

October 22, 2015 – NCLPA Luncheon Meeting at 61st Biennial NCLA Conference, Greensboro NC

Luncheon Meeting called to order at 12:10 by Chair, Cathy Wright

With 65 individuals in attendance, Cathy Wright proceeded with meeting while lunch was served

NCLPA Two-Year Review

A quick rundown of the events of NCLPA as we have now reached the end of the current 2 year term of office for the 2013-2015 elected individuals.

While we seemed to have a slow start in 2014, behind the scenes members of the Executive Board were working to make modifications and updates to our printed literature and online available information. Discussions were held regarding possible change of design for our logo, as well as consideration of our group description, are we still comfortable with description “paraprofessional” or should we consider change to “support staff” or perhaps “paralibrarian”? These possible changes were tabled for further discussion among the board members and well as input from the membership. This is something we all need to consider and provide input.

In the spring of 2014, the Triad Academic Library System of the Piedmont (TALA) held its first annual conference where our Chair, Harry Frank provided a speech on “Rise of the Niche” And Nita Williams also gave a presentation on “Student Workers.”

In May after the Executive Board meeting and the evening prior to the annual Joyner Library Paraprofessional Conference, NCLPA sponsored a Meet & Greet at the Mellow Mushroom in Greenville. This event was well attended, food and fellowship with old and new friends was tremendous.

The next day, NCLPA provided information about our organization at the Joyner Paraprofessional Conference which was as always a wonderful event.

At the August of 2014 meeting, it was decided to offer partial scholarship for a paraprofessional to participant in the NCLA Leadership Institute. We were very proud to provide this financial support to Juli Moore of Iredell County who was selected to participate in the 2014 class. And as we congratulated Juli, we ask all members to please accept our encouragement to pursue your passion for your library and your patrons and apply to attend the 2016 LI. The application process will begin in January 2016.

In the September of 2014, NCLPA was very proud to play a small part in the African-American Author Festival held at the Greensboro Public Library by serving refreshments to participating authors and their assistants at the festival. The festival was hugely successful with many individuals attending and taking part in the presentations by authors throughout the day. The event was sponsored by Book Clubs United for African American Literacy with 11 featured authors, presentations, books signings, arts, and prizes. Weather was perfect and the event was

enjoyed by all, including and especially the NCLPA members in attendance.

In November 2014 after the Executive Board meeting, our first “Snack and Chat” was held at the Alamance County Public Libraries in Burlington NC with all surrounding library staff invited as well as any library staff from any location wishing to attend. We were very pleased with the attendance and decided to make this an event once a quarter to be tied in with our quarterly executive board meeting. We were much honored to have as one of our attendees, Dale Cousins, then current President of NCLA, and at subsequent NCLA Executive Board meeting we were extended several invitations to hold such events at other library locations.

In February 2015, our plans for Executive Board meeting and to hold a Snack and Chat in Fayetteville at the Cumberland County Public Libraries met with bad weather, not just in our areas of travel, but in the destination of Fayetteville, quite a surprise for all, and our plans were canceled.

Later in February our Chair, Harry Frank tendered his resignation to the Executive Board. Harry was a wonderful leader, but due to a change in his career, he felt he could no longer make the commitment of time he would prefer to our organization. His resignation was accepted and best wishes for his continued success in his new professional endeavor were offered.

It was at this time that according the NCLPA bylaws, Cathy Wright as Vice-Chair moved to the role of Chair, and Beth Lyles graciously accepted the role of Interim Vice-Chair.

In March, we received notification of tremendous news! Our own Tamara Faulkner was named the 2015 Library Journal Paralibrarian of the Year!!! Front cover of magazine and all! Since that time Tamara has been a very busy celebrity!

In March, the second annual TALA Conference was held in High Point with Tamara Faulkner as the keynote speaker.

And then May 2015 rolled around, and that is the signal for the wonderfully popular and well organized ECU Joyner Library Paraprofessional Conference. The Executive Board met at the Sheppard Memorial Library in Greenville and once again held a Snack and Chat. While the event was not heavily attended as we had hoped, we were pleased with the opportunity to chat with several individuals that day. It seems in hindsight that perhaps our time slot was a little too early for those arriving in town for the conference and for those working at libraries in the area. Lesson noted.

