MEMBERS PRESENT

Jackie Frye (Chair), Jackie Cornette (Vice Chair), Meralyn Meadows (Immediate Past Chair/Membership Chair), Linda Hearn (Treasurer/By-Laws), Marcia Johnson (Secretary/Publications Chair), Harry Frank (Region 2 Director), Wendy Barber (Archives)

Participating Online (via DimDim): Gloria Nelson (Region 1 Director)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Anna Dulin (Region 3 Director), Dee Daughtridge (Region 4 Director), Angela Davis (Webmaster), Ellen Dickey (Scholarship Chair)

WELCOME

Jackie Frye welcomed Board members and thanked them for attending the meeting.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 4, 2010 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES BY EMAIL (FEBRUARY 22, 2010)

A motion was made by Jackie Cornette via email to accept the minutes from the NCLPA Winter meeting held in Asheboro on February 4, 2010. Linda Hearn seconded the motion. The minutes were accepted as read by all who had attended the meeting.

Discussion: Whether or not to approve minutes without a vote. Jackie Frye noted that some organizations agree to accept meeting minutes as written without a vote. All present preferred to keep motion-second-vote standard, so no action was taken.

TREASURER REPORT (Jackie Cornette, Vice Chair; Linda Hearn, Treasurer)

Jackie Cornette completed budget reporting from the 2009 biennial conference. At the February meeting members questioned a $129.60 expense recorded by NCLA as utilities. Jackie learned that the expense was for rental of two podiums ($68.40 x 2) used in NCLPA program presentations.

The discrepancies between what NCLA says we have in the NCLPA account and our own calculations can be explained by the way NCLA posts income and expenses, which is quarterly. Confusion arose when income and/or expenses were posted in different quarters by NCLA; e.g., NCLA subtracted $47.74 in the 2010 January-March quarter because this expense (display table receipts) was submitted in November. New member income of $20.00 submitted in October was posted in the 2009 October-December quarter.

NCLPA Treasurer Report as of May 27, 2010:

Income:

Workshop Receipts
(April 22, 2010 workshop at HCPL) $ 425.00

Balance on hand 1454.60 ($2203.94)

Total 1879.60 ($2628.94)

Actual Balance – 5/27/10 $1851.86
Discussion:

Jackie Frye provided additional information about the one-day workshop held on Thursday, April 22 at the Harnett County Library, Lillington. She reported one new member @$20.00, refund to absent member @$30.00 and profit of $265.00. Among items given to attendees were a “Customer Service First Aid Kit” and buttons sporting “Did this completely answer your question?” Programs on customer service and the reference interview were presented during the workshop.

See NCLPA Chair Report – Quarterly Workshop at HCPL – April 22, 2010
See “Final Report!” graphic

Refund discussion: Generally, conference and workshop fees are non-refundable because pre-conference planning costs depend on the number of people expected to attend.

Jackie Frye explained that one library had paid for four people to attend the workshop and that one could not attend due to illness. Jackie agreed to the refund as a good will gesture because the absent person wanted to attend the J.Y. Joyner Paraprofessional Conference, ECU, Greenville, held on May 14. She would not have been able to attend because her library would not authorize an additional registration fee.

NCLPA Board members reached an understanding: No refunds for conference programs or workshops will be given, but a library may send a substitute person. This disclaimer will be included on all future conference/workshop registration forms.

Further discussion centered on the necessity for a Program Committee Chair to standardize procedures for programming. (Program Chair position has been vacant). Harry Frank emphasized the need for preset documents: submission form, contact person to locate a site in each NCLPA region, program proposal packet, etc.

Harry volunteered to become NCLPA Program Committee Chair and assume these responsibilities.

Board members were asked to send ideas to Harry for consideration. Meralyn will send him a set of guidelines developed by members of NCLPA during the early years.

BUSINESS ITEMS (Jackie Frye, Chair)

A. Online meetings

Jackie Frye established a connection with Gloria Nelson using DimDim at this meeting. Video and chat were functioning well. The Board communicated with Gloria via speech. She responded with text as she had no microphone at her location.

Discussion:

Do online meetings prevent Board members from attending face-to-face meetings? Consensus: Online meetings do not hinder attendance because members are given two opportunities to attend. Many libraries are operating with reduced staffs and funding because of the current poor economy and budget shortfalls.

