

NORTH CAROLINIANS FOR BETTER LIBRARIES BETTER LIBRARIES FOR NORTH CAROLINIANS

By

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Either way you read it, the name of the recently incorporated statewide citizens' organization for library improvement makes sense. Read forward, the name NORTH CAROLINIANS FOR BETTER LIBRARIES invites participation by all Tar Heels willing to work toward its primary goal, which can be simply stated by reversing the phrase to read BETTER LIBRARIES FOR NORTH CAROLINIANS.

Eventually to involve thousands of North Carolinians, the organization represents the cooperative efforts of library-interested citizens in every county to "help each other help themselves" in improving local libraries. The plan calls for formation of effective continuation in every county of local organizations of citizens actively working toward better local libraries. Some existing "Friends" or similar groups may need encouragement or revitalizing; in other counties citizens would organize for the first time. Through NCBL headquarters will come aid and encouragement in the form of information, printed materials, and a speakers' bureau. Experiences of one county which may be helpful elsewhere will be shared from county to county, together with techniques utilized in successful library improvement programs, actual publicity releases, and the like.

In addition, NCBL expects to keep in close touch with library-related matters in Congress and the state's General Assembly, and to provide guidance toward determining availability of funds from all levels of government, as well as private sources.

Materials and information are to be channeled to the local groups through each county's official representative in the state organization. By-laws provide these voting members a voice in establishing policies and plans of the corporation and call for an unlimited number of associate members.

Key to the success of this venture will be the degree of involvement of numbers of citizens "back home" in local efforts to put to use information and helps provided through the coordinating headquarters.

Already involved, and standing ready to help, are individuals and groups all over the state, including the North Carolina Association of Library Trustees, out of whose biennial meeting in Winston-Salem November 5, 1965, came the decision to organize.

The North Carolina Library Association has made possible the meeting of necessary organizational expenses by a generous gift of money from a special fund.

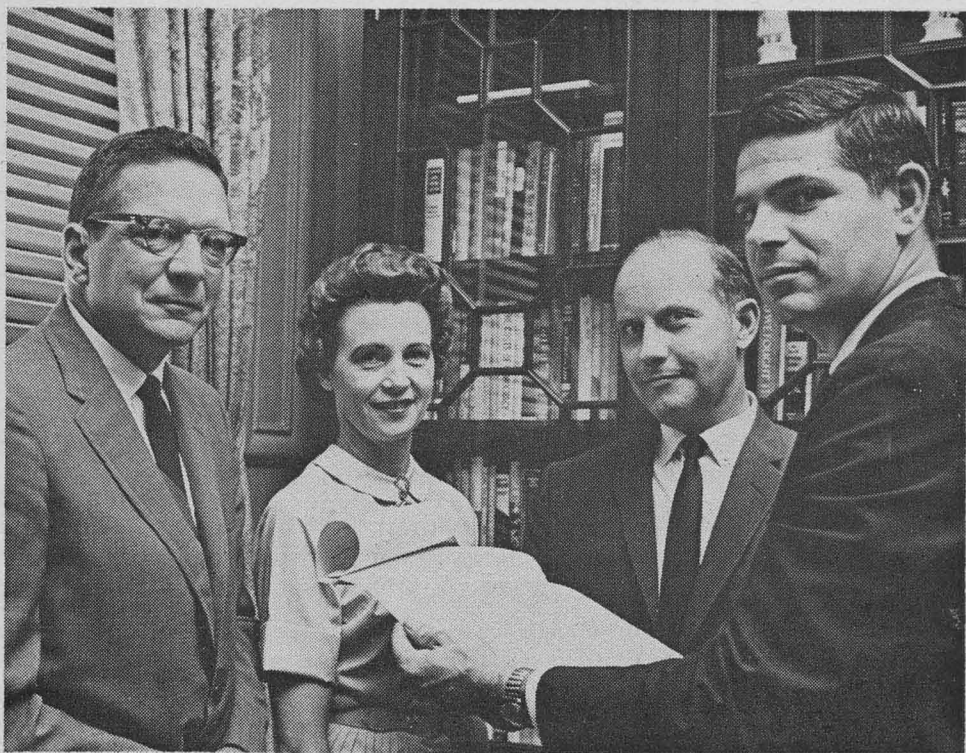
The State Library's professional staff has worked closely throughout the organizational period and continues to furnish needed information, consultation, and assistance.