The next day, we were pleased to set up our information table at the Joyner Library Paraprofessional Conference. There we had the opportunity to see old friends and make a few new friends. We offered information and candy, we were pleased with our endeavor. We also took the opportunity to attend several of the sessions and experience the

wonderful day-long conference. For anyone considering the value of this conference, we offer our recommendation to make the effort to attend, you will not be disappointed!

In June, 2015 the call was issued to all members of NCLA and NCLPA for applications for our Meralyn G. Meadows Conference Scholarship. This was the first step for NCLPA as planning for the biennial conference had begun.

Conference Planning

At our August Executive Board meeting it was now time to turn our focus to conference preparation and select the Conference Scholarship winner. We were given guidelines from NCLA that each round table or section would be allowed to sponsor three presentations at the conference. Many ideas surfaced for great presentations and the following selections were made: 1) "Make deselection matter; the dark half of collection development"; 2) "Community Outreach and Partnerships"; and 3) "Core Competencies? Continuing Education? Professional Development? Oh my!" We also tossed around several ideas for lunch programs, and decision was made to provide entertainment in the form of non-library related for all to take a break from the wonderful world of library for just a while and just simply be entertained. It was also decided by the board members to create a "Gift Card Tree" to be raffled at the NCLA Conference.

Our proposals were submitted to NCLA and we were very pleased to receive the news that all were accepted. We hope you were present at

the NCLA Conference and had the opportunity to attend all 3 NCLPA Sponsored events.

Also, a huge decision for the Executive Board was suggested to purchase a tablecloth to use at events such as our Snack and Chats, information tables at various workshops and conferences, and specifically the initial use at the 2015 Biennial NCLA Conference. After discussion, motion was made, seconded, and approved to purchase a royal blue 8' tablecloth with NCLPA logo in gold from JanWay. The debut was indeed at the conference in Greensboro and was well received by all, a great purchase for our Round Table!

Scholarship

At the Conference Luncheon Meeting, Cathy Wright recognized and offered our thanks to Amy Whitmer, Chair of the Scholarship Committee and one of her committee members, the 2013 recipient Juli Moore. We were very fortunate to have such wonderful applicants, and it was a hard task to select just one winner. Our thanks to all applicants and a sincere invitation to accept active roles in NCLPA was extended.

Cathy Wright then presented the 2015 Meralyn Meadows Conference Scholarship Certificate and check to Laura Chapman of the Jackson County Public Library System in Sylva NC. We all congratulated Laura and look forward to her continued participation in NCLPA.

New Officers

Also at the Conference Luncheon Meeting, the announcement and introduction of your newly elected members of the NCLPA Executive

Board taking office at the conclusion of the meeting. **Region Director**, Brandon Stilley of Joyner Library in Greenville NC; **Treasurer**, Nita Williams of High Point University in High Point, NC; **Secretary**, Tamara Faulkner of Hickory Public Library in Hickory, NC; **Vice-Chair**, Beth Lyles of Perry Memorial Library in Henderson, NC; and your **Chair**, Cathy Wright of Alamance County Public Libraries in Burlington, NC. Congratulations were offered and an invitation to anyone interested in a position of Region Director, or Committee member, please do not hesitate to contact Cathy Wright or any member of the Executive Board. We would love to see everyone enjoy active membership in the NCLPA, where together we can do great things! Or perhaps better stated, “Make it Matter”!!

Thank FOL

And before turning our luncheon program over to Tamara for her introduction of our entertainment, Cathy Wright offered our thanks and recognized our most generous Friends for their financial support in bringing the program to those in attendance. The Alamance County Friends of the Library, the Hickory FOL, and the Friends of the Western Watauga Public Library. We do have great Friends!

Conference Entertainment

Ronn Winters, Mentalists and Magician then was introduced by Tamara Faulkner and the crowd of 65 in attendance were amazed at his abilities and thoroughly enjoyed the event.

This now brings an end to the 2013 – 2015 term for NCLPA. It has been a great two years and we all look forward to even better things in 2015 – 2017 with all members enjoying active participation. The Executive Board welcomes all comments and/or suggestions and hope to see each of you in the coming months.

Thank You!

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 1:30 PM