Gloria Nelson pointed out the need for better preparation before online meetings. Board members responded with the following suggestions:

- Committee reports should be emailed to Jackie Frye three (3) workdays prior to the meeting
- Jackie Frye to prepare packet of meeting documents, print and send or email to members planning to attend online, providing the same committee reports and other materials as those physically present
- Guidelines and procedures to be drafted by Jackie Cornette on how to attend online meetings, etc.
• Additional comments:
  o Record meetings
  o Member physically present to monitor chat on DimDim
  o If time is limited for online attendees, reports can be presented out of order from the set agenda

B. Committee Member Recruiting

Meralyn Meadows, Membership Chair, stated that each committee chair should have one person to mentor. Not only are committee members necessary to back up each committee chair but to evaluate as possible future elected officers.

C. NCLA Executive Board Report (Jackie Frye, Chair)

See NCLPA Report to NCLA Executive Board Meeting – April 23, 2010
See Summary of NCLA Board Meeting
See “NCLPA Looks Ahead: Membership and Training” by Meralyn Meadows-Tar Heel Libraries Article, Summer 2010 Issue

REGIONAL DIRECTOR REPORTS

A. Region 1 – Gloria Nelson – No Report

B. Region 2 – Harry Frank

• Five people attended the NCLPA half day pre-conference workshop on May 13. Low attendance. Event could have been made more visible by using the NCLPA web site to tie to the Joyner Conference site. Costs for “The Basics of Preservation” were absorbed by the Joyner Conference. Program kits were donated. The second program was “Customer Service: Beyond the Front Desk.” Both programs were repeated at the big conference the following day, which had attendance of 130.

• Created a Facebook page for the J.Y. Joyner Conference. He volunteered collaborate with Angela Davis, Webmaster, in setting up a Facebook account for NCLPA.

Discussion: Jackie Frye reported that the Harnett County Public Library Facebook account records 564-782 hits a week as compared to the library’s web site, which has 400 hits a week.

All members of the current Executive Board have personal Facebook accounts.

Executive Board members should be made administrators of a Facebook account for the purpose of deleting inappropriate comments or photos and for posting information of interest to paraprofessionals and others concerned with support staff issues. Only administrators could post to the account.

Motion by Jackie Cornette: That Harry Frank and Angela Davis establish a Facebook account for NCLPA. Second by Harry Frank. Passed unanimously.

C. Region 3 – Anna Dulin – No Report

D. Region 4 – Dee Daughtridge – No Report

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Conference Report (Jackie Cornette)
• No conference committee has been appointed by NCLA for the 2011 biennial conference. Proposals have been submitted to several potential conference sites, but no decision has been made. NCLPA cannot move forward until NCLA does.

• No project grant money will be provided for programs this year. NCLPA conference program planning is “on hold” until we see what money is available.

B. Archives – Wendy Barber

• Archive collection is growing. Will soon need another storage box.

• Prints static web page and .pdf files linked to the page every six months as required by NCLA.

Discussion: Ask Webmaster to save electronic copies of .pdf files in case they need to be input again if web site fails.

Jackie Frye clarified that technically Drupal is a database, not a web page. Drupal is free, open source software often used by organizations with limited financial and people resources. It lacks the flexibility and attractive features of a true web site.

C. By Laws – Linda Hearn – Nothing to report

D. Membership – Meralyn Meadows, Chair

• Some large systems in North Carolina are closing libraries. Others are cutting back hours of operation, laying off part-time employees, and restricting travel. Meralyn feels this is not the time to launch our full membership campaign, i.e., personal visits to library directors to encourage them to fund NCLA/NCLPA memberships for all support staff.

• Growing membership in NCLPA will instead focus on current member renewals and other methods including direct appeal; attending New Members Round Table networking dinners; sponsoring information tables/booths at workshop/conferences held by other roundtables and sections; membership information in NCLPA publications; and discounted workshop registration fees.

