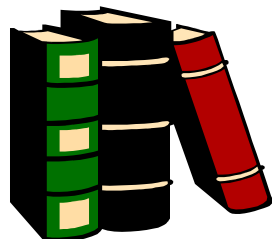


LaSSAL **Newsletter**



Chair's Column by Elissa Plank

Inside this issue:

- LaSSAL gets ready for the LLA Conference.
- ALA to celebrate "National Library Workers Day".
- Nominations for next year's Paraprofessional Award sought.
- LaSSAL announces it's Fall Conference in Ruston.
- Great websites for Paraprofessionals.

The date is fast approaching for LaSSAL's 14th Annual Statewide Conference on September 20-21 in Ruston. The theme for this year's conference is "Crossing Bridges From Parish to Parish." Mary Shively, our Vice-Chair/Chair Elect, has worked hard to put together a program that is both diverse and timely. Many thanks to Mary; Leah Clark, our secretary/treasurer; and the rest of the LaSSAL Conference Committee for all that they have done so far to make our event a success.

The September 20 pre-conference workshops will be held in Prescott Memorial Library on the Louisiana Tech campus. In the morning, Elaine Smyth, Head of Special Collections at Hill Memorial Library at Louisiana State University, will conduct a workshop on disaster preparedness for libraries. In the afternoon, Lora Peppers of the Ouachita Public Library will present a workshop on how to do collection development for genealogical resources.

Our main conference events will be held on Friday, September 21 at the Howard Johnson Inn in Ruston. Joy Lowe, LLA's ALA Counselor at Large will set the tone for the day by giving our keynote address on the value of a paraprofessional. After that, several breakout sessions are scheduled on the topics of making government information accessible, supervising student workers, the USA Patriot Act, and using Power Point to create tutorials. We will all meet together for the final topic of the day: Kevin Cuccia's lively and entertaining presentation on humor in the workplace. Our program will then conclude with a short LaSSAL business meeting.

Mary has worked hard to show how hospitable North Louisiana can be. While lunch is included on Friday, there are opportunities for those who attend on Thursday to join us in socializing at lunch and dinner. Technically, lunch on Thursday is "on your own," but Mary will make a reservation for you at the Ropp Center on campus. Then, afterward, those interested will meet at the Pottery Farm[?] The owner is extending her hours for us and will serve goodies and peach tea. Finally, we will meet in the hotel lobby at [time] and then go to eat at ? Carpooling will be available.

We hope that you can join us for the valuable instruction and fun! For more information, including the registration form, please see the LLA website (www.llaonline.org) and click on the link in the box on the left side of the LLA homepage. You can also contact me via e-mail esp1061@lsu.edu or telephone (225) 578-9429. Mary can be reached at shivelym@library.latech.edu for information as well.

Elissa Plank, Chair

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LLA Literary Award

The LLA Literary Award Committee needs your help! Have you read any new books about Louisiana that you think are very good? We want to hear about it. We are currently accepting recommendations for the Louisiana Literary Award. To be eligible for the award, the book must be published in the current year (2007) and have Louisiana as its subject. The book can be either fiction or non-fiction and can be written for children or for adults. It can also be in any literary medium—narrative, poetry, art, drama, etc. All books will be evaluated for their contributions on the basis of merit, treatment of Louisiana life, interpretation of Louisiana heritage, and value to the permanent record of the state. Please contact Linda LeBert (llebert@state.lib.la.us) or Judy Smith (jsmith@state.lib.la.us) by Dec. 20 2007 with your suggestions. Additionally, please let Linda or Judy know if you come across new books that are about Louisiana so that we can add them to our list to be published in next summer's issue of *Louisiana Libraries*. We want to be sure to promote all of the literary talent from our state.

LASSAL Mission

The mission of LaSSAL shall be to provide a forum within the Louisiana Library Association for addressing a wide variety of issues relating to library support staff, including but not limited to, continuing education, the promotion of ideas among our members, and the advancement of professional development, thus enhancing our effectiveness in the library.

LaSSAL Goals

- Provide opportunities for continuing education programs and professional development.
- Promote the sharing of ideas and communication among support staff with similar work responsibilities at other libraries.
- Encourage support staff to achieve a common goal of quality library service.
- Represent support staff in state and national associations.
- Enhance the image of support staff.
- Ensure mutual respect between librarians and support staff.
- Seek greater input to long range library planning.
- Recognize work experience as a factor in promoting and hiring.

Louisiana Library Association's 2008 Conference Louisiana Libraries: Designing the Future

Next year's LLA Conference will be held at the Shreveport Convention Center, March 4-6. You can look forward to some great conference topics and a chance to connect with some of the best Library employees the State has to offer! Don't miss out! Keep checking back with <http://www.llaonline.org> for more details.

LaSSAL News

LaSSAL Announces 2007 Outstanding Paraprofessional of the Year Award Winner

LaSSAL extends its congratulations to Sylvia Waits, this year's winner of the LaSSAL Outstanding Paraprofessional of the Year. Sylvia has been the Stacks Maintenance Supervisor at the LSU Law Library for many years, where her professionalism and dedication to providing quality library service is much appreciated by her supervisors and co-workers alike. In fact, Sylvia received the LSU Foundation Staff Outstanding Service Award, which recognizes the efforts of staff members in all of the LSU-Baton Rouge campuses, in November 2005.

Sylvia first became involved with LaSSAL in the early years when it was just a lowly interest group in the Louisiana Library Association. In fact, Sylvia was a key player in the transformation of LaSSIG the interest group to LaSSAL the section. Over the years since then, she has chaired many of LaSSAL's Committees and was section Chair in 2002-03. She always volunteers to help with the LaSSAL Statewide Conferences in the fall. LaSSAL would not have been as successful as it is today without her help, so it is a pleasure to see her efforts acknowledged in this way.

LaSSAL's Outstanding Paraprofessional Award

The deadline for this year's nominees has past, but you have an entire year to nominate someone for next year!

Who is eligible? Any member of LLA and LaSSAL who: Advances and strengthens the image of paraprofessionals, actively participates in organizations dedicated to promoting paraprofessionals, made an outstanding contribution to his or her library in field of experience and demonstrates through action and philosophy a dedication to the mission and goals of LaSSAL.

What do I need to do to nominate someone? Nominations must be submitted to the Chair of the Award Committee in the form of a letter. Letters should include: the nominee's full name, work address, telephone number, e-mail address and fax number and an outline of the nominee's contributions and/or accomplishments that led to his/her nomination. Nomination forms and guidelines can be found at:

<http://www.llaonline.org/as/>

When is the deadline? December 1

Where do I mail my nomination?

**LaSSAL Paraprofessional Award
c/o Louisiana Library Association
421 South 4th Street
Eunice, LA 70535**

*Supporting
Louisiana
Libraries*

Together

.....

*We Can
Make a
Difference*

For More Information
About LaSSAL

Contact any officer listed on our web site at:

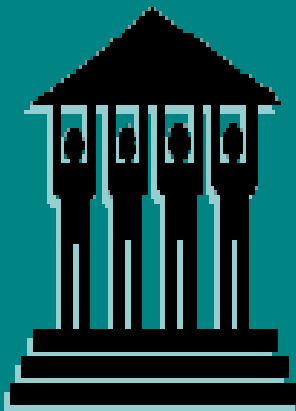
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