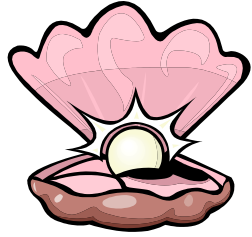




LASL Newsletter



Libraries: Louisiana's Pearls of Wisdom

2006 Conference

March 28-30

Lafayette, LA

Conference information at:

http://www.llaonline.org/ne/lla_conference.php

Louisiana Association
of School Librarians

Volume 26, Issue 1

Fall 2005

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Lunch and a "Jewel" of a Speaker

LASL is pleased to announce that its guest speaker for the Annual LASL Author Luncheon will be **Judith Byron Schachner**. Ms. Schachner is the author and illustrator of several children's books including *Skippyjones*, *Willy & May*, and her most recent, *Yo, Vikings!* She is the illustrator of *How the Cat Swallowed Thunder* by Lloyd Alexander and *I Know an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Pie* by Alison Jackson. For further information on this very talented author, visit her website at www.judithbyronschachner.com.



Choose an author as you would a friend. -

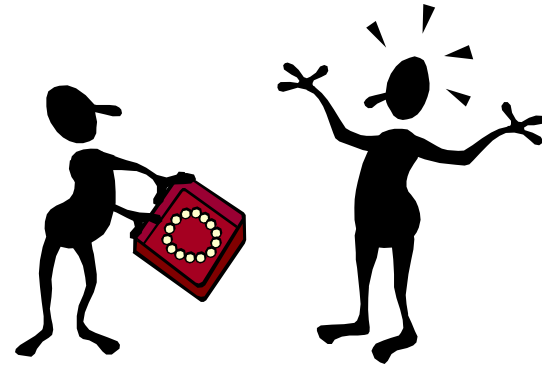
Wentworth Dillon



Take note of this woman's wise words!

Conference attendees will have the good fortune of hearing **J. Linda Williams** at the LASL General Assembly. Ms. Williams is the President of AASL and has graciously agreed to be the keynote speaker. She recently won her presidency with the goal of strengthening library media programs by working for the placement of library media specialists in K-12 schools. Come be inspired by her vision of "ALL"... Advocacy, Legislation, and Leadership. Under her leadership may no school librarian be left behind!

You must see this “strand” of sessions!



Best in Children’s Books in 2005
Presented by Librarians of Lincoln Parish

Best Books for Young Adults
Presented by Librarians of Lincoln Parish

LA Young Readers Choice Award Program 2007 for Gr. 6-8

LA Young Readers Choice Award Program 2007 for Gr. 3-5

Fantastic Fantasy
Presented by Jan McGee, Ouachita Parish LMS Co-Coordinator

Resources: Bridging the Gap in the Comprehensive Curriculum
Presented by Margaret Henderson, Region VIII LTC Facilitator

AASL Initiatives
Presented by J. Linda Williams, President AASL

" Somewhere, some-
thing incredible is
waiting to be known."
Carl Sagan

LLA
2006 Conference
March 28-30
Lafayette, LA

We’re looking for some pearls of wisdom!

School libraries will be the focus of an upcoming issue of *Louisiana Libraries*. LASL is looking for anyone interested in submitting an article for this particular publication. Feel free to write about any topic pertinent to school library such as collaboration, the role of the library in the State Comprehensive Curriculum, and information literacy. More details will be available in the next edition.



School Librarians Speak Up

The editor wishes to include something new in our newsletter. I know you all have wonderful ideas and educated opinions, so the next issue of the LASL Newsletter will publish your thoughts!

Please e-mail your responses to the following questions to Janet Lathrop at lathropj@wfpsb.org.

The LASL Executive Board has great concerns about the organization’s dwindling membership. To what do you attribute this decline and how can LASL recruit? What would make joining our professional organization more attractive to new as well as experienced librarians?

Look for the answers in the Pre-Conference Issue coming out in late January or early February.

Your Association in Action

LASL Executive Board was held October 15, 2005 in Le-compte. Kathryn Arrington, President, presided over the meeting.

Susan Cheshire, First Vice President and Chair of the Author Luncheon, has contacted and made arrangements for Judith Byron Schachner to be the guest author for the 2006 LASL Author Luncheon in Lafayette. Kathryn Arrington has made arrangements for our keynote speaker to be J. Linda Williams, AASL President.

Peggy Wheelis, Second Vice President and chair of the Continuing Education Committee, has scheduled and made arrangements for the programs for Conference. Dr. Margie Thomas suggested an additional program that we would sponsor to address the issue of the status of libraries affected by the hurricanes.

Beverly Laughlin, LLA Executive Director, reported that LASL membership is down again this year and suggested that renewals were interrupted by the hurricanes. She further stated that LLA has been receiving funds from schools across the country that want to adopt libraries affected by the hurricanes. However, there is a lack of information about school libraries and the damages incurred. Dr. Beth Paskoff offered to gather information through LLA and LSU and Dr. Thomas volunteered to contact the Department of Education to inquire about possible damage reports. Ms. Laughlin concluded her report with information that the Texas Library Association has secured space to store donated

books and that publishers are ready to make donations when schools are operational. Follett is going to set up at LSU so that libraries can prepare orders and LSU is collecting donated computers from Florida.

Linda Holmes and Margie Thomas both reported on their experiences at the AASL Conference in Pittsburgh. They were impressed by the speeches from Coach Carter and Chris Crutcher. Dr. Thomas shared information from several of the sessions she attended and recommended the website www.informationliteracy.org as an excellent free source of units with embedded information literacy lessons.