See Report from Membership Chair, Meralyn Meadows

• Requested NCLPA Executive Board members to review the following “Join NCLPA” sheet and “Membership List – NCLPA - May 2010”

See “Join NCLPA”
See May 2010 NCLPA Membership List
See “North Carolina Paraprofessional Association – Comments about Why Membership Is Important” (Testimonials from NCLPA Executive Board)

Discussion: Suggestions to entice new members: Word of mouth and action. Promote NCLPA at workshops/conferences. Offer membership and workshop at a single price; e.g., collect $25.00 from workshop attendee, but submit to NCLA with cost of each separated. Jackie Frye gives NCLA/NCLPA memberships as gifts to library friends. Develop a gift card to post on web site: “Give a gift of NCLA/NCLPA to___.”

Harry Frank remarked that NCLPA is an “odd duck.” It does not target a specific section or roundtable of the NCLA membership, i.e., Public Library, Youth Services, Literacy, etc. NCLPA needs to promote its umbrella status to dispel the perception that it is a stand alone association.
Looking over the membership list handout, several Board members commented that some paid up members’ names are missing. Meralyn plans to discuss the membership list with Kim Parrott, NCLA Administrative Assistant, in person as soon as she can arrange for an appointment.

Meralyn would like someone to create a PowerPoint of the history of NCLPA for people to use as a recruitment tool when attending any library-related event.

E. Program Committee – Chair Vacant

F. Publications Committee – Marcia Johnson, Chair

- Spring 2010 issue of *Visions* was posted on new NCLPA web site, printed copies distributed to members
- 6” x 9” envelopes recommended as information packet handouts instead of current blue and/or gold 8.5” x 11” pocket folders, sample packets handed out
  - envelopes could be printed with our logo, name of workshop, etc.
  - printed label could be affixed to blank envelope
- “NCLPA Looks Ahead: Membership and Training” by Meralyn Meadows to be published in *Tar Heel Libraries*
- Clean up NCLPA logo
- Proud to be Paraprofessional door sign or door hanger
- *Visions Digest or Visions Journal* – Replacement for newsletter – NCLPA Newsletter does not publish timely news. That function is now accomplished through our web site and blog. *Visions* reports on past events.
  - Post time-sensitive information and articles throughout the year on the web site
  - Compile into a digest/journal format at the end of the year to serve as an archive and as a report of NCLPA achievements
  - Digest/Journal page would keep *Visions* as title, emphasizing our ideas for the future of NCLPA

Discussion: Replace newsletter with digest “sticky notes” on NCLPA web site. Produce single page bulletin as information piece suitable for printing. Retain and post “Spotlight On” and other special features. The Board tabled replacement ideas as changes must be addressed in the NCLPA By-Laws and/or Manual for Officers and Committees (Handbook).

Motion by Jackie Frye: To discontinue *Visions* as a print format newsletter and to change the name of the Publications Committee to Communications Committee. Second by Jackie Cornette. Passed unanimously.

Marcia will revise current print publications by removing references to *Visions* as a membership benefit and by updating the new web site URL. Electronic copies will be sent to Board members.

- **Logo Discussion:** NCLPA logo is blurred and presents fairly well online but not in print. Harry agreed to revamp and/or recreate logo because original art is no longer available. Further discussion was tabled until the next Board meeting.
- **Door Sign Discussion:** Idea proposed by Ellen Dickey several months ago. Library staff members would post a sign on their office doors proclaiming pride in and support for library paraprofessionals. Marcia was vague about exact wording and will send the art as an email attachment to members. Jackie Frye stated that her library has a machine that can cut the door hanger shape.

G. Scholarship Committee – Ellen Dickey, Chair

Because the NCLA conference location has not been decided and no project grant money will be available, the Executive Board tabled discussion until a site has been selected.

H. Webmaster – Angela Davis – Maintaining web presence and updating as required
Announcements:

The next two meetings will be held on Thursday, August 12, and November 4, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. in the Asheboro Public Library.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Marcia Johnson
NCLPA Secretary
May 27, 2010

REPORTS AND DOCUMENTS ATTACHED
Quarterly Workshop at HCPL

- 15 paid registration; 13 non-members, 1 NCLPA member and 1 NCLA member.
- Attendees came from Camp LeJeune, Pender County, Wayne County, Cape Fear Community College, High Point University, New Hanover County Public Library.
- One paid attendee did not come and a refund was processed allowing that person to attend the ECU workshop. Dianne Evans, Camp LeJeune.

