

From the President

Janet Freeman, President

In past columns I have refrained from mentioning the various events sponsored by NCLA's sections, committees, and round tables because they are numerous and always excellent. Our association has an extraordinary number of imaginative and talented leaders/program planners who offer to us a wide variety of professional education opportunities.

In this column, however, I must comment on the recent meeting of one of our sections. The North Carolina Association of School Librarian's 1992 Biennial Work Conference held September 30 through October 2, 1992, in Research Triangle Park registered over eight hundred school media librarians from all over North Carolina. It was my pleasure to see there so many of you, our school members; to be inspired by the reports of the work that you do; and to hear the excellent speakers that your section's leadership invited.

For example, in his keynote address Kenneth Haycock, Director of Program Services for the Vancouver School Board and editor and publisher of *Emergency Librarian*, spoke of the need for a continuum in planning skills instruction for our K-12 students. This dovetails with my concerns that we view our responsibilities as a part of a bigger picture.

You've heard me say this before, and you will probably hear me say it again. Ultimately our library users must be equipped to be life-long learners who can take advantage of all sources of information, whether they be at the public library, the academic library, the school library, or the special library. We must each assume responsibility for our place on the continuum ... with thorough knowledge of what comes before, after, and around where we are.

Let's move on to another topic.

In these difficult economic times, the North Carolina Library Association is not exempt from financial challenges. Consider the following:

* NCLA dues have not increased

since 1988, at which time the increase for personal members was only about \$5 per year (\$10 per biennium).

* Earnings on association funds have dropped with decreased interest rates.

* The establishment of the NCLA office in Raleigh in December 1989 is providing vital service to the association but is also an additional on-going expense. The kernel of the idea for a permanent association office and the position of Administrative Assistant came from the 1986 recommendations of the Futures Committee, appointed by NCLA President Leland Park in 1984.

Your NCLA Executive Board recently adopted NCLA's 1993-94 biennial budget. It contains *minimal* increases over the 1991-92 budget, yet it was necessary to use \$14,688 of our reserve funds to balance it. We are dipping into our "savings" to pay operating costs of the association.

In anticipation of this situation I appointed a Long-Range Fiscal Planning Task Force in August 1992 and gave them the following charge:

- Do a thorough analysis of the fiscal status of NCLA.
- Recommend basic fiscal guidelines, e.g., what size reserve ("cushion") should a non-profit organization like NCLA maintain?
- Consider options for improving the current financial status of NCLA.
- Is a dues increase advisable? How do we compare with other state library associations' dues structures?
- What are the best long- and short-term investments for NCLA?

The task force report will be presented to the NCLA Executive Board at or before the April 23, 1993, meeting at Guilford College.

The members of the Task Force are Carol A. Southerland, chair (South Lenoir High School), Wanda Brown

Cason (Wake Forest University/NCLA Treasurer), John Childers (East Carolina University/Chair of NC Public Library Trustees Association), Judie Davie (Greensboro City Schools/Chair of NCLA Finance Committee), Martha Davis (Guilford Technical Community College), Janet Freeman (Meredith College/NCLA President), Dale Gaddis (Durham County Library), Chuck Mallas (Public Library of Charlotte & Mecklenberg County), and Ben Speller (North Carolina Central University).

If you have observations or suggestions about NCLA's financial planning, I hope you will contact one of the Task Force members.

Dan Barron was one of the presenters at the NCASL Work Conference I mentioned earlier. He is Coordinator of the School Library Media Program in the College of Library and Information Science at the University of South Carolina at Columbia. In his presentation "Running with the Big Dogs," he clearly illustrated that we no longer can afford to stay on the porch. "We must - and can - not just run with but lead the big dogs," he said.

Dan's message, in part, was that to implement change, we must plan and then act. "Lead or be led maybe where you would prefer not to go" are words we should all heed. His six-point strategy for implementing change is worthy of every office bulletin board or refrigerator door:

- * Have a vision.
- * Do your homework.
- * Start where you are.
- * Involve as many people as possible.
- * Develop allies.
- * Let everyone own the successes.

The North Carolina Library Association has a vision. We are doing our homework and starting where we are. I am asking you to become more involved by making suggestions to the Task Force and to the Board.

North Carolina Association of School Librarians Conference

October 1 and 2, 1992



(Above): School Library Media Activities Monthly columnist Dan Barron shares ideas with incoming NCLA president Gwen Jackson.

(Left): NCASL President Nona Pryor checks with children's and young adult author Avi as he takes a break from autographing his books.

(Below right): NCASL Vice President and chair of the conference planning committee Augie Beasley found the Sheraton's walkie talkie to be a godsend throughout the conference.

(Below left): Judie Davie, Instructional Specialist for the Greensboro City Schools, was the 1992 recipient of NCASL's respected Mary Peacock Douglas Award.



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