NCLPA Luncheon and Business Meeting  
NCLA 57th Biennial Conference  
Hickory Convention Center; Hickory, North Carolina  
Thursday, October 18, 2007

The business meeting and luncheon of the North Carolina Library Paraprofessional Association (NCLPA) was held during the 57th North Carolina Library Association (NCLA) Biennial Conference in Hickory. The conference theme was “Telling Our Story.” Linda Hearn, Interim Chair of NCLPA, welcomed members, called the meeting to order, and delivered the invocation.

Seventy-six conference attendees were present for the buffet luncheon plus a narrative and musical voyage with Bill Leslie, WRAL-TV morning and noon news co-anchor and musician extraordinaire. Bill Leslie is an award-winning composer, producer, arranger and performer of Celtic music, including five highly acclaimed Celtic fusion CDs. His “Peaceful Journey - A Celebration of North Carolina” is available on CD and on DVD.

Marcia Johnson, Acting Secretary, read the minutes reconstructed from the previous business meeting at the 2005 NCLA biennial conference. Barbara Torpy moved that the minutes be approved as read. Wendy Barber seconded the motion, which then passed. NCLPA Treasurer Malinda Sells reported a balance of $2,195.71 as of the date of this meeting.

Harry Frank, Region Director 2-elect, presented the Meralyn G. Meadows NCLA Conference Paraprofessional Scholarship award to Lisa Stevens, Branch Manager of the Pikeville Public Library. Sponsored by the NCLPA, the award pays for conference registration, one night’s lodging in the conference hotel, and the NCLPA business meeting luncheon. Application forms for the award were posted on the NCLPA web site and blog. Lisa was selected from the 17 persons who responded.

Linda Hearn recognized Jackie Cornette and offered congratulations for being selected by Library Journal as 2007 Paraprofessional of the Year, a first for North Carolina. Linda Hearn presented a special award to Barbara Torpy, Region Director 3, for her work setting up the NCLPA exhibit themed “Telling Our Story the North Carolina Way.” Luncheon tables continued the theme through decorations and special prizes donated for the occasion.

**Committee Reports** (Not presented at the business meeting but to be posted on the NCLPA web site)

**Archives** (Jean Reader) – The Committee assisted by Meralyn Meadows is in the process of reorganizing the Archives collection.

**Membership** – No report due to vacancy in committee chair position.

**Nominations** (Jean Reader) – A slate of officers was prepared from names suggested by NCLPA members as possible candidates to serve on the 2007-2009 NCLPA Executive Board. Prior contact was made to determine each candidate’s willingness to serve. These nominees were elected by paper ballot mailed to each active NCLPA member.

**Program** (Linda Hearn) -- One very successful program titled “Work Smarter, Not Harder” was presented during the 2005-2007 biennium. Raye Oldham and Ruth Crist for the State Library presented an interesting and informative program to 31 participants from Elizabeth City State University to Pembroke University to Appalachian Regional Library. The program was held at Wake Forest University School of Law on March 14, 2007. The workshop made a profit of $606.99.
**Publications (Marcia Johnson)**

- **NCLPA Logo** – Created to establish the identity of the roundtable. Presently appears on printed materials including stationery, brochures, bookmarks, maps, newsletters, and on the brief program evaluation forms handed out to conference/workshop participants. Appears on web site and blog.

- The new graphic will eventually be used as a marketing tool on such items as T-shirts, mugs, coasters, and other promotional items.

- Redesigned and updated printed materials will be included in mailings and in information packets like those given to each person attending our “Work Smarter, Not Harder” workshop held in spring 2006.

- All printed materials including NCLPA meeting minutes are posted on the NCLPA web site and can be downloaded and/or printed as needed.

- *Visions*, the NCLPA newsletter, publishes a regular feature entitled “Spotlight On.” We encourage everyone who reads the newsletter to consider submitting the name of a co-worker at your library who goes above and beyond the ordinary, someone who shines brilliantly.

**Scholarship (Jean Reader)** – Jean Reader was unable to attend the conference. Standing in for her, Harry Frank presented Lisa Stevens with the Meralyn G. Meadows NCLA Conference Paraprofessional Scholarship award as noted above (see paragraph four).

**NCLPA By-Laws (Linda Hearn)** – The NCLA Executive Board passed NCLPA motions to revise NCLPA By-Laws as follows:

**Article VIII, Section 2** – Upon the occurrence of a vacancy of the Chair or Chair-Elect during intervals between biennial meetings, the Executive Committee shall fill such vacancy or vacancies by the appointment of a member or members of the Executive Committee of the Round Table. In the event of a vacancy of any other elected officer or regional director of the Round Table, the Executive Committee will fill the vacancy by the appointment of a member in good standing of the Round Table. Such appointment(s) shall remain in force until the next regular meeting of the Round Table.

Change of name from “NCLPA Executive Committee” to “NCLPA Executive Board.”

**NCLA By-Laws Report (Angela Davis)** – The NCLPA motion to open the NCLA Distinguished Service Award to include library paraprofessionals was taken up by the NCLA By-Laws Committee because the By-Laws specifically state that “professionals” are eligible. The change was voted on and passed at the NCLA Executive Board conference meeting.

