

December 1991

Aerospace Division

Sandy Moltz

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AEROSPACE DIVISION

The objectives of the Aerospace Division are to encourage the free exchange of ideas and information between libraries and librarians who are directly concerned with aerospace technology and related sciences, and to maintain a dialog with NASA and other governmental agencies upon whom we rely as sources of technical data and bibliographic sources.

FROM THE CHAIR

SANDY MOLTZ



Hi, Everyone! It's great talking to so many of you -- one of the benefits of holding office. We're all struggling with the same issues: survival, downsizing,

budget cuts. Talking to a peer about these issues can really help.

I am continuing to work on the program for the 1991 San Francisco Conference. We're sponsoring four programs and two receptions. I should have concrete information about all of these in the next issue.

I realize that it is difficult these days for people to attend conferences. Therefore, the officers and chairs are concentrating on services that will benefit all division members, whether conference attendees or not. These services include re-issuing an updated version of our Division Membership Directory (a special thanks to Mala Sistla); emphasizing public relations by sending press releases about our division

(thanks to Karen Puffer, PR chair); increasing fund-raising efforts; and revising our division by-laws.

In tough times, we realize how vital SLA can be to our survival. On a large scale, SLA reinforces the value of our profession through greater public awareness. On an immediate scale, peers provide a safety net through resource sharing and assistance with problem-solving. I have tried to give something back to SLA, making a commitment to do at least one thing for the organization each week. It can be contacting a new vendor about exhibiting at the conference, sending an SLA membership brochure to a librarian, or calling an officer with an idea. For example, recently I wrote a letter suggesting SLA try approaching companies without libraries and informing them of the benefits of establishing a library. Participation in SLA at any and all levels directly benefits you and your parent organization.

STATE OF THE FINANCES

By Ellie Reiter, Treasurer

The Division continues to be in good financial condition. It has the following funds in the following accounts:

Checking Account	\$ 2,886.74
Savings Account	9,343.15
Savings Account (George Mandel Memorial Award)	3,188.30
Total	\$15,418.19

Funds from the George Mandel Memorial/Award account were presented for the first time in 1991. The \$500.00 award was given to Tom Pinelli of NASA. This award will be presented annually.

A large portion of the Division's income has come in the past several years from the sales of the Criss-Cross Directory. Only five of these are left at this time so the Division needs to consider what it will do to raise revenue in the future. Anyone with an idea on how to make money for the Division should present it to the Board.

A thanks needs to be said here to our generous sponsors at this year's annual conference - AIAA, Information Handling Services, Mead Data Central, and McGraw-Hill Defense and Aerospace Group. They donated \$2,050.00.

1991 BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

By Treasurer Dottie Moon

The meeting was called to order at noon, June 10, 1991, by Division Chair Phyllis Fischer. The minutes of the 1990 Business Meeting were approved as written.

Committee Reports

Treasurer Ellie Reiter reported that the Division was in good shape financially, with a total of more than \$15,000 in three accounts. (See breakdown above.) In addition to the donations of vendors, she said the primary source of income continued to be the sales of the Criss-Cross Directory. Only five copies of the directory remained, however, underlining the need for new fund raising ideas, she said.

Thanks also were extended to the AIAA, Mead Data Central, Information Handling Services and McGraw-Hill for their generous contributions toward conference expenses. A goal was established then to identify more Aerospace Division contributors. It also was mentioned that the DACOLT training emphasizes the potential that each Division member solicit donations.

Membership Chair Mitzi Rinehart reported that the Division has 257 members, six less than the 263 it had last year. Fifty-three former members had dropped their memberships while 47 new members had joined. She also reported that *Tools of the Trade*, a publication of SLA, was at the printers and would be available for sale sometime in July.

Nominating Committee member Mala Sistla announced the election of Susan Clifford as Chair -Elect, Dottie Moon as Secretary and Sandy Spurlock as Treasurer. Discussion then followed on the new procedure of distributing ballots in *Sci-Tech News*. It was noted that only 26 ballots were returned. This caused some to wonder if members missed the ballot there. The advantages of printing the ballots in *Sci-Tech News* were saving

money on postage and saving time in assembling and mailing the ballots.

