



KEYNOTE*

FOR

PARAPROFESSIONALS

NLA

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Jeff Tangeman

As this year draws to a close, I would like to express my thanks to the membership and to the officers and Board of the Paraprofessional Section for their interest and tremendous effort to promote the mission and goals of the Section. It has been a valuable learning experience for me, and I look forward to continuing my association with the Section and with NLA.

We can be particularly proud of the spring program, which was presented as a videoconference. It was so well received by the membership that we are considering using this medium for future programs. The experience was a learning opportunity for the Program Committee, and we are especially indebted to Ellen Van Waart from the Library Commission in assisting us with the ins-and-outs of downloading to various link sites across the state, and standing by to make sure we actually succeeded in getting our program aired.

With the NLA/MPLA/NEMA tri-conference this month, I am looking

forward to my last "official" functions as your Section Chair. Please try to attend the Paraprofessional Section luncheon and business meeting on Friday.

Along with getting to visit with colleagues, there is usually a brief meeting and installation of new officers. All convention meals are exorbitantly priced!, but don't let that deter you from attending at least the business meeting to get to know the newly elected officers.

Here's a bonus!!!! -- bring a prospective Section member to the Paraprofessional luncheon and business meeting and get YOUR LUNCH FREE! What a deal. Just notify one of the officers, introduce your guest, and a reimbursement will be issued. If you don't know an officer, just ask, and meet someone new!

As usual, the Section will have a table set up to provide information and freebies for Section members and prospective members. Be sure to stop by or look us up.

See you then.

*KEYNOTE: 'a prime or crucial element' American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language

DUES TIME AGAIN

Annual conference time is a good time to renew your membership in NLA and to select the Paraprofessional Section. If you have not already sent in your renewal dues, or if you are a new member, the membership forms may be found on the NLA homepage. The address is www.nol.org/home/NLA/

If you do not have access to the Internet, request a form from:

Margaret Harding
NLA Executive Director
PO Box 98
Crete, NE 68333-0098

NEW OFFICERS TO ASSUME DUTIES

Following the recent election, new officers for the Paraprofessional Section will assume their duties at the Section business meeting at the convention.

Jacqueline Crocker (Jacque) is the incoming Section Chair, having served this past year as Chair Elect. She has really immersed herself in learning about the Section, participating as a very active member of the Executive Board, helping with programs and other Section committees, and assisting with recruitment of potential officers. As Section Chair, Jacque will represent us as a member of the NLA Executive Board.

Jacque works at the Nebraska Library Commission (Commission), where she is responsible for a variety of duties including producing the annual *Public Library Profile*, and editing newsletters and Web pages.

Assuming the Chair Elect office is Doug McElwain. Although he has

recently taken a position in the private sector, Doug was formerly a library clerk at Metro Community College at Elkhorn-Valley. Before that, his staffing positions included cataloger at Clinton Public Library, Clinton, Iowa; at Bellevue Public Library; and at Iowa Western Community College. Doug earned his MLS from the University of Iowa and was recently married.

Doug has been a library user his whole life. He wants to continue to contribute to the place he has loved being.

He joined NLA principally to have the opportunity to interact with other Nebraska librarians, and to keep in touch with what's going on in the library field. Because Doug was until recently working in a "non-professional" job, his interest in the Paraprofessional Section comes from his desire to get to know and address issues affecting that segment of the library world.

Doug will serve for three consecutive years, first as Chair Elect, then Chair in 2002, and then as Past Chair.

A Charter Member of the Section, Kathy Dukes, is the newly elected secretary. Kathy has served the Section in many capacities over the years including both as secretary and as committee member and chair. Currently Kathy is filling in as secretary, and she serves as the Section rep. on the NLA Membership Committee.

Peggy Engel, the Section current treasurer, will continue for the second year of her two-year term.

Peggy is also a Section Charter Member, has worked at the Columbus Public Library for 18 years, and is now the head of the Circulation Dept.

Along with serving on the Section Executive Board, Peggy must submit regular financial reports to the NLA Executive Board.

***PARAPROFESSIONAL SECTION
SPONSORS PROGRAM AT THE TRI-
CONFERENCE***

Because this year's convention is a Tri-Conference jointly sponsored by Mountain Plains, NLA, and NEMA organizations, each NLA section was limited in the number of programs accepted. Of the program ideas submitted, Developing Quality Performance, presented by Carol Lechner, was the only Para-sponsored submission to make the cut.

Developing Quality Performance (DQP) is a management theory aimed at enhancing the skills of both front line and middle managers specifically working in libraries. Based on a series of subjects created by Developmental Dimensions Inc., DQP offers managers instruction on a number of themes including Key Principles for Management, coaching, corrective action, delegating, leading effective meetings, and training issues.

Carol Lechner received her certification to teach DQP after attending training classes in Chicago. Carol teaches DQP to functional supervisors in the University Libraries, and to University-wide supervisors and managers through the Human Resources Dept. at UNL.

The underlying theory of DQP is that all library employees should be provided with the best managers possible, and that all managers should be provided with the skills and knowledge to lead an effective and efficient work unit.

WANTED: NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Do you like to read? Do you like to write? Then you might like to edit the

quarterly *KEYNOTE* for the Paraprofessional Section. Some duties include gathering news of interest to Section members, writing copy, taking copy to printers, and preparing and mailing issues. The Editor works with other contributors and edits their copy as needed.

In addition, the Editor serves as Chair of the Section Newsletter Committee, sits on the Section Executive Board, and requests topics of interest from membership and officers. Carol Lechner, former editor, will provide advice as needed.

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