

South Dakota Library Association
Support Staff Section
Annual Report 2003

The Support Staff Section sponsored a program at the Tri-Conference (SDLA, NDLA, MPLA) in Fargo, ND in October 2002. The program was presented by Cindy Mielke and Deb Yoder and was titled "Creating a Conference for the Library Support Staff and Paraprofessionals." Mielke and Yoder discussed the necessity of paraprofessional conferences, and how to plan, execute and evaluate a conference. This presentation was based on BranchOut SD 2002 and the previous Branch Out conferences held in Minnesota.

The annual section meeting was held during the Tri-Conference also. Discussions centered on BranchOut SD. Officers were elected. 2002-2003 officers are Chair: Deb Yoder, Vice Chair: open, Secretary: June Erickson. Both Yoder and Erickson are serving second terms in their positions. (Crystal Gering-Nelson later accepted the Vice-Chair position.)

At Tri-Conference, Vickie (Salonen) Mix was awarded Support Staff of the Year. Vickie works at Briggs Library at SDSU in Brookings and is the webmistress for the Support Staff website.

During the year, several paraprofessionals attended the Soaring to Excellence teleconferences, celebrated Library Support Staff Day and attended Branch Out MN 2003.

Library Support Staff Day was celebrated in Brookings (5th year) and Sioux Falls (4th year). Attendance in Brookings was 17 people, with SDSU archivist Steve Van Buren presenting the program. Sioux Falls attendance was 31 people with Carol Rosenthal, interim director at Siouxland Libraries talking about her observations of the paraprofessionals in during her tenure at Siouxland.

Nine South Dakota paraprofessionals traveled to Gustavus Adolphus College in St Peter Minnesota in August to attend the two day conference Branch Out MN. Nancy Lloyd, Linda Rogers, and Roxanne Silbaugh from Rapid City, June Erickson and Rae Brecht from Brookings Public Library, Linda Watts from North American Baptist Seminary and Marty Baxter, Peg Shields and Deb Yoder from Siouxland Libraries went to this conference. Several outstanding sessions, excellent food, entertainment and accomodations made this conference very worthwhile. Plans for BranchOut SD 2004 at Augustana College in Sioux Falls are being formulated.

Joe Edelen at University of South Dakota created a support staff listserv. Activity has been non-existent to date. It is expected that publicity will alleviate that shortcoming.