

<p style="text-align: center;">South Dakota Library Association Support Staff Section Annual Report 2004</p>
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The annual section meeting was held at the 2003 annual conference. The following officers were elected: Chair - Crystal Gering Nelson (Resource Library, The Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society); Vice Chair - Carol Hageman (South Dakota State Library); Secretary - Jean Peterson (South Dakota State Library).

June Erickson, Circulation Manager of Brookings Public Library, was the 2003 recipient of the 3rd annual SDLA Library Support Staff of the Year Award. The Library Support Staff of the Year Award was presented at the SDLA conference October 16, 2003, in Sioux Falls, SD.

During the year, several paraprofessionals attended the Soaring to Excellence teleconferences, celebrated Library Support Staff Day and attended Branch Out SD 2004.

The Soaring to Excellence Teleconference series was once again offered at various locations throughout South Dakota. This is the 10th year the support staff training series has been broadcast from the College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn Illinois.

The Sioux Falls area libraries celebrated their 5th annual Library Support Staff Day on April 14. There were 31 people in attendance from school, academic, public and special libraries. During a mixer game, the attendees discovered that the 31 library support staff people in that room represented 291 years of collective experience in library work.

Brookings area library paraprofessionals celebrated their 6th annual Library Support Staff Day, April 28, 2004 with a luncheon at the Pizza Ranch in Brookings, SD.

The Pierre area libraries are planning their first Library Support Staff Day to be celebrated later this year.

Branch Out SD 2004 was held July 29, 2004 on the Augustana College campus in Sioux Falls. It was hosted by Mikkelsen Library and sponsored by the Support Staff section of SDLA. The theme of the conference was "Raising Awareness". A variety of session topics for various types of libraries supported this theme. This paraprofessional conference brought 103 registered attendees. The attendees came from Canada, North Dakota, Minnesota and South Dakota. Overall evaluations of the conference were very good. Branch Out will be held in Duluth, Minnesota in 2005, and will be back in South Dakota for 2006. No location or committee has been selected for the 2006 conference at this time.