies to stay competitive," said SLA CEO Janice R. Lachance.

Click U, which is beginning its fifth full year as an exclusive SLA benefit, provides 24-hour access to learning opportunities and includes training on general business and management skills as well as SLA-produced courses tailored to the needs of information professionals.

"If we want employers to have a competitive edge, information professionals must stay sharp and be innovative, and that means continuous learning," Lachance continued. "SLA provides these tools for success through Click U, and making most of them free to members will make them accessible, regardless of their location or economic circumstances."

2009 SLA President Gloria Zamora announced the news to an audience of some 250 SLA leaders during the opening session at the SLA Leadership Summit. Zamora said, "I know you are thinking that it is counter-intuitive to be turning away revenue during a sagging economy. However, increasing the value of SLA membership during this period of global economic turmoil should have an immediate and positive impact on our members. By including portions of Click U as part of your membership, we

are providing you with a tool that enables you to enrich your marketable skills and become a more valuable asset to your employer."

SLA members can now reach everything within Click U using a single sign-in on the SLA home page, providing fast, free and easy access to the first and only online learning community focusing on continuing professional education for knowledge professionals.

### **About SLA's Click University**

Click U provides SLA members with state-of-the-art learning opportunities in partnership with today's information industry superstars. Courses on software and technology, management, communications, and leadership are designed to enhance the skills acquired through traditional library education. Click U also provides accessible certificate programs for information professionals looking to take the next step into a new career and use their traditional information skills in fields such as competitive intelligence, knowledge management, and copyright management. For more information about Click U go to [www.sla.org](http://www.sla.org)

### **About SLA**

Special Libraries Association (SLA) is a nonprofit global organization for innovative information professionals and their strategic partners. SLA serves more than 11,000 corporate, academic, government, and other information specialists in 75 countries. SLA promotes and strengthens its members through learning, advocacy, and networking initiatives. For more information, visit us on the Web at [www.sla.org](http://www.sla.org)

**--Cara Schatz, Special Libraries Association**

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**Employment**

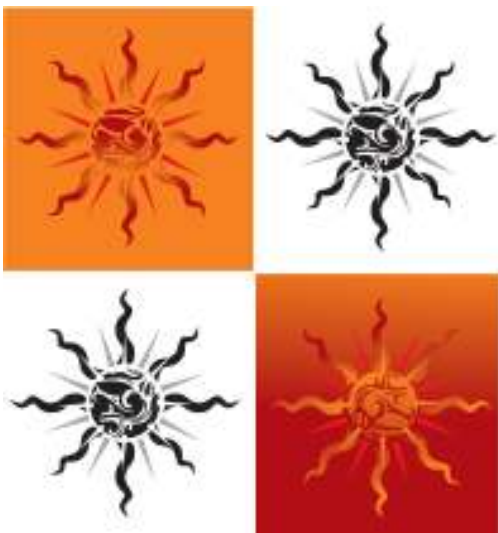
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**Public Relations**

vacant



### Mid-South Chapter 2008-2009 Meeting Schedule\*

|  |   |
|--|---|
| September 25   | Café Eclectic                                 |
| November 13  | Membership meeting;<br>location TBA           |
| January 29   | Old Timers Restaurant<br>Millington, TN       |
| March 26   | Recruitment Meeting;<br>date and location TBA |
| April 16   | Memphis Public<br>Library                     |
| May 9  | Charity Meeting;<br>Millington, TN            |
| <b><i>*All Dates and Places subject to change.</i></b> |   |

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