



KEYNOTE*

FOR

PARAPROFESSIONALS

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NLA

Paraprofessionals @ your libraryTM

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Jacqueline Crocker

Hello! I live in Lincoln even though I was born in Ohio. I loved books before I started school, yes, I was a budding bookworm. By third grade I was a regular summer patron of the neighborhood library, which had a staff of one and was a mile from my home. How could I not love libraries—the places I could find the most books?

Right now I'm reading *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Understanding Football Like a Pro* and *Plague Time*. I bought those books, but I'm borrowing my way through the Oprah's Book Club Selections.

Another interest of mine is education. I received both of my college degrees after the age of thirty. I'm a late bloomer and plan to be a lifelong learner. Continuing education is a must in this day and age. I firmly believe no matter what your circumstances, your best option is to keep well informed. That's why I still love libraries—there's no better place to find general or specific information on a variety of topics.

I'm a fairly recent member of the Paraprofessional (Para) Section, and I've loved every minute of it. From the minute I

surprised Jeff by agreeing to be an officer, to the minute I received an email from Doug saying he agreed to being the vice chair, to this very minute; it's been a friendly, engaging, lively section to belong to.

The Paraprofessional Executive Board is great to work with, and my fellow officers and chairs are equal to any task. By the way, we are looking for a **Publicity Committee Chair**.

The Publicity Committee Chair, and two or three additional members, handles public relations for the Section and works to increase the Section's visibility and recognition in the NLA and Nebraska libraries.

The Committee's responsibilities include: designing and updating the Section web page; designing the Section letterhead; and sending news releases to newspapers, mailing lists and other library organizations. Give me a call if you are at all interested.

I want to say a few things about the **Fall 2000 TriConference**. It was my first Omaha conference, and I was impressed by the amount of exercise we could get in that hotel. What great attendance we had at the luncheon! Wonderful! The Para session on Friday, ably presented by our own Carol

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

Lechner, drew a large, attentive audience. All around it was an A+ conference.

Upcoming Events

The **Paraprofessional Spring Videoconference 2001** promises to be bigger and better than ever. You can find information about it on the NLA calendar website and the Para website. We're thinking of having three sessions instead of two. During the business meeting, I will be seeking nominations for the Para of the Year and encouraging Para members to apply for both the Louise Nixon Scholarships and Para scholarships.

We had great feedback from the last videoconference, good-naturedly presided over by then-Chair, Jeff Tangeman. Your attendance in person or offsite will mean a lot to our section.

Everyone remember to mark your calendars--the **NLA/NEMA Fall Conference** will be held in Kearney, October 17-19. We'll get to tour the *Great Platte River Road Archway Monument* with its 79,000 square feet of historical exhibits. (My favorite *Daylight Donuts* happens to be in Kearney, I never miss an occasion to visit.) Hope to see you there!

Nominations For Awards due by May 30th

The Meritorious Service Award is given annually to a person, corporation, or organization, which has contributed to the improvement of library service in a local community, a county, region, or state agency, or in library legislation.

The Mari Sandoz Award recognizes significant, enduring contribution to the Nebraska book world through writing, film production, or related activity.

<<http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/news/content/883.html>>

MESSAGE FROM THE PAST CHAIR

Jeff Tangeman

So it is time to say farewell to the Paraprofessional section as retiring chairman. Hmm. Something less than, say, Pericles' funeral oration, and a little more than the last words of the pilot of a recent Alaska Air crash: Well, that's it. I would like to bow out with a salute and a challenge to the Paraprofessional section.

The great achievement in the year 2000 brought the Paraprofessional section into the telecommunications age. Our 2000 Spring Meeting was broadcast live from NETV to remote sites across the state. By reaching out to library workers across Nebraska, the meeting had one of the highest attendances in recent history. No longer would interested paraprofessionals miss worthy programs because they could not take time off to drive across the state.

My challenge to the Paraprofessional section is to increase and diversify the section membership. I noticed that a majority of the current membership is centered at the Nebraska Library Commission and the University of Nebraska. This is not bad but consider that the majority of library workers in Nebraska are paraprofessionals and do not work for the state of Nebraska. Imagine getting a majority of the paraprofessionals in Lincoln and Omaha Public library systems to join the section or all of the paraprofessionals at the small colleges. The drawbacks of course are:

1. Financial, interested paraprofessionals in some systems have to pay for their own membership.

2. Awareness, do paraprofessionals across the state realize we exist, and

3. Why??, a reason to join the paraprofessional section, how do you answer the question "why should I join"?"

This past year has been a great year of change for me. I have gone from being a paraprofessional in the Lincoln City Library system to the Technical Services Librarian in a small college library. Needless to say, the changes have been enormous. I realized that nearly everything that I experienced was never covered in graduate school.

Realization one: understanding that I am responsible for initiating action. Realization two: you need to communicate effectively with co-workers and staff. Realization three: quickly learning that you are not as smart as you thought. Being the past chairman has been a similar experience.

Thank you to everyone that has helped me along the way, it has been a learning experience that I shall always remember. Thank you.

Jeff Tangeman
Technical Services Librarian
Bellevue U. Bellevue, NE

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Paraprofessional Section Scholarship Award

Scholarships are awarded annually for Library related conferences and professional development. Applications for scholarships are accepted at any time. To receive a scholarship, you must be a member of the Paraprofessional Section and you must be willing to write an article for the *Keynote* and make a presentation at a Paraprofessional Section meeting.

<http://www.nol.org/home/NLA/PARA/parascholarship.html>

KEYNOTE FOR PARAPROFESSIONALS

Quarterly Newsletter of the Nebraska Library Association Paraprofessional Section. Free to current Section members, published in Jan., Apr., Aug., and Nov.

