



The 65th Biennial Conference of the North Carolina Library Association presents

October 16-20, 2023 • Benton Convention Center • Winston-Salem, NC

# Cultivating Community: Strengthening Roots, Supporting New Growth

## NCLA Executive Board Biennial Reports, October 2023

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### Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) - NC Chapter

Highlights: Over the 2021-2023 biennium period, the ACRL-NC Chapter hosted a half-day virtual conference, two webinars from ACRL, and a membership meeting, conducted a membership survey, and provided multiple scholarships for the NCLA biennial conference. Detailed report: On September 22, 2022, the ACRL-NC Chapter partnered with NC LIVE to present a mini virtual conference, "Virtually Together: Enlightening the Future." This conference featured two presentations, a session of lightning rounds, and an opening keynote by Amy Harris Houk, Assistant Dean for Teaching and Learning at the University of North Carolina Greensboro. Topics included online instruction, online research objects, reflexive practices, and more. During Spring 2023, we hosted two webinars from ACRL: "Programming Library Spaces for Institutional Impact" on February 9th and "Strategies for Teaching Adult Learners" on May 11th. We also surveyed our membership to get both a better idea of who our members are and what they might like to see from us. On July 11, 2023, we hosted a virtual membership meeting which was the first of its kind in past years. Members came together to talk about issues affecting them, particularly artificial intelligence. For the NCLA Biennial Conference, in addition to our business meeting, we hosted a breakfast social with NC LIVE. We also provided four student scholarships and provided a registration scholarship to one member of our section. Submitted by Breanne Crumpton.

### Business Librarianship in NC

Highlights: Over the 65th Biennium, the Business Librarianship in North Carolina (BLINC) Section endeavored to not only create a community for and by information professionals interested in business information, but also create opportunities for information professionals across the state, nation and world to engage with and develop professional skills around the topic of business information literacy. The leadership team for this Biennium consisted of Morgan Ritchie-Baum, Wake Forest University (Chair); Nancy Lovas, UNC Chapel Hill (Vice-Chair); Hannah Hemphill, Durham Co. Public Library (Secretary 2021-2022); Steve Cramer, UNC Greensboro (Secretary 2022-2023); Ophelia Chapman, UNC Wilmington (Treasurer); David Ernsthausen, UNC Chapel Hill (Director-at-Large 2021-2022); Kassie Ettetfagh, Greensboro Public Library (Director-at-Large); and Shaun Bennett, NC State University (Director-at-Large). We held seven free and open-to-all half-day workshops covering a broad-range of topics related to business information literacy, including developing community partnerships, networking as an information professional, the role of AI in business information literacy, and supporting innovation within entrepreneurship. We advocated for and worked with NC LIVE to identify potential subscription library resources that support business information literacy during the biennial resource update. We provided administrative and structural support for six Entrepreneurship and Libraries Conference (ELC) events including librarian pitch

competitions and an international two-day virtual ELC event. Numerous members supported workshops, presentations, and special events for organizations such as NC LIVE, Boston Library Consortium, and the 65th NCLA Biennial Conference. Submitted by Morgan Ritchie-Baum.

### **Community & Junior College Libraries**

During this biennium, the Community and Junior College Section (CJCLS) focused on collaboration and developing meaningful professional development opportunities for community college librarians across the state. Section membership has remained steady, and the section has strong financial support. Due to solid financial backing, the Board voted to donate funds to support the 2023 NCLA Leadership Institute. CJCLS collaborated with the North Carolina Community College Library Association (NCCCLA) in 2022 by creating a non-voting liaison position on their Executive Board to facilitate the exchange of information and ideas between the two groups. Thus, the Chair of CJCLS now attends all NCCCLA board meetings as a non-voting liaison. The section bylaws were updated to reflect this additional responsibility and to represent the section's operation better. During the past biennium, CJCLS hosted several professional development opportunities, including sessions on The Future of Community College Library Spaces, Programming for Pennies, and What is CJCLS? Why Join? During the 2023 NCCCLA conference, we hosted two sessions on Intellectual Freedom in collaboration with the Intellectual Freedom Committee. These sessions were Reboot. Reconsider: Selection and Reconsideration Policies and Prepare to Defend Intellectual Freedom. At the request of NC LIVE, these sessions were also included as part of the 2023 NC Live Conference. The section hosted two panel sessions during NCLA's 65th Biennial Conference in Winston-Salem. These sessions offered opportunities for participants to learn more about community college librarianship. The section also supported a conference scholarship for a library school student interested in community college librarianship to attend the Biennial Conference. On the fun side of the conference, we provided a raffle basket for the biennial raffle. The basket's theme was "Let's Taco about Librarians." Funds

raised from the basket raffle benefited the NCLA Endowment and the section. Finally, CJCLS Board elections were held in August 2023. The following were elected to office: Chair, Dana Glauner, Library Director at South Piedmont Community College; Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect, Laurie Robb, Instruction/Outreach Librarian, Rowan-Cabarrus Community College; Treasurer / Secretary, Jenny Thomas, Library Director, Randolph Community College; Director, Cara McConnell, Director of Academic Enrichment, Johnston Community College; Director, Maria Luisa Saldarriaga Osorio, Library Director, Surry Community College; and Past-Chair, Tim Hunter, Library Director, Rowan-Cabarrus Community College. The new Board was installed during the business meeting at the conference. Submitted by Tim Hunter.

