

# Libraries . . . Spread the News

NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

## From the President

As of July 29, 1988, NCLA has its fifth round table. This one doesn't have an official name yet, but it will be devoted to issues of concern to paraprofessionals who work in libraries. This doesn't mean that only paraprofessionals will join this round table. It doesn't mean that paraprofessionals will not continue to be active in other sections and round tables. It does mean that some paraprofessionals who do not currently feel there is a place in NCLA for them will now find a place.

In investigating the possibility of forming this round table, the Committee on Paraprofessional Participation sent a questionnaire to 292 libraries in the state. They received responses from 726 people working in those libraries, and 481 of them indicated interest in joining such a round table if it were formed.

Ann Thigpen of Clinton, Meralyn Meadows from Albemarle, and Jacksonville's Judith Stoddard worked on the questionnaire and the petition for establishment of the round table. I believe that their efforts to establish this round table will benefit North Carolina's paraprofessionals, professionals and the libraries they work in for years to come.

At the July 29 executive board meeting we also heard the first report from the Task Force on Ethical Issues, chaired by Duke's Jerry Campbell. The task force recommends that NCLA join forty-four other state library associations in endorsing the ALA Code of Ethics. The board agreed that this should be presented to the membership at the 1989 conference in Charlotte.

Last biennium's executive board voted to restructure NCLA's finances so that members' dues would support the operating budget and any proceeds from the conference would be reinvested in the conference as well as other special programs and projects initiated by the sections, round tables and committees. Finance Committee Chair Rebecca Taylor presented a plan for implementing this structure at the July executive board meeting. For the first time, all sections and round

tables will receive from NCLA \$600 for use on their 1989 conference programs. Further, sections, round tables and committees will be able to develop proposals for special projects and programs to be funded from the remaining 1987 conference proceeds. NCLA has traditionally been a pretty frugal organization, and it will continue to be so, but this fund will give groups within NCLA a flexibility in planning programs and projects that will be welcome, indeed. The membership will be reaping the benefits of these activities beginning in 1989.

President-elect Barbara Baker has announced the theme of the 1989 conference: "Libraries: Designing for the Nineties." The conference committee is busily making plans for the conference, which will benefit from NCLA's new financial structure at the same time that it will lose LSCA funding for special conference programs. State Librarian Jane Williams has announced that the State Library will no longer offer LSCA grants for conference programs, although funding will still be available for other continuing education activities of NCLA during the biennium. We are all aware that LSCA has plenty of very important priorities for funding, and we were not surprised that it was time for some reordering of the use of those funds. Fortunately, this change comes at a time when NCLA should be able to fund an excellent conference on its own. We would like to thank the State Library for its LSCA funding of conference programs in the past. That aid has helped NCLA establish a standard for excellence in conference programming that we should now be able to continue.

*Patsy J. Hansel, President*

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