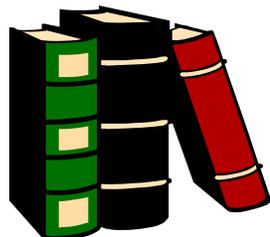




### Chair's Column by Mary Shively



#### Inside this issue:

- LaSSAL gets ready for the LLA Conference.
- Listservs for Paraprofessionals
- Nominations for next year's Paraprofessional Award sought.
- April Milton, LaSSAL's newest Outstanding Paraprofessional of the Year!

#### Table of Contents:

<b>Chair's Column</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Support Staff Paraprofessional of the Year Award Nomination Form</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>LaSSAL's Fall Conference Postponed!</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>LaSSAL's Committees</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>How to Reach Us</b>	<b>4</b>

I would like to take this opportunity to invite everyone to attend LaSSAL's annual conference in Alexandria, La., September 18 – 19, 2008.

Vice-Chair, Mildred Osborne and the LaSSAL Board have worked hard to bring another informative conference to you. Believe me, if you attend you will not go away disappointed.

The Pre-conference which will be held at Rapides Library at 411 Washington St. in downtown Alexandria will not only be informative but you will come away knowing how to keep up with fast paced social networking and how to deal with preschoolers. The library is located within walking distance of the old Bentley Hotel that has a lot of history for those interested in the past. During lunch you may want to venture out to see it and stroll along the streets. This part of the old town has some "drug store" eateries. Just across the bridge is a favorite restaurant of Alexandria's, Lee Jays. And I can tell you the bread pudding is some of the best I have ever eaten.

Thursday after the last session the LaSSAL Board and anyone that wants to join us will meet in the lobby of the Baymont Inn & Suites and head out for a festive dinner at Tunk's. When the choices of restaurants were presented, I think I pulled rank being the Chair and kind of insisted we go there. I have dined at Tunk's many times and am always ready to go again.

Friday at the SAI Convention Center (next to the Baymont Inn & Suites) will start early for LaSSAL Board members and we will be busy making this a pleasant experience for you. The programs Mildred has lined up for us are some of the best yet. I am anxiously waiting to hear our keynote speaker, Jerry Sanson, PhD, speak to us on Libraries in our Past and Future. Paul Drake from McNeese University will be doing a program on ILL. Our very own Lora Peppers will be presenting on genealogy. Professional Development will be presented by Theresa Thevenote. Rita Franks will take us through different online resources to help us decide who we are going to vote for in the November elections. Back by popular demand will be story telling by Rosa Me-toyer. Of course this will be a two hour session but it goes by fast because it will be funny and amusing. Lunch will be provided and Melissa Hymel, LLA President will be our guest speaker. And don't forget we will have door prizes to give away.

LaSSAL is a section of LLA that is dedicated to support staff in the state of Louisiana. We work hard to bring new and informative continuing education programs to you. When I became a member of LLA and LaSSAL, I had no idea I would become involved in the organization. I have found over the years how rewarding it is to be a member and work for the betterment of LaSSAL. Meeting other support staff from different libraries is a treat in itself not to mention how beneficial it is. I have met a lot of support staff and had the opportunity just to sit and talk about how they do their jobs, and discuss various things like student workers, gov documents, reference, and ILL.

LLA and ALA have a joint venture where you can join both organizations for a reduced price. If you are not a member, this is something you might consider doing. Not only does it save you money, but you will be informed by both LLA and ALA.

If you are excited about the opportunity to have two days of meeting other and attending continuing education sessions, then please consider attending our conference, I promise you, you will not be disappointed.

I would like to end this with a saying of mine. "LaSSAL is only as strong as our membership" Come and be a part of LaSSAL.

## 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 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Eunice, LA 70535**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Person Making Nomination:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Work Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-Mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

## LaSSAL News

### Joint ALA/LaSSAL Membership Dues Increasing

From September 1, 2008, to August 31, 2009, the Joint Support Staff price will be \$61.00; after September 1, 2009, it will be \$65.00. Starting in September 2008, you will begin to receive \$26.00 per member as your revenue. After September 1, 2009, please expect an additional \$2 as well.

Joint Student Members will be priced at \$35.00 beginning Sept 1, 2008. We will continue a 50/50 split at the new rate.

### LaSSAL 2008 Fall Conference

Due to the Hurricane threats during the month of September, LaSSAL's 2008 Fall Conference, "Supporting Libraries, Serving Communities", has been postponed until next year. We regret the delay, but look forward to a bigger and better conference next year! In the meantime, Look for LaSSAL to have some great programs at the Louisiana Library Conference in March. We'll see you there!

### LaSSAL – Committees

*Archives:* Sylvia Waits – Chair, Barbara Royer, April Milton

*Awards:* Elissa Plank – Chair, Lora Peppers, Charlotte Lee

*Conference:* Mildred Osborne – Chair, Christine Thomason, Mary Shively, Elissa Plank, Jane Vidrine

*Manual:* Barbara Royer – Chair, Leah Clark, Christine Thomason, Charlotte Lee

*Membership:* Jane Vidrine- Chair, All members of board

*Newsletter:* Lora Peppers, Editor

*Nominating:* Leah Clark – Chair, Christine Thomason, Jane Vidrine, Mildred Osborne

*Tellers:* Jane Vidrine, April Milton

*Supporting  
Louisiana  
Libraries*

*Together*

.....  
*We Can  
Make a  
Difference*

## 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 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Eunice, Louisiana 70535  
Phone: (337) 550-7890  
Fax: (337) 550-7846  
E-mail: [www.laonline.org](http://www.laonline.org)



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