Dear S.C. Paraprofessionals,

I hope this newsletter finds you all well! As this is our first edition, I want to welcome you to share your experiences, ideas and celebrations with us. We are hoping this newsletter will better connect paraprofessionals in the state by creating networking opportunities, bring awareness and recognition to our profession as library support staff and promote lifelong learning! The best way to be involved is to join the SCLA Paraprofessional Round Table. You will have opportunities to present at conferences, plan and develop training as well as advance your skills in leadership positions.

If you are ever interested in learning more about joining SCLA and the paraprofessional round table or becoming an officer, please email me at ABracken@RichlandLibrary.com or visit the website.

We are the backbone of our libraries, the front lines and the faces that our customers know and love. We deserve a strong professional organization that supports us and understands our needs. I hope you will join in this venture!

Sincerely,

Amanda Bracken
Chair 2015-2016

Upcoming 2016 Events

May 16
Library Marketing & Outreach Round Table Presents Online Webinar

August 24
Paraprofessional One-Day Conference

November 9 – 11
SCLA Annual Conference

Congratulations
Paraprofessional of the Year 2015!

Donna Ciriello of Lexington County Public Library System

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2016 Paraprofessional of the Year!

Find nomination forms at: www.scla.org/content/awards
Let’s Hear From You!

Have you recently hosted an interesting program, read a great book or just have something you’d like to share with other Paraprofessional’s in South Carolina? Send us a 200-300 word write up about it. We will choose two or three to post in our next newsletter to be published November 2016!

Send submissions to: ABracken@RichlandLibrary.com before October 15, 2016.

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**BOOK REVIEW!**

George Washington’s Secret Six
by Brian Kilmeade

Shortly after the hanging of Yale graduate and schoolteacher, Captain Nathan Hale, General George Washington enlisted the aid of Major Talmadge, Director of Military Intelligence, and he was responsible for creating a spy ring in New York City, the site of British headquarters.

The names of Benjamin Tallmadge, Abraham Woodhull, Robert Townsend, Caleb Brewster, James Rivington, and Austin Roe should be as familiar to us as George Washington, Paul Revere, Benedict Arnold, and Ben Franklin. These men and one elusive woman, known only as Agent 355, made up the Culper Spy Ring. Their sacrifices and bravery are largely responsible for the defeat of the British forces and the birth of the United States. Operating from the Long Island town of Setauket, this group of ordinary citizens became the most effective force for intelligence gathering on either side of the war. The television series, TURN: Washington Spies, is based on this novel and has become a runaway hit!

Submitted by: Lorraine Law of Richland Library

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Get Your Library Support Staff Certification through the American Library Association!

The LSSC is a national certification program that allows support staff to demonstrate their competencies and become a certified library support staff.

For more information check out www.ala-apa.org/lssc/ or email Kimberly Redd at kldredd@ala.org

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Let's Hear From You!

The Romance Readers' book club at the Summerville branch of the Dorchester County Library hosted a “virtual” author visit this month. Our book club was one of four clubs selected by Kristan Higgins to discuss her newest book, *Anything for You* with her via Skype. While our club has happily hosted many authors who have physically come to our library, this was the first time we attempted a “virtual” visit. And, it was great fun!

All 13 attendees were dazzled by Kristan, who appeared larger than life on our 8 foot projection screen. She spoke to us on several topics including her publishing experience, the book setting and her writing process. She answered many questions from book club members and was most gracious in sharing her time and trademark humor with us.

Thankfully, there were no technical “glitches” during the hour-long session. And, we would have gladly spent another hour or more “chatting" with Kristan. All that was needed for the virtual visit was a laptop with a camera and microphone, speakers, a projection screen and a free Skype account. Using Skype opens a hold world of possibilities for our book club to visit with other authors from across the country (and even from other countries, if they are willing). In the past, we were restricted to local authors or those visiting the Charleston area. We felt as if Kristan was sitting in the room with us in Summerville, SC rather than 900 miles away in Connecticut! Everyone in attendance agreed that it was delightful and we look forward to our next “virtual” visit!

Submitted by: Sylvia Vandertulip of Dorchester County Library

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SAVE THE DATE

**August 24**

One-Day Paraprofessional Mini-Conference

Last year’s mini-conference was a huge success! Join us this year where the focus will be on working effectively in teams and how attitude affects teamwork.

Space is limited to only 50 participants – Registration will open around the beginning of June at www.scla.org

**Location:** Richland Library Southeast Branch
7421 Garners Ferry Rd
Columbia, SC 29209

**Price:**
- Non-SCLA Members $25
- SCLA Members/Students $15