



Paraprofessionals are the key @ your library[®]

Message from the Paraprofessional Chair

Happy Anniversary Paras!!!

This has been a fun and wonderful year as President of the Paraprofessionals. I have enjoyed meeting new Paraprofessionals and working with the “old hats” who have been so helpful and great to work with. We have been busy with bylaw changes, planning sessions for conference, and of course working on the Scavenger Hunt. I am so excited I got to be part of the planning for our Anniversary Celebration. I hope to meet more of our fabulous Paras at this year’s NLA Conference. We will be having a good time at the NLA Conference this year. Be sure to stop by to see the Presentation of the History of the Para Section (Celebrating 25 Years: 2008 Year of the Para). You might see yourself or other familiar faces. Stop by the booth and say hello! And never forget.....Paras are KEY!!!!!!

La Raine Cihak, Chair of the Paraprofessional Section

Scholarships Given by the Para Section

NLA Para's offering scholarships to attend 2008 NLA/NEMA Annual Conference

The Paraprofessional Section is offering two \$50 scholarships to attend the 2008 NLA/NEMA Annual Conference – Nebraska Libraries: Vision for the Information Age. The Conference will be held October 15-17, 2008 in Lincoln, NE. This year’s keynote speakers will be Kent Haruf and Dr. Annette Lamb. Click the following link for more information on the conference <http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/conference/2008/index.html>.

You must be a member of the Paraprofessional section to receive this scholarship.

The scholarship recipients may be asked to submit an article about their experience to the Para's newsletter.

If you are interested, please submit your name, address, email, phone, library affiliation, and reason for applying for the scholarship to Jennifer Wrampe, jwrampe@nlc.state.ne.us.

All applications must be received by **October 1, 2008**.

2008 – Para Scholarships given out so far include:

Para Spring Meeting – registration was \$12-\$9
Terri Johnson North Platte Public Library
Terry Wingate OPL-Millard Branch
Karen Fox Fairbury Public Library

Here's a link to the History of all of the Scholarships given by the Paraprofessional Section:
http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/PARA/parahistory.html#Past_Para_Scholarships_Recipients.

Jennifer Wrampe
Paraprofessional Section Citations/Publicity Chair

2008 Paraprofessional of the Year, Janet Greser

Janet is an Infrastructure Support Analyst at the Nebraska Library Commission. She was nominated by Karen Frank. Janet is the *Keynote* editor and the Web Committee Chair for the Para section. She always makes sure the newsletter and the website are up to date with the latest news and information. Janet is always there to help and go the extra mile. We can count on her to make sure everything is done in a timely manner.

From nomination comments: "It is reassuring to know that if Janet is asked to do something, it will be done! She goes way above and beyond her tasks but you can rest assured every avenue and resource has been checked before Janet completes her requested task."

Janet will receive a one-year paid membership to NLA in the Paraprofessional section and a cash gift. A certificate will be awarded at the NLA/NEMA Fall Conference Paraprofessional section luncheon.

Jennifer Wrampe
Paraprofessional Section Citations/Publicity Chair

2008 NLA Fall Conference, Oct 15-17, 2008

Preconferences:

Join your colleagues for one of these fantastic pre-conferences to the 2008 NLA/NEMA Annual Conference on Wednesday, October 15.

The 4 R's: Robots, Romance, Revolvers and Recipes
9 a.m.-3 p.m. Sponsored by the Nebraska Regional Library Systems

What is a Book Worth? Determining the Value of a Book
9 a.m.-4 p.m. Sponsored by the Technical Services Round Table

Serving Library Customers With Disabilities
1:00-4:00 p.m. Sponsored by the NLA Diversity Committee

Learn more about each pre-conference by visiting the conference website at
www.nebraskalibraries.org/conference/2008/pre/.

Conference Schedule: <http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/conference/2008/index.html>

Wednesday Evening, Discover the World of Quilts

Thursday Keynote, Annette Lamb

Thursday Evening, NLA/ NEMA Banquet & Casino Royale

Friday Keynote, Kent Haruf

2008 Para Events at Fall Conference

Para Sessions:

Thurs 9:00 - 9:50 AM Holding It All Together, Karla Shafer

Thurs 3:40 - 4:30 PM Dewey or Do We Not, Kim McCain, Becky Baker, co-sponsor
TSRT

Thurs 3:40 - 4:30 PM Your Library is More than the Sum of its Departments, Angela
Kroeger

Thurs 3:40 - 4:30 PM FOLUSA, Richard Miller

Fri 8:00 - 8:50 AM Star Reference Manual, Julie Pinnell

Fri 2:50 - 3:40 PM Para Section 25 Year Anniversary, LaRaine Cihak

Para Table:

The Para Table will have Silver Para pens for give-aways, T-shirts to buy, Raffle to get in on, and that's where you pick up your card for the Scavenger Hunt.