### **Conference Planning**

The 65th Biennial Conference, Cultivating Community: Strengthening Roots, Supporting New Growth, was held at the Benton Convention Center in Winston-Salem October 16-20, 2023. Coming out of the COVID pandemic, this conference marked the return to a primarily in-person event following the hybrid 2021 conference. To facilitate attendance and participation by those unable to attend in-person, a one day virtual only track was offered. The event management platform Whova was utilized to provide the conference schedule as well as live-streamed keynotes, virtual-only presentations, and virtual posters. For those attending in-person, a variety of live presentations were available along with therapy dogs, Zen Den (with guided meditation, tea tasting, etc.), social events, and exhibit hall. There were 765 registrants, with 91 being virtual-only attendance. The conference had 39 exhibitors with 79 leads generated as registered by Whova. There were 14 sponsors with a total commitment of \$20,250.

The following programming was provided: 15 concurrent virtual sessions; 5 pre-conferences (in-person); 3 keynotes (in-person); 3 birds of a feather sessions (in-person); and 75 concurrent sessions (in-person). There were 39 in-person posters and 8 virtual posters. Attendees were given the opportunity to view any recorded sessions for the six months following the conference. The keynote speaker was David Campt, founder of The Dialogue Company,

who presented “Using Dialogue to Fight the Forces of Repression” which was intended to “give encouragement and guidance to people in the library sector who are unsure how to keep their humanity while fighting forces that seem dedicated to fighting key democratic principles such as free speech.” The Ogilvie Lecture honors the late Phillip S. Ogilvie, who served as State Librarian for North Carolina from 1965-1976. It was given by State Librarian, Michelle Underhill, and Annette Taylor, Main Library Manager of Durham County Library. Their lecture, “Cultivating Community and Digital Equity: Strengthening and Extending Roots, Supporting Growth,” involved “a discussion about North Carolina’s past, present, and future initiatives concerning digital access, literacy, and equity.” The closing keynote, “Everybody Needs a Story,” was presented by bestselling author Kwame Mbalia who shared, “a conversation about the need for stories in all forms for people of all ages, cultures, and backgrounds.”

The All-Conference Reception was held on Thursday evening and was hosted by the Forsyth County Public Library. Awards for attendees of NCLA’s Leadership Institute were presented. The following awards were also given at the conference: Life Membership- Dr. David Wright; Distinguished Library Service- Dr. Julie Herberger and Joel Reese; REMCO Roadbuilder Awards-Dr. Latesha Velez (UNCG), LaJuan Pringle (CMPL), and Forrest Foster (NCA&T); Constance Hill Marteena Diversity Award (REMCO)-Jayzmyne Baylor (WCU); Marilyn Miller Award for Professional Commitment (WILR)-Mollie Peuler (AppState); Meralyn G. Meadows Scholarship (NCLPA)-Joy Hollingsworth (AMYRL); Ray Moore Award-Dr. Al Jones (ECU); William H. Roberts Public Library Distinguished Service Award (PLS)-was Pat Familiar (ARL). Scholarships provided by NCLA were: Appalachian Scholarship-Sarah Costello Dwyer; NCLA Memorial Scholarship-Natalie Goretti; and Query-Long Scholarship-Anna Louise Kallas. The All-Conference Luncheon was held on Friday at the Marriott with officers for the 2023-2025 biennium inducted by Lorrie Russell, Assistant Director at High Point Public Library and 2019-2021 President of NCLA. The State Library gave 30 conference scholarships and NCLA sections provided 25 scholarships for library science students

with winners being recognized on social media and at the All-Conference Reception. Librarians Build Communities partnered with the Smart Start Network to collect early childhood books. As of this writing, the financial statements and invoices from the conference have not yet been resolved; however the association remains fiscally strong in its ability to fund special projects and provide seed money for the 2025 conference. Submitted by Dawn Behrend.

## **Constitution, Codes and Handbook Revisions**

**Highlights:** The NCLA Executive Board Handbook was completely revised and posted to the NCLA website. The conference webpages have been updated with a PDF of the “NCLA Conference Handbook.” Almost all Section Bylaws have been added to the “Documents and Links” footer of the section’s homepage. CJCLS, GRS, NMRT, PLS, and YSS revised their Bylaws after consulting with the committee. Lorrie Russell graciously agreed to take the role of chair for the Constitution, Codes, and Handbook Revisions committee during the upcoming biennium. Mark Sanders will stay on as a member. Submitted by Mark Sanders.

## **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**

**Assessment:** The NCLA DEI Committee presented a poster at the 2023 65th Biennial Conference of the NCLA. The scope of this initiative was to introduce the committee to the wider community, present some of the work we have done, and collect information related to areas of DEI our constituents believe we should prioritize. The group gathered this information and will now work on synthesizing it to inform future decisions. **Partnerships:** The group is exploring the possibility of strengthening and operationalizing internal partnerships. We are in conversations with REMCO and the NCLA Intellectual Freedom Committee to explore potential collaboration opportunities. **Newsletter:** The group is exploring the possibility of disseminating a newsletter to promote content related to EDI initiatives, tools, and opportunities for NCLA members. This would include events, resources, contact information, and recommendations. We are currently working on the initial stages of this initiative. Submitted by Rodrigo Castro.

