



stand up for libraries

NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

From The President

In The News. NCLA and NCLAs have been in the news in recent months, and it has been impressive. I attended the ALA conference in Chicago this summer and decided that my schedule would be to appear anywhere and everywhere an NCLAs was on a program, receiving an award, presenting a paper or workshop, etc. Try as I did, I couldn't get to every one of the events, so many were there. Everywhere I turned Tar Heels were there and involved and leading and being recognized. The headline news was that Dr. Marilyn Miller of the School of Library Science/UNC-Chapel Hill was elected on a write-in ballot as president-elect of the American Association of School Librarians. Also, NCLA's Intellectual Freedom Committee under the leadership of Dr. Gene Lanier received the ALA Intellectual Freedom Round Table's State Program Award. The award recognized the program which has been carried out by Dr. Lanier and his committee for the past several years. If you read the papers, you will know that they have had ample cause to be busy, too! Our congratulations to these folks and also to all of the other Tar Heels who believe that we are a part of a bigger library world and work for its betterment.

Louise Boone. By the time this reaches the printer, Miss Louise V. Boone, Director of the East Albemarle Regional Library System, will have retired. She has earned her retirement, in fact she has earned a splendid retirement. No one has labored more faithfully and fairly and effectively for the betterment of libraries in our state than has this charming lady. Louise Boone has served as chairman of the Governmental Relations Committee, leading the troops to Washington, to Raleigh, or to any place needed to rally-the-flag and spread the gospel of library service. It mattered not whether the issue at hand directly affected her eastern North Carolina library system. If it is good for libraries—any libraries—count on Louise Boone to be there and to be heard. She has our admiration, our deepest gratitude, our best wishes, and our love.

New Libraries. Two library systems recently dedicated new library facilities, and I had the pleasure of representing you at the festivities. The Davidson County Public Library System, Mrs. Nancy Bates—Director, has moved its headquarters library into a newly renovated grocery store ... and such a grocery store! Dr. William Friday, President of the Consolidated University of North Carolina, was the principal speaker, and there were large numbers of well-wishers there, also. The Thomas H. Leath Memorial Library in Rockingham, William Bridgman—Director, Jake Killian—Chairman of the Board, was dedicated in late July. Secretary of Cultural Resources Patric Dorsey introduced Governor James G. Martin who had the dedication address; Lt. Governor Robert Jordan III brought greetings; and a host of other dignitaries shared in the limelight of this glorious day. (The Leath Library, by the way, is a former grocery store, too! "Mr. Winn Dixie" would be green with envy if he saw these two buildings now.) There have been other dedications which I have not been able to attend, but each represents one more testimony to the movement in our great state for the improvement and expansion of library services to all. We have much for which to be proud ... and thankful.

New News. Our sections have been active in their own right as publishers of newsletters for their members. July saw the appearance of the newest one, "The Reference Desk," published by the Reference and Adult Services Section, Joel Sigmon—editor. It promises to become a mainstay in NCLA's publishing efforts. Our congratulations.

Reflections. It is now mid-August and the pace has been fast and furious for many NCLAs working to pull together the most outstanding conference ever. October 2-4 in Raleigh will be a "shower of stars." Governor and Mrs. James G. Martin, Lt. Governor Robert Jordan III, Attorney General Lacy H. Thornburg, Secretary of Cultural Resources Patric Dorsey, Associate N.C. Superintendent of Public Instruction Dudley Flood, ALA President Emeritus E.J. Josey, Congressman

Major Owens, author David McPhail, author Joe McGinniss, and Ogilvie Lecturer Charles V. Petty comprise a most impressive line-up. I cannot remember in my twenty years with NCLA ever having this many public figures accepting invitations to share in our biennial conference—and it's not even an election year! I think this indicates that NCLA and the library movement across our state have been energized. We are "Standing Up for Libraries" and being counted on to represent and to explain that which is good and that which can be improved. There is momentum and progress; it is essential that we continue it.

The past two years for me personally have been rewarding. I have met librarians and friends of libraries across this state and region whom I would not otherwise have had the opportunity to meet; I have learned more about and greatly increased my awareness of and appreciation for types of libraries other than that in which I work; I have had reaffirmed the inherent goodness in others as time and time again acts of kindness, concern, hard work and professionalism are exhibited by NCLAers from one end of the state to the other; I have been amazed at the time and money and effort and distances traveled which librarians will incur in order to do their part in this great march forward. You, my friends, are an impressive association in every sense of the word.

I salute especially those who have been in leadership positions this biennium, and there are many, too many to list. The executive board has been outstanding. They worked hard and with good humor and patience. The committee chairmen have made impressive contributions. The conference committee is professional and tireless in its work. The staff of the State Library has belonged to the association, supported and worked with us, and we are grateful. Our new friend in the Department of Cultural Resources, Secretary Patric Dorsey, has come to our meetings, participated in our activities, helped in so many ways. We welcome her and look forward to a continuation of this special association.

You have been asked to "Stand Up for Libraries" these past two years, and that you have done. All over this state there is renewed evidence of growing appreciation and advocacy for libraries, and it is thanks to the leadership and work of each of you. As Jamie Wyeth said so eloquently: "Working within the framework of a strong tradition can produce many achievements that create their own tradition." We have a splendid and challenging tradition in NCLA out of which will come an even finer tradition of service. I salute you all. And I thank you for the honor of

serving this past term as your president. I commend to you a charming lady, your new president, Mrs. Pauline F. Myrick, as she works with you in "Exalting Learning and Libraries." God Bless.

Leland M. Park, President



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