



Chair's Column by Mary Shively



Inside this issue:

- LaSSAL gets ready for their 2009 Conference.
- Books by Louisiana authors to be honored.
- Nominations for next year's Paraprofessional Award sought.
- Rhonda Marsh wins LaSSAL's 2009 Paraprofessional of the Year award.

It has been a busy year for LaSSAL. Jane Vidrine stepped up to the plate and assumed the duties of conference chair. The board asked me to stay on as chair for another year and Elissa Plank as past chair. I felt this was a great honor to be asked to serve an extra term and I graciously accepted as did Elissa. We gained two new members to the board- Gail Goldberg and Brenda Manning. They have already proven to be mounting assets to our group.

Jane has been very busy preparing the details of the conference we will be hosting May 14 /-15, 2009 at the Best Western Inn and Suites in Alexandria, La.

Judy Smith from the State Library of Louisiana in Baton Rouge, will do a pre-conference called "Gumbo Presentation": an online resource for teachers and students" on May 14, 2009 at the Louisiana Technical College, 4311 S. MacArthur Drive beginning at 9:00 am till 12:00 noon.

Beginning at 1:30 pm, Susan Baker and Tammy DiBartolo will do a program titled "You've Reached Out, Now What: Training the Trainers for Preschool Outreach Plus", at Rapides Public Library, 411 Washington St., Alexandria, La.

All that are interested will meet in the lobby of the Best Western Inn and Suites around 6:00pm to take an adventure to Tunks Restaurant. This will be spearheaded by Gail Goldberg and Brenda Manning. I must say that I have eaten here before and find it quite good. First time I ate alligator, it was at Tunks. If you have never had it, you at least have to try a bite or two.

The next day promises to be a great day with lots of good speakers and topics. Dr. Jerry Sanson from LSUA will be speaking on Libraries in the Past and in the Future. Paul Drake from McNeese will be giving us Destination: ILL. Lora Peppers will lead us down the dancing past, collection development for genealogy libraries.

Lunch will be a buffet with lots of good choices. Door prizes will be given away. You just might walk away with a prize or two.

Grant Writing for Dummies, now that is something I might be very interested in, especially if it is for dummies. Theresa Thevenote from Avoyelles Public Library will be on hand to give us a little professional development.

I can't wait to find out what Rita Franks has up her sleeve with a program titled "Chicken Little's Guide to On-Line Resources. Knowing Rita, this will be one fine piece of entertainment.

ACRL, is something I have been interested in for a while now. I personally would like to know how it would benefit me to become a member. I am sure Boris, Mike, and Megan will explain the whole thing to me.

So it is time to register for this conference. Don't miss out on attending one heck of an event and having a great time at it!

You will meet a lot of knowledgeable people at this conference who might just be able to answer a question or two that you have been wondering about.

Mary Shively
Chair LaSSAL

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Nomination Form Louisiana Support Staff Association of Libraries Paraprofessional of the Year Award

LaSSAL Paraprofessional of the Year Award is presented to a library support staff **person** who is a member of the Louisiana Library Association and LaSSAL and who has demonstrated, through action and philosophy, a dedication to the mission and goals of LaSSAL. The purpose of this award is to recognize an individual who has made a significant contribution to further the development of paraprofessionals in Louisiana. This award will be presented at the annual Louisiana Library Association Conference. Each applicant shall be judged by a committee on the basis of the selection criteria approved by LaSSAL.

Name of Nominee: _____

Place of Employment: _____

Work Address: _____

Title: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-Mail: _____

Name of Administrator: _____

Home Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

1. Reason for Nomination: (Include details of all noteworthy contributions)

2. List membership in organizations, office held, committees, other activities, etc.

3. Attach any supplemental material and letters of support to nomination form.

Return nomination form to:

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

Person Making Nomination: _____

Work Address: _____

Phone: _____ **E-Mail:** _____

NOMINATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY DECEMBER 1ST!!!!

LaSSAL News

LLA Literary Award Committee Seeks Nominees

The LLA Literary Award Committee needs your help! Have you read any new books about Louisiana that you think are very good? The Committee wants to hear about it. Committee members are currently accepting recommendations for the Louisiana Literary Award. To be eligible for the award, the book must be published in the current year (2009) 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 Judy Smith (jsmith@state.lib.la.us) by Dec. 20 2009 with your suggestions. Additionally, please let 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, so make some recommendations!

LaSSAL's Past Chair Featured Online at LSU's "Meet Our Staff"

Each month, an outstanding employee of the LSU library is featured in their "Meet Our Staff" posting. In March, LaSSAL's own Elissa Plank was featured. You can read all about her at: <http://news.blogs.lib.lsu.edu/2009/03/31/meet-our-staff-elissa-plank/>. Way to go Elissa!

LaSSAL Announces Winner of the 2009 Paraprofessional of the Year Award By Elissa Plank, ChairLaSSAL Award Committee

The competition for this year's Paraprofessional of the Year Award was exceptionally keen, as five people were nominated. All were good candidates, but Rhoda Marsh, this year's winner, was truly outstanding. Ms. Marsh has been working at the Jefferson Davis Parish Library System since she graduated from high school over thirty years ago. She has served as a projectionist, branch assistant, Research and Services Coordinator, Administrative Assistant and Interim Library Director. She has been involved in interlibrary loan, bookmobile services, outreach work, circulation, reference, cataloging, technology repair, computer set-up maintenance, and erecting shelving. In fact, she has been involved in all of the important initiatives carried out by her public library system during her tenure there. She received her award at the Awards Ceremony at the Shaw Center in Baton Rouge on March 13.

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*We Can
Make a
Difference*

Do YOU have some news you would like to share with fellow LaSSAL members? Did you win an award, or find out about a funding source Paraprofessionals could use? Let us know your news and it could be featured in an upcoming issue! E-mail your news to the newsletter editor, Lora Peppers at lpeppers@oplib.org.



LaSSAL Officers
Chair—Mary Shively
Vice Chair—Leah Clark
Secretary—Jane Vidrine
Treasurer—April Milton
Past Chair—Elissa Plank

For More Information About LaSSAL

Contact any officer listed on our web site at:

<http://www.laonline.org/lassal/>

OR

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