

Legislative Day, Washington, D.C., April 6, 1976

by **H. William O'Shea**
Wake County Public Libraries

The North Carolina Library Association Executive Board approved the following objectives for the Federal Relations Coordinator at the December 4, 1975 meeting: (1) to inform the membership of the North Carolina Library Association (NCLA) of Federal legislation affecting libraries which is under consideration and legislation which has been enacted; (2) to inform officials at the Federal level of the needs of all types of libraries in North Carolina; (3) to advise the membership of NCLA when and how it is appropriate to approach governing officials to express the views of NCLA on

legislation and appropriations affecting libraries.

In order to accomplish these objectives it became necessary to establish an information network of representatives from libraries, which included one person from each of the state's 11 Congressional districts, plus a chairman. This committee had at least two members from each of the following NCLA sections: College, Community College, Public, School and Trustee. The committee members were to appoint a sub-committee made up of a librarian from each county in their congressional district, making an effort to have as nearly as possible an equal distribution of representatives from the

* H. William O'Shea is the Federal Relations Coordinator for NCLA

above named NCLA sections. The subcommittee members would be responsible for disseminating information to all of the librarians within their respective county.

Each member of the 12-person Federal Relations Committee was to subscribe to the *ALA WASHINGTON NEWSLETTER*. The committee was to report and receive direction from the Executive Board of NCLA, and would expect the Board to indicate those specific proposals which the Federal Relations Committee should support. The Federal Relations Committee was to keep the membership of NCLA informed on impending legislation and to propose action for the membership to take in response to legislation, such as appropriate times to call, write, or visit local representatives in Congress concerning specific matters of Association interest.

The Committee was to go to Washington at least once a year and, as a body, visit each of North Carolina's legislators in the United States Senate the House of Representatives. This would be a planned trip with appointments set up ahead of time. The Committee, through its member from the district in which the Congressman resides, could relay problems and concerns of all types of libraries in North Carolina. The Federal Relations Committee advises the membership of times at which letters of appreciation, letters of concern, annual reports, and visits to representatives of Congress would be appropriate.

The Federal Relations Committee was also to present reports of its activities to the Executive Board of NCLA

and publish periodic reports in *NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARIES*.

The persons appointed to serve as District Federal Relations Coordinators were:

H. William O'Shea, Chairman
Wake County Public Libraries
104 Fayetteville Street
Raleigh, N. C. 27601

District I
Louise Boone, Director
Albemarle Regional Public Library
Box 68
Winton, North Carolina 27986

District II
A. A. Zollicoffer, Jr. (Trustee)
Attorney at Law
Henderson, North Carolina 27536

District III
Gary Barefoot, Librarian (College)
Mount Olive College
Mount Olive, North Carolina 28365

District IV
John Johnson, Librarian (Community College)
Durham Technical Institute
Durham, North Carolina 27707

District V
Una Edwards, ESEA Title II (School)
Alleghany High School
Main Street, Box 197
Sparta, North Carolina 28675

District VI
Martha Davis, Director (Public)
Rockingham County Library
527 Boone Road
Eden, North Carolina 27288

District VII

Willie McGough, Librarian (Comm. College)

Cape Fear Technical Institute
411 N. Front Street
Wilmington, North Carolina 28401

District VIII

Pearlie Coefield, Librarian (College)
Barber Scotia College
Concord, North Carolina 28025

District IX

Lila Friday (Trustee)
Lithia Inn Road
Lincolnton, North Carolina 28092

District X

Mary Tolbert (School)
Media Services Coordinator
Caldwell County Public Schools
PO Box 1590, Connelly Springs Road
Lenoir, North Carolina 28645

District XI

Katherine Scruggs, Genl. Supvr.
(School)
Rutherford County Public School
Box 1060
Highway 74
Rutherfordton, North Carolina 28139

Tuesday, April 6, 1976, was designated by the American Library Association and the District of Columbia Library Association as Legislative Day in Washington. By action of the NCLA Board at its meeting on December 4, 1975, North Carolina was to have representation and participate. Appointments were established with six North Carolina Representatives and both Senators; two Representatives were going to be out of town and the others advised that appointments

should be made upon arrival in Washington. The original delegation consisted of nine librarians representing college, community college, public and school libraries. Unfortunately, due to illness and unforeseen events, three of the members were forced to drop out which meant there was no school or community college representation. Those who participated were: Louise Boone, 1st District, Gary Barefoot, 3rd District, Bill O'Shea, 4th District; Nancy Fullbright, 5th District; Martha Davis, 6th District; and Dr. Annette Phinazee, representing the association as its president and also representing a North Carolina library school.

The delegation departed from the Raleigh and Greensboro airports on 7:00 A.M. flights on April 6, and arrived in Washington in time for the 8:30 A.M. briefing session conducted by Eileen Cooke, ALA Washington representative, to discuss matters which should be brought to the attention of the Representatives.