### NCLPA Quarterly Workshop Financial Report - April 22, 2010

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- Prizes distributed and left over sent to Harry Frank at ECU.
  - NCLA sent left over conference bags and pens for attendees.
  - NCLA membership $5 off coupons and prizes for those registering at the workshop.
  - NCLIVE sent bags, note pads and bookmarks
- I did not make time in the agenda for the welcome and had to cut the first workshop short. This was not a problem because the attendees were computer literate and we did not need as long for hands on as planned.

CCC LIT Advisory Meeting April 29, 2010

- Meralyn Meadows, Marcia Johnson and Jackie Frye attended the meeting. Marcia Johnson took notes and will report.


Treasurer’s report is on the website [http://www.nclaonline.org/executive-board/treasurers-reports](http://www.nclaonline.org/executive-board/treasurers-reports)

I like the way they set all the meeting for the year at one time.

July 23, 2010 Barton College Wilson, NC

October 22, 2010 Durham So Regional Public Library Durham, NC

Publications and PR

- TarHeel Libraries. An article by Meralyn was sent to Pam Jaskott on March 19th. Article is attached.
- We need to have an article or two ready to send. Kim Parrott contacted me needing something for NC Libraries or TarHeel Libraries very fast. NCLA President submits articles from sections/roundtables with and opening statement from her. When asked we need to have something ready that day. Also we can submit directly ourselves.
NCLPA Quarterly Workshop

held on
Thursday, April 22, 2010
at the
Harnett County Public Library
601 Main Street, Lillington, NC  27546

Workshop Schedule
Helping Patrons with Resumes
Quick Circ Desk PR
Customer Service
The Reference Interview

Workshop Schedule

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<th>Workshop</th>
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<td>ALA</td>
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WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN NEXT?

- Cataloging
- Readers Advisory
- How to read shelves
- More Customer Service
- Children's

1 new member

Things I would do different:
Plan for time at the beginning for introductions and warm up activity. 1 hour for each program was really a lot of information. Most programs could have been 90 minutes.
REPORT OF THE
NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARY PARAPROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION
(NCLPA)

Hemphill Public Library, Greensboro, NC

April 23, 2010

The Executive Board of the NCLPA met on February 5, 2010 at the Randolph County Public Library in Asheboro. We are attempting to include board members in the meetings using DimDim.

- NCLPA board members attended New Members Roundtable Networking Dinners in February and March.
- Two of the four workshops intended for this calendar year have been planned. April 22, 2010 at Harnett County Public Library and May 14, 2010 at Joyner Library, ECU. The feedback for low cost, one day workshops was excellent. Apparently libraries are seeking inexpensive training and networking for staff. Our goal is to keep registrations fees at a minimum allowing attendance for individuals with little or no training allowance from their library. Using trainers from surrounding libraries and no charge hosting sites allows attendance for the cost of food and materials. Registration costs are on a sliding scale to encourage NCLA and NCLPA membership. Information on workshops in Region 3 and Region 4 will be available on the website once finalized.
- Meralyn Meadows is working on a membership plan to increase and retain members in both NCLA and NCLPA.
- Updates to the new NCLA website are continuing to evolve. Current issues are posted quickly and historical information is being updated.
- Programming Chair position is vacant. We are presently seeking someone who would like to fill this position.
- NCLPA webmaster continues to keep Webpage and Paraprose (blog) up to date with announcements of interest to the library community. Print publications have been revised and updated.

The next Board meeting will be May 27 at the Randolph County Public Library in Asheboro.

Prepared by: Jackie Frye, Chair
Meeting Summary -- This portion of the report is what was reported by others.

- Many of the roundtables/sections are planning workshops in the fall. It was suggested everyone work together to not plan on the same day or even same week.
- Literacy Roundtable presented a motion for a proclamation for a family library day during Children’s Library Week. This would start in November 2010 and kits would be mailed to all public libraries. Passed.
- New members presented a motion for a by-laws change to update the wording to include what they are doing now. Passed.
- Public Library Section encouraged everyone to attend legislative day on May 19.
- College and University Section presented a motion to form a distance learning interest group. Passed. Anyone will be able to participate in events and online discussions will be open to all NCLA members. There will be a non-voting representative of the distance learning interest group on the College and University Section board.
- A couple of the sections/roundtables expressed concerns over taking the money from the sections/roundtables last meeting. It was asked that in the future the budget be presented a few days in advance to allow people to view it in advance.
- Conference 2011, there are 6 proposals for a site; Winston-Salem, Concord, Greensboro, Greenville, Raleigh and Hickory. They express they knew they were behind but will have a site selected by next meeting.
- Finance:
  - Looking at moving scholarship into endowment.
  - Plan to have an attorney to look at the non-profit status to make sure NCLA is IRS compliant.

