

**GLA PARAPROFESSIONAL DIVISION MEETING
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 4, 2005**

The meeting was held in the Continuing Education Building at CCSU in room 328 at 11:30a.m.

Attendance

Heidi Benford, Rhonda Boozer, Barbara Dantzler, Carolyn Dorminy, Chris Gabriel, Laura Herndon, and Kara Mullen.

Previous Business

A secretary had been elected at the previous COMO but did not attend this GLA Winter Planning meeting. An attempt will be made to see if that person is still interested in serving as secretary.

Heidi Benford gave an update on the previous membership drive. Two paraprofessionals received a free membership as a result of the drive. Heidi Benford will chair the membership drive again this year and get GLA executive approval to offer the free memberships.

Business

Laura Herndon volunteered to serve as secretary if the previously elected person does not wish to serve.

Chair Chris Gabriel asked for new presentation topics for the upcoming COMO, observing that past topics have mostly concentrated on continuing education. She would like to see ideas for fun and stress-reducing sessions that will interest more paraprofessionals in attending. Barbara Dantzler described a session she had previously conducted on "stress-buster" scenarios. It was suggested that there could be monologues on paraprofessional issues that look at the humorous side of our work experiences. Carolyn Dorminy proposed skits with humorous reenactments of situations that have occurred in circulation. A story telling session was also proposed.

Rhonda Boozer stated that the Paraprofessional Division should present at least two programs at COMO to ensure that there are enough offerings to interest most paraprofessionals. It was observed that the continuing education presentations may not be well attended because those interested can talk to the school representatives at the vendor exhibits. Programs in which the attendees can actively participate and network rather than simply listening to a lecturer would be more desirable.

Rhonda Boozer pointed out that DeKalb County has a very active paraprofessional group and that Nora Symmers could be contacted for ideas on successful programs and speakers

they have experienced. Rhonda Boozer also suggested forming a subcommittee to concentrate on seeking out programs and speakers for COMO presentations. Barbara Dantzler will be active on this committee.

Carolyn Dorminy asked about the possibility of sending a representative to the COLT Conference as we do not have a paraprofessional conference at the state level in Georgia. Kara Mullen suggested that we survey out of state institutions to see what they have at their conferences to get ideas for our own.

Rhonda Boozer proposed that the Paraprofessional Division have more board meetings face to face to work on proposals. Carolyn Dorminy suggested that separate paraprofessional conferences be held at a central location like Macon, Ga. It was agreed that this could be feasible, though planning and cost may be difficult factors.

Chris Gabriel collected e-mail addresses from the attendees to start a list in which to circulate ideas for the paraprofessional workshops. Rhonda Boozer observed that we should also e-mail paraprofessional members to spread information about COMO offerings so they will be more likely to attend.

Adjournment

The meeting was closed at 12:15p.m.

Submitted by
Laura E. Herndon
February 4, 2005