## Government Resources

Highlights: We hosted a virtual section meeting on April 5, 2022, featuring the presentation, "Government Documents: An Introduction for Teachers." We hosted a summer 2022 section meeting/workshop at UNC-Chapel Hill's Friday Center on June 10th, with four presentations and 15 attendees. We updated the section bylaws in October 2022. We sponsored an NCLA Student Conference Scholarship recipient for the 2023 Biennial Conference. David Durant (ECU) took over as Chair in October 2023. We plan to focus our efforts in the next biennium on engaging federal and state depository librarians in North Carolina. We will conduct a survey of federal depository librarians in NC, collaborate with our regional depository librarian at UNC, and hold an in-person meeting/workshop in late spring, with focus on the Federal Depository Library Program. Submitted by David Durant.

## Leadership Institute

2020+2 NCLA Leadership Institute Planning Committee: Juli Moore (Chair), Michael Crumpton, Joel Ferdon, Amanda Glenn-Bradley, Jen Hanft, Kate Hill, Christie Reale, and Libby Stone. Mentors: Jenny Gerami-Markham, Melissa Kammerer, Rachel Olsen, Colleen Pinyan, Jenneffer Sixkiller, and Meghan Wanucha Smith. Cohort: Steve Bahnaman, Krishawna Obele Bele, Dawn Behrend, Sussannah Bishop, Erika Brock, Amanda Cain, Hugh Davis, Chelse Harris, Tiffany Henry, Kathryn Kehoe, Michele Lawrence, Kim Looby, Laurie Lyda, Samantha Martin, Amy Mason, Maria Luisa Saldarriaga Osorio, Melisa Pressley, Lynda Reynolds, Christopher Robinson, Renee Sheehan, Justin Stout, Jamie Stroble, Beth Thompson, Lois Vinson, Kathy Vossler, and Devon Waugh.

Due to COVID-19, the 2020 NCLA Leadership Institute was not held. The Planning Committee served for four years, planning two institutes, and submitting two LSTA grant applications. The cohort selected for 2020 was smaller than usual which allowed a second call for applications to go out when planning for the 2020+2 Institute began. The 2020+2 cohort consisted of 26 members and the Institute was held September 13-16, 2022 at the YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly in Black Mountain,

NC. In addition to the four-day event, each mentee was assigned to a mentor group, attended a one-day follow up session held at the Iredell County Public Library on April 21, 2023, and participated in the 2023 NCLA Biennial Conference. Jami Yazdani of Yazdani Consulting facilitated the Institute and Wanda Brown, Michael Crumpton, Kelly Eubank, Brandy Hamilton, Jen Hanft, and Juli Moore presented on specific topics, complementing Jami's sessions. The cost of the Institute was \$450 per cohort member. This fee covered registration, housing, and all meals. Additional costs were covered through a \$6,000 LSTA Grant from the State Library of North Carolina and donations/contributions from ACRL-NC, Literacy, NCLPA, NCLA President (Libby Stone), NMRT, PLS, RTSS, and WILR. The 2020+2 Leadership Institute graduation was held on Thursday, October 19, 2023 at the All-Conference Reception held at Forsyth County Central Library. The awards were presented by Juli Moore with the assistance of Libby Stone, NCLA President. At the 2023 NCLA Biennial Conference, 19 out of 26 cohort members presented a poster session and/or a presentation session. The Leadership Institute breakfast was during the final poster session held on Friday, October 20, 2023 and cohort members presented posters. In addition, Juli Moore, LI 2020+2 Chair and Joel Ferdon, LI 2024 Chair presented a Leadership Institute poster. The 2024 NCLA Leadership Institute will be held September 10-13, 2024 at the YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly in Black Mountain, NC and the call for applications will go out in early 2024. Submitted by Julianne Moore.

## Library Administration and Management

April 2022: The board focused on updating LAMS web pages, creating a leadership portal, and curating materials for it. Plans for trauma-informed leadership programming were made. Newsletter progress, positive feedback, and plans for the next issue were discussed.

July 2022: Worked on the Summer Edition of LAMS Letters. Faced challenges balancing workloads with professional development. There was interest in bringing back a leadership book or professional article discussion.

October 2022: A meeting was planned to discuss the next newsletter, winter programming, book discussion schedule, and conference planning.

January 2023: There was a membership decrease, and the budget was around \$3500. The Leadership Institute went well, with a focus on personal growth in the upcoming newsletter. The board sought increased participation and sponsorship of NC LIVE leadership workshops.

April 2023: A virtual discussion on managing change and a book discussion on “Making Things Right at Work” took place. Conference plans were discussed, and the decision was made not to present this year, focusing on reworking training for 2024. There was consideration of a survey for a revised “Present Like a Pro” and preparation for a social gathering/meetup during the conference.

July 2023: The board meeting reviewed the budget and membership. Positive feedback was received on the book discussion on “Making Things Right at Work.” Preparation for the fall newsletter with articles on community, book recommendations, and promotion of conference sessions was underway. Plans for a social event at the conference and discussions about LAMS' purpose and future meeting dates were also part of the agenda.

