REPORT TO HSLI BOARD
June 22, 2026 meeting
Report prepared by Ramune Kubilius, HSLI liaison to Midwest/MLA

Notes Midwest/MLA State Liaisons Committee –meeting of June 5, 2026

As a reminder:
Hayley Severson (Medical College of Wisconsin) is the Midwest / MLA "Representative at Large", chair of the state liaison committee and is concluding a 2-year term; candidates are being sought to fill this role for the next Midwest/MLA election.
https://uiowa.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cCSATU34PEmkHqu

State health sciences library group liaisons / representatives:

Illinois: Ramune Kubilius	x
Indiana: need new rep Bethany McGowan *moved out of state, as inaugural director for ASU's new medical school*	
Iowa: Julia Salting	x
Michigan: Merle Rosenzweig	
Minnesota: Andrew Crow	x
North Dakota: Sara Westall	
Ohio: Jessica Decaro *(replacing RIP Mary Pat Harnegie)*	x
Wisconsin: Rita Mitchell	x
Michigan: Merle Rosenzweig	
Kentucky: Annabelle Holt	x

x - attended last state liaisons' meeting on June 5 and presented updates

The state liaisons are contributing towards these activities in the Midwest / MLA Strategic Plan:

- Begin working on identifying library schools in the state and potential contacts for outreach. [to create a mentorship program for lib school students by 2028]
- Identify what groups are working in the library schools (state medical library associations, other chapters, MLA, relevant student orgs, etc.) for potential collaboration.
  TO DATE- RK: Sent list of 3 library schools based in Illinois

Midwest / MLA virtual conference 2025: October 21-23 [virtual]
OCT 21 (CE), 22 (Day 1 - Care), 23 (Day 2 - Curiosity)
Theme: Care & Curiosity: *Values-driven health sciences librarianship*
The landscape of health information is shifting. As health sciences information professionals, how do we continue to provide culturally safe, compassionate, and evidence-based services when the frameworks that have long grounded our practice are being questioned? How do we sustain that work while caring for the communities we serve without losing ourselves in the process?

This year's conference will focus on care work, emotional labor, and professional purpose. Let's take this opportunity to learn new ways to practice values-driven librarianship and share ideas about peer support and self care.

***NOTE: this CE will be offered virtually/free during upcoming virtual conference* (October 21, 1 pm CST):**
https://www.mlanet.org/product/micro-changes-that-matter-strategic-responses-for-shifting-medical-library-environments/

UPDATES FROM THE STATE ORGANIZATIONS:

- **Illinois**- RK shared information about elections, changes in news editors, member retirements, HSLI 2026 conference, virtual chats, virtual events, search for a new listserv solution…
- **Iowa-**
    - Held a mini-conference (6hr virtual event), got Phillip Walker from Vanderbilt speaker to speak about their medical library getting incorporated into academic library.
    - "Micro-Changes That Matter" webinar watch party.
- **Kentucky**
    - Mostly virtual attendance at MLA 2026 conference.
    - New leadership. Just had a spring meeting, webinar held on AI and systematic reviews.
    - Quarterly events, mix of webinars and informal chatting – low pressure.
    - Monthly newsletters (new).
    - Working on making connections with UKY library school – a couple health sciences classes held in the UKY program.
- **Minnesota**
    - Board meeting about a month ago, gearing up for annual meeting. Aiming to have a speaker on planetary health and environmental health speaker (same one who spoke during the Midwest/MLA 2025 conference). Trying to recruit a local speaker about AI and publishing. (it is convenient since both speakers are from University of Minnesota). Hybrid meeting format. Only $25 meeting, $35 for non-members.
- **Ohio-**
    - In person dinner meetup at MLA 2026 conference, group participated in service project.
    - Offering Betty Sydelko OSHLA scholarship- OHSLA student membership required but membership is $5. (student OHSL cost is $5)
    - Just had spring meeting, focused on AI – good attendance.
    - Monthly Friday "Take a Break" virtual updates being held.
    - Looking to reinstate in-person group meetups, lunch or dinner (around the state).
    - Upcoming elections.
- **Wisconsin-**
    - WHSLA awarded 12 professional development awards, including for 1 student (11 were used for MLA annual conference; 1 for AHIP)
    - WHSLA had a Thursday lunch meeting at MLA conference.
    - WHSLA donated 10 blankets for MLA conference service project.
    - Planning some "Wisdom Chats" – anyone who received a PD award must provide a Wisdom Chat or blog post. Potential October AI Wisdom Chat.
    - A few retirements, big Karen Hanus (Aurora Health) promotion, who will be overseeing library services in WI, IL, NC, SC, etc.

The next Midwest/MLA liaisons' meeting: date not yet set. The group consensus was for quarterly meetings.