

The North Carolina Library Paraprofessional Association

Visions

A Semiannual Newsletter

Spring 2010

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NCPLA CELEBRATES 20 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE LIBRARY COMMUNITY!



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Squares of birthday cake were served to everyone who stopped by after the NCLA Opening Session.

“Game Show Mania,” “Mascots Serving Your Library,” “Support Staff Certification: Is It Right for Me?” NCLPA hosted these and three other very successful programs at the 58th NCLA Biennial Conference in Greenville, NC, October 6-9, 2009.

Although overall attendance was lower than in previous years, conference goers enjoyed a variety of programs offered by roundtables and sections. The current economic downturn severely affected funding resources within the library community.



Game Show Mania contestants pressed their buzzers to answer prize winning questions.



Rocky the Reading Rabbit holds center stage with other library mascots and their “handlers.”

ALA Approves National Certification

The Executive Board of the American Library Association (ALA) approved the establishment of a certification program for library support staff at its Monday, July 13, 2009 meeting in Chicago. The LSSC Program is the first national, voluntary certification program for library support staff. Funded by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the program will now enter a testing phase in five library organizations across the United States.

Selected from ALA press release at http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/july2009/lssc_apa.cfm



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A Message From Your NCLPA Chair



Jackie Frye

NC Libraries are the Greatest!

I must have said it 100 times at the NCLA 58th Biennial Conference in Greenville. I really mean it. We are fortunate to have such outstanding support for libraries in North Carolina. Our State Library and NCLA are the greatest.

I use the words "library community" often. My definition covers everyone associated with libraries including the patrons. However, I need to clear up one point. At the conference some attendees told me they thought NCLPA membership excluded NCLA members holding the MLS/MLIS degree.

Not true! Several members of our Executive Board have earned the MLS degree. We welcome everyone who supports what we do. At the end of the road is a happy patron. It takes everyone in the library community to pave this road.

At NCLA we demonstrated that we are firmly entrenched on the paving crew. We sponsored six programs, a scholarship,

and the NCLA Honorary Membership award winner. Hop on board and enjoy the ride!

My goal as Chair is to encourage regional workshops for basic library skills with minimum cost for attendance. Our state is rich with talent allowing us the opportunity to organize and conduct successful workshops. All we need is a host location and two rooms. If your library would like to host a workshop, please email me, Jackie Frye, Harnett County Public Library, at jfrye@harnett.org or call me at 910-893-3446. Workshops are not limited to NCLA or NCLPA members.

An organization's most valuable asset is the people who work there. I urge library directors and supervisors to encourage their staffs to join NCLA and NCLPA. Your library will benefit from the experience.

I look forward to helping the North Carolina Library Community thrive.

Did You Know?

You can exchange ideas and concerns with library support staff from all over the nation on the support staff email discussion list. For more information, visit the list website:

<http://mailman.u.washington.edu/mailman/listinfo/libsup-l>

Get a Job!

ALA Web Site for Library-Job Seekers

Get a Job! is a new American Library Association (ALA) Web site. It offers library-job seekers advice, resources, links, best practices and real-life examples. The site address is www.getajob.ala.org.

Full of advice for finding a job in the current tough economy, it features information from a range of ALA divisions and units, as well as links to information about general best practices in job seeking.

As it evolves, the site will include information specific to people seeking their first job, mid-career staff and people changing professions. New material and updates will be added regularly, including podcasts. Site users are encouraged to subscribe to the Get a Job! RSS feed to take full advantage of the updates. We welcome your suggestions and experiences for the site; please e-mail information that you'd like to share to gaj@ala.org.

Get a Job! is being developed by nine ALA units in collaboration with the American Library Association-Allied Professional Association (ALA-APA).

The "Getting a Job in a Tough Economy" toolkit features links to job search resources.

The link entitled "Especially in a Tough Job Market"

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(New ALA Web Site,
Cont'd from p. 2)

seeks to answer the following questions:

- ◆ How do I network?
- ◆ How do I plan a job search strategy?
- ◆ How do I uncover my strengths, talents, and work values?
- ◆ What do I do if I'm laid off?
- ◆ Where are the jobs?

