



A Brief History

- ◆ **December 1987.** NCLA President Patsy Hansel appointed a committee to study the concerns of paraprofessionals.
- ◆ **February 1988.** Questionnaires mailed to 292 libraries asked support staff about their interest in NCLA and an association for paraprofessionals. Over 720 responses were received.
- ◆ **July 1988.** NCLA Executive Board granted roundtable status to the group upon presentation of a petition bearing the required 100 signatures.
- ◆ **November 10, 1988.** Organizational meeting in Durham was attended by more than 120 people from libraries across the state. Featured speaker was Debbie Wolcott, organizer of the Paraprofessional Forum of the Virginia Library Association. She emphasized the importance of networking and communication.
- ◆ **January 1989.** Steering committee met at Elon College, elected interim officers and appointed committees to consider bylaws, membership, training, newsletter, nomination of officers for the next biennium, and NCLA conference planning.
- ◆ **May 25, 1989.** "Improving Staff Communications," the first workshop sponsored by NCLPA, was held at Wilson County Public Library with 75 participants. Presenter was Dr. Ernie Tompkins, Director of Training for the City of Winston-Salem. The workshop was repeated on May 31 at Appalachian State University in Boone with 52 participants. Duncan Smith of NC Central University was program coordinator. Workshops were funded in part by LSCA Title III.
- ◆ **October 11, 1989.** Bylaws were adopted; revised, 1993, 1995, 1997, and 2007.
- ◆ **October 11-13, 1989.** NCLPA members participated in their first NCLA biennial conference held in Charlotte. Keynote speaker was Kathleen Weibel, Ohio Wesleyan University, on the topic, "I Work in a Library, but I am not a Librarian." Other programs presented were "How to Plan a Staff Development Program," Duncan Smith, NCCU; "If You've Got It, Flaunt It," Jan McManus, Cumberland County Public Library; "Time Allocation, Myriette Revenna Ekechukwu, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Public Library
- ◆ **October 2-5, 1991.** Program presenters at the NCLA Biennial Conference in High Point were John Berry speaking on the "Role of the Paraprofessional" and Margaret Myers addressing the topic "What's Happening for the Paraprofessional on the National Level."
- ◆ **October 20-22, 1993.** Programs sponsored at the NCLA Biennial Conference held in Winston-Salem were "On the Trail to Excel" by keynote speaker, Dr. Hardy Franklin, ALA President-elect; "Motivation for the Plateaued Employee," Barbara DeLon, UNC-CH Personnel Officer; two table talks: "The Preliminaries of Automation," Amanda Bible, Columbus County Public Library and "Security Problems," Warren Graham, Security Director, Charlotte/Mecklenburg Public Library; "Certification for the Paraprofessional," Dr. Kitty Smith, UNC-G Department of Library Information Studies, and Dr. Sue Mahmoodi, Minnesota Office of Library Development and Services.
- ◆ **October 4-6, 1995.** Presentations at the NCLA Biennial Conference held in Greensboro included "Personnel Rights and Issues," Patricia Fuller, EEOC-Greensboro Division; "Paraprofessionals Across the Nation," panel discussion by Chairs of SSIRT(ALA), PART (SELA), and NCLPA; "Volunteers in Libraries," Carolyn Tate, Boatwright Library, University of Richmond & Marsha Grove, Cumberland County Public Library; "About the Author (His Own Words)," Tim McLaurin, author.
- ◆ **September-October, 1996.** "Super Storytelling Techniques" workshop was presented in each of the four NCLPA regions across the state.
- ◆ **October 8-10, 1997.** Programs presented at the NCLA Biennial Conference in Raleigh included "What Is It All About Those Southern Writers," Lee Smith, author; "Wake County Children's Bookmobile" tour; "It Takes a Vision," Ed Martinez, *Library Mosaics*; "Copyright and Internet," Simone A. Rose, Associate Professor, Wake Forest University School of Law.
- ◆ **Meralyn Meadows** was voted "1999 Library Paraprofessional of the Year" by *Library Mosaics*, national magazine for library support staff. She is Office Manager at the Stanly County Library in Albemarle.
- ◆ **Early 2001.** NCLPA roundtable, inactive in recent years, was revitalized with interim officers serving until the upcoming biennial conference.