October 2023: A business meeting at the conference included the induction of new members, discussion of roles and responsibilities, and brainstorming ideas for the next biennium. The reports covered updates on website development, programming, newsletters, financial status, membership, Leadership Institute, and conference planning across multiple quarters. Submitted by Brandy Hamilton.

### **Library Advocacy and Legislative**

Highlights: This was the section's first complete biennium. Officers included: LaJuan Pringle, Chair; Denelle Eads, Treasurer; Elizabeth Ellis, Secretary; Morgan Pruitt, Member At-Large. Hosted a workshop with Megan Cusick, Deputy Director for ALA's Public Policy & Advocacy, on how to prepare for the 2023 Legislative Session. LaJuan Pringle joined other North Carolina Library advocates for the 2023 Voices for Libraries fly-in visits with legislators to advocate for continued federal sup-

port of grant programs that fund library services and programs. Revived the North Carolina Student Ambassador Program in 2023 after a hiatus during the pandemic. LALS worked closely with the NCLA Intellectual Freedom Committee to monitor legislation that would have an adverse effect on North Carolina libraries.

Planned Events: Quarterly meetings with members, Student Ambassador Program, Voices for Libraries fly-in, biennial programming. Biennium Goal Reporting: Our goal is to secure officers and revise the bylaws to assist in section succession. Submitted by Elizabeth Ellis.

### **Literacy**

At the NCLA Conference Dr. Michelle Osborne was installed as Chair of the Literacy Section. Submitted by Sarah Miller.

### **NC School Library Media Association**

Highlights: NCSLMA offered well attended and relevant professional development opportunities during the 2021-2023 biennium through the Annual Conferences, Winter Tune-Ups, Summer Learning Series, and the inaugural Librarian Boot Camp. NCSLMA also offered informal opportunities such as the Page Turners Grown Up Book Club and the Brew Crew. Each year, NCSLMA sponsors the Elementary, Middle, and High School Battle of the Books Competitions which lead to a state winner in the spring of each year. They also offer grants and scholarships for school librarians which are announced at the Annual Conferences in October. In April 2022 NCSLMA released a position statement in response to the increase in book challenges happening across North Carolina. NCSLMA stated that it “stands in full support of our members and affirms their professional expertise in selecting materials” in their school libraries. In March 2023, NCSLMA released a position statement in response to SB 49 stating that “NCSLMA also stands with and adheres to ALA's statement. ‘When students enter a school library, two expectations of privacy should be guaranteed: 1) The right to read and borrow library materials free from scrutiny regardless of age, and 2) The right to seek information and have the subject of academic and personal research remain

private.” NCSLMA continues to support, promote, and empower librarians working in K-12 school libraries across North Carolina. NCSLMA held two annual conferences during the biennium with approximately 100 sessions available for attendees at each event. The first was held from October 6-8, 2022, at the Benton Convention Center. The theme for that year’s conference was “We Are Not Alone in the Library.” In 2023, the NCSLMA conference was held on October 5-7, and the theme was “Magic in Your Library.” Approximately 500 people attended each year’s conference. NCSLMA held two Winter Tune-Ups during the biennium. In 2022, there were 9 sessions held between February 14 – March 15. In 2023, nine sessions were held between February 13 – March 15. Two Summer Learning Series were held each year. In 2022, the series was held between July 12 and August 8, and offered five sessions for school librarians. The Summer Learning Series of 2023 was held from July 11 – August 8, and offered five sessions for professional development. Before the beginning of the 2023 school year, NCSLMA held its inaugural Librarian Boot Camp which offered 48 sessions for early career and veteran school librarians. NCSLMA’s Leadership Academy Cohort for 2022 supported the leadership development of 10 school librarians. The 2023 Leadership Academy Cohort had 11 school librarians as participants. NCSLMA offered informal opportunities for school librarians to gather and support one another during the twice monthly Brew Crew sessions throughout 2022 and 2023. Town Hall sessions were offered to provide updates from NC Department of Public Instruction and provide NCSLMA updates throughout the school year. The Page Turners Grown Up Book Club offered a monthly book club and discussion group. Submitted by Delandrus Seales.

### **NC Library Paraprofessional Association**

Highlights: NCLA Conference program: Romance in the Library. NCLPA sponsored a table at the NCLA conference. Brochures, candy and other info were available at the table. It was manned in shifts by Jackie Cornette, Ronald Headen, Joy Hollingsworth, and Nita Williams. We also provided a raffle basket at the NCLA conference. Some of the items included were a portable CD Player, MP3 Player,

2-in-1 Flashlight, 3-pack Super Hero Flash Drives and Flash Drive Carrying Case, USB Car Charger, and Book Light. Held business meeting during the conference. We sponsored one \$50 NCLA scholarship. Officers during this biennium were:

- *Chair:* Ronald Headen, Greensboro Public Library
- *Chair Elect:* La-Nita Williams, Smith Library, High Point University
- *Secretary:* Open
- *Treasurer:* Jackie Cornette, Western Watauga Branch, Sugar Grove
- *Region 1 Director:* Open
- *Region 2 Director:* Open
- *Region 3 Director:* Beth Sheffield, Greensboro Public Library
- *Region 4 Director:* Wendy Barber, Wilkes County Public Library

2022 Highlights: We held a Zoom meeting on February 22, 2022 to discuss NCLPA bylaws and handbook, and to brainstorm fundraising ideas. Our next Zoom meeting was on July 13, 2022. A virtual Meet and Greet was offered at the ECU Paraprofessional Conference. The 56 attendees gave great feedback on what they were interested in having NCLPA offer in the future. Sponsored Greensboro Public Library Author Festival on July 30, 2022. NCLPA Info was distributed at the event. We held a Zoom meeting on November 8, 2022.