It was agreed then that next year's ballots would be mailed to members individually to see if the return improves. Two additional suggestions were made; one was to schedule the election earlier and the second was to send a letter to new members describing both the duties of each officer and how to get involved as an officer.

Strategic Planning Chair Barbara Lawrence announced that she is beginning the process of developing a strategic plan for the Division. Lynn Ecklund and Mary Walsh will work with Barbara on the project. Other members interested in working on this in a small committee should contact Barbara and let her know.

Old Business

Phyllis Fischer announced that the first recipient of the George Mandel Memorial Award was Tom Pinelli, who used the award to make his attendance at the San Antonio conference possible. All members of the Division are eligible to apply for this award, which is meant to encourage contributions to the annual conference each year. The check was presented to Tom, with reinforcement of the importance of involvement with the Division.

New Business

Staff changes at the AIAA were announced, including the recent retirement of Patricia Marchall. A suggestion also was made of putting Division information into issues of the *Aerospace Newsletter*.

The question was raised as to whether the Division should continue to publish the *Directory*. The editor's employer no longer can absorb the cost of this. This was identified as a special project, and Mala Sistla will head a committee to look into finding corporate sponsorship for the *Directory*. Sandy Moltz and Mitzi Rinehart will work with Mala on this. If a corporate sponsor is not found, members approved the Division picking up the charges.

A gift was presented to outgoing Chair Phyllis Fischer by incoming Chair Sandy Moltz, with warm thanks for her leadership during the past year.

Sandy proceeded to describe plans for the San Francisco conference. Due to expensive rates in San Francisco, rather than hosting a Division Suite we will have a series of receptions in a hotel function room to be co-hosted with other Divisions. Programs planned include *How to Get It; Workforce 2000*; and sessions on cataloging and ordering materials online. Sandy needs input in the form of fund-raising and program ideas.

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Sandy Moltz at 1:20 p.m.

GMMA GUIDELINES CHANGED

The Executive Board of the Aerospace Division has authorized a change in the application and administration of the George Mandel Memorial Award. As the purpose of the GMMA is to promote member participation in Division activities, the change will give members the opportunity to aid in the development of conference programming in spite of the

long period of advance planning that precedes each conference.

Application dates for the GMMA are as follows:

1992 SLA Conference in San Francisco --

Application should be made by contacting the Division Chair, Sandy Moltz, General Electric Co., Technical Information Center, 24001, 1000 Western Ave., Lynn, MA 01910, (phone) 517/694-5363, by September 1, 1991.

1993 SLA Conference in Atlanta --

Application should be made by contacting the Division Chair-Elect, Susan Clifford, Hughes Aircraft, El Segundo Library, S12 V311, P.O. Box 92919, Los Angeles, CA 90009 (phone) 213/648-4668, by June 1992.

AERO SMITHS (and Jones and Does and...)

Nan Paik, Membership Chair of the Aerospace Division, recently was honored with 19 other library professionals with an appointment to the newly-formed Bowker Library Advisory Board. Selected for their extensive professional background and experience in libraries, the 20 will serve in an advisory capacity to Bowker, reporting on the latest industry trends and offering suggestions in the development of new products and services. Paik currently is Supervisor, Space Systems Division of Rockwell International in Downey, CA.

Greetings and salutations to those of you who have joined the Division recently. You know who you are but here's a list for those who want to know, too:

Donna Atkins of Melbourne, FL;
Janna Jantz of Littleton, CO; Carol Rominger of Litton Electron Devices in San Carlos, CA; and Peri Switzer with WRDC at Wright Patterson AFB, OH.

STRAIGHT AERO By Donald A. Welch

San Francisco should be a ball.

I was looking through a guide recently at the amusements and inducements San Francisco dangles before vacationers and conventioners, and I was impressed. There's the Cable Car Museum, of course; Telegraph Hill; Fisherman's Wharf; Alcatraz Island; the Golden Gate Bridge; and the Wells Fargo Bank History Museum, not to mention restaurants and galleries galore.