- ◆ **October 2-5, 2001.** Programs offered at the NCLA 54th Biennial Conference in Winston-Salem included “Security Issues within Library,” Warren Graham, Security Director, Charlotte/Mecklenburg Public Library; “Support Staff Certification,” Dorothy Morgan, Liverpool NY Public Library; “Copyright in the Digital Age,” Dr. Laura N. Gasaway, Law Library, UNC-Chapel Hill; “Online Learning for Library Paraprofessionals,” Central Carolina Community College LIT instructors Ellen Dickey, Felicity Callis, Dr. Barbara Miller-Marson. Newly elected officers for the 2001-2003 biennium were introduced at the conference business meeting.
- ◆ **May 21, 2002.** NCLPA Executive Board approved a motion to fund the registration, business luncheon and one night’s lodging for a paraprofessional at the 2003 NCLA biennial conference.
- ◆ **October 7, 2002.** “Certification of Library Support Staff” workshop was conducted at the NC School of Science and Math in Durham. Dorothy Morgan, Business Manager for the Liverpool Public Library (New York), presented specifics of the New York State library certification program. A panel comprised of librarians and support staff discussed the benefits of certification for NC library paraprofessionals.
- ◆ **September 23-26, 2003.** Programs sponsored at the NCLA 55th Biennial Conference in Winston-Salem included “National Agricultural Library Mission,” Peter Young ; “USA Patriot Act,” panel of three attorneys; “Using Interactive Games to Energize Meetings and Training,” Caroline Shepherd; “Cope III: Focus on Library Support Staff,” panel discussion by five NCLA members; “A Visit with North Carolina Mystery Writer, Sarah Shaber.”
- ◆ **September 25, 2003.** Clara Melissa Reece, Randall Library, UNC-Wilmington, was recognized at the business meeting as the first recipient of the Conference Paraprofessional Scholarship .
- ◆ **November 9-13, 2004.** Humorist Bill Thompson of *Our State* magazine was guest speaker at the joint NCLA Centennial Conference-SELA Biennial Conference held in Charlotte.
- ◆ **September 24, 2004.** Pilot workshop on customer service both inside and outside the library was conducted by Jackie Frye, Harnett County Public Library, at Cape Fear Community College.
- ◆ **September 20-23, 2005.** Programs presented at the NCLA 56th Biennial Conference included “Humor & Laughter in the Workplace” and “Approach Life with Humor,” Al Yountz, humorist/motivational speaker; “Helpful Organizational Support on Job Related Training at University Libraries: Perceptions from Support Staff,” Sha Li Zhang, UNC-Greensboro; “Who Gets the Next Question?,” panel discussion; “Customer Service: Focus on the Internal Customer,” Jackie Frye, Harnett County Public Library; “Can you COPE? Library Support Staff in an Age of Change,” Annis Barbee, NCLPA Past Chair.
- ◆ **September 2005.** Based on a survey they designed and conducted, the Mutual Respect Task Force submitted recommendations to the NCLA Executive Board. Overall Recommended NCLA Goal: “Improved outreach to the overall library community in North Carolina, recognizing the importance of and speaking to the professional needs of both librarians and support staff in all library environments.”
- ◆ **2006-2007.** Promotional and Web activities: (1) Printed materials were updated and reissued bearing both the new NCLPA logo and the NCLA logo; (2) Google Group for Executive board was created for ease of communication; (3) Separate Google Group was set up for active NCLPA members and non-members interested in support staff issues; (4) NCLPA re-designed web site displays the new logo and pages featuring officers, bylaws, membership, etc.; (5) PARAPROSE, a web log (blog), was established to alert library support staff about upcoming, conferences, workshops, and various items of interest.
- ◆ **June 2006.** NCLPA Conference Scholarship was formally designated the *Meryl G. Meadows North Carolina Library Association Conference Paraprofessional Scholarship*.
- ◆ **Jackie Cornette** was named “2007 Paraprofessional of the Year” by *Library Journal*. She is Branch Manager and Outreach Specialist at the Western Branch of the Watauga County Library in Sugar Grove.
- ◆ **March 14, 2007.** “Work Smarter, Not Harder” workshop was held at Wake Forest University. The morning session covered ergonomics in the library; the afternoon session, technology competencies.
- ◆ **October 16-19, 2007.** Presentations at the NCLA 57th Biennial Conference included “Federal & NC Legal Resources Available on the Internet,” Maureen Eggert, Sally Irvin, Law Librarians, Wake Forest University; “Telling Our Story Using New Technologies,” State Library Staff; “Telling Our Story the North Carolina Way,” Bill Leslie, WRAL-TV news anchor/musician; “Managing Your Stress: It is Possible,” Annis Barbee, NC Department of Health & Human Services.
- ◆ **October 2007.** Approved by the NCLA Executive Board at their conference business meeting: (1) *Distinguished Service Award*, originally awarded only to librarians, can be awarded to paraprofessionals; (2) Clarification that *Lifetime Membership Award* covers all library workers; (3) NCLPA Bylaws change of name from “NCLPA Executive Committee” to “NCLPA Executive Board.”