Upstate New York Ontario Chapter (UNYOC)
Annual Report

Since the last Annual Report, UNYOC has continued to implement programs and projects to meet the needs of our members. This year’s Chapter Theme is “Forging Ahead” to indicate that while much has been accomplished there still lies much ahead! Membership is not at the level it was last year, however, members tend to renew as the annual meeting draws closer. The 2009 conference, “Capital Ideas: Surviving and Thriving in Uncertain Times” will be held in Albany, NY from September 30th – October 2nd. UNYOC finances are relatively strong with funds available to support organizational activities and programming to enable member participation.

Recruitment, Membership, and Leadership in the Profession
The UNYOC Executive Committee strongly supports not only identifying and recruiting new members, but providing new members with the mentors and the opportunity to serve within the Chapter. Preliminary steps have included providing members who have indicated an interest with the opportunity to serve. Additionally, letters were sent to LIS faculty and students inviting them to attend the annual conference. Calls for applicants for two student scholarships has just gone out. Due to the location of the MLA annual meeting, UNYOC has agreed to double, this year only, the level of support for Chapter Council and an executive board member to attend the MLA meeting.

UNYOC also recognized the contributions of members through an Awards program. This year’s committee is beginning to solicit nominations. Last year, Amy Lyons was awarded a fellowship in recognition of her dedication to the Chapter and to the profession and Angela Dixon was awarded the Katie Nesbit Service Recognition Award for her Chapter contributions.

Life Long Learning
CE continues to be strongly supported. In addition to our Annual Meeting CE offerings, UNYOC budgets to collaborate with other groups in our region to support their CE offerings and to subsidize UNYOC member participation. Although no requests for support have been made to date, with 4 regional Hospital Library Services Program Coordinators active in UNYOC our members have many opportunities available to them. As online courses have gained in popularity, the Ad Hoc Conference Strategic Planning Task Force will be exploring changes in how the Chapter promotes and offers CE. To provide financial support for our members professional development needs, we have created two Individual Professional Development Awards. UNYOC has also sponsored two tickets to the MLA Chapter Roundtable annual luncheon to be held in Hawaii at the 2009 annual meeting.

Advocacy
Given the uncertain New York State budget environment, our Government Relations Chair has communicated and participated in NYLA Lobbying events to protect library funds from undue cutting. UNYOC members attended the NYLA Library Rally at the state capitol to protest a $20 million cut to library aid across the state on November 18th. Continued advocacy is vital as New York State has cut library funding by 8% for the 2009/2010 budget year, less than originally anticipated.
Creating and Communicating our Knowledge/ Efficiency and Effectiveness of Association Operations

There has been much effort this past year to review and improve chapter operations. The Ad Hoc Communications Committee continued to devise and introduce Web 2.0 technologies to facilitate Chapter business. In the past year, the chapter has established a presence on Facebook, implemented a blog which will eventually replace the more traditional newsletter, developed a conference planning Wiki, purchased SurveyMonkey, and used Doodle to set up meeting times. UNYOC-L continues to be active with other 163 messages sent in 2008. Additionally, the Ad Hoc Annual Conference Task Force is charged with reviewing the current annual meeting structure and make recommendations for future meetings. A preliminary report is due by June 2009.

Building a Network of Partners

UNYOC is in the preliminary stages of exploring collaboration with NYLINK regarding an active role for medical librarians in the development and maintenance (i.e. updating) of medical treatment guidelines or algorithms. This idea arose from Dr. Penniman’s presentation at the annual meeting. Diana Cunningham is leading UNYOC’s involvement with this project and an Ad Hoc Committee has been formed to explore the possibilities.

Motion

This report is informational and requires no action by the Board of Directors.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Irish, MLS, AHIP
Chapter Chair

UNYOC Executive Committee:
Chair: Elizabeth Irish
Vice chair/chair-elect: Cristina Pope
Immediate Past-chair: Diana Cunningham
Secretary: Cynthia Bertuca
Treasurer: Amy Lyons
Members-at-large: Melissa Helwig, Michelle Zafron, Donna Berryman
Chapter Council Rep: Sue Ben-Dor
Chapter Council Alt: Angela Dixon
Nominee to the Nominating Committee: Sue Ben-Dor
Conference planning co-chairs: Sue Bretscher, Brad Long
Continuing Education chair: Grace Di Virgilio
Governmental Rel. Chair: Christopher Tosh
Membership Chair: Rebecca Kindon
Newsletter Editor: Leigh Mihlrad
Parliamentarian: Warren Hawkes
AHIP Credentialing Liaison: Sue Ben-Dor
MLA Benchmarking Liaison: Regina Vertone
UNYOC-L Coordinator: Amanda Start
Web site Coordinator: Pamela White