

Report from the President

My two years as president of the North Carolina Library Association have been a joy and at the same time have been very meaningful. In my travels around the state I have made many new friends and have been able to better assess the problems and the progress of library programs. Everywhere I went I was welcomed with sincerity and genuine interest in improving our profession. I have proof now that librarians in North Carolina are serious about their efforts to provide the citizens with comprehensive, contemporary library service. In most areas, citizens are getting their money's worth from their tax dollars spent for libraries, media centers, and learning resource centers.

Two years ago when I accepted the gavel of NCLA, I identified several areas which I felt were priorities for action and development during the biennium. I am very happy to report that the majority of these have been realized.

Number one was for NCLA to take an absolute and vocal stand on supporting the freedom to read and intellectual freedom. Through the efforts of the Intellectual Freedom Committee under the able leadership of Ray Moore, whom we continue to desperately miss, and Judie DeJonge, our cries have been heard from the mountains to the sea including the halls of the General Assembly. Many of you may not be aware that this committee has come to the aid of many of our membership where censorship was attempted and have made

people aware of our cause in a loud and clear fashion. We must continue to let people know how we feel about this issue. Friday morning's general session shows us the seriousness and intenseness of this problem.

Next, was continuation of the best state library journal I have seen, and I have seen them all. Many working hours by Editor Herbert Poole and Associate Editor David Jensen and their Editorial Board have paid off. **NORTH CAROLINA**



Gene D. Lanier

LIBRARIES speaks for itself. All you need to do is peruse some of the other state journals and you will see what I mean. Financing of the journal is now handled through advertisements and your membership fees. Please continue to support this excellent publication.

Another big concern of mine was the fact that different types of librarians were doing their own thing without any concern for other librarians in the profession. Many sections had no idea what other sections were doing. I honestly feel that people in the profession now are beginning to see that their objectives are almost identical. Why not work together on improving the profession? During this biennium, sections have publicized their activities and meetings through the journal and mailings and as a result, all sections have been represented at workshops, tutorials, and the like. This indicates to me that the school media coordinator has discovered that he is not that different from the public librarian and media directors in community colleges have compared their objectives with senior college and university librarians and have found their aims very similar. It does my heart good to see petty attitudes and professional titles disappear for the cause of progress. I sincerely made an effort to have different types of librarians on the committees I appointed. This has resulted in unity which I did not believe possible. Together, our lists of accomplishments have increased beyond expectations. This has been very evident as you review the work of the Governmental Relations Committee headed by Judith Letsinger and the Task Force of School Librarians chaired by Jean Johnson. The committee structure is what makes NCLA work. The committees this biennium have made themselves heard both within and outside the profession. Their endeavors have resulted in people listening to what we have to say for the first time. Many deaf ears in the past now belong to some of our strongest supporters.

This is one reason I felt it so vital to set up a new committee this biennium, the Public Relations Committee. We have rea-

son no longer to remain on the defensive. It is time that we be heard. These offensive efforts are now beginning to result in by-products not only in dollars and cents but in genuine appreciation for the profession by the person on the street. We still have a long way to go but great strides have already been made. The day has past that we need to make excuses for what we do.

Another voiced concern had to do with distribution of state documents. Grey Cole and Sangster Parrot led this project and with the help of the Department of Cultural Resources, the bill setting up a depository for this distribution has been formalized and is to be introduced at the next session of the General Assembly.

There also was some interest in possible reorganization of NCLA. John Heyer and Bob Pollard chaired the committee that conducted the survey which showed that the membership did not feel reorganization was warranted at this time. Bob May was chairman of the committee investigating annual sessions. In fact, the work of the Ad Hoc Committees coupled with that of the standing committees showed outstanding dedication by those of you that participated. Thank you for your efforts.

As I have told you in the journal previously, it has been through your efforts that the North Carolina Library Association is the strongest state professional library organization in this part of the country. The Southeastern States Cooperative Library Survey ranks us number one in many of the categories. I would like for you to know that I personally feel that all of you are number one. I hope you do not feel that my "down home" approach to the presidency was a mistake. I felt it necessary in some cases in order to get to the heart of some of our problems. Thank you for your cooperation. Thank you for your support. Serving as your president this biennium has been a pleasure. The pursuit of excellence together can most certainly be a reality. My sincere appreciation goes out to you.