

# SSIRT

Support Staff Interests Round Table of the American Library Association

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## SSIRT Recognition

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**DOLORES PAYNE**, out-going SSIRT President, was presented with a plaque commemorating her one year tenure.

**ANNAMARIE KEHNAST**, out-going Board member, received a Certificate of Appreciation for her contributions to SSIRT - which include one year as president and the past two years as membership chair.

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## National Recognition

SSIRT congratulates two of its members on their winning of National Awards. They are:

**PAULETTE FELD** ... Outstanding Support Staff Award for the Year 2000 presented by *Library Mosaics* and the Council on Library/Media Technicians (COLT). Charlie Fox, Editorial Director for *Library Mosaics*, says that Feld's

tireless efforts in addressing issues that most deeply concern library workers across the country make her a driving force within the profession and a true winner. Feld works in Technical Services at the University of Wisconsin at Oshkosh.

**BETH PERKINS** ... *Library Journal's* ParaProfessional of the year 2000. According to John N. Berry, III, editor-in-chief of the *Journal*, Perkins was named *Library Journal's* first paraprofessional of the year because of her record of outstanding job performance, solid managing, and effective mentoring. Perkins is head of circulation at Sampson Library, Mary Washington College, Fredericksburg, VA, and was nominated by Library Director LeRoy Strohl.

remains Support Staff Interests Round Table (SSIRT).

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## SSIRT Name Change

The issue of a name change for SSIRT was not discussed at the business meeting in Chicago. This matter may come up for discussion at a later date. If so, the information will be reported in the SSIRT Newsletter. For now, the name

# President's Message

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... by Dorothy Morgan



*Aim at the sun, you may not reach it, but your arrow will fly higher than if aimed at an object on a level with yourself.*

This quote by Joel Hawes has been, and will always be, part of my philosophy when it comes to myself and my library. My commitment as your President is to find solutions to problems and concerns facing support staff.

As in-coming President of SSIRT, I am keenly aware of the importance and complexities of the mission. I plan to continue advocating for support staff concerns - something I have done for the 15 years I have worked at the Liverpool Public Library - first as a page and now as Business Manager.

My commitment to these concerns is demonstrated at the national, regional, and state level. Recently I served on the SSIRT Strategic Planning Process Steering Committee

and chaired the SSIRT Task Force on Career Ladders ... was a Regional Director for COLT ... and was Ambassador for the NY State Library Assistants Association where I helped establish a Certification program.

This issue of the newsletter reviews the Task Force Reports presented at the ALA conference last month. I would encourage everyone to read the article, then visit the SSIRT home page to read specific details and recommended strategies from each Task Force. SSIRT needs your feedback on these recommendations. You may contact any member of the SSIRT Board; addresses are shown on page 4 of this newsletter.

Together we can work on library staff needs - we can aim for the sun - we can achieve results. With a unified approach, we can ensure a brighter future for all support staff.

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## Task Forces Reports

It was in 1996 that the SSIRT Executive Board first began discussing long range plans for the Round Table. The Board recognized that strategic planning is a process that involves a proactive approach to problem solving. They acknowledged that any planning must include the involvement of a large cross section of support staff who can come together for a common cause - to identify of level. Rece j T35 or the