I don't know if I could concentrate on a convention or not. But, the point is that San Francisco is the place to be in 1992. That's where the SLA is going to be there; and we're the SLA.

I also went through a list recently of those recently elected councilors of the ALA, and there wasn't one of "us" in it at all. I still had the list of candidates from which I selected 25 in the Spring, and I found that we really didn't have a chance of getting one of us on the council anyway. Only Elizabeth Snoke of the Combat Studies Institute of Leavenworth, KS, served a crowd like most of the rest of us do, and she was running against 82 others from academic, public and school libraries. She almost made it, though. She had 2,393 votes and only needed 292 more to make the cutoff.

Also interesting about the results is the fact that the only publisher running for a councilor's seat won. Norman Horrocks, a vice-president with Scarecrow Press, made it to the council with 4,072 votes.

Other decisions of the ALA (as I graded the results, of course) were to take one of four consultants, two of 13 professors, and eight of 32 librarians with an affiliation to a university or college. It also took eight of 26 from libraries serving either cities, counties, states, or the U.S. (i.e., the Library of Congress).

Public school librarians fared the best (besides the one publisher), with five of the eight they had running getting elected.

But, that's enough of the results. The only other point I want to make is on the support (or lack thereof) for Marvin Scilken, the director of the Orange (N.J.) Public Library, who ran for president. He finished last, losing to Marilyn Miller, the winner; Herbert White, and Charles Bunge.

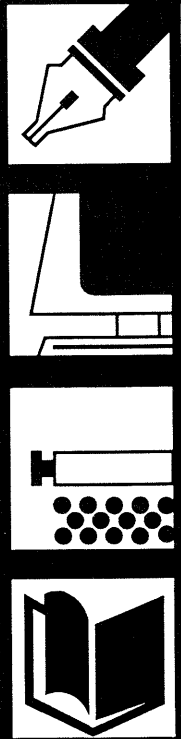
I don't know him, nor have I ever met him, but I liked his message, primarily because it was different. What he said basically was that he would work to make librarians become the catalysts of the credit they deserve. He wanted librarians to write columnists, trustees, councilmen, aldermen, DJs, etc. and inform them, correct them, educate them on what libraries do whenever there is a misconception or innovation about which the public needs to know.

For me this is something to which I am committed already. In the last year I have written four letters to the editor on

the conditions of the local public library. All of them have been printed. As a consequence, I was invited to speak to the City Council in support of improved library funding.

The people who invited me to speak? Other librarians trying to help the public library.

Many of us are in a unique position to help other libraries and librarians, even when they are not ones to which we are aligned or affiliated, and I think we should do it.



Would you like to write a book for publication by SLA? If so, write for your free brochure on

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Washington, DC 20009-2508

CHAIRING A CONFERENCE COMMITTEE: NOT FOR THE FAINT AT HEART

By Crystal Anson

[The following article was previously published in *American Libraries*, June 1991.]

How does one get to chair a conference committee? It all begins in an innocuous fashion. Veteran conference chairs are always on the lookout for the eager and ignorant.

Last year I had the experience of co-chairing my first conference committee for the New Mexico Library Association. It is an experience I would like to share (and forget).

For me, getting involved was simple: My supervisor, Jami, was looking for people to chair committees for the 1990 New Mexico Library Association annual conference. Warming up her audience, Jami spent half an hour regaling me with her past experiences as a conference chairperson: the fun, the laughs, the camaraderie, the parties, and the wonderful people one meets. All her past conference work was retold as fond memories. It sounded a bit like summer camp. Then Jami popped the question:

Jami: "Hey, Crystal, how would you like to chair the Meals & Entertainment Committee for the 1990 NMLA conference?"

Crystal: "What do I have to do?"

Jami: "I don't know, But don't worry, it will be fun."

Crystal: "Okay."

I decided to ask my fellow worker, Mary, to co-chair the committee with me.

