



Music Library Association
Southern California Chapter

Newsletter

October 2010, Number 93

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GREETINGS FROM OUR CHAIR James Soe Nyun University of California - San Diego

Allow me to package this, my first official newsletter message to you as Chair, as a sort of State of the Chapter address.

Overall my take is that we're a chapter with many good vital signs. After our last elections Kathy Carbone joined the Executive Board in the role of Member-at-Large, Publications, and Laura Horwitz was re-elected to serve two further years as Secretary/Treasurer. Rotating into the office of Past Chair after a strong year of leadership as Chair is Stephanie Bonjack, and Lisa Nitsch continues her stewardship of member roles in her role as Member-at-Large, Membership. All of them bring very different experiences and perspectives to the meeting table, and we're fortunate to have them help guide our organization.

Outgoing Board members, Lindsay Hansen and Hermine Vermeij, made significant contributions to the Chapter. Many thanks to both of you for all your hard work and dedication on the Board.

Beyond the Executive Board, Laurie Bailey, as Newsletter Editor, and Scott Stone, as Web Editor, help to keep all of us informed and up to date on what is happening with the Chapter. Thanks to both of you as well!

One vital sign that showed itself to be less than strong, however, revealed itself during the last member election, when we weren't able to get a candidate to stand for election as Chair-Elect. While there are several contributing factors, including a declining and uncertain economy and a shrinking membership, perhaps the most major that we have control over is the fact that we ask a lot of our membership.

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In the preceding paragraphs I've named a good percentage of the members of the Southern California Chapter. Look through a list of the people who've served on the Board in recent years and you'll see an even larger percentage of our Chapter's membership.

The Chapter's Constitution and Bylaws mandate an Executive Board of a certain size. That size becomes harder to sustain when the membership pool declines. We have an upcoming special election in which we hope to address that structural difficulty. You will be asked to think carefully about amending the bylaws in several ways that will have the effect of reducing the size of the Executive Board by one member. In extending the term of the Chair to four years (one year as Chair-Elect, two as Chair, one as Past-Chair) we will have a board where we don't concurrently have both Chair-Elect and Past-Chair. To make this happen we will be relying more on ad hoc committees to accomplish some of the duties that were hard-wired into the Chair-Elect and Past-Chair duties. As an encouraging sign that such a structure is possible, our recent call to assemble a Program Committee has drawn four names as of this writing.

The bylaws require that at least half of the membership participate in this election, and the changes will require a two-thirds plurality to pass. Please review the proposed changes carefully and take the time to cast your vote. The text to be voted on has been mounted at:

<http://www.mlasc.org/MLAbylaws2010.doc>

Another interesting and even more substantial proposal that has been floated is to look at joining the Southern California and Northern California Chapters of MLA. This is an even bigger deal than the bylaws rewrite but is much more complicated and would take longer to make happen if the chapters agree to make it happen. Check out the proposal submitted by Jerry McBride later in this newsletter.

Beyond registering your input in elections there will always be other ways for you to participate in the work of the Chapter. One of the highlights of any chapter meeting is the opportunity to hear great presentations. It's not too early to start thinking about sharing your work with your colleagues. Is there some cool research you've been conducting? Have you come up with innovative real-world solutions to problems that face all of us? Do you know of an underutilized cache of weird but wonderful resources the world needs to know about? Put together a presentation proposal for the next meeting! Since that meeting is shaping up to be a North-South meet-up of the two California MLA Chapters, you'll be assured an even larger audience of your library colleagues.

And If you're able to attend the national MLA meeting in Philadelphia, the Chapter will be having an informal get-together on one of the evenings. I hope to see you there!

Jim Soe Nyun
MLA/SCC Chair



MLA/SCC membership fees
are due! Please visit
<http://www.mlasc.org/join.htm>
for membership/renewal information and send
forms to Laura Horwitz, MLA/SCC Secretary/Treasurer



Proposal to Create a California Chapter of the Music Library Association

Drafted by MLA Vice President Jerry McBride and
Chapter Past-Chairs Stephanie Bonjack and Patricia Stroh

Background

Currently, the Northern and Southern California Chapters of the Music Library Association each have memberships under fifty—30 and 43, respectively. In general, it has been observed that the most successful, vibrant, and active chapters in MLA tend to be larger with more diverse and substantial programs. The Atlantic Chapter was recently formed by the merger of the Pennsylvania and Chesapeake Chapters, because individually, attendance at meetings and activity at the chapter level was declining. The merger reversed this trend, and for a number of reasons the Atlantic Chapter can be cited as a successful endeavor.

For several years the Northern California Chapter has had difficulty finding individuals to stand for office and meetings vary considerably in content and quality. There have been discussions about holding only one annual meeting of the chapter to improve the situation.