2023 Highlights: We held a Zoom meeting on February 21, 2023. Janelle Barbour resigned from her positions as Region 1 Director and Secretary and we welcomed Wendy Barber as Region 4 Director. We began planning for the NCLA Conference in October and worked on implementing ideas for future NCLPA events. We held a Zoom meeting on June 29, 2023. Participated in the 20th Annual ECU Joyner Library Conference on May 10, 2023, sponsoring a NCLPA information table. Diane Hampshire resigned her position as Region 2 Director on May 15, 2023. NCLPA website was updated by Jackie Cornette. Sustaining Wellness Through Creative Reflection and Community Care program was presented on August 8, 2023 with Jewel Davis from Appalachian University.



We currently have 41 NCLPA members. Elections for the upcoming biennium were held and our new officers are:

- *Chair:* La-Nita Williams, Smith Library, High Point University
- *Chair Elect:* Ronald Headen, Hemphill Branch, Greensboro Public library
- *Secretary:* Open
- *Treasurer:* Jackie Cornette, Western Watauga Branch, Sugar Grove
- *Region 1 Director:* Open
- *Region 2 Director:* Open
- *Region 3 Director:* Beth Sheffield, Central Branch, Greensboro Public Library
- *Region 4 Director:* Wendy Barber, Wilkes County Public Library

Our 2023 Meralyn G. Meadows Scholarship winner is Joy Hollingsworth, AMY Regional Library.

## New Members

Our biennium included the introduction of new officers, creating a financial report, and a review of past activities and initiatives, future initiatives and events. We discussed goals to focus events on library specialties with collaboration from different roundtables. We discussed a goal to create programming that addresses the transition from completing library studies to securing employment, and a goal to organize meetups which will be determined at the next meeting. Submitted by Melody Rood.

## Public Library

The Public Library Section held the Fabulous Friday Conference on October 7, 2022. The event was hosted by Durham County Library and held at the newly renovated Main Library. The theme of the event was “From the Ground Up: Rebuilding Connections.” The featured speaker was Dr. Noah Lenstra, Associate Professor from Library and Information Science School of Education at UNC Greensboro. Many of the session topics were focused on building and strengthening our communities through partnerships, creating inclusive and welcoming environments for individuals with disabilities, developing a defense for challenges, and weeding strategies. The

65 attendees were taken on a guided tour of the main library, and a walkthrough of the technology vehicle, which will be dispatched to take STEAM programs to underserved areas in Durham County. The closing session was presented by the State Librarian Michelle Underhill, where she provided the group with some excellent strategies on how to prioritize and set goals. PLS raffled gift baskets to raise funds for Librarians Build Communities. PLS presented Etaf Rum, best-selling author, as our featured speaker at the Wine and Cheese event at the Biennial Conference. Lynda Reynolds participated in a successful panel discussion, “Strengthening North Carolina Public Libraries in the Defense of Intellectual Freedom.” Pat Familiar, Branch Manager from Gates County Public Library, was the recipient of the 2023 William H. Roberts Award. PLS provided contributions to the Leadership Institute and Conference Student Scholarships. During this time, we lost committee members to retirement or relocation: Jeffrey Hamilton, Marian Lytle, Diane Palmieri and Elizabeth Skinner. We were fortunate to welcome new committee members: April Llewellyn, Lynda Reynolds, and Jennifer Rogers. Carrie Lee, a longtime member, filled the vacancy as Vice Chair. Carrie Lee will now serve as Chair in the upcoming Biennium. Biennium Goal Reporting: PLS will continue to discuss and review the Purpose, Goals, and Vision of the section to ensure we are staying abreast with current trends and topics in public libraries. We will develop strategies to attract and recruit new members, and to keep current members interested and involved in PLS. Rachel Webb, PLS webmaster, successfully recruited new members for the marketing committee, who will assist with updating PLS Marketing materials, and who will develop outreach, programming and marketing strategies to reach our members. Committee reviewed and updated PLS bylaws. Collaboration Request: We would like to partner with other sections, collaborate on programs and offer additional outreach programs; especially programs related to library best practices for dealing with banned book issues, and providing training opportunities for professionals and paraprofessionals alike. PLS met with the Chairs of REMCO and Paraprofessional Sections to discuss future collaboration opportunities. Will seek to continue our collaboration partnership with YSS. Submitted by Sandra Lovely.

## **Reference and Adult Services (RASS)**

Highlights: The RASS Board voted to grant Velappan the Chair position and update the Chair-elect, Secretary and Treasurer positions. Biennium Goal Reporting: 1. Recruit new members. 2. Continue to present Buzz sessions. 3. Continue sending new member letters to welcome potential new members, as we have done in the past. Submitted by Michelle Osborne.

