

Libraries . . . Spread the News

NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

From the President

Recently I received a letter from an NCLA member who had some questions about how *North Carolina Libraries* operates. [The letter appears on the following page.] Answering his questions prompted me to think about how much the people who work on *North Carolina Libraries* do for NCLA, and how little public thanks we give them. So I'll take this opportunity to do a little public thanking.

The glue that holds *NCL* together is, of course, the editor. For two and a half years now the editor has been Frances Bradburn. By the time that you receive this issue of *NCL*, Frances will be in her new position at Joyner Library at East Carolina University. ECU has graciously consented to allow Frances to continue as editor of *NCL*, for which we thank ECU.

Most people can see that being editor of a publication like *NCL* can be a lot of fun, but you have to have done it to appreciate how much work it is. The editor works with the printer on all the details of each issue, from page layout, to size of type, to placing ads. The editor receives all the manuscripts submitted for publication, and decides which members of the editorial board will review them, and sends them out for review. The editor receives the reviews back and if there are differences of opinion, tries to iron those out. If a manuscript is rejected, it is the editor who has the task of composing a letter to let a fellow colleague know why his manuscript was rejected. That's the hardest part of the job.

The best part of the job is working with the editorial board. The editorial board for *North Carolina Libraries* is made up of representatives from all the sections and round tables, plus two associate editors, a book review editor, and an advertising manager appointed by the editor. This is very much a working board. They meet twice for each issue—once to proof manuscripts, again to proof galleys (what the printer sends back after he has typeset everything). *NCL* editorial board meetings are stimulating for reasons that people not interested in words and the use of language

might find at best amusing. Editorial board members can take very seriously how words are spelled, or capitalized, or hyphenated, or punctuated, and they can argue their sides of ensuing controversies eloquently and at length. Some of the most scintillating discussions of library issues that I have heard have taken place at editorial board meetings when the board was trying to decide whether or not to publish a particular article. The members of the editorial board are committed to their time-consuming, non-paying positions with *NCL*. Because of their commitment, *NCLA* continues to have one of the best state library association journals in the country. Their names are listed on the inside back cover of your *NCL*. Thank them when you see them.

The biggest organizational news for *NCLA* is that we have a new round table: the Round Table on Special Collections. Maury York, chair of the *NCLA* Archives Committee and guest editor of this issue of *NCL*, is also the driving force behind the establishment of this round table, which was approved by the *NCLA* Executive Board at its spring meeting at North Carolina Central University. When Maury has time off from his *NCLA* obligations, he works at the Edgecombe County Memorial Library in Tarboro. You can contact him there for more information about the round table.

Patsy J. Hansel, President

