

Biennial Report
North Carolina Library Paraprofessional Association
October 1, 2003

2001 saw the revitalization of the North Carolina Library Paraprofessional Association. After several years of inactivity, Meralyn Meadows was asked to reactivate the roundtable and served as interim chair until the 2001 biennial conference. Programs were planned for the 2001 biennial conference, and a search for officers was initiated. At the business meeting held during the 2001 conference, officers were elected for chair, secretary and treasurer. There was much interest from those in attendance to participate in the roundtable. In the fall of 2001, there were 32 members of the roundtable. In August 2003, there were 65 members.

Officers for the 2001-2003 biennium were: Linda Hearn, Professional Center Library, Wake Forest University, Chair; Annis Barbee, Office of Scholarly Communication, NCSU Libraries, Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect; Christian Burris, Z. Smith Reynolds Library, Wake Forest University, Secretary; Linda Sykes, Z. Smith Reynolds Library, Wake Forest University, Treasurer; Sheila Little, Wilson County Public Library, Region 2 Director; Barbara Torpy, Davie County Public Library, Region 3 Director; and Jackie Cornette, Western Watauga Branch Library, Region 4 Director.

NCLPA sponsored a very successful workshop October 7, 2002, on certification for paraprofessionals. Dorothy Morgan, from New York state and *Library Journal* paraprofessional of the year, was the speaker. There was also a panel discussion. 43 people attended, including support staff and professional librarians. The panel discussed the benefits of the New York certification program. Almost unanimously, those attending indicated that this should be a matter that is moved forward by the efforts of NCLPA.

May 16-17, 2003, two members of NCLPA, Linda Hearn (Chair) and Meralyn Meadows (Program Committee Chair) were delegates to the American Library Association's Third Congress on Professional Education: Focus on Library Support Staff, held in Chicago. ALA has created a task force and is working on implementing the suggestions from COPE. Also as a result of this congress, NCLPA presented a resolution to the NCLA Executive Board on July 18, 2003, to request that NCLA use language inclusive of all library workers (professional and paraprofessional) in all communications and published materials. This resolution was passed unanimously.

NCLPA also created and presented its first Conference Paraprofessional Scholarship. This scholarship paid the registration, one night's lodging, and the NCLPA business luncheon registration for a paraprofessional to attend the biennial conference. The recipient was Clara Melissa Reece of the Randall Library at UNC-Wilmington.

Plans were also made for programs during the 2003 biennial conference. NCLPA presented 5 programs at the conference. They were: *The National Agricultural Library as a Leader in the Information Revolution* presented by Peter Young, director of the National Agricultural Library; *USA PATRIOT Act – a Panel Discussion*, panelists, Donald Forbes, Guilford Technical Community College, Anne Klinefelter, UNC-CH School of Law/Law Library, and B. Gordon

Watkins III, Assistant County Attorney, Forsyth County; *Good Clene Fun: Using Interactive Games to Energize Meetings and Training* presented by Cal Shepard of SOLINET. The NCLPA also sponsored *Focus on Library Support Staff – a Panel Discussion* presented by five delegates who attended the Third Congress on Professional Education and *A Visit with North Carolina Mystery Writer, Sarah Shaber*, winner of the Malice Domestic First Traditional Mystery Contest sponsored by St. Martin's Press.

The officers for the 2003-2005 biennium are: Annis Barbee, Office of Scholarly Communication, NCSU Libraries, Chair; Jackie Cornette, Western Watauga Branch Library, Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect; Linda Hearn, Professional Center Library, Wake Forest University, Past Chair; Christian Burris, Z. Smith Reynolds Library, Wake Forest University, Secretary; Linda Sykes, Z. Smith Reynolds Library, Wake Forest University, Treasurer; Jackie Frye, Harnett County Public Library, Region 1 Director; Sheila Little, Wilson County Public Library, Region 2 Director; Barbara Torpy, Davie County Public Library, Region 3 Director; and, Wendy Barber, Wilkes County Public Library, Region 4 Director.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda F. Hearn, NCLPA Chair
2001-2003 biennium