

NLA Paraprofessional Section Board Meeting
January 6, 2005

Present: Maria Medrano-Nehls, Jennifer Wrampe, Janet Greser, Jacque Crocker,
Phone: Matt Rohde; Nancy Meyer, Jenni Puchalla, Robin Brooks

Maria called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. A motion was made to accept the agenda as distributed before the meeting. Motion carried.

Minutes from the November 4, 2004 meeting, moved, seconded and motion carried.

Correspondence: None

Chair Report: None

Vice-Chair Report: Matt sent the following programs to the CE Committee for Fall Conference: Jessie Miles, Robert's Rules of Order, Library Jeopardy, and Cultural Beliefs. The Nebraska Library Commission is going to ask Ted Kooser to be the Keynote speaker at the Fall conference. Robin and Maria mentioned the Mental Health Preconference that S&I is spearheading, and that the Systems will be sponsoring a preconference also, possibly something on poverty. Robin mentioned that there had been problems with emails going to the CE Committee and asked Matt to resend the program proposals.

Treasurer Report: Jenni Puchalla had sent in the budget and the board had copies to review, the ending balance is \$188.08. Jenni was also the treasurer for the 2004 Hispanic Voices Preconference and since the conference had money left over from books, registration, & bags sales that the sponsoring entities would be receiving \$209 each (Para, S&I, SCYP, Scottsbluff PL, and NEMA).

Secretary Report: No report.

Newsletter: The next Keynote deadline is January 15th. Janet has already sent out reminders to those she needs articles from. We usually include a printout of the Para Spring Web Site to announce it.

Spring Program:

(Email from Rienne Johnson) "Heather Buckwalter will speak on collection development. I have no further additions as to locations – Charlene (NETV) wanted to wait till the end of the week before making a judgment. Will be checking with her at the beginning of next week."

Para Spring Conference Details:

<http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/PARA/paraconference.html> (information coming soon)

March 16, 2005

Theme – Reaching Out @ your library

Session 1: Distance Education: Materials and Access for Your Library - Dorothy Willis from UNO

Session 2: Teens and Computers: Room for All - Deb Grove from Papillion-LaVista High School

Session 3: "You Don't Have Books on That?" Collection Development Now – Heather Buckwalter, Creighton

Board talked about location (NETV vs, Student Union East Campus) and how the grant from NLC only covers the cost of the broadcast, nothing else. If we end up in the student union the cost of food will be our biggest expense. A motion was made to up all of the registration fees across the board by \$2 each, moved, seconded and motion carried.

It was mentioned that publicity for the Spring meeting needed to be going out now and Maria said she would talk to Rienne about this.

Old Business:

2004 Preconference leftovers, the committee had money left over from grants we applied for and received. So the committee decided to give away books by our Hispanic Authors to attendees of the conference. The email on this went out December 2004 and responses have been coming in from across the state. The free books will go out late Jan. 2005, free shipping & discounts compliments of Lee's Booksellers in Lincoln.

Scholarships for NLA Legislative Day: In order to encourage Paras to be more active and aware of the role libraries play in the legislative process. There was a motion, it was moved, seconded and motion carried to pay for 2 Scholarships for Paras to attend Legislative Day on Feb. 23, 2005 (cost \$15 each – includes meal). We debated over this issue since we have a lot of expenses on our plate at this time, but felt this was something we'd like to do. The scholarship will be for the Para to attend and ask that if they would speak to their legislator, a part of the scholarship is that they write up an article for the *Keynote* on "My conversation and at Lunch with my Senator". It will be advertised in the *Keynote*, and on NLA & Systems Mailing lists. Any Executive board members can apply.

Review Bylaws & Para Handbook: this issue was tabled until we could all meet face to face. **We set a date of Feb. 24, 2005 at NLC, Crane Room, 10am – noon.**

New Business:

Fall Programs:

-Jessie Myles, Multicultural Education Director for the Dept. of Education

-Robert's Rules of Order: We will ask TUFS to co-sponsor this program with us Robin or Matt will ask Wally Seiler, Chair of TUFS if they would like to cosponsors this program. We had several suggestions for the speaker on this session and finally decided that Robin will ask Wally if he would like to be the speaker.

-Library Jeopardy: Matt will send out a separate email on topics for this and the board can toss around some ideas/come up with some questions. We will not need an outside speaker for this as one of the board members can be the host.

-Cultural Beliefs: Maria will contact the speaker from one of our 2004 sessions, Mercedes Ayala, Director of Hablamos Juntos, to see if she'd like to come back and speak again.

Raffle: We discussed how last year not all board members helped out selling tickets at the table and how this year the board would like to see everyone join in on this endeavor, should be much easier since we'll be at the same hotel the whole time and a much better location. We wanted to try out a different raffle prize; we always get such great publicity on this event. We talked of ALA posters w/actors on them, chocolate (systems do that), and finally decided on a basket of goodies (Matt will donate basket), the theme will be a "Fiesta Basket" (Hispanic Heritage Month is Sep. 15 – Oct. 15). Suggestions were made of: Margarita mix, glasses, chips, salsa, etc. Jennifer, our Publicity Chair, will be in charge of this project, with help from all board members.

Traditional we have given away a flower arrangement at our Para Luncheon at Fall conference. We decided not to set aside any funds for this, but would certainly accept donations.

Para Lapel Pins

(email from Rienne Johnson) "I haven't run these past anyone yet, but I've enclosed the three pin ideas I came up with. Feel free to modify or dispose of any not satisfactory to the board."

The board reviewed the 3 suggestions Rienne gave us and decided to go with some of what she had and some new:

-yellow round circle, with Paras across the top (curved), Are (in the middle), and our key on the bottom (once template made we can put in up on the Para board web site for all to see)

-Matt can get hold of a button maker and buttons (clip backs not pin) at \$35 for 100, this should be plenty, we have approx. 58 members and we'll send them out with new member packets as long as they last.

-design/template needs to go to Matt on a clear background then the buttons will be printed on yellow paper, 6/8 to a page

-the board would like this done by Spring Meeting so we can start handing them out to Paras then

Library Journal Paraprofessional of the Year: Maria nominated Robin Brooks, our Nebraska Para of the year for the *Library Journal* Para of the Year which was advertised in *Library Journal*. The article needed to be 500 words or less was proofed by Janet & Jenni and approved by Robin. If chosen the winner will have a short article about them in *Library Journal*. Having one of our own honored this way would be great publicity for paraprofessionals across the state. There have been too many committees or events or endeavors undertaken without a paraprofessional in attendance and our mission is to have this change as future ideas come into existence. This action idea was put on our Para Board Checkoff list.

2005 Preconference w/S&I on "Mental Health Issues". Maria is a member of this committee and will be updating us on its progress, particularly keeping Matt posted for his input into the 2005 CE Committee. Tom Schmitz of S&I is chairing the Preconference and is working with Health & Human Services for workshops and speakers. We have been asked to be sponsors, along with the Public Library section. What Tom is looking at from us mostly is manpower for that day. Bev Russell, from PL

section is interested in taking this idea to the PL Section Spring meetings across the state in hopes of offering it in more places to more attendees, in place of the Preconference. Maria will keep us informed on this new wrinkle.

Additional New Business:

Robin asked if the Para Section would consider purchasing a video “**working@your library: for LOVE or MONEY**” and donating it to NLC for library Boards to have access to: <http://www.ala-apa.org/donate.html>. The 10 minute video “demonstrates the importance of library workers, examines how they are often not compensated fairly for their work, and describes what must be done to improve salaries. “In just a few minutes this film shows some of the many jobs librarians are doing and explains why they deserve to earn a lot more money than they do,” said Steve Fesenmaier, West Virginia Library Commission State Data Coordinator.” Quote from the web page.

The board saw it as a way to advertise through NLA & Systems mailing list, and the NLC web site how much we are interested in this topic by donating this video. We feel that the Paras are not visible enough and this would help our cause. A motion was made that we purchase, donate, and advertise the donation, moved, seconded and motion carried. Janet will ask the staff member at the Commission if they would accept the donation, if not the board decided that we would advertise and route it on our own.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Next Meeting:

Feb. 24, 2005 at NLC, Crane Room, 10am – noon

Review of Para Bylaws & Handbook and any action items the board needs to tend to before Spring meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Greser