## **Resources and Technical Services (RTSS)**

Highlights: We held a successful election of new RTSS officers and one interest group chair for the new 2023-2025 biennium. In-person business meeting was led by incoming chair Lisa Baricella to welcome new officers. RTSS was active in the 2023 conference, hosting a sponsored panel of speakers, one sponsored student scholarship, and a raffle basket contribution.

Detailed Report: For this quarter and for the 2023 Biennium, RTSS successfully elected new board members and actively participated in the conference. New members of the RTSS board for 2023-2025 includes Lisa Baricella as the Chair, Velappan Velappan as Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect, Collin Stiglbauer as Secretary/Treasurer, Beth Ashmore as Director, Christine Fischer in the 2nd Director position, and Doug Short as the new Interest Group Chair for Cataloging. A call for volunteers to fill the remainder of open Interest Group Chairs will go out soon.

This quarter RTSS focused its efforts on preparing for the 65th Biennial Conference. RTSS held an in-person business meeting during the conference led by incoming Chair Lisa Baricella. RTSS also sponsored a panel session entitled “Demystifying Careers in Technical Services: Getting a job, learning the job, growing in the job,” featuring a wide variety of library professionals with experience in Technical Services. Our speakers were Adrian Zeck, Carrie Nichols, Sarah Guy, Shaunta Alvarez and Tim Hunter, with outgoing RTSS Chair Tiffany Henry as session moderator. Additionally, RTSS sponsored one student scholarship for the conference and contributed a basket for the conference raffle. Submitted by Tiffany Henry.

## **Roundtable on Ethnic & Minority Concerns (REMCO)**

Highlights: The executive board had an opportunity to meet and discuss the final conference logistics on October 12th. Brittany Champion requested that each board member prioritize attending sponsored/cosponsored events. To raise visibility, Champion relaunched the hashtag, #REMCoexperience. Its use increased the number of followers on both Facebook and Instagram (IG). We are proud to say that some of our posts were shared on the IG platform of our partner, Black Librarian Male (@theblacklibrarian-male). In addition to increased social media presence, we used Wild Apricot and word of mouth to advertise conference sessions. We sponsored two sessions, including our biennial luncheon, and cosponsored three sessions. In addition to official sessions, we hosted a BIPOC meet-up, proposed by Jazmyne Baylor, our new Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect. In closing, Champion has since updated all files, websites, and social platforms to prepare for the incoming board. Our sessions included: Author Talk featuring Kelly Starling Lyons & Judy Allen Dodson (approximately 40 participants), Cultivating Sustainable Organizations--Real Talk on Serving in Professional Organizations (approximately 50 participants), REMCo Luncheon: Social Justice and Libraries: Strengthening East Greensboro through Archival Collections and Historical Program and Award Ceremony (approximately 64 participants), Business Meeting (16 participants), Zen Den: Mat Yoga and Reflection. We elected new Executive Board members, including: Carlos Grooms- Chair, Jazmyne Baylor- Vice Chair, Chair Elect Joan Hill, Co-Director Velappan Velappan, Co-Director Candace Jacobs, and Secretary/Treasurer. Submitted by Brittany Champion.

## **Scholarships**

Highlights: New committee members for the 2022-2023 Biennium include Michele Lawrence (Perquimans County Library), Shaunta Alvarez (Elon University), and Kathy Vossler (Haywood County Public Library). Biennial Scholarship recipients were selected by the committee and notified/awarded in August 2023.



Detailed Report: Current committee membership includes Katy Henderson, 2024-2030, Chair 2024-2025 - Chatham County Public Libraries; Rachel Olson, 2018-2024 - UNC Greensboro; Michele Lawrence, 2022-2028 - Perquimans County Library; Monica Young, 2020-2026 - Guilford Technical Community College; Shaunta Alvarez, 2022-2028 - Elon University and Kathy Vossler, 2022-2028 - Haywood County Public Library. In October 2022, former committee member Jennifer Winford resigned from the Scholarship Committee after taking a new non-library position. The committee chair put out a recruitment call via the NCLA listserv, which had a large response, and selected Michele Lawrence (Perquimans County Library) to fill the vacated position. Scholarships committee chair prepared and submitted a budget request for the 2023 scholarship cycle after conferring with committee members on award amounts. The Finance Committee agreed to fund the following scholarships for the 2022-2023 Biennium: NCLA Memorial Scholarship - \$1000, Appalachian Scholarship - \$1000, Query-Long Scholarship - \$1000. President Libby Stone initiated a discussion around updating the language in the handbook regarding scholarships and promoting/soliciting donations to the scholarship funds so that more funds may be distributed biennially via the NCLA Scholarships Committee. In April 2023, a Scholarships Task Force met to discuss the possibility of changing the language in the NCLA Handbook to set a minimum award amount for each scholarship going forward, to allow for flexibility in both dollar amount and possibly the number of scholarships awarded (minimum of one each for Appalachian, McLendon, NCLA Memorial, and Query-Long). Finance Committee chair Paul Birkhead confirmed that the North Carolina Community Foundation gives us an amount that we can withdraw/distribute one time during the year. We appear to be in good shape to offer larger scholarships and/or more scholarships in the next Biennium, but this will have to be discussed further as we near our next budget request period. Language reflecting the above changes was added to the Handbook. For the 2022-2023 Biennium, the scholarships committee collaborated via email and Google docs to review

and score the 21 complete applications we received. The committee selected the following recipients: Appalachian Scholarship - Sarah Dwyer (UNC Chapel Hill), NCLA Memorial Scholarship - Natalie Goretti (NCCU), and Query-Long Scholarship - Anna Louise Kallas (UNC Greensboro). Winners were notified in August 2023, and checks were sent out by NCLA Treasurer Lara Luck. Scholarships were announced at the Biennial Conference Ogilvie Lecture in October 2023. Katy Henderson has agreed to serve as Scholarships Committee chair for the 2024-2025 biennium. Submitted by Katy Henderson.