No By-Laws change was required to open the NCLA Lifetime Membership Award to all library employees as paraprofessionals have always been eligible. The NCLA Executive Board passed a “Sense of the Board Resolution,” which added a clarifying statement to the handbook affirming the eligibility of all library workers for this award.

**ALA/NCLPA Liaison (Meralyn Meadows)**

At the LSSIRT (Library Support Staff Interests Round Table) business meeting held in Washington, DC on June 25, 2007, it was announced:

- Dorothy Morgan is new Vice President/President-elect.

- Jennifer Kutzik, who is the newsletter co-editor, asked that state conference reports be submitted to her for inclusion in the LSSIRT newsletter. These reports formerly were included in *Library*
Mosaics. Because the magazine has ceased publication, reports will now be included in the LSSIRT newsletter. We will send a report from this conference.

- The Directory of Library Support Staff Organizations continues to have problems updating in a timely manner. We will report our new officers information following this conference.
- As of February 2007, LSSIRT had 883 members. It is the fastest growing roundtable in ALA. Some of the credit for the numbers is the Empowerment Conference held at Midwinter meetings. It has increased the roundtable’s visibility in ALA. Dorothy Morgan will submit program ideas for the Empowerment Conference in 2008. Some of the topics will include Online Learning Opportunities – Google to the Next Level – Diversity Among Support Staff – Academic Library Community Outready – and Support Staff Supervisors.
- It was announced that the ALA Council passed a resolution advocating for a $40,000 minimum salary for MLS Librarians, but no similar resolution was introduced for support staff. This is an area where we will continue to work.
- John Chrastka reported that the ALA support staff membership brochures promote LSSIRT as a roundtable option, but it is unlikely that all support staff who join ALA will also join LSSIRT. ALA is continuing to contact more states about the joint membership project between ALA and state organizations. Caroline Walters is working on this project for North Carolina, but nothing has been reported as of this date. Hopefully more news will be released in Philadelphia in January.

Historian’s Report (Meralyn Meadows)
It is the responsibility of the Historian to assemble and preserve the record of meetings, activities, and achievements of the North Carolina Library Paraprofessional Association (NCLPA). This has not been done in the past. We have an archive, which has numerous materials but is in no particular order. It takes extensive research and analysis to review all these materials.
This is what I am currently doing:
1. Reviewing materials turned over since the association was organized
2. Compiling lists of members at various times
3. Reviewing By-Laws and changes
4. Collecting photographs
This year I have:
1. Written an account of the year’s activities and key personnel (list of officers and chairmen);
2. Compiled a list of recipients of awards;
3. Helped prepare a bulleted history of NCLPA for this conference;
4. Organized historical records for transfer to my successor.
The big project for this year is to prepare a detailed history of the NCLPA since it was organized in 198__ and encourage future historians to keep it updated yearly. I will also encourage the Historian to present a brief summary of the association history at the end of his/her term and perhaps this could be reprinted in the association’s newsletter.

Webmaster Report (Angela Davis)
Google Groups
There is a Google group for NCLPA Executive Board Members and a separate group for NCLPA Members. The NCLPA Members group is currently made up of any paraprofessional wanting to join because we do not have a current membership list. NCLPA Board members agreed via e-mail to let anyone join for now and see how it goes. Currently there are 59 members of the NCLPA Members Google Group and there has been very little activity on the list. A Google Groups image/link has been added to the NCLPA homepage. When the image/link is clicked, people are taken to a Google Groups page that gives them options for requesting an invitation to join the group.

Google Analytics
Linda Hearn had requested that Google Analytics be added to the NCLPA website; however Angela has not been able to get it to work properly as of November 21, 2007. This project is still in progress.

Blog:
The Paraprose Blog is still functioning. There has been little activity, but that is mostly due to sporadic posts. Anyone having a topic, website, or other bit of news to share can request that it be posted to the blog by e-mailing Angela.

NCLPA Website Updates
NCLA Conference Session Handouts/Presentation links, Google Group icon on homepage, and new officer information have been added.

Introduction of New Officers (Linda Hearn)
- Meralyn Meadows, Chair
- Angela Davis, Secretary
- Malinda Sells, Treasurer
- Amanda Davis, Region 1 Director (unable to attend)
- Harry Frank, Region 2 Director
- Barbara Torpy, Region 3 Director
- Jackie Cornette, Region 4 Director

Meralyn Meadows assumed her position as new NCLPA Chair for the 2007-2009 biennium. She praised Linda for her leadership and special efforts on behalf of the roundtable and presented her with a special award of appreciation.

Barbara Torpy conducted the drawings for door prizes, which included two ALA annual memberships, a DVD and CDs by Bill Leslie, and a goody bag on each table containing books and music CDs.

Meralyn concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for being there and requesting that they fill out their program evaluation forms before leaving. All business on the agenda being completed, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia H. Johnson
Acting Secretary, NCLPA