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Digital Equipment Corporation
InterSystems Corporation

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Micrometrix Design Corporation
• Sentient Systems

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Greystone Technology Corporation
• IBM RS/6000 Division
Science Applications International Corporation
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Bronze

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Cue Data Services, Inc.
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ENI Technology Corporation
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KB Systems, Inc.
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Platinum Corporate Membership \$10,000
Gold Corporate Membership \$ 5,000
Silver Corporate Membership \$ 2,500
Bronze Corporate Membership \$ 1,000

* (taxable)

BRIEFINGS PUBLIC RELATIONS

LUGs Are Key to Sharing Information

by Rita Mincavage



Rita Mincavage

Recently, Computer Sciences Professor Fred Kohun, of Pennsylvania's Robert Morris College, visited the MTA staff. The staff members asked him about his opinion on many M Technology and MTA issues, most of them concerned in some way with the outlook for the future. Whether we were discussing M Technology's future or MTA's major changes for the future, the theme that Fred returned to again and again was the need for an ongoing, healthy exchange of information in the M community.

Association and staff members probably could all agree that MTA's Annual Meeting is the primary catalyst for sharing information, which happens during those few intense conference days filled with technical presentations and product demonstrations. In my short time with MTA, I have been to several Baltimore/Washington LUG (local user group) meetings and have observed Susan Schluederberg and Rodger Alspach host interesting, substantive monthly programs. These also were terrific information-exchange events. Actually, I would like to challenge all MTA members to ponder this: Are your LUG meetings currently being exploited sufficiently as gatherings for members to learn about successful applications, swap solutions for problems, and see new product demos?

In February, this LUG put together a tools exhibition that drew more than fifty people to a Baltimore hotel to hear presentations and see demos by M vendors from Boxborough and Waltham, Massachusetts; and West Chester and Wayne, Pennsylvania. The most recent B/W meeting was again an example of strategic planning and coordination. A timely panel discussion about security issues for computer systems preceded an informal presentation by MDC (MUMPS Development Committee) chair and vice chair, Ed de Moel and Kate Schell, who updated the audience on the standards canvassing and answered questions.

All the LUG program committees can help each other tremendously by sharing experiences on successful meetings, not-so-successful meetings, and ideas for the future. At the MTA office, Susan Rathbone, membership director, and I are eager to hear about LUG activities. We, too, can help build a stronger information exchange so that everyone hears about especially stimulating programs that others might replicate or customize. Together, we can capitalize on opportunities for enlightening information exchanges at LUG meetings. As Fred Kohun suggested in his discussion with the MTA staff, the future of M is intrinsically tied to a healthy, ongoing exchange of information within our community. ■

Rita Mincavage brings to the position of MTA communications director more than twelve years of public relations and marketing communications management experience.