The ALA staff and the District of Columbia Library Association had prepared packets of information for each Senator and Representative, briefly outlining funding for each type of library and various legislative proposals being considered that would have some effect on libraries. Information concerning the use of federal monies in North Carolina libraries, obtained by Carol Southerland of the Department of Community Colleges, Elsie Brumbach of the Department of Public Instruction, Marian Leith of the North Carolina State Library, and Charles R. Coble of the University of North Carolina, was added to the packets to be delivered to

North Carolina Representatives and Senators. In spite of the inevitable problem of members being called to the floor for votes on legislation in which they had a particularly high stake, the Committee was well received. Mr. Hefner of the 8th District and Mr. Taylor of the 11th District were not available for discussions because their presence was required on the floor the entire afternoon; their legislative aides were seen. The delegation met with Walter Jones of the 1st District, Stephen Neal of the 5th, Richardson Preyer of the 6th, Jim Martin of the 9th, and Senator Bob Morgan. Representative Jim Broyhill, of the 10th District and Senator Jesse Helms were both called from the floor; Representative Andrews of the 4th District and Henderson of the 3rd were both ill, but legislative aides represented them. (Representative Rose of the 7th District was out of town.)

A reception was held from 5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. for the Congressmen at which Martha Davis, Nancy Fullbright and Annette Phinazee represented NCLA. L. H. Fountain of the 2nd District was not in office during the day but was at the reception where there was an opportunity to talk with him.

The NCLA delegation discussed with North Carolina Representatives and Senators and their Aides the importance of the continuation of the Higher Education Act to the colleges and universities of North Carolina. North Carolina is among the eight states receiving the greatest number of grants under the Higher Education Act, Titles II-A and II-B. This Act provides funding for college library resources, and, as librarians of North Carolina report, the

devastating effects of continued increases in the cost of books, periodicals, postage and other operational expenses combined with tighter budgets, make the \$5,000 basic grants provided to libraries under Title II-A essential for continued service.

Two thirds of the money appropriated under Title II-B of the HEA are designed for college programs which provide training for librarians and library educators. The remaining one third is earmarked for support of research and demonstration projects. Library school deans state the importance of training funds, particularly in recruiting minority candidates.

Elementary and Secondary Education Act Title IV-B provides grants to states for school library materials, educational equipment, and guidance counseling and testing. In FY 1976, half the funds were allocated through the newly consolidated Title IV-B, and half through the categorical program it replaces — ESEA Title II, part of ESEA Title III and the National Defense Education Act. It is still too early to tell how the new program is working at the state and local levels. However, there is a continuing need for establishing and upgrading school libraries, as well as an increasing need for materials to support a renewed emphasis on such basic skills as reading and writing. The need for categorical funding for the school libraries with a minimum of 50 percent of the funding appropriated in the Elementary and Secondary Education Acts was stressed to the North Carolina delegation.

The Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) Title I authorizes

funding for public library services, Title II for public library construction, and Title III for interlibrary cooperation. Since 1973, the average cost of a book has increased 33 percent, from \$12.20 to \$16.10. Over the same period of time, federal grants for public libraries (LSCA) have been cut by 39 percent, from \$84,500,000 to \$51,749,000 in 1976. To prevent continued erosion of public library support, FY 1977 appropriations for LSCA should be restored to the 1973 level, at the very least. North Carolina reported that if LSCA Title II federal matching funds were available, nine construction projects could be underway by July, 1976 and 15 additional projects within the next two years, for a total of 24 building programs. LSCA Title III grants are aimed at increasing cooperation among all types of libraries across jurisdictional lines, and have greatly increased the general public's access to books and information.

The delegation also informed North Carolina's Congressmen of the importance of the following to North Carolina libraries: (1) Federal Revenue Sharing funds used in the operation of public libraries; (2) the problems which libraries will face if the postal service proposed increases in rates take effect with no exclusion for the mailing of instructional and library materials was discussed; (3) copyright provisions as they are now proposed prohibit, but do not define, "systematic reproduction or distribution of single or multiple copies" by libraries of all types. (ALA is asking that that section of the proposed copyright legislation be deleted); (4) enabling legislation for a White House Conference on library and information service (PL93-568) which has been

enacted. All of the members of the planning body have been appointed excepting those to be appointed by the President. The reason for such a conference is in order to formulate plans for future development of library and informational services to the nation and to prepare a composite report of the sources available. It is essential that it be a White House Conference due to the prestige of the White House and the position of the Presidency.

Letters have been sent to North Carolina Representatives and Senators expressing appreciation for their time and interest. The NCLA Federal Relations Committee will continue to keep Congressmen informed concerning legislation and funding proposals that will have an influence on any of the libraries in the state.

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