Report from the President

When you read this page, two very significant announcements affecting NCLA will have been made. You will know who our new State Librarian is and the SELA grant will have been announced. I hope that David McKay and NCLA (they rhyme!) will have many years of successful work together. SELA has a chance to make library history with its four-year grant of $100,000 and NCLA should contribute toward making this achievement a reality. We owe much more than we will ever know to SELA’s Interim Executive Director Mary Edna Anders and I have tried to express appreciation to her on your behalf.

It was exciting to attend the celebration of ALA’s one hundredth anniversary in Chicago in July. Our own Edward Holley was a prominent participant. Clara Jones will return to North Carolina as a convocation speaker at North Carolina Central University on October 8.

As your representative on the State Library Committee I have attended hearings sponsored by the Secretary of the Department of Cultural Resources. The testimony has increased my concern for adequate library service for inmates of correctional institutions. We heard that there is no line item for libraries in the Department of Corrections budget and that the services through public libraries and schools are limited. We should be able to use our membership in the State Council on Social Legislation more effectively to supplement our own efforts to improve this situation.

October should be a busy month with the Documents Section meeting in Raleigh on the first, the Legislative Workshop sponsored by JMRT on the 13-14th, and the NCSL Conference scheduled for Raleigh on the 28-30th. This “off” year promises to be “on” in a variety of ways and I look forward to seeing all kinds of librarians at each of these events.

Annette L. Phinazee
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