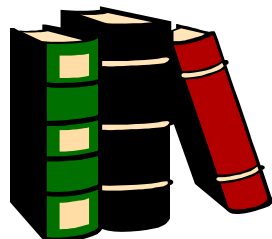


LaSSAL **Newsletter**



Chair's Column by Jane Vidrine

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.

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I want to thank everyone who has contributed to LaSSAL so far this year. I want to thank the LaSSAL board members for all their hard work and dedication. We had a great turn out for our statewide conference which was held in September 2006 in Baton Rouge. We look forward to this year's statewide conference as well and we are already making plans for this wonderful conference.

The Louisiana Library Association annual Conference is scheduled for March 6-8, 2007 in Baton Rouge and the Holiday Inn Select. I hope you can make plans to attend this annual event. There are many great programs lined up for all library personnel. LaSSAL is scheduled to sponsor one pre conference and several programs during the main conference. LaSSAL is also scheduled to have a business meeting which will be Wednesday morning beginning at 8:00 a.m. at the conference. This meeting is open to everyone who is interested in LaSSAL membership or just for information. Also for information, please check out the LLA website at www.laonline.org and click on LaSSAL for details. At any time you may also contact LaSSAL members as we are here to answer any questions you may have about LaSSAL.

Also make plans to join us at LLA's second general session where awards are given. Hope to see you there.

Have a wonderful time!

Jane Vidrine
Chair/ LaSSAL

ALA CELEBRATES NATIONAL LIBRARY WORKERS DAY!

Submit a Star for National Library Workers Day on April 17, 2007

CHICAGO - Start the celebration early for National Library Workers Day (NLWD) by submitting information about your favorite worker and what makes him or her special to the NLWD Stars Web site - www.ala-apa.org/about/nlwdstarsform.html. NLWD is celebrated on Tuesday, April 17, during the American Library Association (ALA)-sponsored National Library Week.

NLWD is sponsored by ALA-APA: the Organization for the Advancement of Library Workers, which advocates for improving the salaries and status of librarians and support staff.

NLWD Stars will be featured on the National Library Workers Day site for one year. Stars will also be honored at the ALA Annual Conference in Washington, DC. Download the free NLWD poster from http://www.ala-apa.org/about/nlwd_poster.pdf, which tells patrons, trustees, and colleagues how to submit a Star. Self-nominations are accepted.

The deadline for submission is April 17.

NLWD is a day for library staff, users, administrators and Friends groups to recognize the valuable contributions made by all library workers. Ideas for how to celebrate in your library are here: <http://www.ala-apa.org/about/ideas.html> and <http://www.ala-apa.org/about/NLWDFlyer07.pdf> (large file).

Proud of the work you do? Shop at the ALA-APA NLWD Online Store - http://www.cafepress.com/ala_apa - for t-shirts, buttons, mugs and posters that proclaim "Libraries Work Because We Do".

Libraries are encouraged to use National Library Workers Day to focus on the value of their staff: individuals or units responsible for the number of materials selected, acquired, cataloged, checked out and back in, and shelved; for handling requests and sending them to other libraries; for answering reference questions; for planning, publicizing and presenting programs; for developing and maintaining the library's Web site; for managing the library and for other elements of library service.

Customizable tools and materials in English and Spanish to help libraries promote National Library Workers Day in their local media are available on the ALA-APA Web site at www.ala-apa.org/about/nlwd.

The list of NLWD Stars, will be updated weekly. Contact the ALA-APA Office to tell us how you will be celebrating - 800-545-2433, x2424 or jgrady@ala.org.

Equal Pay Day, on April 24, 2007, is closely related to NLWD because libraries are staffed predominately by women, and library workers tend to be underpaid. Equal Pay Day highlights the gap between the wages of men and women. For more information, see the NCPE website at www.pay-equity.org.

National Library Week (April 15-21) press materials, programming suggestions and display ideas can be found on the ALA Web site at <http://www.ala.org/ala/pio/natlibraryweek/nlw.htm> in both English and Spanish. The theme for 2007 is "Come Together @ your library®." The site includes a link to National Library Week products available from ALA Graphics, including posters, bookmarks and key chains.

Let's celebrate the wonderful work of library employees on that day because, after all, Libraries Work Because We Do.

LaSSAL News

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.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

Join us This Year for the Fall LaSSAL Conference!

This year's conference will be held in Ruston on Sept. 20 -21, 2007. Registration costs will be the same as last year's. Stay tuned to our website for further details!

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

Some GREAT Websites for Paraprofessionals!

LibrarySupportStaff.com

Library Support Staff Interest Roundtable (LSSIRT)
<http://www.ala.org/ala/lssirt/lssirt.htm>

ALA Scholarships (check out the Support Staff Scholarships section!)
<http://www.ala.org/Template.cfm?Section=scholarships>

*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.llaonline.org/lassal/>

OR

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