MIDLINE President's Message December 2010

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Greetings Midwest Chapter Colleagues!

As MIDLINE editor from 2004 through 2008, I edited nineteen of these President’s Messages from five fabulous chapter presidents. So when I needed some inspiration for writing this MY first message to you as chapter president, I read through a number of those messages. As many of my predecessors have noted in their first message, it is indeed a privilege to serve this chapter as its president. And I am looking forward with pleasure to working with you to take this organization forward through this second decade of the 21st century.

This chapter year will be a busy one! We left our very productive fall Executive Board meeting with a lot of work to do. The most significant task will be the upcoming survey of our membership which will be conducted by the Membership Committee with the assistance of the Communications Committee. YOUR input will be vital for the planning of future chapter initiatives! The Membership Committee also will be developing the details of a new Emeritus membership category. The Awards & Scholarships Committee will be adjusting the scholarship payment policy and improving the chapter's librarian service award. The Professional Practice Committee will be working on issues concerning AHIP qualification for displaced health sciences librarians. The Advocacy Special Committee will continue the important work they started under the auspices of the NN/LM Greater Midwest Region. The Communications Committee will be tackling some technological issues including a switch in the videoconferencing software used by the chapter and the purchase of some equipment that will be used for online committee and board meetings. Phew!

In her Presidential Priorities, fellow Midwest Chapter member and MLA President Ruth Holst challenges us to “RETHINK Our Values and Our Roles.” This year as a chapter we will be rethinking our value and role as an association. My goal as 2011 president will be to challenge ALL chapter officers and committees to scrutinize the way we are doing business and find ways to improve value to our members. I am particularly interested in making communication more effective, making our finances more transparent, and improving conference attendance and program quality.

Of course, none of this can happen without the continued engagement of our chapter members...this means YOU!
Our chapter can only be what WE make it. I invite you to consider participating in the chapter by serving on a committee. There are still some committee membership openings for 2011. Generally committee members serve two-year terms. But some of the currently open positions are only one year commitments. Try it, you'll like it! We particularly would like to add more bloggers to the communications team.

In 2004 when Cathy Perley asked me to consider becoming the MIDLINE editor, I was hesitant. It seemed like such a big job. I had no idea that joining the community of active chapter members would open this whole new world for me. I've learned volumes about everything from blogging software to conference planning. Most importantly, I have made lasting professional and personal friendships. *Just drop me a quick e-mail note if you are interested in joining the Midwest Chapter team.* I'm sure we can find something for you to do!

Wishing you all a safe and happy holiday season!

Clare

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