

South Dakota Library Association
Support Staff Section
Annual Report 2002

The Support Staff Section sponsored a program on “The Evolving Paraprofessional” at SDLA in 2001. This program was presented by Kathy Martin and Zona Meyer from SSPIN (Support Staff & Paraprofessional Interest Section) of Minnesota’s Library Association. They discussed their experiences in libraries in Minnesota over the last 30 years and talked about the changes they have seen in the responsibilities of support staff. At the annual meeting following this presentation, officers for 2002 were chosen. Deb Yoder was elected Chairperson, Amy Vet was elected Vice-Chairperson and June Erickson was elected Secretary-Treasurer for 2002.

The year 2002 was a productive one for the Support Staff Section. Several events were held which promoted education and networking for support staff. Members and non-members attended the College of DuPage Soaring to Excellence teleconferences across the state. In an effort to make these presentations available to more support staff we compiled a list of the series tapes owned by the State Library, H. M. Briggs Library at SDSU and Siouxland Libraries in Sioux Falls. Vicky Salonen, the SSS webmistress, published the list on the Support Staff website. These tapes are now readily available through interlibrary loan to all libraries and support staff in South Dakota.

Luncheon meetings were held in Brookings and Sioux Falls to celebrate Library Assistants’ Day during April. This was the fourth such event in Brookings and the third one in Sioux Falls. Attendance has continued to grow (18 in Brookings, 33 in Sioux Falls), this year bringing in more of the school and small town librarians. Minnesota support staffers also joined us in Sioux Falls. Programs for both of the luncheons presented information on the Branch Out South Dakota 2002 event scheduled in July. During the Sioux Falls luncheon it was decided by unanimous vote to change the celebration from “Library Assistants’ Day” to “Library Support Staff Day” so all support staff would feel welcomed at these events. The group in Brookings concurred with this decision.

The Support Staff Section was represented at the Summer Institute in Aberdeen this year. Deb Yoder discussed various state and national organizations that are available to support staff. The benefits of membership, conferences available and the networking opportunities were highlighted. The necessity of being aware of community, state and national issues, and their effect on our libraries and customers, was stressed. Branch Out South Dakota was previewed and Institute members were encouraged to attend.

Branch Out South Dakota 2002 was held at SDSU in Brookings on July 29, 2002. Attendance exceeded our expectations, a wide variety of programs were available and evaluations were very positive. A full report, along with the financial statement for the conference, is attached.

SDLA provided Branch Out South Dakota with initial funding of \$2,000.00. In preparation for registration, BOSD organizers also asked for grant money to be made available to SDLA members to cover the fees for registration and accommodations for one night as necessary. This year those fees were \$30.00 for registration and \$20.00 for overnight accommodations on the campus of SDSU. Three grants of \$50.00 each were made available. (None were used). Because of the timing of the request, and the deadlines already defined by SDLA, a grace period for grant requests was allowed. Applicants were expected to comply with all grant qualifications, including SDLA membership for two years at the time of their request. Because of the nature of support staff conferences (time and locations) we may need to address the issue of grants for support staff conferences in the future. This will be discussed within the section first.