The situation in Southern California is similar. It is difficult to find individuals to run for office. There are also many years in which candidates run unopposed. The Board is currently working on a bylaws revision to extend the term length of the Chair so elections will be held every other year. This will take some pressure off the Nominating Committee and hopefully make it easier to find viable candidates for office. Such a change would also mimic the national administrative structure. Regardless, it is an ongoing challenge to fill administrative positions.

The Southern California Chapter meets once a year and its programs are relatively short. Like the Northern California Chapter, they usually include a library tour, a few presentations, and a business meeting with time for open discussion. The last chapter meeting was a joint conference with the local AMS chapter, and the program was overwhelmingly dominated by AMS presentations. It is generally difficult to find presenters for the chapter meetings.

Advantages and Disadvantages of Merging

Advantages

- A larger number of members provides more people to share the responsibilities of holding offices.
- There are more people available to form committees.
- More participants provide a greater wealth of ideas, experience, and backgrounds enriching the programs and information exchanged at meetings.
- Larger chapters tend to have meetings lasting at least two days. This requires a greater commitment from both the planners and attendees and results in meetings with more substantial and interesting sessions.
- Meetings with more substantial sessions tend to attract more participants.

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Disadvantages

- Meetings held outside a member's local area would require more travel funding.
- Some members who only attend local chapter meetings may not be able to afford meetings or be given time off to attend meetings outside of their local area.
- It might be more difficult to get to know all of the members of a larger chapter.

Steps To Take

Set up a task force with a time line and deadlines to explore different options for a combined California Chapter comprised of the board members of the two chapters or people appointed by the boards. The task force should look at

- What steps did the Atlantic Chapter take to form?
- Where and how frequently should the chapter meet?
 - Alternating North and South once a year or twice a year?
 - One state meeting in the fall and two regional meetings in the spring?
 - Meet together one year; meet regionally the next year? This way we would meet together only every two years.
- Should the state meeting last two days?
- Should the meetings be on work days only, or involve a Saturday?
- Should the Board have somewhat equal representation from North and South, or does this matter?
- How would the bylaws be rewritten? By whom?
- How would the finances be handled? Would the treasuries be pooled?
- Are there legal issues to address because of 501(c)3 status?

Simultaneously plan a joint chapter meeting for Spring 2011 or 2012 in Southern California. This would be a chance for the two Boards and Program Committees to work together. It would give the attendees a sense of what regular state meetings could be like.

- Publish the options explored by the task force in the Newsletters.
- It should be presented as possibilities that are open for discussion and change.

Have the task force present their ideas at a session of the joint chapter meeting.

Jerry McBride is currently the Head Librarian of the Stanford University Music Library and Archive of Recorded Sound. He has also held positions as Music Librarian at Middlebury College in Vermont and as Archivist of the Arnold Schoenberg Institute. He is currently Vice-President of MLA and has served as the chair of the New England and Southern California Chapters of MLA in addition to serving on the MLA Board of Directors and a number of MLA committees.



SUSTAINING MEMBERS 2010

Sostenuto

Ken Calkins
David Gilbert
Lindsay Hansen
Laura Ann Horwitz
Louise Spear

Ottava Sopra

Garrett Bowles

Con Forza

Blair Whittington



MLA/SCC Treasurer's Report As of October 14, 2010

Account Balances:

	April 8, 2010	October 14, 2010
Checking :	\$5318.71	\$5,546.35

Transactions April 8, 2010—October 14, 2010

Income:

Memberships	\$305.00
	Total: \$305.00

Expenses:

May & September Executive Board expenses	\$77.36
	Total: \$77.36



MLA/SCC Executive Board 2010-2011

Chair: James Soe Nyun, *UC San Diego*
Past Chair: Stephanie Bonjack, *USC*
Secretary / Treasurer: Laura Horwitz, *UC Los Angeles*
Members-At-Large: Kathy Carbone, Publications, *CalArts*
Lisa Nitsch, Membership, *LA Trade-Technical College*

MLA/SCC Newsletter

No. 93, October 2010

The *MLA/SCC Newsletter* is published twice yearly. Content is welcome and encouraged on member news, new library acquisitions and programs, highlights from conferences and workshops, etc.

Please send submissions and communications to the Editor:
Laurie Bailey, San Diego Public Library, lbailey@sandiego.gov

Go to the Chapter's website at <http://www.mlascc.org>
for more chapter information & resources!

CALENDAR

Fall 2010: Please submit MLA/SCC dues to Laura Horwitz
Nov 11-14, 2010: Society of Ethnomusicology Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA
Nov 4-7, 2010: AMS/SMT joint meeting, Indianapolis, IN
Nov 12-15, 2010: CLA Conference, Sacramento, CA
January 7-11, 2011: ALA Midwinter Meeting, San Diego, CA
Feb 9-12, 2011: MLA Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA
April 2011: MLA/SCC Annual Spring Meeting, date TBA

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