

From the President

Pauletta Brown Bracy, President

Productive Engagement

The joys of the vice presidency are embellished by the thrills of conference planning. I worked with some of the most generous and assiduous members of our association, who made the experience truly memorable. My deepest appreciation is extended to Dale Cousins and Ann Burlingame of Wake County Public Libraries; Dave Fergusson, Mary McAfee, Yolanda Bolden, and John Via of Forsyth County Public Library; Irene Laube of Durham Technical Community College Library; John Abbott of Appalachian State University Libraries; Bao-Chu Chang of North Carolina State University Libraries; Connie Keller of Carol Grotnes Belk Library, Elon University; Ednita Bullock, formerly of Bennett College Center of Information Resources and currently of North Carolina A. & T. State University's F.D. Bluford Library; Philip Cherry of Durham County Library; Jonathan Farlow of Randolph County Public Library; and Caroline Walters, NCLA Administrative Assistant.

I am equally indebted to the membership — those who planned the outstanding programs, those who volunteered in numerous indispensable roles, and those who attended as our very special and significant colleagues. Thank you all!

On the occasion of my inauguration, I usher in a biennium of *Productive Engagement*, the theme to characterize my agenda. It is simple, yet explicit; manageable, yet reasonable. The focus will be on accomplishing four goals.

1. Infrastructural Integrity.

On the occasion of the Centennial, I want us to review our Constitution and By-laws for relevance and new purpose.

We will examine all aspects of the organizational structure. I plan to appoint a task force to lead this effort. A most pressing issue is conference frequency. I have heard pro and con sides of this issue and want to hear even more.

2. Strategic Planning.

I want us to produce a strategic plan, which will guide our continued development for the next seven years.

One of the pertinent tasks in this initiative will be to determine membership perceptions about how the organization can become more viable. Information gleaned from a survey should provide insightful data for strategic planning. The Executive Board will be integrally engaged in this process, supported by valued input from the membership.

3. Organizational Outreach.

I want to build bridges and constructively connect with allied organizations.

An ad hoc committee will be appointed to identify allied associations in the state and perhaps the region, and explore possibilities for joint conference sponsorship and other professional development activities.

I foresee a North Carolinian network of librarianship with an expanded mission to be appropriately inclusive.

4. Conference 2004.

In the midst of the three undertakings described above, we will have a very exciting and important conference ably led in planning by John Via.

The conference, a collaborative endeavor of NCLA and the Southeastern Library Association, will be held in Charlotte, November 9-13, 2004. It promises to be both festive and productive.

At the end of my tenure, I hope to have delivered to you an insightful report on our organization, a meaningful strategic plan, a list of consequential connections with allied professionals, and a successful Centennial conference and celebration.

I trust that *all of our efforts* will enhance and advance the entire library community of North Carolina. I am honored to serve you and I enthusiastically look forward to a successful new biennium.