



LaSSAL Newsletter

Chair's Column by Kathy Tuminello

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The 2005 LLA Conference is being held in the City of Alexandria, Rapides Parish, in Central Louisiana. LaSSAL has been an active participant in the planning by sponsoring one (1) pre-conference and three (3) conference programs his year.

This year's LLA Conference theme is **Louisiana Libraries: Educate, Enrich, Empower!** LaSSAL's programming includes one pre-conference, "Strategic Thinking and Planning" and two conference day programs, "Nursery Rhyme Name Songs" and "Stress Management in the Workplace." LaSSAL is co-sponsoring another Conference program, "Education for Speedy Library PCs, Networks, and Internet." As always, LaSSAL offers a variety of continuing education programs for library staff.

Don't forget to attend the LaSSAL business meeting during the Conference. The meeting is scheduled 3:00 – 3:50 p.m. on Thursday, April 28. The meeting is open to everyone who is interested in LaSSAL membership or just for information.

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Many thanks to the Vice-Chair/Chair Elect and Conference Chair, Jane Vidrine, and to all of the LaSSAL Board members who have spent many hours preparing for this conference. We are fortunate and proud to have such hard-working, fun-loving and devoted individuals in our Section. As Jane Vidrine assumes her position of Chair for LaSSAL 2005/2006, Elissa Plank is expected to become LaSSAL's next Vice-Chair Elect 2005/2006. Be sure and congratulate these members and offer your support.

As we gather at the Conference to network among ourselves and enrich our lives for the future, let us not forget that libraries all over the State depend on us. We are truly "Supporting Louisiana Libraries."

Have a great day!

Kathy Tuminello
LaSSAL Chair 2004/2005

Fall 2005 Statewide Conference Update

**By
Elissa Plank
Secretary/Treasurer**

Planning is underway for the 13th Annual LaSSAL Statewide Conference to be held in Baton Rouge this fall. While the roster for the two days is not yet complete, we already have some interesting topics and workshops in the lineup. On Thursday morning, September 22, Karen Vargas from NLM will lead a workshop entitled, "From Snake Oil to Penicillin: Evaluating Consumer Health Information on the Internet." That afternoon, Kevin Hastings-Merriman from McNeese State University will give a workshop entitled "Step, Step, Pivot, Step: Building and Using Excel Pivot Tables to Analyze Data." Both workshops promise to be fascinating, giving participants practical, hands-on training. Then on Friday, September 23, Beth Vandersteen from Rapides Public Library will address the membership on the topic of the importance of library paraprofessionals, a topic you requested. Dean Beth Paskoff from the LSU Library School will give a breakout session on another topic you requested: the scholarships and funding available to paraprofessionals who wish to advance their careers. Benjamin Cornwell from the LSU Office of Disability Services will give a presentation on assisting library patrons who have disabilities. Finally, Maureen Olle from LSU will return and speak on how to find information on government grants. Three more presentations are in the works, and we hope to incorporate more of your suggestions for presentations. Thursday's workshops will be held at the Frey Center on the LSU campus, with plenty of visitor parking directly at the back of the building. Friday's sessions will be held at the Holiday Inn South. Make plans now to attend!

LaSSAL Mission and Goals

Mission

The mission of LaSSAL shall be to provide a forum within the Louisiana Library Association for addressing a wide variety of issues relating to library support staff, including but not limited to, continuing education, the promotion of ideas among our members, and the advancement of professional development, thus enhancing our effectiveness in the library.

Goals

- Provide opportunities for continuing education programs and professional development.
- Promote the sharing of ideas and communication among support staff with similar work responsibilities at other libraries.
- Encourage support staff to achieve a common goal of quality library service.
- Represent support staff in state and national associations.
- Enhance the image of support staff.
- Ensure mutual respect between librarians and support staff.
- Seek greater input to long range library planning.
- Recognize work experience as a factor in promoting and hiring.

Websites for Support Staff

Librarysupportstaff.com

<http://librarysupportstaff.com>

This site is a collection of links for paraprofessionals in all fields of the library. You can find lists of websites, Library Journals, general websites, library job finding links and links to paraprofessionals' personal websites!

Council On Library/Media Technicians (COLT)

<http://colt.ucr.edu>

COLT is an international organization which works to address the issues and concerns of library and media support staff personnel. Their website has links to many bibliographies and resources for the Library Paraprofessional.

Libsup-I Mailing List

<http://mailman1.u.washington.edu/mailman/listinfo/libsup-I>

Libsup-I is an e-mail discussion group for Support Staff. They discuss library-related or work related issues.

Associates: The Electronic Library Support Staff Journal

<http://associates.ucr.edu/>

Associates is an online library journal for Support Staff published three times a year in March, July and November. All past journals are archived and fully searchable on the website.

ALA Announces Special Membership Rates For Support Staff!

In September, the American Library Association announced reduced membership rates for Paraprofessionals. For a rate of \$35 a year, Library Support Staff Membership (LSS) is available to those employed in library and information services or related activities that do not require a degree, state certification or is not managerial. LSS Members enjoy the full rights, privileges and benefits of ALA membership. Attendance at the annual membership meeting, voting rights for ALA and your Divisions or Round Tables, and access to the ALA Members Forum discussion list are included. Membership includes subscriptions to premier professional journals, discounts on conferences and continuing education opportunities, and discounts on ALA books and promotional materials. Health, dental, life and auto insurance are also available to ALA Library Support Staff members. For more information and a list of benefits, go to <http://www.ala.org> and click on Join/Renew ALA.

*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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