

representative. These Regional Representatives serve on the executive board and are responsible for sending information about ALPS events to a contact person in every library in their region. These individuals are an important link between the ALPS organization and the paraprofessionals who make our group strong and viable.

There are several committees that function as part of ALPS:

**Conference Committee* - This committee plans all aspects of the annual spring conference.

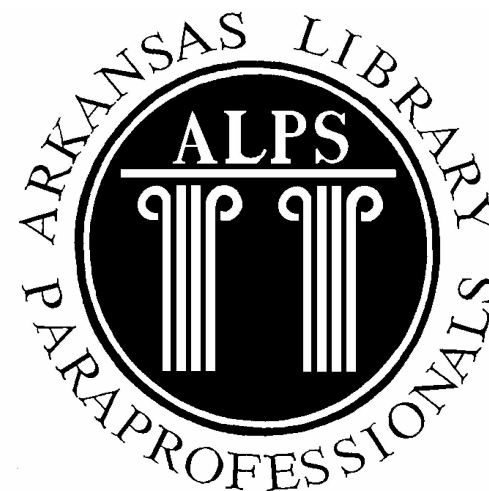
**Nomination Committee* – This committee sends out nomination forms, checks the eligibility of each nominee and submits the slate of officers at the annual spring conference. It holds the election at the fall business meeting.

**Scholarship Committee* – ALPS offers on scholarship to a paraprofessional to attend the ALPS Spring Conference and one scholarship to a paraprofessional to attend the annual ArLA Fall Conference. This committee sends out the nomination forms, checks the nominees for eligibility, and selects the recipients to present to the ALPS executive board. If you would be interested in serving as a member of one of these committees, please contact your ALPS Chair.

ALPS RESOURCES

- **ALPS HOME PAGE** – Get information about ALPS officers, Regional Representatives, spring conference and other events by visiting us at <http://www.library.uams.edu/alps/alps.edu> or visit the Arkansas Library Association <http://www.arlib.org> and link to the Paraprofessional Division home page.

- **Hospitality Outreach** – The ALPS organization encourages you to inform your regional representatives or any other member of the ALPS Executive Board of any library paraprofessional who has suffered tragedy or serious illness so that we can show our care and support.



ALPS

Arkansas
Library
Paraprofessionals

A Division of the
Arkansas Library Association

What is ALPS?

ALPS (Arkansas Library Paraprofessionals) is a Division of the Arkansas Library Association.

What is the history of ALPS?

In 1991, Dr. Willie Hardin, former Dean of Torreyson Library, attended a library conference in Virginia. At his conference he noticed that Virginia had a paraprofessional support group and wondered if Arkansas could have a similar group.

Once back in Arkansas, Dr. Hardin approached the paraprofessionals at Torreyson Library to see if there was enough interest in a paraprofessional group. There was, and a Steering Committee was formed. Later that same year, ArLA approved the new paraprofessional roundtable.

In May of 1993, the first ALPS Conference was held. At the 2000 ArLA Conference, ALPS officially changed to a division of ArLA.

Who can be a member?

The By-laws of ALPS state that any member of the Arkansas Library Association can also be a member of the Paraprofessional Division. Participation in ALPS events is open to anyone, but discounts for conference and events are given to association members.

How can I join?

By joining the Arkansas Library Association and checking the Paraprofessional Division in SECTION III of the ArLA Membership Form, you can become a part of this exciting group. As a member of ALPS/ArLA, you will receive discounts on all sponsored events, a subscription to *ARKANSAS LIBRARIES*, and

become eligible for nomination to serve on the ALPS Executive Board or for an annual Paraprofessional Award, given to an outstanding library paraprofessional at the ArLA Fall Conference. Membership in the Arkansas Library Association and ALPS ensures a strong foundation for Arkansas Libraries and a clear future for its human resources.

SPONSORED EVENTS

There are three major events sponsored by ALPS:

**ALPS Spring Conference* - Spring Conference is the biggest sponsored event and is held in May. Paraprofessionals from all over Arkansas gather for two days and nights to share information and ideas that enhance their skills. The conference starts off with an Icebreaker to get everyone acquainted. Daily activities include special speakers, workshops, and group meetings. An evening banquet is held which provides plenty of fun, food and fellowship for its participants. The final day of the conference offers an opportunity to attend a morning training session or workshop before the conference concludes. The cost of the conference includes registration, meals and lodging with several different option plans to meet different needs. This conference promises to be one of the most positive experiences you will ever have as a paraprofessional!

**INFOBITS* – The event is sponsored by a host library in the state. This one-day conference gives paraprofessionals the opportunity to enhance their daily lives by attending workshops that help us be healthier, more efficient, and more confident. If you would be interested in holding INFOBITS at your library,

please contact your ALPS Chair.

ArLA Fall Conference – As part of the Arkansas Library Association Fall Conference, ALPS sponsors a guest speaker and has its annual business meeting. A wide variety of topics and speakers encourage and challenge you to a higher level of excellence as they give practical ways to increase productivity and service in the library. At the annual business meeting, officers are elected for the coming year, goals are set and any other business is addressed that requires approval from the group as a whole. Participants go back to their libraries with a vision for the future and a sense of solidarity gained from networking with other paraprofessionals.

This well-rounded schedule of events gives library paraprofessionals a chance to network and share information and ideas that influence the continued success of the ALPS organization. If you have suggestions for workshops, speakers or other items of interest, please contact your ALPS Chair.

OFFICERS AND REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Officers of the ALPS Division are Chair, Chair Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, Past Chair and Regional Representatives. Nominations are taken and a slate of officers is chosen at the annual spring conference. This slate of officers is presented at the annual business meeting during the ArLA Fall Conference. The Chair Elect serves as Chair the year the following election as Chair Elect. The Chair will also serve as Immediate Past Chair the following her/his term as Chair. Each geographic region of the state is assigned one