Para Luncheon & General Meeting:

Friday, October 17, 2008, 12:00 – 1:30 pm

Para's 25th Anniversary T-shirts

Want to celebrate the Year of the Para in style? How about with a Para T-Shirt?
M-XL - \$10.00 2XL - \$12.00

We'll pay the shipping & add in a silver Para pen to boot!

Email Bonnie Henzel, bhenzel@nlc.state.ne.us if you'd like a shirt!

Please include your email address so she can get back to you.

<http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/Comp/para/paragiveaways/2008tshirt.html>

2008 Para Raffle

Instead of a raffle basket this year, we've decided to raffle an iPod Shuffle with accessory kit. You will get the iPod plus six silicone skins, audio dock, earphone, clip organizer, crystal case, sport armband, wristlet, case and a USB charger. The cost is \$1 per ticket or 6 tickets for \$5 - the more you buy the better chance you have at winning! We will stop selling tickets at 11:30 on Friday October 17 and the winning name will be drawn at the Para luncheon.

Do we have to be a member of the Paras?

No you don't need to be a member, anyone can buy a ticket.

Do we have to be present to win?

No, you don't need to be present to win.

Can I send you my money?

Yes, if you can't make it to the Conference this year but still want to buy raffle tickets you can send your money or a check made out to the NLA Para Section to:

Jennifer Wrampe

Paraprofessional Publicity/Citations Chair

NE Library Commission

1200 N St, Ste 120

Lincoln, NE 68508

Or you can contact any one of the Para Board Members:

<http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/PARA/parachairs.html>

Thanks and Good Luck!!

Jennifer Wrampe

Paraprofessional Section Citations/Publicity Chair

Minutes from the Paraprofessional 2008 Spring General Meeting

Paraprofessional Section Spring General Meeting Minutes March 19, 2008 Business Meeting

A. Call to Order Jenni Puchalla in absence of La Raine Cihak, Chair

Approval of Agenda

Karen F. motioned, Angela K. seconded

Approval of Minutes from Fall General Meeting Oct. 26, 2007 Kearney, NE

Karen motioned for approval with minor spelling corrections, Jennifer W. seconded.

Correspondence – none

B. Old Business

Spring Conference, by Spring Conference Chair Martha Grenzeback

We had a total of 42 registrants at 8 sites. The sites were Ainsworth, Beatrice, Hastings, Lincoln, North Platte, Omaha, Sidney, and Scottsbluff. All satellite reception facilities were provided free of charge.

C. New Business

Fall Conference, Mary Gubbels, Vice Chair

Three session proposals have been mailed to Pam Bohmfalk -

1. Star Manual

2. FOLUSA

3. Paraprofessional History

The proposal for “Dewey or Do We Not” program is waiting for final confirmation on third panel member from the Lee’s Bookstore. We are co-sponsoring this session with TSRT.

D. Committee Reports

Chair's report, La Raine Cihak - not attending

Keynote Editor's report, Janet Greser - The next issue of the newsletter is the Summer/Fall issue; the deadline will be August 15, 2008 with publication around September 1, 2008. Some of the items to be included:

Fall NLA conference Para sessions, luncheon, and general meeting

Information on the raffle basket and scavenger hunt (“silver” anniversary theme)

Information on the 25th anniversary of the section

Announcement of the Para of the Year winner

Date for the 2009 Para Spring Meeting

If you have items you'd like included in the *Keynote*, please email or call Janet Greser at the Library Commission.

Membership report, Karen Frank – the paraprofessional section has increased membership by five (5) for 2008.

Nominations report, Jenni P. reporting for Gayle Roberts - not attending

Two nominations for Vice Chair (1) Angela Kroeger, UNO
(2) Evis Zamora, Plattsmouth

No nominations for Secretary/Treasurer at this time. If we do not have the required two (2) candidates for each office, the funding for the Para Section that comes from NLA will not be distributed. That comes to about \$450-550 dollars a year that we would miss out on if we do not get names on the ballot. Deadline for nominations is 3/31/08.

Publicity\Citations report, Jennifer Wrampe

Scholarships given

Legislative Day, none for 2008

Join the Para Section, none

Para Spring Meeting, three (3)

Treasurer's report, Jenni Puchalla

Presented clarification on budget. Revised copy on the web site.

Vice-Chair's report, Mary Gubbels

None given.