### Fund Balance

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- Membership:
  - Planning a membership drive.
  - Plan to have survey out in July to dropped members. This is not asking them to join but to find out why they are no longer members.
  - Suggestion was made to allow paid members who lost their job to remain members.

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- Learning Institute update. They need 45 participants to break even. They have one registered and 6-7 interested. Registration closes May 1. The institute is paid for by $1000 each for 45 participants + $15,000 from NCLA = $60,000. The group who puts on the institutes is paid $35,000 and the rest is for the facilities. A deposit of $5500 was paid for facility and payments to the group for $6000 have been paid. The next payment is due to the group in June. The board does not feel we can take such a loss. The Institute does not currently have a chair or a committee and the board does not feel we can take such a large loss of a $60,000 event. A motion was passed to cancel Learning Institute if they do not have 45 registered by May 1. The deposit for the facility cannot be refunded but can be using for a future Learning Institute in 2010. The payments to the group are non-refundable.
NCLPA Looks Ahead: Membership and Training

by Meralyn Meadows, Membership Chair

The primary goals of the North Carolina Library Paraprofessional Association (NCLPA) for 2009-2011 are to take the message of NCLA/NCLPA to all members of the library community and to continue to help our members meet the changing library landscape. There is a place for everyone in NCLPA. This includes paraprofessionals, support staff, aides, clerks, and librarians – anyone with any title who works in a library. All are welcome to join. Everyone receives the same rights and privileges of membership. These include discounts on conference fees, the opportunity to work on NCLPA committees, and voting rights in elections and membership meetings.

So you work in a library! Maybe you’re fortunate enough to have a library willing to pay your dues to NCLA/NCLPA. Maybe you’re not. But in either case, you might be asking yourself: should I join NCLA and NCLPA. Here are some reasons why you should:

NCLA/NCLPA is our public voice. Many library workers remain silent because of work circumstances. But through our committees, conferences, and publications, our organization becomes our voice. NCLPA is a unified voice for our library community and it can be a powerful voice. Together with NCLA, we are targeting issues that need to be examined. It takes expertise and time to keep tabs on our political arenas. Working together makes it a whole lot easier.

NCLPA offers professional training. Through the biennial conferences and through workshops, the roundtable is a key provider of this training. Technologies and situations change quickly in the library world and training matters. This applies not just to librarians, but to paraprofessionals, friends, trustees, and volunteers. All these groups should join our association. We need them.

NCLPA gives us perspective. It is so easy to get trapped in the issues of our own jobs. Getting out, hearing that our problems aren’t unique, and that, in fact, some of these problems have been solved somewhere else will help make us better library workers.

NCLPA offers opportunities for personal growth. Serving on committees means you develop friendships and partnerships that make your work life more fun and more interesting. It sharpens your skills. It helps you become or grow as a leader.

These are some of the membership points that will be emphasized in 2009-2011 by NCLPA. We invite and encourage all library workers to join our roundtable. We can help you – you can help us.

Submitted by: Jackie Frye, Chair
NCLPA
jfrye@harnett.org
As we are all very aware, libraries are going through a difficult period. Many are struggling just to keep the doors open and many of those who are able to stay open are struggling to maintain a full staff.

While an increase in membership in NCLPA is very important, this may not be the best time for us to march ahead with our full membership campaign. So, with that in mind, I am recommending a scaled-down campaign for the next several months.

The key to helping NCLPA grow involves not only recruiting new members, but also keeping them. Perhaps for the next three months, we can concentrate on making sure the 55 members we have at this time will renew when it is time to do so. A strong retention program begins by making members feel that being a member of our organization is worthwhile. Keeping our membership informed about our work on a regular basis is important. We can do this by reporting in our newsletters anything that NCLPA is doing – programs, membership information, reference to newspaper articles highlighting libraries, a message from our president about recent accomplishments or details about a new prospect. It is very important that we recognize our members publicly and regularly to let them know their support is important to NCLPA. One way to do this by printing a list of all new members in our newsletter at the time they join.