Crystal: "Hey, Mary, how would you like to help me co-chair the Meals & Entertainment Committee for the 1990 NMLA conference?"

Mary: "What do I have to do?"

Crystal: "I don't know. But don't worry, it will be fun."

Mary: "Okay."

Little did we know the work we had just agreed to undertake.

One thing that was purported to make our chairing job easier (and I use the term loosely) were "The Notebooks." Passed on to Mary and me in a ceremonious fashion not unlike a sorority initiation, "The Notebooks" were to contain the collected wisdom of every Meals & Entertainment chairperson since the first NMLA annual conference.

Awestricken, Mary and I accepted "The Notebooks." We retired to our office.

"Finally," we said, "something that will tell us what the hay we are supposed to do as co-chairs of the Meals & Entertainment Committee."

Eagerly, we began to read. Mary stopped reading one notebook, looked confused, and chose another. I frowned at the notebook I was reading, then chose another. It dawned on both of us at once "The notebooks are incoherent!" we yelled.

These wonderful notebooks that were to explain the mysteries of our chair work were an incomprehensible mess. Notes written on cocktail napkins, receipts from Pic 'N' Save, letters to mariachi bands and

magicians. I groaned, “Aren’t librarians supposed to be organized?”

Mary and I sat down to write up a list of things we believed we needed to do as co-chairs of the Meals & Entertainment Committee. The list looked something like this:

- 1) Plan a banquet
 - a) Rent some place
 - b) Hire some caterer
 - c) Hire some kind of entertainment
- 2) Plan meals/breaks at conference hotel
 - a) See some menus
 - b) Order some food

The highlight of every annual NMLA conference is the banquet. Every year pricey tickets are sold to conference attendees to enjoy a mediocre sit-down dinner.

Mary and I wanted to plan the best-ever banquet. We rented the Natural History Museum in Albuquerque for the event. We would have the entire museum to roam for the banquet, but the rental put quite a dent in our budget. Needing to keep banquet tickets below a certain price meant we could spend very little on food. With a miniscule figure in mind we began to call caterers. Alas, on our Cheez-Whiz-and-crackers budget, only two caterers could feed our estimated count of 300 banquet attendees.

Chuck, of Chuck’s Burger Ranch fame, would guarantee us “the best dang spread you little gals have ever seen.” Chuck’s proposed menu was:

APPETIZER:

Pork Rinds; Chips & Salsa

ENTREES:

Burgers “Cooked the Burger Ranch Way”; Baked Beans; Corn on the Cob; Hominy Grits

DESSERT:

Banana Pudding; Lime Jello

Stan, of Stan Kowalski’s Polish Buffet Extraordinaire, had a menu that looked better than Chuck’s, but no one could pronounce the items, let alone translate them. Stan’s proposed menu was:

APPETIZER:

Ogbrek icebula with Sour Cream; Baked Kwaz Bialostocki with Crackers

ENTREES:

Kielbasa; Sauteed Breast of Sowa; Beets z Chrzanem; Boiled Potatoes

DESSERT:

Blintzes z Makiem; Lime Jello

Somehow, both menus fell short of the elegant buffet we had hoped to present at the museum.

Then a miracle happened. By word of mouth we were recommended to the drop-dead name in catering for New Mexico: Helmut the Hun.

A cross between Julia Child and Hitler, Helmut had a soft spot in his heart for libraries. As a “favor” he planned a wonderful meal on our tiny budget. Helmut’s proposed menu (or as Helmut said in his stentorian voice, “You vill haff ...”) was:

APPETIZER:

Crabmeat Terrines; Creamy French Cheese Spread

ENTREES:

Sauteed Chicken Breast with Herbs & Bernaise Sauce; Poached Dill Salmon Pasta with Pinon Nuts, Red Peppers & Cucumbers in Garlic Sauce; Vegetable Torte; Caesar Salad

DESSERT:

White Chocolate Cheese Cake; Strawberries with Creme Fraiche

We signed a contract with Helmut immediately.

