

Paraprofessional General Meeting Minutes From September 30, 2005

Call to order - Meeting was called to order by Chair Maria Medrano-Nehls

Agenda - Jenni Puchalla made a motion to accept the agenda & Nancy Meyer seconded. Motion approved

Minutes - Matt Rohde made a motion to approve the minutes & Jennifer Wrampe seconded. Motion approved

Fiesta Basket Raffle Drawing – Winner: Denise Lawver from Wahoo Public Library

Para Raffle Drawing:

Decorated Picture Frame – Jacque Crocker, Nebraska Library Commission

T-Shirt – Linda McElvain

Reports

A. Citation for Para of the Year, 2005 was presented Jenni Puchalla, Southeast Library System Administrator's Assistant. Nancy Meyer, Citations Chair, gave Jenni an excellent introduction and proceeded to present the certificate, \$50 already awarded, one year NLA membership will be paid at the end of the year.

B. Bylaws, Jacque Crocker, Bylaws Chair, reported on how hard the board worked on doing cosmetic changes and 2 substantial changes to the bylaws. All meeting attendees had copies of the Bylaws in their meeting packet & they were in the Summer/Fall issue of the *Keynote*. There were no questions. Jacque made a motion to accept the changes in their entirety, motion approved.

C. Name Change, Jenni Puchalla reported on the true nature of who our section represents, the fact that we're having a larger voice in NLA, and more and more of our members are doing a wider range of library duties. Jenni had written an article for the *Keynote* on this topic and it was reprinted for the meeting packet. We then had a discussion about what kind of person do we expect as a member, what do we consider is the nature of our current members. Some suggestions for a new name were: Library Specialist, Support Personnel, Library Staff Specialists, along with what was in the article. Carol Lechner suggested that we develop a task force to look into the topic. Carol Lechner told Matt that she would be on a committee or task force to look into a section name change. If Matt wants Carol to lead it and "conscript" volunteers, she would be willing to do that. Carol suggested we create some way to be able to talk about this topic amongst our members, perhaps a Blog or a separate email group from the NLA one. Matt moved that we table the discussion until the next General Meeting in March of 2006 at our Spring Meeting, in the meantime he will appoint a committee to look into the topic.

D. Spring Program, Janet Greser, Chair of the 2006 Spring meeting reported that the date will be March 16, 2006, the theme will be "Encourage Someone @ your library ®". We have

contacted our 3 speakers who have agreed to present. The spring meeting will once again be held as a videoconference. Details will be placed on the Para Web Site after conference.

E. 2006 Preconference, Maria will be chairing the preconference for the Para section along with members from the NLA Diversity Committee, NMRT, TUFS, and the Nebraska Library Commission (NLC). Ann Seidl, Hollywood Librarian, will be our speaker. NLC received a grant so the registration will be free, topics will be Recruitment & Retention, Self-Esteem, and Customer Service. We may be previewing Ann's movie on Wednesday evening at the Orpheum Theatre in Omaha. A flyer for this event was included in everyone's NLA packet. More details on this will go out as plans are set.

F. Chair Report, Maria reported that 36 people attended the Caring for the Mind @ your library preconference. Our NLA sessions were well attended, Cultural Beliefs had 65 attendees; Library Jeopardy had 32 attendees; Map to a Successful Meeting had 12 attendees; and lunch and the general meeting had 19 attendees. Our Spring Conference was well attended with 36 Attendees and 7 sites. We've become very visible in the past couple of years with 2 excellent preconferences and our Spring Conferences being well attended.

G. Citation for Outgoing Chair, Nancy gave Maria some well deserved praise and said she was a very good representative of our section when she presented her with the Out-going Chair Citation.

H. Treasurer's Report, Jenni detailed out the report, and answered questions from the meeting attendees, all of whom had a copy.

I. Carol Lechner, Para rep on the Scholarship Committee, encouraged us, as a section, to donate to the scholarship fund. Maria stated that a letter had just arrived and she would pass it on to Matt for consideration at his first board meeting.

New Business

A. Baskets every year, Jennifer Wrampe asked if the group liked the basket idea, and it was well received. Jennifer said that from the 5 email questions she sent out she got 70-80 responses. She talked about doing different baskets themes each year, literary characters and what they'd eat, 7 deadly sins, Pina Colada, Hawaiian, and so on. Nancy moved that we let the Publicity Chair decide on the Basket Theme each year, motion approved.

B. Tracy Bicknell-Holmes, Past Chair of NLA, spoke with us on the NLA Financial Committee. This committee put aside \$10,000 to the planned giving account that will now reside at the Nebraska Community Foundation. Tracy talked about sections/roundtables donating to the fund annually like we do the Scholarship Fund. The fund will be setup for Retention & Recruitment. There was an email sent out on 6/20/05: *"Thanks to the generosity of NLA members, we have reached our goal of an initial \$10,000 to start a planned giving endowment account. Although it may be awhile before we get the account up and producing spendable income, the NLA Finance Committee is developing criteria for how the fund should be spent, and we need your help. If you recall when we started this project, the idea was to develop an*

*endowment that would provide educational activities related to library and information science, and promotional programs that might contribute to recruitment to the profession and financial and other types of support for libraries in Nebraska. These are pretty broad categories. What ideas do you have about the types of educational and recruitment activities that this fund might support? What activities might have broad reach among our members? What activities in these areas are currently under funded? Some of the ideas already raised are : * Bringing in speakers for our annual conference, * Helping support the cost of speakers for section and round table spring meetings, * Sponsoring workshops in the state, * Funding the development of public service announcements to promote the profession and recruit to the profession.”*

C. Installation of New Officers, Maria installed our 3 new officers: Jenni Puchalla as Treasurer, Matt Rohde as Chair, and Gayle Roberts as Vice Chair/Chair Elect.

Next 3 NLA Fall Conventions:

Oct. 25-27, 2006, Omaha, Qwest Convention Center & Hilton Hotel

Oct. 24-26, 2007, Kearney, Holiday Inn

Oct. 15-17, 2008, Lincoln, Cornhusker

As our new Chair, Matt adjourned the meeting.

Janet Greser, Section Secretary