



LINKUP!

SPRING/SUMMER 2010

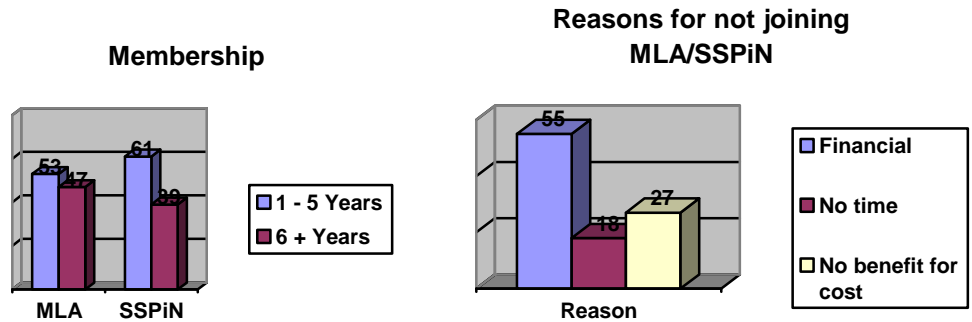
LinkUp! is a newsletter published for the membership of SSPIN – The Support Staff and Paraprofessional Interest Section of the Minnesota Library Association

SSPIN 2010 Membership Survey Results

In May, the Executive Committee sent out an e-mail to all SSPIN members requesting that they take a quick membership survey. This survey was designed to determine the needs and concerns of our membership.

We had a 41 percent response rate from members (13 out of 32 members responded). There were many excellent suggestions and great feedback was provided.

Summary of Survey Results

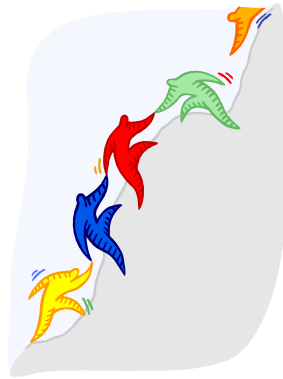


Newsletter

A few people indicated that they would be interested in working on the newsletter. In order to be successful, the newsletter needs to be a team effort. Several suggestions were made as to what members would like to see in a newsletter. Here are a few of the suggestions:

- Column that highlights different libraries around the state, how/what people do in their jobs
- Job market outlook – job postings
- Upcoming events (MLA, SSPIN), member profiles, editorials, networking opportunities
- MLA and ALA articles, library and paraprofessional issues and news, professional tips and tricks, current trends,
- Continuing education opportunities for support staff, free or low cost training resources

What Can SSPiN Do For Me?



- More networking, social opportunities, make connections between support staff
- More communication
- More integration with MLA
- Access to information without meetings
- Promotion of MN Certification program
- Create a blog space where ideas, questions can be posted.

*2010 SSPiN
Officers:*

*JoAnn Touissant,
Chair*

*Tracy Hvezda-
Lehtola, Past Chair*

*Brian Dahlvig,
Chair-Elect*

Lisa Hull, Secretary

Upcoming SSPiN Meeting:

Friday, June 25th

St. Cloud Public Library

10:00 am, potluck lunch at noon

From the Chair

Welcome to the revived SSPiN newsletter, LinkUp! I am very grateful for the work of the SSPiN Secretary, Lisa Hull who has taken over the editor duties for the newsletter. Many thanks also to Rita Schultz for her work producing the newsletter for many years in the past.

My name is Jo Ann Toussaint. It is my privilege and honor to serve as the Chair of SSPiN this year. You'll find out more about me and the other SSPiN officers in another part of the newsletter.

What is SSPiN? How can I become involved? What happens to the \$5 dues I pay to MLA to belong to SSPiN? Are you asking these questions, or know someone who is? This newsletter is our means of communicating with our membership. If you discover other questions as you read the newsletter, feel free to contact me or any of the officers of SSPiN. Our contact info is in the officer section of this issue.

SSPiN has had a few executive board meetings this year where we have discussed our plans for the year, developed a budget and talked about what programs we would like to have at MLA's annual conference. Our first general membership meeting is coming up soon. It will be held at the St. Cloud Public Library on Friday, June 25th. The meeting begins at 10:00am. We will have a potluck lunch at noon, followed by an executive board meeting at 1pm. You are invited to attend all or part of the day. Come and help us create a better organization to serve all our members. Invite a colleague to come with you!