Mary took on the responsibility of hiring a band to play at the banquet. She discovered that musicians are an odd group. They have a different concept of time and money than most people:

“We need a group to play on this date for two hours. We can only pay \$200.”

Musician: “Well, man, usually we jam for \$300. If the cats in the band dig the gig, we could do it for \$200. But if we get a better gig that night, count us out.”

Mary: “You mean that even though we agree on a date and price, you will take another booking if the pay is better?”

Musician: “Cool.”

Eventually, Mary located a band that not only spoke in standard English sentences but would sign a contract.

We had no choice but to order all conference hotel meals from the hotel’s catering department menu. Someone should have warned us to take a deep breath before looking at the food prices; they were shocking. Examples: one dozen chocolate chip cookies, \$15; one gallon of

coffee, \$15. Even though we ordered the cheapest food items, hotel food is where our budget went very awry.

Finally, the three days of the annual conference arrived. After dealing with last-minute room changes and meal additions and deletions, Mary and I believed we had it all under control - until I arrived in the vendors’ exhibit area on the first day of the conference.

Since “The Notebooks” never commented on how much coffee to order, we had asked the hotel to deliver 10 gallons at 7 a.m. When I arrived at 7:30 a.m., angry vendors were taking punches at the empty coffee urn.

I ran to the hotel house phone, called catering, and acreamed, “More coffee! Lots! Fast!”

The arrival of 20 more gallons of coffee calmed down the crowd, and I kept an eagle eye on coffee consumption for the rest of the conference. Always remember and never forget: For vendors, coffee is not just a stimulant, it’s a food group.

The evening of the banquet we had 60 minutes to transform the museum into a party palace. The doors were to open at 6 p.m. for banquet attendees. At 5 p.m. the caterer, the florist, the balloon people, and the bartenders converged on the museum. At the same time 10 busloads of high school students arrived and proceeded to set up barbeques and food lines in front of the museum entrance.

“Mary,” I said, “do you see what I see outside the front doors?”

Masses of high schoolers were filling plates, dancing, and pressing their faces to the door.

“We have got to get these people moved before 6 p.m.,” Mary shrieked to the museum manager, who claimed she knew nothing about the picnicking students and said she felt “shy” about asking them to move. The museum security guard was also useless in getting the students to relocate. Finally, the museum gift store manager, a big, burly ex-football lineman, who would scare the pants off anyone if he was in a bad mood, located the teacher in charge of the students and persuaded them all to leave.

Running up and down the museum stairs with orders and messages, I got my aerobic workout for the evening. In one hour Mary and I helped set up tables, checked floral arrangements, directed bartenders and balloon decorators, fought with the caterer, and generally exhausted ourselves. (Personal note: wear lots of deodorant.)

Five minutes before 6 p.m. we sat down and decided we could relax. Smiling at each other, we congratulated ourselves on a job well done. Then our eyes roved to the area where the band was to set up. No band was set up! We groaned, we moaned, we cursed the musician race.

Two minutes before 6 p.m. a man poked his head around the service door entrance. “Is this where the band is to set up for that library group?”

“Yippee,” Mary and I yelled as we raced over to hug him.

Once we opened the museum doors for the banquet, the evening turned out wonderfully. The food was marvelous, the decorations beautiful, the speeches short, the band sounded terrific, no one got

drunk and obnoxious, and no one fought over who had the better library.

When a conference ends and you’ve had a chance to see your family, take a long bath, and not talk to another librarian for 24 hours, there are still a few details that require your attention.

