

Parapros Section Meeting
WLA
September 13, 2007

The meeting was called to order by outgoing Chair, Paul Pidde. Introductions by attendees were made around each table.

Unfinished business:

Spring meeting minutes ~ A question was raised regarding the term “inconsistencies.” This referred to a need for clarification of duties for the Chair and Chair-Elect, which would allow for more continuity between the two positions. Lisa Wetmore moved for approval of minutes, seconded by Marci Mock.

Members of the state library hope to visit each library in the state to conduct an informal survey among staff regarding Webinars, certification, and training. This face-to-face survey may answer the question – where is the library community now and where would it like to be in the next 5 years?

By-law changes ~ No questions or discussion ensued. Gloria Brodle moved to approve the by-laws. Jo Elliott seconded the motion.

Vote for new officers ~ The new Chair-Elect is Gloria Brodle. The new secretary is Marci Mock. These nominees were approved by acclimation with a motion by Bernie Burr-Wilken, seconded by Ana Cuprill.

New business:

Suggestions for the spring section meeting ~ Gloria Brodle offered a list of ideas:

- *public speaking tips (Toastmasters)
- *how to do an interview
- *how to deal with teens, the homeless, latch-key kids
- *conflict resolution
- *crisis communication
- *technology tips (blogging)

Should members have any other ideas or would like to express a preference on the above list, they are to contact Mary Gillis, Gloria Brodle, or Marci Mock. Also, any suggestions/preferences may be added to the Parapros Blog. (The link to the blog is on the WLA homepage – www.wyla.org – right hand panel.) Gloria’s list will also be e-mailed to the Parapros listserv by Mary Gillis.

Nancy Bolt, an ALA project representative, gave preliminary information about a national certification program for “Library Practitioners” (paraprofessionals). This grant sponsored program is designed for public and academic libraries only. It is a 3 year program designed to allow certification for library support staff. The first year will be utilized to develop competencies. Year two will allow for assessment of prior knowledge

and experience as well as how to apply, where to take courses, etc. The third year involves field testing competencies, with all items in place by the fourth year. The ultimate goal is national certification accepted throughout the state. Trish Palluck offered a follow up to Nancy Bolt's information encouraging the section to keep the momentum going for deserved recognition and accreditation of support staff.

In-coming Chair Mary Gillis moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Carol Burns.

Respectfully submitted,
Mikki Thomas