

From the President

Janet Freeman, President

The Constitution of the North Carolina Library Association includes the following goals for the Association:

1. To provide a forum for discussing library-related issues
2. To promote research and publication related to library and information science
3. To provide opportunities for the professional growth of library personnel
4. To support both formal and informal networks of libraries and librarians
5. To identify and help resolve special concerns of women and minorities in the profession

During the preparation and final approval of the 1993-94 Association budget, the Finance Committee and the Executive Board struggled with difficult decisions about the allocation of limited resources and their inability to fund important Association initiatives and programs. Both groups take seriously their responsibility to use NCLA's funds to provide meaningful, relevant programs and services to you, our members.

It became increasingly obvious that to continue to work to achieve the goals in the Constitution, the Association had to address several pressing fiscal issues.

On August 28, 1992, I asked the following people to serve on an ad hoc Long-Range Fiscal Planning Task Force: Wanda Cason, John Childers, Martha Davis, Dale Gaddis, Chuck Mallas, and Ben Speller. Carol Southerland agreed to serve as chair, and I served ex officio. These people are from the various kinds of libraries represented by our Association, and all have worked in NCLA in a variety of positions. They brought widely diverse views which provided balance and perspective to the discussion of issues.

The charge to the Task Force follows:

- Do a thorough analysis of the fiscal status of NCLA.
- Recommend basic fiscal guidelines for NCLA.
- 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 structure?
- What are the best long- and short-term investments for NCLA?

Their report was presented to the NCLA Executive Board for first reading on April 23, 1993. Each of the eleven recommendations brought with it the endorsement of every member of the Task Force. The recommendations fell into three categories: Association procedures, income and allocations, and committees.

Some of the recommendations can be implemented by Board action; others, if approved by the Board, will require a vote of the entire NCLA membership. You will be hearing more about this report.

You elected good people to represent you on this biennium's NCLA Executive Board. I have been impressed by their integrity, perceptiveness, open-mindedness, and willingness to make tough decisions. They do not shy away from asking the hard questions. Debate is open and honest, and when we disagree, we do it fairly and (almost always) reasonably.

We spend most of our time working to see that our libraries meet the needs of our patrons and trying to make too few dollars cover too many requests. Often we do not hear the affirmation held by those we serve.

For a recent library display, I invited the members of the faculty and staff at Meredith College to reflect on libraries and reading. The responses were overwhelming, and I would like to share some of them with you.

"Libraries and reading are a threat to the status quo."

— Don Spanton

Business and Economics Department
Head

"Libraries and reading offer me the distilled products of other people's curiosity, experience, and acquired understanding ... food for my mind and spirit."

— Rick McBane

Media Services Assistant

"Libraries and reading allow me to commune with the great scientists of the present as well as the past. How could I do this otherwise?"

— Janice Swab

Biology and Health Sciences Department
Faculty

A Riddle

As an undergraduate, I only went if I had to.

As a graduate student, I went because I needed to.

In a while, I noticed I was going because I was happy there.

Now, I can't find enough time to be there. Where is it?

answer: of course, the library

— Rhonda Zingraff

Department of Sociology and Social
Work Faculty

"The bookmobile was my salvation from those long hot summers. How fortunate that my mother made walking with us to school on 'book days' a part of her busy days."

— Anne Dahle

Director of Re-Entry Program

"I grew up believing there could be no job more delicious than being a librarian — to be constantly in the inviting and challenging company of books! It is a profession of which I am still in envy."

— Janice Odom

Education Department Faculty

"I have never been an athlete or even a jogger, but I remember in elementary school running across the parking lot from my 3rd grade classroom to the library next door. I wanted to beat the other kids to the new biographies on the shelf under the window upstairs. That race to read and to learn is one I'm still running, and my first stop is usually still the library."

— Garry Walton

English Department Faculty

"The one true tangible sign we live in a civilized world."

— Jack Huber

Psychology Department Head

"Libraries and reading fed my thirst for adventure and inspired my desire to travel and learn about the world beyond my door. I found in books the dreams to make reality."

— Diana McClung

Library Circulation Supervisor