

SIS / Suncoast Information Specialists
The Terrifying Reality of Teen Services
Wednesday, April 14 2010

The April meeting and program of the Florida Suncoast Information Specialists meeting was held on Wednesday April 14th at the Bruce B Downs Picadelly Café. A total of 9 members and guests were in attendance. The evening began with informal networking and dinner at 5:30.

Welcome and Introductions

Christa began the meeting at 6:40 and welcomed the group. Since it was a small group, we went around the room and announced personal and professional achievements.

Minutes and Treasurer's Report

Joan announced that SIS currently has \$723.30 in the bank.

Announcements

Christa announced there is a job opening at the USF Lakeland Campus for a Social Sciences Librarian

New Business

Program

Hal began the program by introducing Paul Stonebridge, director of Teen services for Pasco County Library Systems. Paul also does special programming and events at the TBLC on Teen Services. He started off as a reference librarian and then transferred over to the Teen Services department. He has started programs in the Pasco County Library system for teens that include Battle of the Bands, Anime, Gaming Night, the teen advisory board, summer reading programs and "lock-ins".

Paul gave some suggestions on attracting teens to the library programs. He says competition works very well with teens. He told the group to reach out to the local schools, get the attention of the YA crowd. Promote the programming with social networking like "myspace" and "facebook".

Paul mentioned that the Teens are the users of the future –we need to engage and enlighten them. If we keep our teens interested in the library, they will come back after college and eventually bring their families back. Paul said he has a few students that write him from college letting him know their libraries are not as good as the one he runs, so we know Paul is impacting the lives of his patrons.

Paul told the group that Budget cuts don't cut programs. Get your Friends of the library involved and the community. Think outside the box, ask for donations, and use resources. You have to think creatively to keep the library thriving. The library is a place to "entertain, educate and give to the public". Paul's enthusiasm for creative movements in the library definitely inspired the group.

The program and meeting concluded at 8:15 pm..

DRAFT
Submitted 4/22/210
Jessica Riggins