

## **NMRT Board Member Final Report**

**1. Office Name:** NMRT Networking Director

**2. Office Term (Date: Ex. 2005-2006):** 2011-2012

**3. Discuss/summarize your involvement with your committees this year:**

This year's Midwinter Social Committee faced many challenges from the start; Melissa Brisbin stepped up to the plate and handled everything beautifully with very little assistance. We had a very successful Midwinter Social thanks to her outstanding efforts.

I worked again most closely with Membership Pavilion through its changes – MP will continue to morph as it finds its niche and new duties. Bridget Schumacher did a great job rolling with changes, being proactive looking for avenues of communication and offering the MP budget up for permanent shift. We decided that the best place for the budget was to go to Scholarships, after 3M withdrew support unexpectedly midyear.

Close to Annual as we were scrambling with changes due to 3M's withdrawal, we decided we would still like to continue with the plaque awarded to the scholarship winner, and I offered the money for that plaque to come from the Networking Director's budget.

**4. Based on your year's experience in this office, what future directions do you see your office or NMRT needing to take this year or the following year?**

I think that in the coming year, a re-examination of the needs or duties of the Membership Pavilion Committee will be reassessed, and the size of that committee should be addressed as well. It would be helpful at some point to talk about the lack of response of some committee members to calls for help, historically. We've had some problems on some of the social committees in the past two years at least, and only a few people have had to take on the full burden of the entire committee's work, while others still add their membership to their CVs. This doesn't sit well with me, nor, I'm sure, with those who carry the workload.

**5. What tips or hints do you have that might help your successor carry out the duties of this office?**

Stay in contact with your chairs, and make sure they're responding regularly enough... Some need reaching out more than others, and some need guidance more than others; it will also depend on the state of the committee.

**6. Please address the role of the board member as coordinator. For example, projects between membership promotion, diversity & recruitment and student outreach would need to be coordinated. How might activities such as this be handled by board members efficiently and smoothly? Your thoughts here will be most helpful for future boards.**

I'll repeat here what I said at the end of last year: it would be helpful if we had time during our board meetings to chat about or with our committees! A giant brainstorm about what we're doing and where things overlap and what we could be doing better would be really helpful as things have been changing and we need new perspectives. Orientation is getting more and more popular and may need to grow and change.

I never felt as though I had a handle on what all of my committees were doing at the same time, but had good communication with one or two at once, then another one... In pieces but never all together. There has to be a better way to feel that each section is a cohesive unit, in a way. I felt awfully scattered, which I know is my own fault for letting NMRT matters get away from me, but regular work will always get in the way. An ALA/NMRT organized space or function might help facilitate more cohesion on this part.

**7. Date of report:** July 13, 2012

**8. Submitted by:** Julie Kane