For now, we can use the following methods to increase our membership:

1. Direct Appeal (through letters and phone calls). At this meeting, we will ask our Board members to commit to sponsoring one new member before the end of the year.
2. Attending the New Members membership dinners and appealing to those attending to join NCLA and NCLPA.
3. Contact other roundtables/sections to see if we could sponsor informational booths at workshops/conferences they are sponsoring.
4. Include membership information in each NCLPA newsletter.
5. Continue to give discounted “registration fees” for NCLPA activities and to advertise this discount.

In the long term, we can look at:

1. Contact each individual member of NCLPA and ask if they would like to submit a comment about the importance of membership in NCLPA and have the comment posted on our website.
2. Contact each individual member of NCLPA and ask for a commitment from them to sponsor one new member or to submit a name for new member prospect.
3. Offer a monetary reward to the member who recruits the most new members to NCLPA.
4. Targeted mailings to Library Directors asking their help in recruiting members of their staff.
5. Develop a Speakers Bureau to increase visibility and introduce our programs.
6. Create a slide show that eloquently tells the story of NCLPA and its value to library workers.
NORTH CAROLINA
LIBRARY PARAPROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

Join NCLPA

• WHO MAY JOIN:

Membership in NCLPA is open to everyone (you must be a member of NCLA):

  ▪ Library personnel (with or without an MLS)
  ▪ Media specialists
  ▪ Library trustees
  ▪ Friends of the library
  ▪ Volunteers
  ▪ Students
  ▪ Retired persons

• WHY BECOME A MEMBER OF NCLPA?

  ▪ You acquire a network of colleagues who share your interests, enthusiasm, and concerns about libraries, and meet notable library personnel, information and media specialists, educators, and authors
  ▪ You receive discounts on registration for workshops and conferences, which educate and motivate members by presenting speakers, discussions, and workshops on diverse topics
  ▪ You develop channels of communication and support through professional relationships made and renewed at workshops and conferences
  ▪ You keep abreast of the latest developments in library materials, technology, and services to patrons
  ▪ A subscription to “Tarheel Libraries”, which features articles on library news, issues, and developments in North Carolina and other library communities
  ▪ A subscription to “Visions”, through which members can carry out discussions and share ideas, questions, and concerns with other NCLPA members
  ▪ Voting rights
JOIN TODAY!

Download and complete a hard copy membership form below and send it, along with your check, to:

North Carolina Library Association

WHAT CAN YOU DO FOR NCLPA?

▪ Serve on committees and elective boards and participate in local chapter meetings and state conferences

▪ Publish articles and announcements in “Visions”

QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions or concerns about your membership status, the benefits of membership, or membership in general, please contact the Chair of the Membership Committee: Meralyn Meadows at: meadowshome@triad.rr.com
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<td>Melanie Powell</td>
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<td>Luanne Barbee</td>
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I, ____________________________,

pledge that I will make a difference
in the North Carolina Library Paraprofessional Association
by getting at least one new member before year’s end.
I commit to seeing that my new member
receives orientation training.
I will mentor my new member to be a quality member of
the North Carolina Library Paraprofessional Association.
NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARY PARAPROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION – COMMENTS ABOUT WHY MEMBERSHIP IS IMPORTANT

I encourage North Carolina library support staff to join NCLPA. It is a gateway to opportunities. As a member, I have met professional as well as support staff across NC. Enrollment is open to all – professionals as well as paraprofessionals. I have been able to network and use resources outside of my library system. I was awarded the 2007 Library Journals’ Paraprofessional Of The Year. My involvement in NCLPA was a contributing factor; thus opening more doors for networking across the United States. NCLPA is a good source for networking, personal growth and promoting library support staff!