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URL: <www.nol.org/home/NLA/parapro.html>

DUES TIME AGAIN

Yes, it's that time of year again. 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

Key People @ your library™

Paraprofessional Section Spring Conference Schedule

Paraprofessionals @ your libraryTM

Wednesday, April 18, 2001, Approx. 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. CST

Registration deadline is April 13, 2001

Programs: 3 sessions (each one 50 minutes with a 10 minute break between):

10 a.m. CST or a little before, Brief Introduction

10-10:50 a.m.

"@ **Your Library**TM", the five-year campaign recently launched by the American Library Association, will be explained, explored, and detailed by Mary Jo Ryan, the Nebraska Library Commission's Communications Coordinator.

11-11:50 a.m. CST

Commission's many and varied "**Talking Book & Braille Services**" will be showcased by TBBS Director Dave Oertli and other TBBS staff.

Noon-12:50 p.m. CST

"**InterLibrary Loan and Backup Reference**" Commission Information Services Librarian Julie Pinnell and Staff Assistant Evelyn Kubert will share insights, options, and advice.

Paraprofessionals Spring General Meeting

Jacqueline Crocker, Chair of Paraprofessionals will guide us through our annual spring meeting. Those attending at the Lincoln site may pay for their lunch and we'll eat during this time.

Sites:

This year's conference will be telecast to several sites across the state, please see the web site for full details on sites: <<http://www.nol.org/home/NLA/PARA/paraconference.html>>.

Registration:

Cost will be:

- \$8 for a Paraprofessional member (includes lunch at the Lincoln site)
 - \$5 without lunch (at any sites)
- \$10 for a non-Paraprofessional (includes lunch at the Lincoln site)
 - \$7 without lunch (at any sites)

Contact for registration is:

Peggy Engel, Library Aide II, Columbus Public Library, 2504 14th Street, Columbus, NE 68601, 402-564-7116, Fax: 402-563-3378, E-mail: <pegengel@yahoo.com>. When registering please indicate name, address, phone, email, para or non-para, and the location you wish to register for. Checks must be received by the registration date. Please make checks out to NLA Paraprofessional Section.

Co-Sponsors: Nebraska Library Commission

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Paraprofessional of the Year

The Paraprofessional Section of the Nebraska Library Association accepts nominations for the Paraprofessional of the Year Award each year. This award is given annually to a paraprofessional who has demonstrated outstanding service to the library field.

The recipient will be selected on the basis of the following criteria:

1. Innovative programs nominee has worked with which have improved library services.
2. Exceptional volunteer work in library service or related field.
3. Exceptional use of library resources, local or otherwise.
4. Significant involvement or leadership in NLA Paraprofessional Section; i.e., holding office, member of a committee, workshop or conference presentation.

Nominations are due on September 15 of each calendar year. A special nomination *form* is available at <<http://www.nol.org/home/NLA/PARA/paranomform.html>>. Contact Mary Geibel, Paraprofessional Section Citations Committee Chair, Nebraska Library Commission, 1200 N Street, The Atrium, Suite 120, Lincoln, NE 68508-2023, Fax: 402-471-2083, E-mail: <mgeibel@nlc.state.ne.us> for a print copy.

Paraprofessionals Save the Day @ your libraryTM

Let's Meet Our Officers

Paraprofessional Secretary Would Encourage More Readers

Kathy Dukes was voted into office in October for a two-year term as the Secretary of the Paraprofessional Section. Kathy currently works as a circulation clerk for the Talking Book and Braille Service of the Nebraska Library Commission (NLC). She recently celebrated her 19-year anniversary with State Government. Kathy is a native of Buffalo, WY and attended Wesleyan University for a year studying Library Science. Kathy has always been a reader and a lover of books. She worked as a volunteer in her high school library and knew her local public librarian very well. It was this librarian who encouraged her to balance leisure reading (what the librarian called

“fluff books”) with serious literature (classics or history) and requested a book review when she finished a title. Before Kathy left Wyoming to attend college in Lincoln her high school requested she help with a massive cataloging project, due in less than two weeks, just before the next school season started. While Kathy was living in Culbertson, NE the local library got a donation of over 100 books and since she'd had experience in just this line of work she was hired on to catalog them all. As you can see Kathy has been around libraries a great deal of her life and as a fellow NLC staff member we appreciate her expertise here.

Kathy has been with the Paraprofessional Section from the beginning, attending the first meeting in Columbus (100 Para's from across the state attended) as a charter member back in the early 80's when Paraprofessionals started gathering together. She was one of our first *Keynote* editors and worked with the Program Committee on some of our first Spring Meetings. Kathy has always been a welcome source of Para information since she has been with us from the beginning. Recently she was the Membership Committee chair until accepting the office of Secretary.

Kathy enjoys reading *Harlequin* romances (especially Betty Neels) because she says they help her to relax. She also reads non-fiction about the Old West, inspirational topics, and books by Grace Livingston Hill. In her free time, Kathy is involved with several church activities and

enjoys crafts, including plastic canvas projects and counted cross-stitch. She collects things in white: angels, sheep, ghosts, and milk glass Fenton dishes.

If Kathy could change one thing about library service, it would be to make more people readers, especially children. She thinks that the big push of reading earlier in school is an important step in creating readers for life. As a childcare provider, she helped introduce many kids to the love of reading. Kathy is the mother of three grown daughters and has two grandsons and one granddaughter with whom she spends many hours. Fortunately they all live close to her, with so many families separated by distance these days that's not the norm.

Kathy has certainly been **Making a Difference @ your library**™.



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