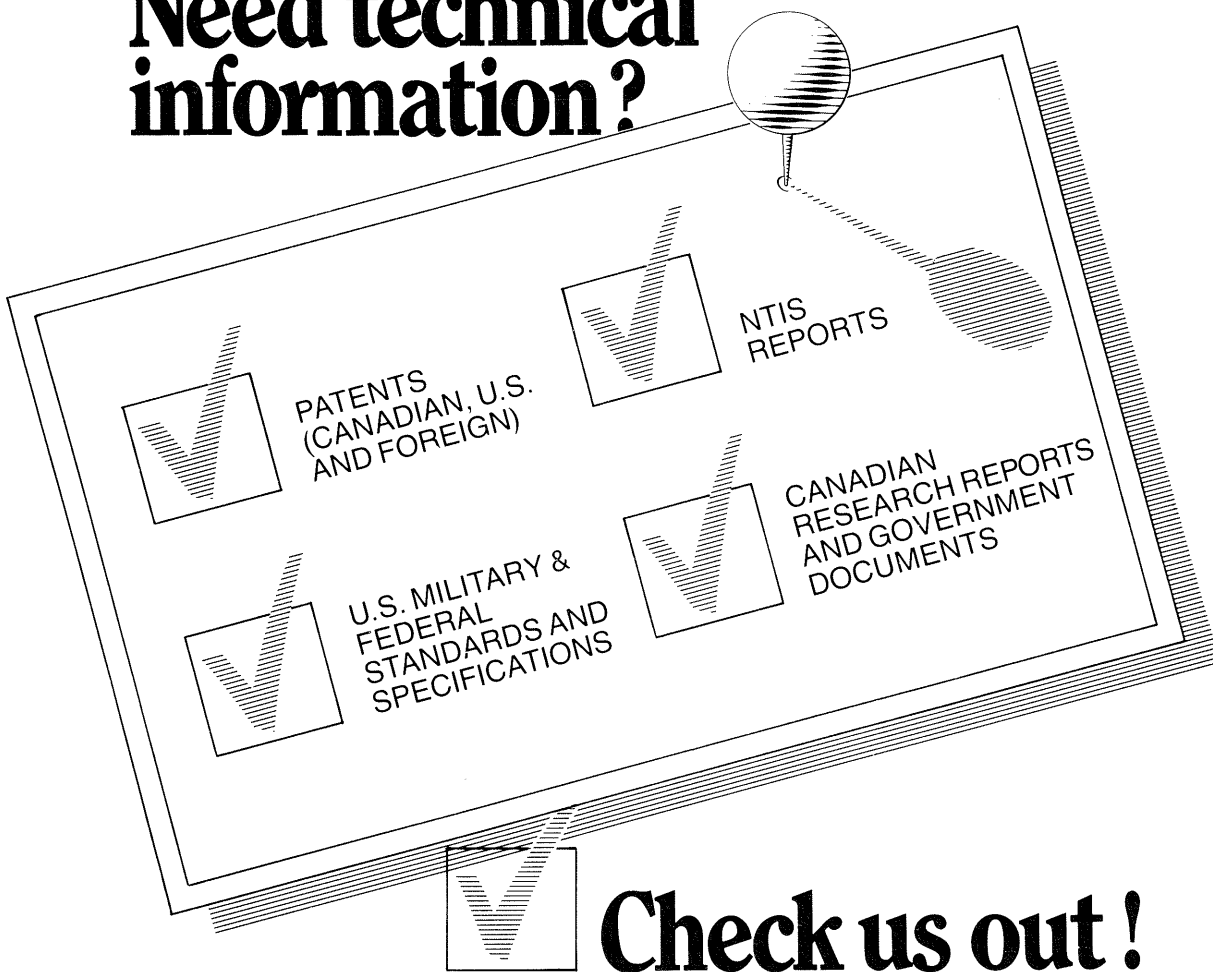
We sent thank-you notes to anyone who did an excellent job. We especially appreciated the hotel catering staff. No matter how hysterical we got ordering more coffee, the hotel staff remained pleasant, smiling and prompt in their service.

We sent Helmut, the caterer, flowers; he found this a “humbling” experience.

The last thing we did was make up our own incoherent “Notebook” to pass on to next year’s sucker, er, chair. At this point we were so doggone tired of the whole job we slapped together anything that looked vaguely committee related, and now I understand why “The Notebooks” were so incomprehensible.

My final piece of advice as a seasoned committee veteran: If you are ever asked to chair a conference committee, accept the job for the experience. And don’t worry, it will be fun.

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