"In Any Job Market" the following questions link to information resources:

- ◆ How do I craft a resume? How do I get ready for interviews?
- ◆ How do I write cover letters?
- ◆ Once I get the job, how do I negotiate for my salary and benefits?
- ◆ What do I need to know about the job?

New material and updates will be added regularly, including podcasts. Site users are encouraged to subscribe to the Get a Job! RSS feed to take full advantage of the updates.

Excerpted from posting By Jennifer Grady, Director, ALA-APA, to Libsup-l listserv, July 2, 2009. Toolkit information found on www.getajob.ala.org

NC Live Jobs Portal

A user-friendly starting point for those who are job hunting or looking to jump start their careers. Click the link below to learn more:

<http://nclive.org/Newsletter/mar2010/index.html>

(Information from the March 2010 issue of NCLive.org)

2009 Conference Scholarship Winner



Anna Dulin

Reading, traveling, Wolfpack athletics, and working on her MLIS at UNC-Greensboro are spare time activities for Anna Dulin. The winner of the Meralyn G. Meadows NCLA Conference Paraprofessional Scholarship works in the Access Services Department at Wake Forest University's Z. Smith Reynolds Library. She has served as a Library Specialist III, 3rd shift, since 2009.

Asked about her interests as member of the larger library community, she responded, "One of my primary goals as a paraprofessional is to participate in and provide continuous customer service training opportunities. By adopting an 'outside-in' customer service approach, we enable both professional and paraprofessional staff to have more meaningful interactions with our users while maintaining a standard of quality."

A 2007 graduate of North Carolina State University (NCSU) with a B.A. in English, Anna began her library career in Circulation Services with the Mooresville Public Library. She quickly developed

an interest "in becoming an advocate for library paraprofessionals and promoting such advocacy within North Carolina libraries."

Anna envisions empowering paraprofessional staff, especially in public libraries, by providing extensive technology support. "We can empower our staff as they deal with evolving technology and its many uses," she explained.



CCCC-LIT

Do you enjoy digging for facts and helping people find the information they need?

Look into the Library and Information Technology (LIT) program offered at Central Carolina Community College (CCCC).

The LIT program qualifies graduates to work in libraries, media centers, information and instruction materials centers, and organizations engaged in library-related activities.

In its 11th year, LIT is the first totally distance education library program in the state. Students can choose from degree, diploma, and five certificate options: basics, cataloging, technical services, public services, and programs for library assistants.

Ellen Dickey, Lead Instructor, enrolled 75 students during Fall 2009, the largest group since the program's inception in 2000.

Information about LIT and its opportunities are located at <http://www.cccc.edu/curriculum/majors/library/>.

NCLA Honorary Membership Award

Marcia Johnson, NCLPA Secretary and Publications Committee Chair, received the NCLA Honorary Membership Award for 2008-2009.

Presentation was made during the general session at the 2009 NCLA Biennial Conference by Brandy Hamilton, NCLA Membership Committee Chair.



Marcia Johnson

The award is granted to lay citizens who have made outstanding contributions to the development of libraries and library programs in the state. Her nomination was put forth by Meralyn Meadows, 2007-2009 NCLPA Chair, and supported by members of the NCLPA Executive Board.

"Marcia looks beyond paraprofessional lines," commented Meralyn. "Her attitude is that everyone within the library community, pulling together, can make libraries a better place to work and a better place for citizens of North Carolina."

Retired from the Harnett County Public Library, Marcia remains active in local and statewide library activities. She has been a member of NCLPA since 2001.



NCLPA Is on the Web!

Web site:

www.nclaonline.org/nclpa

Blog (PARAPROSE):

www.nclpa.wordpress.com

The North Carolina Library Paraprofessional Association is a roundtable of the North Carolina Library Association. Most members are paraprofessionals, but all who advance the interests of support staff in the library workplace are welcome to join.

Visit online and learn how you can become a member of both the NCLA and the NCLPA roundtable.



**Join the North Carolina Library
Paraprofessional Association today, and you
can be a part of the action!**

**NCLPA
North Carolina Library Association
1811 Capital Blvd.
Raleigh, NC 27604**