Our second general membership meeting will be held during the MLA Annual Conference, October 6 to 8, 2010 in Rochester, MN.

Ways to become involved with SSPiN -

- Attend one of our meetings – it's a great way to network and meet other library support staff.
- Join a committee - there are several committees in SSPiN that are always looking for new people. Membership, Publicity/Newsletter, Promotions and the Awards committee all need more help. None of these involve a large time commitment. The work can be done via e-mail and/or phone calls.
- Offer to serve in a leadership role - we will need a new vice-chair/chair-elect this fall. This looks great on a resume and will give you a better understanding of both SSPiN and MLA. Contact one of the SSPiN officers if you have an interest in this, or any questions.

Report from EQS (Enhancing Quality Staff symposium)

This year was the 18th annual EQS symposium. It was held on May 11, 2010 at the Radisson University Hotel in Minneapolis and was sponsored by the University of Minnesota. The keynote speaker, Tim Johnson, talked about "My Life As A Book", giving examples thru his life of how books and technology have interacted. Other sessions included "Your Job, Your Habits and Your Health", presented by Don Kelsey – a talk about how the importance of ergonomics on the job or anywhere in life; "Small Presses, Big Impact" by Michelle Filkins, publisher of Spout Press and Kirsten Dierking, poet and author; "Values, Vision and Voices" by Mike McGlynn of the Human Resources office of the University of Minnesota.

The symposium included a number of professional/vendor tables. SSPiN and MLA shared a table and were able to spread the word about our organizations. There was a lot of interest in the promotional items that we had, particularly the SSPiN "screen sweepers". All of them were snatched up, and many of the SSPiN magnets as well. A number of people picked up membership forms. Hopefully some of them will join MLA and SSPiN.

Introduction of 2009-2010 Executive Committee

Jo Ann Toussaint – For 2010 I am the Chair of SSPiN. I have been a member of MLA and SSPiN since 1996. I have worked for the University of St. Thomas Libraries since 1985, currently as the Interlibrary Loan Assistant, with previous roles in Periodicals and Reference and as the secretary to the Library Director. Other leadership roles I have had in the past include four years as chair of the Silent Auction committee for the Minnesota Library Association's annual conference and chair of the Branch Out Library Conference planning committee for 1997 and 2001. I have helped in various ways with other Branch Out conferences and continue to serve as a member of the Branch Out Library conference executive board. My life outside libraries focuses on my husband, a son and daughter-in-law in St. Paul, a college-age daughter and an aging Basset Hound. I became a grandma for the first time in April 2009.

Tracy Hvezda-Lehtola - I am serving as Past-Chair for SSPiN this year. Past-Chair acts in an advisory role for the SSPiN executive committee, so that means I have the good fortune to work with the very talented JoAnn, Brian and Lisa! I have been a member of MLA and SSPiN since 2006. In 2007, I participated in MILE (MLA Institute for Leadership Excellence). It was a fantastic learning experience for me, and I highly recommend it for all MLA members in all levels of leadership. I have worked for Hennepin County Libraries since 2003, first as a circulation clerk and currently as the youth services librarian at the Westonka branch located in Mound. Life for my husband and I has been busy since our daughter, Caitlin, was born on March 10th. She is our first baby, and she's already been enjoying storytime at the library!

Brian Dahlvig - I am proud to be Chair Elect for SSPiN this year. I received my Bachelor's in English from UW-Stevens Point in 1985 and am currently enrolled at the Minneapolis Community and Technical College (MCTC) in the Library Information Technology program. Between college and now I had been employed as a writer by a financial planning company downtown Minneapolis. I live in South Minneapolis with my partner and our cat. I'm into film history (esp. up to the summer of 1934) and love trying new and unusual foods.

Lisa Hull - I am currently serving as the Secretary of SSPiN. I recently received my technical and public services certificates in the Library Information Technology program at Minneapolis Community and Technical College. I have a bachelor's degree from Metropolitan State and have spent most of my career so far in the human resources field. I have been a library volunteer at the Shoreview branch of the Ramsey County Library, as well as Wildwood Elementary School in Mahtomedi. When I am not volunteering, working, or searching for a library job, I enjoy walking my energetic Cavalier King Charles Spaniel or shuttling my 8-year old daughter to various activities.

Contact information

Web links