

GLA PARAPROFESSIONAL DIVISION MEETING
MINUTES
January 27th, 2012

The meeting was held during the GLA Mid-Winter Planning Conference at 12:45 p.m. It was originally scheduled for 9:15 a.m. but was rescheduled.

Attendance

Barbara Dantzler, Denita Hampton and Laura Herndon.

Business

Marcellous Grace has resigned as Chair due to time constraints. Karen Walton volunteered to serve as the Chair if no one else is able to do so but was unable to attend the meeting, so Denita Hampton acted as Chair during today's meeting. Barbara Dantzler has agreed to take over as the 2012 Chair, with Michael Law providing assistance. Dawn Dale was also mentioned as willing to provide assistance though she was not able to attend the Mid-Winter Planning Conference. Barbara Dantzler is to attend the GLA Board meeting following the Mid-Winter Planning Conference to represent the Paraprofessional Division.

Marcellous Grace forwarded an email to the Paraprofessional Division from GLA President Liz Bagley concerning two issues. The first issue is the budget for the Paraprofessional Awards and Grants. Liz Bagley asked if we could consider bringing the number of awardees down from five to three this year due to a limited budget. The idea was discussed with the consensus reached that this is acceptable. The reasons are as follows:

We have awarded less than five grants in previous years.

Some years there are not a large number of applicants for five awards.

There have been some problems with awardees not attending the COMO presentations and ceremony as required by the terms of the award grant.

Discussion related to this issue focused on the need to confirm that Paraprofessional Grant awardees actually attend COMO, the presentations sponsored by the Paraprofessional Division and the presentation of the awards at the GLA banquet.

The second issue posted by Liz Bagley concerned whether the Paraprofessional Division wished to promote ALA's Library Support Staff Certification Program (LSSC). Denita Hampton pointed out that the LSSC is not cost effective for paraprofessionals in academic libraries as they can obtain the Master's degree in Library Science with tuition remission from the University System of Georgia. She also has previously contacted ALA about a presentation at COMO for their program but found the cost for their representative too prohibitive. However, paraprofessionals working in public libraries may be interested in LSSC's program so it was agreed that the LSSC newsletter would be sent out to Paraprofessional Division members through the listserv. Barbara Dantzler will investigate if a current listserv exists or needs creation or updating to contact all Paraprofessional Division members.

The next order of business was presentation ideas for COMO 2012. It was proposed that the division focus on one inclusive presentation that might draw in more than just paraprofessionals, rather than sponsoring two this year. As we are aware that GLA's budget is tightening, it would behoove the division to get any proposals in early. (The deadline is usually in May.)

The next meeting of the Paraprofessional Division will be scheduled to be held next month (February 2012) via Skype.

Adjournment

The meeting was concluded at 1:15 p.m.

Submitted by
Laura E. Herndon
January 27, 2012