

From the President

Gwen Jackson, President

7he 1993-95 Biennium has been a busy and productive one for the North Carolina Library Association. In addition to the activities that were sponsored by NCLA sections, round tables and committees, several special studies/projects have been undertaken. The Task Force to Study Governance of the NCLA Executive Board studied the Executive Board structure and made recommendations. Financial Procedures were adopted to standardize accounting procedures for the Association. The NCLA Biennial Conference Handbook was compiled. NCLA-L, the listserve for NCLA, was created and now has more than two hundred members.

There were three changes in the committee structure of NCLA. The Special Projects Committee was created to review applications and administer money for NCLA project grants. Because of overlapping responsibilities, the Marketing/Public Relations Committee was merged with the Publications Committee. The Technology and Trends Committee became a round table.

Sections, round tables and committees have incorporated into many of their activities the visions established by the Executive Board at the beginning of this biennium. Some specific examples of these activities follow:

VISION STATEMENT 1: Libraries and librarians are recognized as the prime information source empowering the people of North Carolina to become lifelong learners. (Communications Issues Work Group)

In addition to the award-winning journal, *North Carolina Libraries*, and a quarterly newsletter, *News from NCLA*, published by NCLA, fourteen sections and round tables publish newsletters to keep members up-to-date with appropriate issues.

Biennium seminars, workshops and conference programs have highlighted the commitment of libraries to provide services and skills to North Carolina citizens.

- A Potpourri of Issues in Youth Services (CSS)
- Not All of Your Patrons Speak English (Literacy)
- Customer Service: Bloodline to Success (NMRT)
- Through the Customers' Eyes: Linking Information Needs and Library Services (RASS)

VISION STATEMENT 2: The North Carolina Library Association is the motivating force for unifying its diverse membership to achieve the purpose, goals, and priorities of the organization. (Organizational Issues Work Group)

NCLA committees and work groups have had representation from all types of libraries (academic, community college, public, school, and special).

Professional growth opportunities have been available to all NCLA members.

- Out of Bureaucracy, Into Leadership (LAMS)
- Personnel Rights and Issues (NCLPA)

Section and round table vice-chairs have been encouraged to attend NCLA Executive Board meetings to become familiar with the Association.

VISION STATEMENT 3: North Carolina libraries and librarians are aware of the importance of safeguarding the rights of library users in accordance with the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and the Library Bill of Rights as adopted by the American Library Association. (Intellectual Freedom Work Group)

Written selection policies and procedures for handling challenged materials are encouraged by NCLA sections and round tables.

Workshops and conference programming have provided sessions on intellectual freedom.

- Access Ramps & Avoiding Road Kill on the Information Highway (Intellectual Freedom)
- Censorship and Selection in North Carolina Schools (Intellectual Freedom/SDPI)
- Intellectual Freedom and Federal Budget Cuts at NPR (PLS)

The Intellectual Freedom Committee and Work Group has maintained an Intellectual Freedom notebook and has responded to calls for assistance from libraries.

VISION STATEMENT 4: NCLA and the library profession will be represented by exemplary professionals including women and minorities at all levels of administration. (Personnel Work Group)

Sections and round tables have been diligent in having leadership representative of gender and race. LAMS is coordinating leadership development and training for NCLA through a preconference session, Leadership Survival Kit, and by establishing a leadership institute to identify, train and nurture emerging NCLA leaders.

REMCo and RSWL will co-sponsor a conference program, Recruitment and Retention of Minorities and Women in NC Libraries.

A compilation of statistics for North Carolina librarians and a bibliography of related articles has been prepared by the Personnel Work Group. (Request copies from NCLA Office.)

VISION STATEMENT 5: Libraries and librarians play a leadership role in the development of the North Carolina Information Highway (NCIH) and in the implementation and utilization of the Highway so that it extends to each library, with the necessary training and equipment for each citizen to have access. (Technology Work Group)

Sections and round tables have sponsored seminars, workshops, teleconferences, and conference programs that address the use and access of electronic resources.

- Copyright in Cyberspace (TNT)
- FreeNets! Community Access to Information (RTSS/TNT)
- Government Documents and the Internet (Documents)
- Network Design (NCASL)
- Surfing and the BI Turf: The Internet as a Complement to Instruction and Research (CUS)
- Tool or Toy: the Role of Internet in Information Services (RASS)

The Technology and Trends Round Table was established to provide a focus for NCLA's efforts on technology issues, to provide guidance to NCLA sections and round tables, and to promote NCLA's relationships with other associations and agencies involved in the planning, implementation and utilization of the NCIH.

As I reflect on the past two years as president of the North Carolina Library Association, I have many wonderful memories. First are you — members of NCLA — who gave me your vote of confidence by electing me to represent you and the Association. This opportunity has been a highlight of my professional career and has allowed me to grow in so many ways. The things we have accomplished have been a result of your support. Thank you.

Without opportunities provided by NCLA, I would not have met and worked with many of you. The friendships that have resulted from hours of conference planning, Executive Board activities, work group discussions, committee projects, Legislative Day excursions, and ALA events are great treasures.

More and more, I realize the wealth of talent that you bring to our profession. Thank you for sharing your time, talents, and expertise with all of us. It is indeed fortunate that our Association is based on volunteers because we could not afford the price of these gifts so freely given.

The support of the "home front" has been constant and never failing. A very special thanks goes to husband Charlie and director/boss/friend Linda who each allowed and understood the time and energy away from home and work.

Before I turn the gavel over to Dave Fergusson, I offer a reminder and challenge to each of you. NCLA is *your* professional organization. It can best serve you and meet your expectations when you participate and let your needs be known.

- Talk to your colleagues, section representatives, and Executive Board members.
- Be involved in the activities and decisions of the North Carolina Library Association.
- Run for office, support the officers, vote.

Remember:

- Collaborate with your colleagues throughout the profession, not just in your library;
- Accept the challenge to be more involved with NCLA; and above all
- Celebrate life and libraries for libraries do indeed link lives.