

Libraries . . . Spread the News

NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

From the President

NCLA's biennial work has begun. The sections and round tables are geared up for action and twenty-one NCLA-wide committees are getting themselves organized. Of these, one was moribund and is being revived (Goals & Objectives) and six are new. Since creating six brand-new committees might seem excessive to some of you, let me explain how they came about.

Management and Administration, or something similar, was suggested by several people on their NCLA interest forms distributed with the conference publicity, and I could not resist the acronym possibilities (NCLA-MaD). Also, management is one of my own special interests and something I think most of us librarians could do better. Judith Sutton, Associate Director of the Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, and one of our profession's most professional administrators, has agreed to chair this committee.

NCLA has had publicity committees in the past, but lately librarians have begun to realize that they need to go beyond publicizing what they have to finding out what new markets there might be for additional services librarians offer. Marketing is something Assistant State Librarian Howard McGinn can get positively passionate about, so I am pleased that he has agreed to chair a committee on **Marketing and PR**.

Publications is a committee that was recommended by the Futures Committee last year, and I concur in their belief that publications is a fertile field that NCLA has only begun to explore. The Publications Committee will review NCLA-wide publications (as opposed to those created by sections or roundtables) to determine whether those we have are meeting our needs. They will also investigate the possibility of publishing as a source of income for the association. Mary McAfee, Head of Humanities Reference at Forsyth County Public Library and a veteran of editorial boards ranging from *Down East* to *NCL*, will chair Publications.

Those of us responsible for filling librarian positions know that we don't get as many as we

used to. We're not sure why this is happening, since low salaries and a questionable image didn't prevent the glut of the seventies; but maybe NCLA's new **Recruitment** Committee will be able to find out. The chair is Sylvia Sprinkle-Hamlin, Associate Director of the Forsyth County Public Library and one who has written on this topic for *NCL*.

The Committee on **Service to Special Populations** will be charged with making all of us more aware of the problems that non-traditional library patrons may have in using our libraries, and with helping us learn how to make their access to our libraries easier. Nelda Caddell, Media and Technology Consultant at the South Regional Education Center in Carthage, has agreed to spearhead this effort.

I am excited about the possibilities for all of these committees, but none more than the Committee on **Paraprofessional Participation**. Anne Thigpen, Assistant Director of the Sampson-Clinton Public Library, is the chair of this committee, which is charged with advising NCLA on what it can do to benefit the large contingent of paraprofessionals who form the backbone of libraries in this state. This committee has met once and is already surveying paraprofessionals in the state to determine whether there is an interest in organizing a roundtable on paraprofessional concerns within NCLA. This committee may become the shortest-lived in NCLA history.

In addition to the new committees, I have established one task force—on ethical issues. Duke's Dr. Jerry Campbell has agreed to lead this group to investigate what ethical issues librarians face in this state, and whether there is a need for a structure within NCLA for dealing with these issues.

On the next page is a list of all the committees and their chairs. If there is something that you would like one of them to consider, pass the information along to the chair. That is one more way for you to participate in the work of this organization.

Patsy J. Hansel, President