### **Special Collections**

At the conference this year the section held a meet and greet in person with coffee and pastries. It was good to meet people and talk about the work of the section. The section also held its business meeting via zoom during the conference. The following slate of officers was approved: Kathelene Smith, Chair; Travis Souther, Vice-Chair; Stacey Krim, Treasurer and Secretary; Alston Cobourn, Director; Jennifer Daugherty, Director; Jessica Janecki, Past Chair. We do not have any events currently planned. Submitted by Jessica Janecki.

### **Technology & Trends**

Highlights: Over the course of this Biennium, the Technology and Trends section created a virtual technology help request form, encouraging all NCLA members to utilize Technology and Trends member expertise for assistance with technology questions. We hosted a webinar about the technology that kept us afloat during the height of the COVID pandemic. At the end of the '23 conference, we elected new officers and held a well-attended business meeting to identify member interests and future programming directions.

### **Women in Libraries**

Women in Libraries during the 2022-2023 Biennium strived to meet no less than quarterly, but often met bimonthly since we were still mostly meeting virtually. We hosted three webinars in 2022. The first webinar was "Meet ALA Presidential Candidate Emily Drabinski" in March 2022; it was a meet

and greet that 22 participants attended. In June 2022, we hosted “Quantifying Our Worth: Revisiting What We Measure with Statistics” with panelists Amanda Johnson from the State Library, Carol McCollum from Wake County Public Libraries and Mary Sizemore from High Point Public Library. This webinar discussed how stats are collected, experiences with statistics and quantifying library usage, and how to ensure that you’re accurately reflecting your library’s impact on the community, especially post-COVID. Our final webinar, “How to Get Involved in NCLA,” in 2022 was cosponsored by Leadership, Administration, and Management and the New Members Roundtable. Panelists included representation from each section that sponsored with varying levels of experience with NCLA. The panelists were Wanda Brown, Melody Rood, Brandy Hamilton, Michelle Hildreth, and Mark Sanders. We also supported the Leadership Institute by purchasing copies of *Dare to Lead* by Brené Brown for the current cohort. In 2023, we focused on planning for the Biennial Conference and obtaining nominations for the Marilyn Miller Award. We had discussed creating a second award this biennium so one could be focused on mid-career and the other would be more like a lifetime achievement award, but we decided to not pursue this at this time. For the conference we hosted a luncheon featuring a talk on “Cultivating Community” by Jamie DeMent Holcomb, North Carolina farmer, cookbook author, entrepreneur, and CEO of Kidzu. The Marilyn Miller Award winner, Mollie Peuler, for 2023 was announced. Our new slate of officers was also announced. At the conference, WIL offered two sessions in addition to the luncheon. One session was cosponsored by REMCo and featured North Carolina authors Judy Allen Dodson and Kelly Starling Lyons. It was entitled “American Dreams: Celebrating Black Heroes and History.” They shared excerpts from their work and how Black Heroes are featured in their stories. The other session cosponsored with LAMS was “Surviving to Thriving: Cultivating Healthy Workplace Environments” which was a panel of managers and administrators who talked about what they do to cultivate a healthy workplace. The biennium goals identified were mostly met. Our goals were to offer 2-3 edu-

cational sessions a year, to plan for the conference, to create a new award, and to update the election process in the bylaws. All goals were met, except for the creation of a new award, which we decided to wait on. Submitted by Michelle Hildreth.

## Youth Services

We had a great time last biennium with a Renewing and Refreshing YSS Retreat in November 2022. Members were able to learn about current topics, share ideas, and relax in Western NC. We awarded 5 Let’s Get Creative grants to public libraries in NC in April 2023. The winning proposals were for circulating STEM kits, pop-up plays, electronics, Trick-or-Trot family 5K event, and Young Adult gardening workshops. It will be exciting to hear how their grant projects play out. NMRT and YSS hosted a Trivia Night at NCLA conference where attendees enjoyed light refreshments and Jeopardy-style trivia on various topics from library literature to pop-culture. Laughs were heard all around. Our new YSS board members, listed below, are excited to craft goals for the next biennium. Officers are:

- Vice Chair/Chair Elect--Tracy Bagnato, Southeast Regional Library, Wake County Public Library
- Treasurer--John Russell, Lincoln County Public Library
- Director of Membership--Anna Monroe-Stover, Onslow County Public Library
- Director at Large--Jen Dickenson, Polk County Public Libraries
- Scholarship & Grant Director--Katie Broughey, Southern Pines Public Library
- Secretary--Varin Worthington, Neuse Regional Libraries
- Past Chair--Lisa Donaldson, Henderson County Public Library

The Youth Services report was submitted by Amanda Weaver.

