

GLA PARAPROFESSIONAL DIVISION MEETING MINUTES December 5th, 2008

The meeting was held at the Continuing Education Center at Clayton State University at 10:55 a.m.

Attendance

Heidi Benford, Denita Hampton, Laura Herndon and Karen Manning.

Business

Karen Manning opened the meeting with a brief overview of the past year's committee business and communications. She then turned over the floor to Heidi Benford, 2009 Chair. Karen Manning will serve as Vice Chair, Laura Herndon will continue to serve as Secretary, and Denita Hampton will be Membership Chair. The committee members introduced themselves to each other.

Ideas were solicited for possible programs to present at GaCOMO 2009. Denita Hampton proposed a session concentrating on various opportunities and benefits for paraprofessionals, such as reduced cost memberships in professional organizations, scholarships, free training from Solinet, etc. This idea was expanded to include on-hand applications for professional organizations GLA and ALA, scholarship applications, and the possibility of representatives such as Ann Hamilton for ALA to speak during the program. A working title for this program is "Paraprofessional Resources and Initiatives".

Discussion also centered on revisiting a relaxation and leisure theme for a second program. Previous programs of this nature have included relaxation techniques and games. Heidi Benford suggested the theme "Are You Smarter than a Parapro" with 3 rounds of trivia. The questions and answers would be based on the Paraprofessional Resources and Initiative program, which would need to proceed this program.

The committee members were asked to brainstorm with colleagues for more program ideas when they returned to their workplaces and communicate them to the committee through email.

An enquiry was made about funding from GLA for programs. Jim Cooper (GLA President) advised including the request in the committee report.

The need to encourage more membership in the GLA Paraprofessional Division was brought up, as membership has been dropping in recent years. One way of

promoting membership that can be utilized is the Paraprofessional Award as it will pay for a year's membership.

The next meeting of the Paraprofessional Committee is tentatively scheduled at Clayton State University for February or early March during Spring Break.

Adjournment

The meeting was concluded at 11:30 a.m.

Submitted by Laura E. Herndon
December 5th, 2008