Jackie Cornette
Western Watauga Branch Library
NCLPA Chair-Elect

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NCLA/NCLPA gave me the confidence to take on more responsibilities in my duties as a Library Branch Manager. I was assigned the position of Branch Manager of the only branch in our County and have maintained the position since 1996. This being my second career (former school librarian and teacher), I was uncertain I could give directions and training to others. Being the Scholarship recipient of the NCLPA in 2005 and attending the Conference, I was treated with such respect and appreciation that it bolstered my confidence and has been the contributing factor in maintaining my position within my profession. There is so much value to becoming a member of the NCLA/NCLPA for staff members to become more aware of what they can contribute to their library for the community enrichment.

Dee Daughtridge
Marion Davis Memorial Library
NCLPA District 4 Director

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As the lead instructor and advisor for the Library and Information Technology program at Central Carolina Community College, I find that membership in NCLPA is extremely beneficial for me and for LIT students. NCLPA works toward advancing a profession that is almost 70% of library employees. Students in the LIT program, who are members of NCLPA, benefit from an organization that provides up-to-the-minute information through its web site, quarterly workshops, and a scholarship for one library paraprofessional to attend the biennial NCLA conference. Personally, contact with NCLPA members provides me with a balanced perspective of today’s work in a variety of libraries.

Ellen E. Dickey
Central Carolina Community College
NCLPA Chair of Scholarship Committee

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NCLPA and NCLA help me to stay connected. Every day I make connections for others: people to information; services to people; people to people. Being a member of these organizations lets me broaden my own connections through scholarship, mentoring, and collegiality. This grows me as a library employee and as a person.

Harry Frank
ECU Music Library
NCLA Region 2 Director

I stumbled into the library world with a computer background/education and found a home. My background and education is in the computer field and finding a place to fit in the library world is not always easy. My job title is IT but I do much more. Working in a small library, I wear many hats – circulation, cataloging, serials, tech services, and IT. I am a member of several sections/roundtables but my feet are firmly planted at NCLPA. NCLPA gave me a home and provided me with the variety that I crave with a diversity of backgrounds, education, and job functions. I am able to network with individuals from all areas of the library community from various types of libraries. Exploring the library world beyond the walls of my library is an enriching experience even if it is through the eyes of others. The library profession has a diverse menu and NCLPA helps me experience this mixture. My experience with the NCLPA Executive Board has allowed me the privilege to work with some of the most dedicated individuals I have ever known. Every undertaking was completed in a professional manner. I truly believe paraprofessional is a mind-set and NCLPA has given me proof.

Jackie Frye
Harnett County Public Library
NCLPA Chair

Ten years ago, I was seeking one final career opportunity to round out my five decades in the workforce. Within a year, I discovered and promptly enrolled in the online LIT program at CCCC, began working at the Harnett County Public Library, and responded to an invitation to join the NCLPA.

What have I received from NCLA/NCLPA membership? A connection with like-minded, goal-oriented people dedicated to serving the greater library community. A sense of purpose that drives me to give of my time and energy. A belief that I am needed and appreciated. An opportunity to use again the knowledge and skills I acquired so many years ago before my move to the other side of the circulation desk.

Marcia Johnson
Retired from Harnett County Public Library
NCLPA Secretary and
NCLPA Chair of Publications Committee
I have been a member of ALA for nineteen years and am a charter member of the ALA Library Support Staff Interests Round Table (LSSIRT) and a charter member of the North Carolina Library Paraprofessional Association (NCLPA). These organizations have been a major source of networking and learning for me. They are a place for me to meet and communicate with others who work in libraries – many who do the same type of work that I do. We share good ideas with one another through conferences, workshops, and email lists. One personal bonus for me has been the opportunity to work on different ALA, NCLA, and NCLPA committees with others from across the United States and the State of North Carolina. I invite all persons who work in a library in North Carolina to join NCLA/NCLPA and know the joy of finding useful information and enjoying personal growth. At the same time, you will be giving back to our library community.

Meralyn Meadows  
Recently retired from Stanly County Public Library  
NCLPA Chair of Membership Committee

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I have been a member of ALA for 14 years and was previously and am again a member of NCLPA. When I first started working at the library, the NCLPA made me feel welcome and it gave me a place to put my energy – creative or not. I remember the feelings I had when I was meeting new people and going to different events. This was one of the reasons I came back to NCLPA. NCLPA provides me with the variety of people who have the diverse backgrounds, education, and job capacities.

Gloria Nelson  
Cumberland County Public Library and Information Center  
NCLPA Region 1 Director