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# Exalting Learning and Libraries

NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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## From the President

One could not help but be impressed by the response and courtesy shown the NCLA National Library Legislative Day participants by our Congressmen, the D.C. Library Association and the ALA Washington Office. The twenty-five NCLAers were diligent in exalting learning and libraries, reporting examples of federal funds well-spent and showing appreciation for the congressional support. Bill Bridgman, NCLA Governmental Relations chair, had ably planned the day. He was joined by David Fergusson, Elizabeth Garner, Henry Hall, Pauline Hollman, Jake Killian, Pauline Myrick, Carol Southerland, Benjamin Speller, Elinor Swaim, Virginia Thomas, Carol Walters, Perry White, Mary Alice Wicker, Mary Williams, Nancy Bates, Amanda Chambers, Patsy Hansel, Susan Janney, Nancy Massey, Howard McGinn, Wade Modlin, Judith Sutton, Helen Tugwell and Jane Williams. A delightful group of library science students under the guidance of Benjamin Speller and Clarence Toomer were present.

Others spoke out for libraries, too. Among those was Representative Major Owens who by special order on April 9 prompted 21 House members to make speeches calling attention to the cuts at the Library of Congress. Another was President Reagan who declared the month of April 1986 as National School Library Month. Because "school libraries serve a critical function in American education," the President issued a proclamation "calling upon the people of the United States to observe the month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities." Another person speaking out for libraries was State Superintendent of Public Instruction A. Craig Phillips as he exhorted individuals to "Get a Head Start at Your School Library where all students may develop and apply skills as users of information and technology."

We concur with the librarians' response to *A Nation at Risk*: "The time is now for libraries to achieve larger prominence as integral forces in the education of the nation's residents. Because of

the phenomenal explosion of knowledge, because of the value given increasingly to resources other than books, because of the stern necessity for students to learn how to find and apply information, the library media center should become a magnet for teacher and student alike." We must educate for a new era. We must push lifelong learning. Daniel J. Boorstin, Librarian of Congress, was succinct in summarizing these thoughts: "Libraries remain the meccas of self-help, the most open of open universities ... where there are no entrance examinations and no diplomas, and where one can enter at any age." Let's add ... and no report cards.

Those who attended the Spring Workshop on April 19 agree that NCLA is moving ahead as committees shared goals, objectives and strategies for achieving each over the ensuing biennium. Eighty enthusiastic NCLAers enjoyed the royal treatment for which Greensboro College is noted. Our thanks go to Susan Squires, Library Director, who did a yeoman's job with every detail.

We learned from the Archives Committee Chairman Maurice C. York that the plans call for physical control over such records and a guarantee of long and short term preservation, organization and accessibility of the archives. The committee will establish a formal record management policy for current records. NCLA officers and chairs, past and present, will be called on for input and view.

The Constitution, Codes and Handbook Revision Committee, Doris Anne Bradley, chair, will be contacting you for appropriate documents in its effort to keep contents current. A manual of policies which have been adopted will be compiled by this committee.

Howard McGinn, Coordinator of Network Development at the State Library, described the ongoing progress of the North Carolina Library Network at the NCLA Board Meeting in Greensboro on April 18. The North Carolina Online Union Catalog is scheduled to be up and running on June 2, 1986 at OCLC. The North Carolina Union List of Serials will also be maintained at

OCLC and is scheduled to start in December. Libraries not currently using OCLC will be able to access the Online Catalog and the Union List of Serials on a dial access basis through any common personal computer. These libraries will also gain access to the OCLC Interlibrary Loan Subsystem.

Howard also reported on the State Electronic Mail/Bulletin Board System. The State Library will be testing the Western Union Easylink system for one year in 60 libraries. NCLA Board Members

will be able to participate in this test. Plans for the document delivery system are well underway as are plans for training in the various databases by State Library Consultants.

The next NCLA Executive Board meeting is scheduled at 10:30, July 25, Pine Crest Inn, Pinehurst.

Have a wonderful summer!

Pauline F. Myrick, President



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