Brenda DeWolf, Chair of the Publicity Committee, will make arrangements for Peggy Wheelis' brochure that explains the role and impact of the librarian to be available for distribution at LA LAMP. The Board approved funds to cover the cost of printing. Ms. Wheelis previously distributed the brochures to superintendents at their June meeting and to state supervisors in February.

Jan Blanchard, Chair of the Student Relations Committee, sent a flier concerning the Louisiana Teen-Age Librarian Association. She provided information about the organization as well its convention plans.

After much discussion, the Board voted to discontinue the Liz Bruns Award due to a lack of interest as well as issues with the sponsoring company. Members are

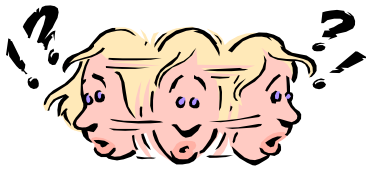


LASL...advocating excellence, facilitating change, and developing leaders in the school library media field.

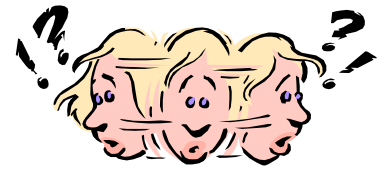
urged to encourage librarians to apply for the other awards sponsored by LASL and LLA: School Library Media Specialist Award, Sue Hefley Educator Award, and the coveted Modisette Award.

Susan Gauthier of the Louisiana Center for Educational Technology sent a letter detailing her ideas about extending the work begun by Ouachita Parish librarians on the role of the library in delivering the Comprehensive Curriculum. She would like to recruit librarians to help develop documents that tie the Comprehensive Curriculum to the Information Literacy Model (LA7). The Projects Committee agreed to take this on and will assist Ms. Gauthier in recruiting librarians from around the state.

The Board ended the meeting expressing concern over its dwindling membership and the need to recruit young librarians. It was suggested that our brochure address the benefits of joining LLA, in particular the value of networking.



Did you know?



The librarians of Ouachita Parish have identified every activity in the Louisiana Comprehensive Curriculum that states a need for library resources and/or technology. To access their document entitled, "Library-Technology Connections to the LA Comprehensive Curriculum," go to <http://www.opsb.net/downloads-cat-16.html>. A huge THANK YOU to these dedicated, hard working librarians for sharing this valuable resource.

There is a revised "School Libraries That Work" from Scholastic Publishing. This document is a free download at <http://librarypublishing.scholastic.com>.

Ouachita Parish librarian, Elizabeth Dumas, recently published an article in the October issue of *Library Media Connections*. See this article for unique ways to arrange your collection. Congratulations, Elizabeth!

There is a great opportunity out there for librarians with students in 6th-12th grades who have a library club. The Louisiana Teen-Age Librarians Association is an organization run by students, sponsored by LASL members, that promotes librarianship. LTLA's objective is to increase student interest and participation in library work. Contact Jan Blanchard, Student Relations Chairman, for more information jblanchard@tpsd.org.

Last year's LASL Publicity Committee, chaired by Peggy Wheelis, designed a very professional brochure that describes and advocates a strong school library program in order to meet the state GLE's and mandates of No Child Left Behind. This document is meant to inform administrators and superintendents of the vital role school libraries play in student achievement. Be sure to give your administrators a copy. Downloads are available on the LLA website.

Highlights of 2005

by Linda Holmes, 2004-2005 LASL President



LASL embraced President Terry Thibodeaux's theme for LLA last year Educate, Enrich, Empower by providing many opportunities for professional development. LA LAMP was held in 5 cities throughout the state with record attendance. This tour offered librarians opportunities to attend workshops and to visit vendors for the latest in print and technology resources. LASL hosted a Mid-winter Conference at Dutchtown High School in January with a total of 224 attendees. There were forty nine sessions offered with eleven Louisiana authors signing and selling their books on Author's Row. LASL made a profit of \$7525.06 for this event. The LLA Conference was excellent due to the wonderful sessions offered and the dynamic teaching of Nancy Pollete, LASL's guest author.

The Project and Publicity Committee created a brochure that included key elements from the document *School Libraries Work!* showing the impact of effective school library media programs on student achievement. This brochure was mailed to every superintendent in the state. Dr. Peggy Wheelis and her committee did a great job with this project.

National Board of Professional Teaching Standards certified eight library media specialist in our state this year bringing the total to twenty-one in Louisiana. This certification is valid for ten years. Our congratulations to Tonya Ashcroft, Elizabeth Glenn, Linda Holmes, Holly Howat, Hellon Kelley, Laura Poplus, Elizabeth Rennhoff, and Susan Verret.

Special congratulations to the following ladies for earning distinguished honors: Melissa Elrod, Captain Shreve High School, Modisette Award and School Library Media Specialist Award; Judy Noles, library supervisor for Webster Parish, Sue Hefley Award.

I enjoyed serving the association for the past year as your president. Let us continue to Educate, Enrich, and Empower our students, faculty, and community.



Go to www.laonline.org



**Because student achievement
is the bottom line.**

Louisiana Association of School Librarians

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President

Kathryn Arrington

karrington@ebrpss.k12.la.us

1st Vice President

Susan Cheshire

dcheshir@bellsouth.net

2nd Vice President

Peggy Wheelis

wheelis@bayou.com

Secretary

Anne Maverick

amaverick@ebrschools.org

Parliamentarian

Marvene Dearman

mdearman@bellsouth.net

Newsletter Editor

Janet Lathrop

lathropj@wfpsb.org

Save the date!

<http://www.lalamp.org> for more info.



Monday January 9, 2006, New Orleans
Tuesday January 10, 2006, Baton Rouge
Wednesday January 11, 2006, Lake Charles
Thursday January 12, 2006, Natchitoches
Friday January 13, 2006, West Monroe