# NCLA Executive Board Business Meeting

## Friday, October 20, 2023

### Winston Salem, NC – Benton Convention Center

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Attending: Members of the North Carolina Library Association

The meeting was called to order by President Libby Stone at 12:49 p.m.

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#### Welcome - Libby Stone

Libby thanked everyone for joining us in person for the 65th Biennial Conference. She also acknowledged the Local Arrangements Committee and Forsyth County Public Library. Libby thanked the Executive Board and the Conference Planning Committee and Dawn Behrend for planning a great conference and expressed her gratitude to them for their hard work. Libby announced the winners of the raffle basket drawings. She announced winners of the LAMS table raffle and the Passport to NCLA winner.

#### Treasurer's Report – Lara Luck

Lara began her report by thanking Libby, and the rest of the Finance Committee. She also thanked Amy and Lorrie for their help and advice. This year our finances have gone up and down, and ended financially stronger than we started. Thanks to all the members for attending and supporting workshops and sessions. Section finance reports went out last weekend; if you didn't get your report, please email [treasurer@nclaonline.org](mailto:treasurer@nclaonline.org). The scholarships have been given already. The Leadership Institute is still in the black; all the bills are paid. Conference profits stand at \$51,000, but that number will change. All the activity that has happened the last few weeks goes out in the fourth quarter. Our \$228,882.54 budget is on track, there was an amendment regarding liability insurance.

Section Chair reports are due November 30. Submit in the same way you have before on the website <https://nclaonline.org/executive-board-submissions>.

There is a motion pending from NCLA Constitution, Codes and Handbook Revisions Committee. Floor was opened for discussion or questions but none were brought forward. They were sent out 30 days before via email. All members were encouraged

to use QR code on the tables to vote. Libby will email the results next week. Updated results, 114 unanimously voted to approve the motion.

Libby provided some personal reflections and future advice as she steps into a new role as Past President, as this is a six year commitment. For the first two years, I planned a conference during a pandemic. My second two years were challenging with hybrid meetings. We made it through, kept close to our goals and initiatives. New graduates coming in from Leadership Institute, some stay on in supportive roles. I'll be looking for new board members as the Past President, please answer my call!

Libby asked Lorrie Russell to come forward to administer the oath of office. There was a special presentation to Lorrie. Currently SELA representative, Treasurer, Membership Committee, LAMS Chair, Past President. Libby presented Lorrie with a gavel.

#### Swearing In- Lorrie Russell

As a member in good standing, Lorrie considered it an honor to swear in the incoming board. Lorrie asked for all past presidents to stand. There are a total of 15 still with us, even though not all present today.

1987-1989: Patsy J. Hansel  
1989-1991: Barbara A. Baker  
1995-1997: David Fergusson  
1997-1999: Beverley Gass  
1999-2001: Plummer Alston "Al" Jones, Jr.  
2001-2003: Ross Holt  
2003-2005: Pauletta Brown Bracy  
2005-2007: Robert Burgin  
2007-2009: Phil Barton  
2009-2011: Sherwin Rice  
2011-2013: Wanda Brown  
2013-2015: Dale Cousins

2015-2017: Rodney Lippard  
2017-2019: Mike Crumpton  
2019-2021: Lorrie Russell

She read off each of the 15 names. Extended gratitude to Libby Stone as newest Past President. Installation of officers for 66th biennium. Recognized incoming Board Members; President: Dawn Behrend, Lenoir Rhyne University; Vice President/President-Elect: Lara Luck, Forsyth County Public Library; Secretary: Jonathan Furr, Highpoint Public Library; Treasurer: Kate Engelbrecht, STV company in Charlotte; Treasurer-Elect: Mark Sanders, East Carolina University; Regional Director Western, Breanne Crumpton, Appalachian State University; Regional Director Piedmont, Kathy Shields, Wake Forest University.

Dawn introduced Alan Bailey, Professor Emeritus at East Carolina University. Alan Bailey has served as a public school librarian, a branch manager of a public library, and has worked in community college and university libraries. He is the author of the book, *Building a Core Print Collection for Preschoolers* and considers serving on the Randolph Caldecott Award Committee and the Coretta Scott King Book Awards Jury two of his career highlights. He has been an ac-

tive member of the Coretta Scott King Book Awards Committee for 17 years and served as the committee's 2019-2020 Chair. Upon his retirement from East Carolina University, he was appointed Professor Emeritus and currently serves as an adjunct Teaching Professor for ECU's Master of Library Science Program.

### **Closing Keynote Speaker**

Alan Bailey introduced Kwame Mbalia, whose debut middle-grades novel was awarded Coretta Scott King and Children's Africana Award, *Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky*. Other titles include "Last Date of the Emperor" series, and *Black Boy Joy*. Mbalia is a Howard University grad who survives on dad jokes and Cheez-Its. His presentation focused on, "Everyone Needs a Story." Equity equation: information + access = opportunity is the takeaway. Empathy= treat each book like it's someone else's birthday party.

The Business Meeting ended at 1:13 p.m.

Dawn resumed the meeting at 2:22 to make closing remarks about the 66th Biennial Conference to be held Oct 13-17, 2025. Winner for conference registration drawing, Kathryn Nesbitt. Dawn Behrend adjourned the closing session at 2:23 p.m.

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