

## HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY ASSISTANTS HAVE ACTIVE ORGANIZATION

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The North Carolina High School Library Association, an organization of about 1500 members, had its beginning in October, 1947. At the invitation of the North Carolina Library Association and as a part of their regular biennial conference, 95 student library assistants met to form this organization. Of these, 35 were official delegates. The groundwork was laid by a group of librarians over a period of years and with the approval and encouragement of the North Carolina Library Association. The details of the organizational meeting were worked out at a school librarians' workshop in the summer of 1947.

This Association was organized for the purpose of increasing "pupil interest and participation in school library work," promoting "better understanding and cooperation between local and state high school library clubs," and arousing "interest in the study of librarianship as a career." Senior high school pupils who are members of a local school library club in North Carolina are eligible for membership. Dues are 25 cents per year.

The officers are President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Reporter. There is an Executive Board which consists of an Advisory Council of nine librarians and an Executive Council of 11 students. The constitution states that the president must be a rising senior. Other officers may come from any class. All officers must have been a member of a local library club for one year.

The Association meets annually in the spring on a date chosen by the Executive Board. Official delegates are limited to two per member club but all other members are encouraged to attend the convention. Unofficial delegates participate in all convention activities and meetings and have all privileges of official delegates except voting. The convention begins on Friday afternoon and ends at noon on Saturday.

The Association has a state pin with the motto: "Books are the key to knowledge." The Association flower is the red carnation and the constitution states that it shall be used for decorations at all conventions, dinners, and other appropriate occasions. The Association colors are blue and white and they, too, must be used for decoration.

The Association is divided into six districts which coincide with the six educational districts set up by the North Carolina Education Association. Each district meets annually in the fall, not later than December 1. Time and place of this meeting are chosen by the district president and his adviser. District officers include President, Vice-President, Secretary, and any others thought necessary by the district association. The Executive Board of each district, consisting of the district officers and the librarian advisor to the president, determines dues, if any, for the district. We are in the process of

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changing our district constitution to limit the number of official delegates at district meetings. We feel that five is a reasonable number. This is a one-day or one-afternoon meeting.

The Assistant State School Library Adviser serves as the Executive Secretary for the Association. She serves as a clearing house for questions, problems, and activities and mails newsletters and other releases with regular mailings from her office. All of the official records are on file in her office. A brief look at the 1956 Convention will give some idea of the work of student librarians and the services they render.

### 1956 Conference

The State Convention is the highlight of the NCHSLA year. The Convention is conducted by the students. Librarian-advisers keep the cogs well-oiled, but the students keep the wheels turning. Naturally, to be successful, a convention requires much planning. This was done partly by the Executive Board in meetings in January and February and the rest by the state president and the host club.

The first business session, held in the Hendersonville High School auditorium, was presided over by Martha Gene Arnold of Thomasville High School. After a welcome by the high school the nomination of officers was held. Gilbert Frank of Greensboro, N. C., explained the theme of our convention—"Sharing." Following this, members were divided to attend one of the seven discussion groups. Later the entire group assembled again and discussion leaders reported on their groups. As these discussions were, perhaps, the most beneficial part of the convention, let us look briefly at the ideas discussed in each.

Group I shared ideas on the responsibilities of Library Assistants. Duties of members include serving in the library before and after school and in free periods during the day. This, of course, is divided among the members with a rotating schedule. While on duty student assistants check in and charge out books, shelve books, help locate reference material, and help with the processing of new books.

In Group II ideas about money-making projects and service projects were shared. A few that had been used and were suggested by various students for service to school and community were: helping the needy (this is especially done at Christmas), donating books to the library, having magazines bound, and in schools of grades 1-12 reading hours are sponsored by the club. Many services require financial backing, so clubs sell cards and stationery and sponsor dances, baking sales and contests involving the knowledge of books in order to raise money.

Group III discussed ideas for programs which are used to introduce new books to the school and to encourage students to read old ones which they had not read. Different ways of doing this were discussed, though programs still remain a challenge to the ingenuity of individual club members.

The topic for Group IV was "Let's Share Publicity Ideas." As this is such a broad subject, ideas were many and varied. The following are a few things which have been undertaken successfully: Teachers' Teas at which faculty members are invited to look over new books, and student displays for the same purpose have proved popular in advertising new books. Programs and contests are also valuable. Ideas for publicizing the work of library assistants centered around newspaper library columns.

## NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARIES

Ideas on scrapbooks were shared by members of Group V. Club scrapbooks came about primarily as a result of the state convention where each year scrapbooks of the individual clubs are put on exhibition, and the outstanding all-round book is awarded the Frank Driscoll trophy. This trophy, named for the first state president, is passed on from school to school. This past year Appalachian High School won the trophy.

The Library Assistants Club also promotes good will in international relations by encouraging members to correspond with students in foreign countries. Each year, an award is given to the club which illustrates through a scrapbook the success of their club in this endeavor. Durham High School won the award for 1956.

The scrapbook phase of the convention is rated highly by students and advisers alike. The general comment is that such books are one of the most successful media for exchanging ideas.

Group VI displayed evidence of looking to the future when they shared ideas about newspapers, scholarships, and a national convention. The group showed an interest in awarding a scholarship from state club funds each year to a member of the club who is intending to become a librarian. In connection with the national convention, it was suggested that a regional convention be held as a first step. The matter of a newspaper was referred to the Executive Board.

Group VII was exclusively for advisers, and they shared ideas, exchanged problems and solutions.

After the discussion reports the minutes were read followed by the campaign speeches. Every candidate had a campaign manager and each spoke briefly so as to let the other members of the convention get to know him.

Friday evening the social side of the convention came to the front. A buffet style banquet was held in the Skyland Hotel where Albea Chaffin of High Point acted as master of ceremonies. The peak of the banquet was reached when Eddie Osawa, a high school exchange student from Tokyo, Japan, contrasted student life in America and Japan. He was extremely interesting and held the attention of around 200 high-spirited students. Later, as a token of appreciation, he was given a pin and made an honorary member of NCHSLA. Also, to promote international goodwill, a \$30 CARE package of books was sent to Japan.

From 9:00 to 12:00, following the banquet, a dance was held in the Hendersonville High School Gymnasium. Music was furnished by a local band. The dance ended at twelve, but the party didn't . . . at least, not for some. Upon returning to the hotel, delegates visited one another's rooms and the night owls of the group stayed up quite late.

Saturday morning an adviser's breakfast was held in the hotel. This gave the librarians another chance to discuss informally problems and ideas. It also allowed students free time to shop or just to talk with newly-made friends.

The Saturday morning business session convened at 10:00 in the hotel ballroom. The main business of the meeting was to elect new officers for the coming year. Albee Chaffin as chairman of the elections committee ran this efficiently; voting was by secret ballot. Each school had two voting delegates. In addition, each member of the Executive Board had an official vote. While ballots were counted, reports from various committees were heard and several resolutions were passed. With election results known, new officers were then installed: Cecil Byrd of Rutherfordton-Spindale, President; Bobby Hunt, Salisbury, Vice-President; Delores Atkins, Durham, Secretary; Judy Kellett, Greensboro, Treasurer; Barbara Burton, Thomasville, Reporter, with the duty of compiling the state scrapbook. The meeting was then adjourned.

At twelve a luncheon was held in the hotel for members of the retiring and incoming Executive Boards, comprised of officers, their advisers, and state leaders.

And that was the 1956 convention! Students and advisers checked out of the hotel, boarded busses or piled into cars, and wound down the mountain, tired and happy people, with the same consensus of previous "convention goers"—that this was the most successful convention to date.

### At Press Time . . .

As soon as an editors copy has gone to the printer everything turns up which should have been included. Sometimes when it is layout time there is an extra half page which should be filled up. Then the editor is in a dilemma because the new material deserves special and separate treatment, yet there is only the small space left. So please give the following more attention than the space given to them.

The December *Wilson Library Bulletin* has an excellent sketch of Dr. Louis Round Wilson written by his biographer, Dr. Maurice Tauber of Columbia University. Don't miss it! It is tops for accuracy and extremely well written.

The new Congress will be asked for the full appropriation for Federal Aid to rural libraries. Talk it up, and write your Congressman.

The annual Midwinter Meeting of the American Library Association will be the first meeting under the reorganization. It will be crammed full of business and North Carolina should be well represented.

Members are urged to send in items of interest and copy to *North Carolina Libraries*. Pick out the nearest editor or reporter and give him or her what you want to see in your magazine.