Web Committee report, Janet Greser

The committee has been filling in the History Section of the Para website and will be adding much more as the year progresses. This Fall the Paras are doing a session on Para History and we'll be showing off the website.

E. Next meeting

Fall General Meeting Friday, noon, Oct. 17, 2008, Lincoln, NE

F. Adjournment

2008 Para Spring Meeting Report

Paraprofessional Section Spring General Meeting Report March 19, 2008

The 2008 Paraprofessional Spring Meeting, "Library Puzzle: Putting the Pieces Together @Your Library," was held on Wednesday, March 19 at the NET building in Lincoln with satellite sites in Ainsworth, Beatrice, Hastings, North Platte, Omaha, Scottsbluff, and Sidney. We had a total of 42 registrants (including the five speakers):

Ainsworth	5
Beatrice	3
Hastings	1
Lincoln	18
North Platte	3
Omaha	7
Scottsbluff	1
Sidney	4

Lunch was offered at an additional fee in Lincoln and Omaha.

Our guest speakers were:

Nancy Busch, Love Library, UNL, and
Kathy Tooker, Eastern Library System: “Fitting Your Library into the Community”

Angela Kroeger,
Criss Library, UNO: “The Library Is More than the Sum of its Departments”

Karla Shafer, Hooper Public Library: “Holding It All Together”

Barnes and Noble gift cards and thank-you letters were sent to all the presenters. In addition, thank-you letters were sent to each host site for allowing us to use their facilities free of charge. A thank-you was also sent to Marty Magee for sponsoring us so that we could use the UNMC facility in Omaha free of charge. Finally, a thank-you letter for the grant we received, with details of the Spring Meeting, has been sent to the Nebraska Library Commission.

We received mostly positive feedback on the evaluation forms we gave our participants. Most of the negative comments concerned technical problems in the broadcast (audio and video did not always match, fuzzy picture, etc.). Positive comments highlighted in particular the convenience of being able to attend local broadcasts and the variety of topics. Useful suggestions were made for future Spring Meeting topics.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Grenzeback, 2008 Spring Meeting Chair

Proposed Bylaws Changes

Proposed Bylaw Addition to be Voted on at the Fall General Meeting

Drafted by Angela Kroeger

To be voted on by the Paraprofessional Section Members
at the Luncheon Meeting during NLA/NEMA Fall Conference, October 17, 2008.

Deleted text is marked by strikethrough. Added text is marked by italics.

Proposed Change #1: Removing specific requirements for scholarships.

Article X. POLICIES

Section 2. Scholarships

Recipients of the scholarship must attend a library-related event. The amount allotted to each recipient will be determined by the Executive Board. ~~Recipients must be willing to~~

~~write a short article for the Keynote about the event. Recipients may be asked to write a short article about the event for the Keynote or to provide some other service to the Section. Applicants must be informed of any such conditions attached to the scholarship in advance of the award. Requirements may not be added retroactively. The Section may~~ might not offer scholarships every year depending upon needs, money in the treasury, and other extenuating circumstances.

Reason for this proposed change: To give the Executive Board the flexibility to offer event scholarships with no requirements or with requirements other than the writing of an article for the *Keynote*. For example, instead of writing a paragraph for the *Keynote*, a scholarship recipient could be asked to staff the Paras booth for an hour at fall conference.

The change from "may" to "might" in the final sentence is merely for clarity.

Proposed Change #2: Restricting Executive Board votes only to elected members of the board, to the exclusion of appointed or volunteer committee chairs.

While committee chairs would still be members of the Executive Board and would still attend board meetings and participate in discussions, they would no longer be able to vote on any decisions made by the Board. This will not affect the voting rights of the section membership as defined in Article IV, Section 4 and in Article XI, Section 1.

Article VI. EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 2. The Executive Board will consist of the elected officers of the Section, the immediate past Chair, and the Chairs of all Standing Committees. ~~Each Board member will have one vote.~~ *Elected members of the Executive Board--the Chair, Chair-Elect, Past-Chair, and Secretary-Treasurer--will have one vote each.*

Article VIII. COMMITTEES

Section 3. Standing Committee Chairs are ~~voting~~ *nonvoting* members of the Executive Board.

Reason for this proposed change: To follow the practice of other NLA sections and round tables. We are unique in that only our section allows each member of the Executive Board to vote, regardless of whether they were elected, appointed, or volunteered. NLA has asked that we bring ourselves into alignment with the rest of the Association.

