Report from the President

A Seminar for State Library Association Presidents With Southeastern Library Association Officers was held on July 27 and 28 in Atlanta. This is the second year that SELA has sponsored the Conference for State Presidents.

At the first session, we had a report from Mr. J.B. Howell, SELA President, summarizing the various activities of the Association during his term of office. He also gave a preview of plans for the SELA/SWLA Conference to be held in New Orleans on October 6-8.

Ms. Johnnie Givens, SELA Executive Director, gave a report on the activities of the Headquarters Staff: the SELA White House Conference Planning Seminar held in Atlanta, September 16-17, 1977; the Copyright Seminar produced by the Special Libraries Section of SELA held on October 6-7, 1977; the routing of State Association journals between the State Library Association Presidents; and the progress being made on the compilation of directory and other important information regarding State Associations. Ms. Givens also gave an up-date on the grants received by SELA.

Some of the topics discussed on the second day were: IRS tax exempt status; recruiting, employing and making optimum use of Executive Secretaries; regional activities for and with State Associations during the non-SELA Conference years; and the activities for State Association. A great deal of time was spent in reviewing the proposed revisions to the SELA Constitution and the impact on the State Associations.

One of the most interesting aspects of the Seminar was the opportunity to meet the SELA Staff and the other State Presidents. Throughout the meeting we exchanged ideas and discussed the various activities of the State Associations. Before adjournment, the State Presidents requested the opportunity to meet again at the SELA/SWLA Joint Conference in New Orleans.

I am extremely pleased with the progress in the planning and preparation for the Governor’s Conference on Libraries and Information Services to be held October 19-21, 1978. The two hundred delegates and one hundred alternates to the Conference have been selected from over fifteen hundred nominations. The theme of the Conference will be “Libraries: The Way to Know”. The program committee has secured Dr. Isaac Asimov as the keynote speaker. Asimov is a very prolific, well-known author who has
had a unique experience with libraries. Governor Hunt will also address the Conference and there will be a wide variety of exhibits and demonstrations.

I received a letter from Mr. J.B. Howell announcing the results of the recent election of State Representatives to the Executive Board of SELA. Miss Mae S. Tucker, Assistant Director, Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, was elected as North Carolina's Representative. We look forward to working with Mae as a member of the NCLA Executive Board and as our Representative to SELA. Mr. I.T. Littleton, Director, D.H. Hill Library NCSU, has done an outstanding job as our SELA Representative for the past four years. He has served on a number of SELA committees and played an important role in the selection and employment of the Executive Director for SELA.

Leonard L. Johnson

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