



LaSSAL **Newsletter**



Chair's Column by Jane Vidrine

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- Nominations for Paraprofessional Award sought.
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- LLA's 2007 Conference dates announced.

I would like to welcome you to the 13th Annual Louisiana Support Staff Association of Libraries Conference that will be held Thursday and Friday, September 21-22, 2006. The Conference will be held in Baton Rouge at the Holiday Inn South.

The 2006 LaSSAL Conference "Louisiana Support Staff: Divers for Pearls of Knowledge" will be of interest to all supports staff, librarians, and directors. The two day conference will offer programs for all types of libraries, so sign up and come and see what we have to offer.

The pre conference on Thursday, September 21, 2006 will be held at the Frey Computing Center, LSU Campus. There will be one morning session and one for after noon session.

The main conference will take place on Friday, September 22, 2006 at the Holiday Inn South beginning with a general session featuring Beth Vandersteen who will start the day as our keynote speaker with a session called "Importance of Library Paraprofessionals". We will have two breakout sessions in the morning and two in the afternoon. During our lunch, we will have Beth Paskoff, LLA president who will join us. Don't forget to join us for our business meeting which will follow immediately after the last session ends.

For more details about the conference you can visit www.llaonline.org Click on the highlights and all the information pertaining to the LaSSAL conference will be located there. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Hope to see you all on September 21-22, 2006 at LaSSAL!!!!

Jane Vidrine
Chair – LaSSAL 2006/2007

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Louisiana Support Staff: Divers for Pearls of Knowledge 13th Annual Statewide Conference By Elissa Plank Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect

As LaSSAL Conference Committee Chair, I want to extend an invitation to you to attend LaSSAL's 13 Annual Statewide Conference. This year the Conference will be held on September 21-22 in Baton Rouge. The theme for this year's conference is "Louisiana Support Staff: Divers for Pearls of Knowledge." Each of the program presentations will give valuable information, "pearls of knowledge," that can be put to use back in your home library.

The September 21 pre-conference workshops will be held at the Fred C. Frey Computing Services Center on the LSU campus. In the morning, Karen Vargas will conduct a workshop entitled "From Snake Oil to Penicillin: Evaluating Consumer Health Information on the Internet." It promises to be beneficial both personally and professionally. Then, in the afternoon Kevin Merriman will conduct a workshop entitled "Step, Step, Pivot Step: Building and Using Excel Pivot Tables to Analyze Data." Those of you who attended and enjoyed Kevin's lively presentation at the 2004 LOUIS Users' Conference will appreciate the opportunity to learn exactly how to create pivot tables to help keep track of what books are actually on your library's shelves.

Visitor parking passes will be available at the Registration table in the Frey Center. Also, for those of you who plan to stay at the conference hotel on Wednesday night, we are working on arranging a shuttle service, which will depart at 8:00 a.m. If you are interested in the shuttle or if you would like to obtain your visitor's parking pass on Wednesday evening, please contact me, Elissa Plank (esp1061@lsu.edu) or Jane Vidrine (jmvidrine@louisiana.edu). On Thursday night, we are planning a special dinner at a local restaurant for all those who would like to attend.

Our main conference events will be held on Friday, September 22 at the Holiday Inn South, located at the intersection of Interstate 12 and Airline Highway (U.S. 61). Beth Vandersteen from the Rapides Parish Library system will kick off the day with a speech on the importance of library paraprofessionals. Then, for those of you who are interested in continuing your education, Dean Paskoff from LSU SLIS will lead a breakout session on scholarships and funding for paraprofessionals. She will also be on hand the rest of the day to talk to interested persons individually. The other morning breakout session will be on "Helping Library Patrons Identify Appropriate Grant Opportunities," led by Pam Wall from the Louisiana Association of Nonprofits. This presentation will help you help those patrons who want to know about all grant opportunities for which they may be eligible.

After lunch, Lynell Buckley and Tanya Arant from Louisiana Tech will give a presentation on "Does Your 'Devil' Wear Prada?: Managing and Supervising People" that is sure to be entertaining and informative. Following that session, Vivian Solar from the Ascension Parish Library will hold a cataloging forum. If you have a specific question that you would like her to address, you may contact her in advance by e-mail at vsolar@state.lib.la.us. Additionally, Jeff Guin from the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training will give a presentation on what his organization, based here in Louisiana, has been doing with disaster recovery since Hurricane Katrina. Finally, Mitch Fontenot will give a presentation on how to do library outreach based on his experiences since he started working at LSU. Our program will conclude with a short LaSSAL business meeting.

I hope to see you there. For more information, including the registration form, please see the LLA website (www.laonline.org) and click on the link in the box on the left side of the LLA homepage. If you have any questions, please contact me at esp1061@lsu.edu or Jane Vidrine at jmvidrine@louisiana.edu.

Mary Shively has been appointed to serve as a LaSSAL representative on the Louisiana Libraries Editorial Board. Her term will begin July 1, 2006 and she will serve for a two year period.

Special thanks to Elissa Plank who has served on the board representing LaSSAL. Thanks for a wonderful job!

LaSSAL News

LaSSAL's Outstanding Paraprofessional Award

The deadline is looming for nominations. Do you know an "Outstanding Paraprofessional"? If so, why not nominate them?

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.laonline.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*

LaSSAL welcomes ALA Conference Attendees!

LaSSAL had a successful evening out in New Orleans hosting LSSIRT for an ALA evening out! Everyone received a strand of beads and we led the stroll with a Mardi Gras 2nd line umbrella. Cafe Pontalba accommodated us and the weather even cooperated. Mary acquired and shared coupons for free dessert at the cafe. Folks ended the evening at Cafe DuMonde for coffee and coupons for free beignets.

The attendees totaled 21. The guest list was from far reaching points of the country and/or a distinguished lot. Our guests included the LSSIRT national president, the Library Journal Paraprofessional of the Year Recipient and an author! Look for a mention of the tour in the LSSIRT Newsletter, August 2006 edition.

Mark Your Calendars for Next Year!

Louisiana Library Association's Annual Conference
March 6-8, 2007 at the Holiday Inn Select, 4728 Constitution Avenue,
Baton Rouge, LA.
SEE YOU THERE!

For More Information
About LaSSAL

Contact any officer listed on our web site at:

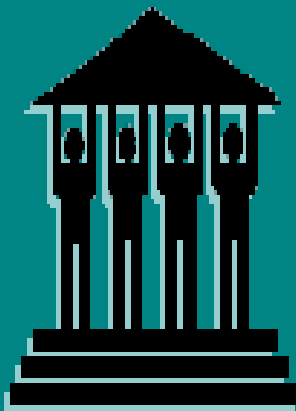
<http://www.laonline.org/lassal/>

OR

Louisiana Library Association
Executive Director
421 South 4th Street
Eunice, Louisiana 70535
Phone: (337) 550-7890
Fax: (337) 550-7846
E-mail: www.laonline.org



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