Angela Kroeger, Paraprofessional Section Bylaws Committee Chair

<p><i>Who are the Paras?</i></p>

Since this is the “Year of the Para, our 25th Anniversary” the Para Board would like to know who’s out there. So we have come up with a questionnaire for you to fill out; you can do as much or as little as you’d like and send it to Janet Greser at jgreser@nlc.state.ne.us. No names will be kept; it will just be a generic overview of the Para’s across the state.

1. How many years have you been in NLA?
2. How many years have you been a NLA Para?
3. Have you ever held a Para office or a Para Board position?
4. Do you belong to any other Section or Round Table?
5. What is your favorite Para meeting or event?
<http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/PARA/parahistory.html>
6. What is your favorite Para freebie, give-away, or raffle?
http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/PARA/parahistory.html#Past_Promotional

Now for some questions about your work life:

7. How many years have you been at a library?
8. How many years have you been at your current library?
9. How many different libraries have you worked at?
10. What kind of Library do you work at now? Is it a: Special, Public, Academic, Museum, etc.
11. What is your education level?
12. How many hours do you work each week?

Besides putting the results in the next *Keynote* we will provide a handout at the Fall conference Session “Celebrating 25 Years: 2008 Year of the Para” which will be a discussion on Para History.

Janet Greser, *Keynote* Editor

I’m a Para, She’s a Para, Why do you like being a Para Too!

In addition to the Questionnaire (above) the Para Board talked about getting to know the members on a more personal nature so we ask that you send along a bit about yourselves and maybe a picture, at work, at home or at play. Some ideas to get you thinking: kids, family, hobbies, other accomplishments, things you’re proud of and would like to share with us. You’ll see my picture on the display at fall conference, but here’s my “getting to know you” piece.

I’ve been in the Para Section since I’ve been at the Library Commission and I started here in October, 1994 on their Computer Help desk and now my title is Infrastructure Support Analyst (mostly anything that has to do with our Computer Department). The staff I worked with got me interested right away and I’ve been involved ever since. It’s a small section where what you do gets noticed and much appreciated (case in point I’ve been Para of the Year 2x and that I am extremely thankful for and proud of). I’ve found that the Para’s are a very friendly group and we really do cover ground when it comes to what we do, where we work, and why we are in this section. I became a board member in 1997 and haven’t left, I’ve been Vice-Chair, Chair, Past-Chair, then onto Keynote Editor, and in-between I took over secretarial duties when needed and Spring Program Chair one year. There’s a lot to do on the board and its fun at meetings, getting together at fall conference at the table & at our luncheon. I’d have to say I’m a behind the scenes person, give me what you need to be done and give someone else the microphone.

I have 2 excellent kids, Amanda, 16, artistic as all get out and smart as a whip (not sure where she gets either of those 2 qualities; I always tell people I don't do "pretty", I do functional). My other daughter is Lisa, with 2 of the cutest little girls which I love to pieces. I have a HUGE family siblings, nieces, nephews & "grands" on both of these, plus aunts & uncles & too many cousins to count. We recently celebrated my Mom's 90th Birthday party and we did "party" for a week. Family is like my "hobby" I swear a month doesn't go by without some "family" event to go to. For relaxation I probably watch TOO much TV, mostly romance, comedy, fantasy, and mystery. When I sit down to watch I want to be entertained. I spend a lot of time at work "learning" new computer stuff so home is where I relax my mind. Now to bragging, I'm retired from the Army National Guard, 23 years, thankful I'm out but loved every minute of it. I have been Employee of the Year here at NLC which got me admitted into the Nebraska Navy as an Admiral. I love to vacation and have visited 40 states and just a bit into Canada & Mexico long before a passport was necessary. Back in 2001-2002 when the Library Commission had a goal of visiting all of the libraries across that state I was a part of that team and visited about 40 libraries from Springbank Township Library in Allen to Kilgore Memorial Library in York.

Enough about me, tell me about you.

Janet Greser, *Keynote Editor*

2009 Paraprofessional Spring Meeting

Save the Date for the Paraprofessional Spring General Meeting!

This year's Paraprofessional spring conference will be held on Wednesday, March 18, 2009. It will be telecast, as it is every year, to several sites around the state in addition to Lincoln and Omaha. Enjoy this opportunity to learn new things and network with other paraprofessionals as we celebrate the Paraprofessional Section's 25th anniversary! Our theme this year is "Paraprofessionals Past, Present, and Future: Where Being a Para Can Lead You". Stay tuned for further updates!

Martha Grenzeback, 2009 Spring Meeting Chair

KEYNOTE FOR PARAPROFESSIONALS

Semiannual newsletter of the Nebraska Library Association Paraprofessional Section.
Free to current Section members, published in mid-spring and early fall.

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Paraprofessional Web Site: <http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/PARA/>

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