

September 2005

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WALE

Washington Association of Library Employees

WALE: an interest group of the Washington Library Association

WHAT WALE CAN DO FOR YOU! AND WHAT YOU



CAN DO FOR WALE



*This summer Ed Martinez, Contributing Editor of **Library Mosaics**, spoke with Martha Parsons, who was recently elected vice president/president elect of the Washington Library Association. Martha is currently Library Specialist at the Washington State University Energy Program Library in Olympia. As Ed says, "This is a monumental step for support staff...that a support staff colleague has attained this status provides clear evidence of how far staff have come in the profession." Here are a few excerpts from that interview...*

Prior to working for the library, Martha Parsons was a bookkeeper. Several years ago she needed a job and ran across a library that was looking for part-time temporary help. "As soon as I got my foot in the door," she says, "I couldn't imagine working in any other environment." That was sixteen years ago and since then Martha has been involved in support staff activities through WALE. She first volunteered to serve on the WALE conference planning committee for several years, then chaired a conference planning committee. The next step was serving as chair of WALE.

Then Martha started becoming more involved with Washington Library Association. When she went to a WLA conference, she attended a planning meeting for the WLA website. She says she put together a basic website for the organization to meet a deadline and ended up being appointed the webmaster. She served in that capacity for six years, attending board meetings and learning how the organization functions from the inside.

Martha says her vision for WLA is for it to experience a growth spurt. "I have gained so much, personally and professionally, from association involvement that it is sometimes hard for me to realize that not everyone feels the same passion for it." As far as support staff involvement goes, Martha hopes to encourage her colleagues to run for office and to appoint as many as possible to committee positions. "The hard part is finding support staff who are willing to take on the challenge!" she adds.

"I encourage each person to look for their niche in their libraries and in their professional associations," Martha concludes. "Working together, we make libraries great!"

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14th Annual
WALE Conference
Fresh Ideas—New Dimensions
Where do you fit?

October 27-29, 2005
Campbell's Conference Center
Chelan, Washington

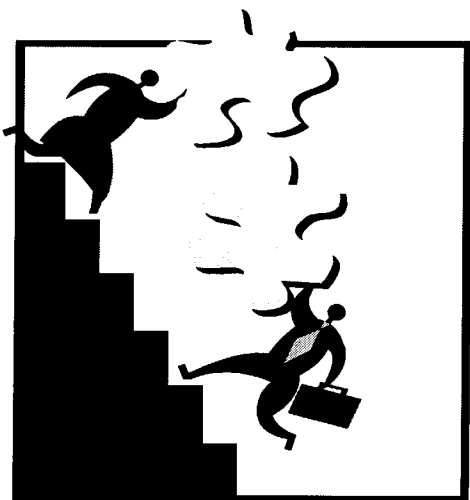
Questions about registration?
Please contact registration chair:
Barbara Carden (509)777-3767
bcarden@whitworth.edu

Don't miss the WALE conference this year in Chelan at Campbell's Resort & Conference Center. The conference will take place from October 27-29th, 2005. The theme for this year's conference is:

Pieces of the Puzzle: Fresh Ideas - New Dimensions.

Our conference planning committee has worked very hard to provide some great programs and speakers. If you look at the WALE Conference website - www.wla.org/igs/wale/conferences.html - you can see what programs and speakers we have coming to the conference. I am sure you will enjoy this year's conference.

You can register via the WLA website - www.wla.org - or you can download a registration form from the site and mail it in. I hope to see all of you at the conference!



WALE is ***your*** interest group...

so let's get some interest going!

Please e-mail your comments and/or questions to:

Judy or Danielle at jluck@sclcd.org.

WLA Homepage: <http://www.wla.org>

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