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NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

From the President

For eighteen months the NCLA 1987 Conference Planning Committee met to plan the events of October 28-30, 1987, in Winston-Salem. Though technically responsible for this conference, I was actually responsible in the same way that many politicians are responsible for things; that is, *I did not do it*. Until about a week before the conference, however, it had not occurred to me how little I had done and how much so very many other people had done. I've liked and respected a lot of librarians in my time, but by October 29, I was in love with several hundred of them, starting with the entire staff of the Forsyth County Public Library. Everybody on that staff worked on the conference, either directly or by covering a desk while somebody else did.

FCPL people also formed the core of the conference committee itself, beginning with Director Bill Roberts, whose support of the NCLA led him to close his libraries Wednesday evening for the President's Reception and all day Thursday so that his staff could attend and host the conference. Associate Director Sylvia Sprinkle-Hamlin was in charge of hospitality, which meant everything from the party at the library to the Haunted House to signs to flowers. Assistant Director for Headquarters David Fergusson was Conference Manager. He was taking care of details for several months leading up to the conference and he was everywhere at the conference doing the same. On his way to the first session, David foiled an attempted mugging. He seemed to accept it as all in a day's work; after all, he had a conference to run.

FCPL Assistant Director for Extension Art Weeks was public relations director for the conference. Art designed the printed program, which for the first time included paid advertising. The program was printed by Brodart, thanks to vendor representative Michael Wilder. We thank Mike and Brodart not only for their financial support of the conference, but also for Mike's helpful ideas and unwavering support in those early days

when the committee was making some decisions that seemed risky at the time. One of those decisions was to carpet the entire exhibit hall, and that meant raising prices for exhibit booths, and that could have meant losing exhibitors. The reverse occurred. Our stellar exhibits committee led by Mary Louise Cobb, chair (Wake Forest University Law Library), Susan Taylor (Salem College) and John Via (Wake Forest University) sold 137 booths, a 33% increase over the 1985 conference. The exhibits committee had the most to do over the longest period of time, starting many months ago with updating the exhibitor mailing list. They accomplished the most successful NCLA exhibits ever, from both the conference-goers' and the vendors' point of view. Some vendors said it was the best regional or state conference that they had attended in years, and who are we to argue with that. Michael Markwith, Faxon, was the other vendor representative on the conference committee. He came to the committee late, but offered invaluable support, especially regarding exhibit logistics.

Kieth Wright (UNC-G) was in charge of NCLA's first conference placement center. He did not fret when Mary Louise sold his original space out from under him to exhibitors, but coordinated a fine placement center and has plans for even better ones in the future.

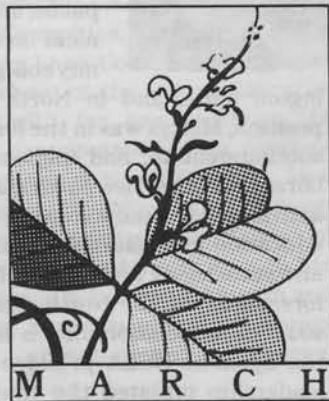
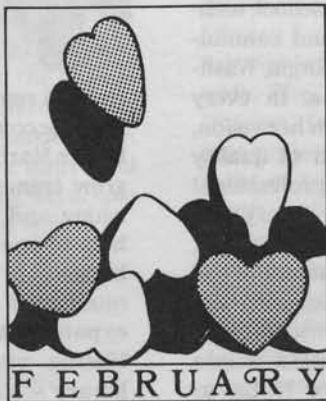
Ann Gehlen, again from Forsyth County Public Library and again with help from numerous FCPL staffers, handled thousands of pieces of paper to ensure that over 1700 (a record) librarians and exhibitors were registered. Her group organized the pre-conference mailing and pre-registration, as well as preparation of registration packets for distribution during the conference. President Pauline Myrick's organizational skills and quiet encouragement provided support for everyone throughout the planning and the conference itself. Treasurer Nancy Fogarty's astute financial guidance helped ensure what will probably turn out to be a record conference for NCLA financially.

The bulk of the conference activities were programs planned by the sections and round tables and committees. All of the ones that I attended and heard about were excellent. With the implementation of the new dues structure, we hope that more of the conference proceeds can be used to underwrite conference expenditures by units of NCLA. Special thanks go to the Division of State Library for continuing support of NCLA unit activities through LSCA grants.

It's pretty frightening for somebody like me to realize suddenly, midway through a production as large and complicated as the conference has become, that the whole thing is being managed by a bunch of amateurs with me as their titular

leader. Never before have I so completely understood what people mean when they say other people make them look good. Together these "other people"—conference organizers, committee members, section and round table program planners, packet stuffers, punch pourers—made this whole organization look good. Please thank them when you see them. And tell them how much you are going to enjoy working with them to ensure that this organization continues to look good and to be good for library service in North Carolina.

Patsy J. Hansel, President



Over to You

Letters to the Editor

NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARIES invites your comments. Please address and sign with your name and position all correspondence to: Frances B. Bradburn, Editor, NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARIES, 2431 Crabtree Boulevard, Raleigh, N.C. 27604. We reserve the right to edit all letters for length and clarity. Whenever time permits, persons most closely related to the issue under discussion will be given an opportunity to respond to points made in the letter. Deadline dates will be the copy deadlines for the journal: February 10, May 10, August 10, and November 10.

Dear Editor:

Congratulations on the fall issue of North Carolina Libraries! It is an outstanding one.

Best wishes,
Patricia D. Pearl
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Martinsville, Virginia 24112