

STAFF ORGANIZATION ROUND
TABLE

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In response to an article on "Staff Organizations" in the September issue of NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARIES and to the letters of invitation sent to many libraries throughout the state, a number of librarians attended the meeting of the Staff Organization Round Table during the meeting of the N. C. L. A. at Hotel Charlotte on October 20, 1943.

The program was planned and conducted by the recently organized Charlotte Staff Association. Mrs. Louella Posey, Head of the Catalog Department, presented a paper on "Why We Associate and What We Hope to Do" which reviewed briefly the history of staff organizations and summarized the purpose of such associations. From these first organizations, which were generally of social origin, groups have come to have more particular and definite aims. Their aims may be (1) an educational program for the members; (2) improved working conditions; (3) raising and adjusting salaries; (4) correction of injustices and grievances in individual cases; (5) publication of a news bulletin; (6) improvement of public relations; (7) charitable purposes; (8) establishment of loan funds for the staff; (9) participation in the function of library policy; (10) opportunity for recognition of the individual and his ideas; (11) carrying out different ser-

vices to the community in cooperation with the Red Cross Defense Councils and other community projects; and various other projects in which a staff group might be interested. Some staff organizations include all members of the staff, including the chief librarian. Others feel that having the librarian as a member lessens free and open discussion of staff problems and prefer to exclude him from membership. Salaries, which are a main concern because of the fact that salaries of professional people tend to lag behind that of other economic groups, often assume an important place in the program of staff organizations.

Since the meeting was based on the acquiring of knowledge about group organizations, Miss Margery Alexander, a past president of the Charlotte Classroom Teachers Association and a member of the Southeastern States' Board of Executives, was asked to report on the accomplishments and activities of that organization.

A Staff Organization Round Table was formed. This Round Table was recognized as an official group by the N. C. L. A. at its last general session.

Any news from existing staff organizations and news of the formation of new groups should be sent to the secretary, Eula Carpenter, Charlotte Public Library, Charlotte.

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The Association has a gavel! The N.C.L.A. is now the proud owner of an inscribed gavel—"To N.C.L.A. from E.C.T.C. 1943." Wendell W. Smiley, Librarian, East Carolina Teachers College presented Dr. Susan Grey Akers, incoming President, N.C.L.A., with a gavel which was made by an E.C.T.C. industrial arts student. The wood was taken from the esteemed remains of a campus holly tree.

All past and incoming masters of ceremony will, no doubt, add their thanks and blessings for this "expedient" gift.