



Global Headquarters
331 S. Patrick Street
Alexandria, VA 22314 USA
1-703-647-4900
Fax: 1-703-647-4901
www.sla.org

BOARD DOCUMENT

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Anne Caputo, Chapter Cabinet Chair
June Van Wingen, 2006 President, M—WUP Chapter;
Leslie Burke, 2006 President-Elect, M—WUP Chapter;
Charlene Stachnik, 2006 President, Michigan Chapter;
Laura Mancini, 2006 President-Elect, Michigan Chapter

DATE: 22 December 2006

RE: Merger the Michigan Chapter and the Michigan-Western & Upper Peninsula Chapter

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board of Directors approve the merger of the Michigan Chapter and Michigan – Western & Upper Peninsula Chapter of SLA, effective at the SLA Annual Conference 2007.

RETURN ON INVESTMENT: It is in the long-term best interest of SLA to support and encourage the merger of the two Michigan chapters in reflection of the declining membership and considerable difficulties in recruiting chapter leadership.

BACKGROUND: About twenty-six years ago, there were a significant number of SLA members in the western part of the state of Michigan. The numbers were significant enough that a new chapter was formed (split off from) the Michigan Chapter of SLA. During those years, the chapter was vital and productive. In the last five years, the membership has been consistently dwindling due to closures of libraries, mergers and job changes among our members. Despite these dwindling numbers (and with the help of other Great Lakes Chapters), the Michigan—Western & Upper Peninsula Chapter hosted (with great success) the fifth Great Lakes Regional Conference in September 2003. Since then, however, the membership has continued to decline and there are very few people willing to serve in leadership roles – and we are recycling officers frequently.

In April, 2006, the Executive Board of the Michigan—Western and Upper Peninsula Chapter took a mail vote of the membership to determine whether it was time to merge back with the Michigan Chapter. The vote was overwhelmingly to merge, (23 in favor, 1 abstain) so we approached the Michigan Chapter at SLA Annual Conference in June 2006 and proposed the merger, along with some of the terms we would like to have included.

The merger terms we talked about and agreed upon were:

- a) That the merged chapter would use the name Michigan Chapter, as it would be the most obvious and logical.
- b) That the Michigan-Western and Upper Peninsula treasury be used to purchase software to allow for distance broadcast/education for chapter meetings/educational sessions. This would be of benefit to the members of both chapters and all members in the state.

- c) That the Nominating Committee would actively seek representation from the former M-WUP Chapter, but if they got no persons willing to serve there would be no negative feelings.
- d) That the merged chapter would support and continue to work with the Alberta L. Brown Foundation/Western Michigan University to produce and host the biennial Alberta L. Brown Lecture Series and Alberta L. Brown Award (biennially as warranted). This would be typically held at Western Michigan University and promoted to all types of libraries.
- e) That the merged Michigan Chapter would retain the scholarships now prescribed by the current Michigan Chapter.

We would like this petition to move along as quickly as possible. During the Michigan Chapter Annual Business meeting on December 7, 2006 this proposal was discussed, voted on, and, unanimously passed by the members present. A ballot was then sent to the whole membership and was passed on December 20, 2006. 93.8% (90 in favor, 2 oppose, 4 abstain) of the votes were in favor of the merge. We are formally petitioning for the merge during the January 24-27, 2007 Leadership Summit. We would like final merge approval at the Annual Conference June 2007.

Members in both chapters feel that this is a good move and look forward to being a cohesive Chapter again. The governing document we followed for the merge is found in the Chapter Recommended Practices <http://www.sla.org/Documents/chapracticefinal.doc#Merger>
The above terms "a through e" seem fair to both parties. In good faith, Leslie Burke, a member in both chapters, has agreed to serve as 2007 Director to help with the transition.

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT: No financial impact is anticipated as a result of this action. Chapter allotments will be dispersed to a single Michigan Chapter.

Prepared by: Anne Caputo, June Van Wingen, Leslie Burke, Charlene Stachnik, Laura Mancini

Produced by:
Reviewed by: