

Paraprofessional Board Meeting
April 21, 2005

Present: Maria Medrano-Nehls, Jenni Puchalla, Janet Greser, Jacque Crocker, Nancy Meyer, Rienne Johnson

Maria began the meeting at 10 am.

Correspondence: Maria brought the thank-you notes the group received for the book donations from the 2004 Preconference.

Chair Report: 2005 Preconference is moving along well, another meeting is scheduled for next week.

Vice-Chair: (Maria reporting for Matt Rohde) Matt has lined up the programs for the 2005 Fall Conference. The programs are those previously stated upon in the minutes. These programs have been submitted to the program board, but have not yet been approved.

Treasurer: Jenni Puchalla submitted a written report (see attached). She noted that the honorariums for the Spring Conference speakers were purchased, and the Spring Meeting came in under budget overall. We are still mailing new members packet, so there are some postage expenses. Finally, the dues have not yet been allocated to the sections. The budget will be in good shape when those are received, as our membership is only down 4 people from last year.

Secretary: Rienne Johnson reported the possibility of her moving to Missouri in the fall to attend graduate school full-time. She should know by the next board meeting if this will happen for sure. She will keep the board posted.

Nominating: Gayle Roberts is on the ballot for Vice-Chair, and Jenni Puchalla for Treasurer.

Citations: Nancy Meyer reported that the advertising has gone into the NLAQ. It was also sent to the systems list, and should appear in the systems newsletters. She also reported that 2 nominations had been received thus far.

Membership: Maria reported that we have almost the same number of members as last year. We have a good mixture of members from different types of libraries.

Newsletter: Janet Greser reported that August 1st is the deadline for the Fall Keynote, as the Fall Conference is at the end of September this year. She will email those who need to write an article. A couple features could be a discussion of the group name change, "Around the County", "Article from a Guest Paraprofessional," bylaws updates, new webpage features, and a discussion of the "Hollywood Librarian."

Publicity: Jennifer Wrampe will work on putting up the pictures from the Spring Conference onto our web site.

Spring Program: Rienne reported that the conference was successful. She is working on tying up loose ends – sending thank you's to the commission, the speakers, distributing the evaluation forms, and writing the wrap-up report for the library commission. Nancy asked about sending an additional thank you to the Douglas-Sarpy county extension office for waiving our fee. Rienne said that she would do that as well.

“Hollywood Librarian” Presentation: Mary Jo Ryan and Kit Keller spoke to the board about the possibility of sponsoring a Preconference for 2006 featuring Ann Seidl, the writer and director of the documentary “Hollywood Librarian.” As this presentation would be in conjunction with a Recruitment/Retention grant Mary Jo and Kit have written, the funding would be taken care of.

Mary Jo and Kit elaborated for the board the extent of their grant, which talks about establishing a mentor program, and not just establishing a marketing campaign. With the focus on training and skills advancement for any library worker, and not primarily to those seeking master's degrees, the Preconference would bring together all library sections.

After discussion by the board, it was decided that S&I and NMRT may be good co-sponsors for the Preconference. It was also agreed that we would want to have the final say as to how the Preconference is structured.

Janet motioned to sponsor a 2006 Preconference for educational enhancement.

Jenni seconded, and the motion passed.

Maria volunteered to chair the committee, Jenni to be treasurer. Nancy volunteered to be on the committee as a local contact.

For more information on the Hollywood Librarian, visit

<http://www.hollywoodlibrarian.com> or

<http://www.dynix.com/institute/seminar/index.asp?sem=20041109> .

Fall Conference Scholarships: Jennifer mentioned the possibility of having scholarships available to help attend the fall conference. Discussion ensued as to how much to spend, and if the scholarships should be used for a specific purpose, such as registration. Jenni motioned to have 4 \$50 scholarships available for fall conference attendees. Maria seconded, motion carried. Jennifer will write up application forms, and Jenni will take the applications. As with our other scholarships, the winners will be required to write an article for the Keynote detailing what they learned from attending the event. The winners will be chosen by the board, decided on merit.

Videos:

For Love or Money, the video the section donated to the NLC, was very good. It will be sent to Robin, who will view it and write an article about the tape.

Spring Meeting video was also partially viewed, due to taping difficulties at NETV.

Sound problems were also apparent in the tape. If the sound didn't play on a different machine, it was decided that the tape wouldn't circulate. Due to this error, a \$100 discount should have been placed on our bill from NETV. Under closer scrutiny, our cost

was only \$5 cheaper than last year. Jenni said that she would call NETV to ask about the billing disparity.

Fall Conference Raffle: We will do a “Fiesta Basket” for our raffle at the Fall Conference. We have the napkins and the basket. Other possible entries were margarita glasses with cactus bottoms, Southwest figurines (donated by Nancy), homemade salsa, corn chips, Spanish music, Fools Rush In, and Margarita Man margarita mix, as it can also be used to make slushies of different flavors if the winner chooses not to drink margaritas. It was decided to make a list on the web of who had purchased what to put in the basket in an effort to eliminate duplication. The URL for the basket is:
<http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/comp/para/basket.html>.

Web Committee: Janet showed the board the new page of Para state links. Rienne, Janet, and Jennifer searched for library association links for paraprofessional groups. There are also links to library support staff materials, such as Library Mosaics, and the ALA official listing of para or support staff groups.

Section Name Change: A brief discussion commenced on this topic. We should talk to the system admins to see what the protocol is for section name changes. In the meantime, everyone is encouraged to brainstorm about possible names we could use.

Email list problem: Janet updated us on the mailing list problem we had at our last board meeting. NLC has resolved the problem. There is no mailing list specifically for Para members; senders are encouraged to put the section or round table name in the subject line so that Para members know the message pertains to them.

Jenni motioned to end the meeting.

Jacque seconded.

Maria adjourned the meeting at 12:37.

Next meeting:
June 16th, 10-1
NLC
Crane Room

Respectfully submitted,
Rienne Johnson
Paraprofessional Secretary