Governor Dan K. Moore endorsed the movement in an April statement, and Mrs. Moore heads the list of fourteen distinguished incorporators. Other incorporators, although requested merely to apply for the charter, have volunteered additional service and financial gifts.

The original steering committee and initial Board of Directors accepted committee assignments which have entailed long hours of work, travel, and correspondence.

The present officers and directors represent a wide cross-section of the state both geographically and interest-wise. The president is author David Stick of Kitty Hawk, who as a member of the Governor's Commission on Library Resources proposed that the Trustees' Association implement the Commission's recommendation for a statewide citizens' committee. Also continuing as a director is George M. Stephens, president of the Trustees' Association, who chaired initial steering committee meetings composed of librarians and lay leaders throughout the state. Other directors, in addition to the officers shown in the accompanying photo, include: Dr. E. Stuart Benson, Jr., of Wilmington; Peter W. Hairston, Mocksville; Mrs. James M. Harper, Jr., Southport; Miss Vivian Irving, Raleigh; Holt McPherson, High Point; State Senator Hector MacLean, Lumberton; Mrs. Paul Riggins, Monroe; William D. Snider, Greensboro; Mrs. John Spears, Lillington; Dr. Thomas Thurston, Salisbury; and John H. Wheeler, Durham.

Much of the work of maintaining constant contact with local groups is to be assumed by an executive director from a Raleigh office. This work is to be financed through a campaign for private gifts to the chartered non-profit, tax-exempt corporation.



Officers of North Carolinians for Better Libraries, Inc., elected in May, are, from l to r: James D. Blount, Jr., of Rockingham, treasurer; Mrs. James W. Reid, Raleigh, secretary; David Stick, Kitty Hawk, president of the corporation and chairman of the Board of Directors; and J. Allen Adams, Raleigh, vice-president of the corporation and chairman of the Executive Committee. These officers will serve until the first annual meeting of NCBL early in 1967.

The State Library Board, through State Librarian Philip S. Ogilvie, has issued a statement expressing the Board's enthusiasm for North Carolinians for Better Libraries and the belief that "it is clearly an organization of our times and for our times." The statement reads:

"North Carolinians for Better Libraries is attracting to itself the state's most alive and aware leadership who is bringing to its program a spirit of rapid, exciting change in which they are already involved. This response demonstrates a mature understanding of and faith in the importance of libraries of all kinds in North Carolina. It also contributes to the increase of their vitality. The future of such an organization is unlimited, and it may well become the most significant force for library progress in North Carolina in this decade and for years to come."

The labor of many months has been directed toward the first annual meeting of the organization early in 1967, with representatives from all 100 counties participating. This culminating step in the statewide organizational process, however, marks but the first step toward accomplishment on the local level of the aim of North Carolinians for Better Libraries — Better Libraries for all North Carolinians.

1. Mrs. Reid is the secretary of North Carolinians for Better Libraries and an active member of the N. C. Association of Library Trustees.

"A library is not worth anything without a catalogue — it is a Polythemus without any eye in his head."—Thomas Carlyle, Testimony Before British Museum Commission, February, 1849.

"It is not observed that . . . librarians are wiser men than others."—Ralph W. Emerson, *Spiritual Laws*, 1844.

NORTH STATE NEWS BRIEFS

DEMONSTRATION CENTERS SELECTED

In April of this year the State Department of Public Instruction selected ten North Carolina schools with outstanding library programs to serve as demonstration centers for the school years 1966-67 and 1967-68. These schools, nominated by their school systems, were chosen from more than fifty applications. Each school has received special funds for the acquisition of additional library materials — print and audio-visual — in order to supply full complement of school library resources.

Funds to support the demonstration school library programs were provided in the North Carolina State Plan for Title II of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. Project applications were evaluated on the basis of specified criteria for personnel, facilities, and library programs. The schools selected will serve as demonstration centers which school administrators, teachers, librarians, school board members, parents, and civic leaders may visit to observe excellent library programs in action. A list of the centers follows: