

From the President

Beverley Cass, President

Change is not much fun for anyone, I see now. Change brings loss and, if not grieving, a sadness or nostalgia for the way things used to be. Did I really mean it all those times in the past when I said that I liked change? Or were those bold words only an attempt to reassure myself? I'm sure I meant it when I said that change is difficult. Now, however, it may be that I understand those words in a new way. Maybe the personal experience of change is the means for understanding the impact of change within the workplace or the profession.

Change is everywhere and is essential even in writing an essay. An author's ability to create smooth transitions and imaginative segues so that the reader is not consciously aware of a change in thought or having moved into the future of the essay is a good way to measure a writer's skill. The ability to move to another part of the essay comes with practice, they say. Skill in writing comes also with sitting back and letting the words and ideas flow.

Is this flow the same kind of flow that we seem to be experiencing now in NCLA? I suppose that each NCLA president wants to make a difference and wants to move the organization forward during the brief two years of the presidency. Needless to say, I want to be sure that at the next biennial conference, I can feel a sense of accomplishment. From all indications, this sense may be mine given the things that others are doing.

At the October NCLA Executive Board meeting, we heard about several workshops. They are typical of the kinds of events that keep NCLA strong and a vital source of continuing education programming during the non-conference year. The list of workshops included the Children's Service Section "Reading Renaissance Retreat", the College and University Section's, "Fulfilling the Promise of the Millennium," the Documents Section's workshop entitled "Web vs. CD-ROM: Access to Electronic Information", the NCLA Leadership Institute, RASS's "NC LIVE: Taking it to the Limit", and a TNT workshop.

Al Jones announced that the theme of the 1999 NCLA Biennial Conference is "Imagine the Future." Surely you have already noted in your calendars that that event is scheduled for Winston-Salem and the Benton Convention Center on September 21-24.

The NCLA Development Committee recommendation to establish an endowment fund through the North Carolina Community Foundation was approved by the Executive Board. Ross Holt's work as chair of this committee promises NCLA a new means for supporting the organization and meeting the needs of members.

Several other projects are underway within the association. Expect to hear more about them within the next weeks and months. Look for news from Ben Speller and the new Continuing Education Committee and Dave Fergusson's Non-Conference Year Planning Committee. Keep watch, too, for the first edition of NCLA E-News, our upcoming electronic newsletter edited by Pam Burton.

Our print journal, *North Carolina Libraries*, signed an agreement with H.W. Wilson that allows the journal to be accessed through their full-text online products. Royalties will be paid to the journal based on the number of hits. Congratulations, Frances Bradburn and Editorial Board members.

Have you seen the new tabletop exhibit for NC LIVE that NCLA funded? It is quite handsome. It is available through Janet Freeman, chair of the Publicity Advisory Committee of NC LIVE, for the use of libraries and groups across the state.

I am pleased to announce that NCLA has a new friend and advocate. We nominated Marcus Trathen, an attorney with the firm of Brooks, Pierce, McLendon, Humphrey & Leonard of Raleigh and Greensboro to attend the ALA/ABA sponsored institute "Lawyers for Libraries." Marcus attended the Chicago conference where he, along with several other attorneys, was trained in the applicability of First Amendment to library policies, procedures and problems, particularly those relating to the use of the Internet in libraries. He joins the cadre of lawyers who make themselves available to assist librarians in defending the freedom to read. He reported that he learned lots at the Institute and is willing to assist librarians in their battles in these arenas. We look forward to hearing about the institute when he attends the next Executive Board meeting. We also look forward to hearing from you. Write, call, or post it to NCLA-L!