

Report from the President

The 1971 conference is over and we thought it went well, in spite of the handicaps. We regretted the demise of the Robert E. Lee Hotel just when we needed it most and when we least expected it to go. It was Ariel Stephens who scrambled around and found us rooms all over the city. It was unlike past conferences and we were not able to visit with each other and socialize as usual. We appreciated the cooperative spirit shown by all and we were thankful for the way that everyone accepted the situation and made the best of it.

The first thing the new Executive Board did was to meet Saturday immediately following the adjournment. We heard reports from Lucy Bradshaw, Local Arrangements Chairman who had done a magnificent job for us and Bill Turner, Manager of the Convention Center. Ariel Stephens, our General Manager told of his investigation into the hotel situation two years hence.

It was our unanimous decision to return to Winston-Salem for our 1973 Conference. The new hotel will not be ready but room accommodations will be improved.

We believe that the Convention Center is the finest facility of its kind that we have seen. It was wonderful to visit exhibits and be able to look out and see the sky.

At our next conference we shall have available more rooms in the center of the city. The Downtowner will have doubled its capacity, the Sheraton will offer more social suites and the Holiday Inn Central will be close by. We shall be near enough

to walk from one to the other. This is not the perfect arrangement but it is the best that we can do now — when we must plan two years in advance.

The first formal meeting of the Executive Board was held in High Point December 10. Section chairmen were invited and we had a 100 per cent attendance. It was a good if lengthy meeting. The minutes appear elsewhere in this journal.

Following that and Christmas your President settled down to studying committee work and appointing new committees.

On January 14, I was in Chapel Hill for an ad hoc committee meeting of the College and University Section to discuss workshops. Herb Poole, Section Chairman called the meeting which was presided over by David Jensen. Also invited were other section chairmen. It was a very productive meeting with many ideas for workshops and conference programs aired and discussed. You will be hearing more about this as plans progress. I came away feeling good about our organization and this particular section.

A week later I went to Charlotte to the Central Piedmont Community College for a meeting with a committee of Junior College librarians. It was my first visit to this school and I enjoyed a tour of the new library. The committee, presided over by John Johnson of Durham Technical Institute, was investigating the requirements for establishing a Junior College Section which would include community colleges and technical schools. Since that time they

have presented to the Executive Board a petition from fifty-one paid up members. On the basis of this and in accordance with our NCLA Constitution, the Board gave unanimous approval for the establishment of the new section. You will hear more from them as they proceed to organize.

Later that day I went to the Charlotte Public Library and met with Mae Tucker, our Development Committee Chairman, and Leland Park, our Resources Committee Chairman. We had a pleasant part business and part social meeting as we discussed the work of their committees and plans for the future.

In late January our ALA Representative, Neal Austin, attended Midwinters and was present at all the meetings concerned with grievance committees. We are giving serious study to his report and expect to act on it as soon as we can be sure we are taking the best course of action.

On February 29, I was in Chapel Hill again for a meeting of the North Carolina Certification Board. This is composed of State Librarian Phil Ogilvie, Dean of UNC Library School Ed Holley, public librarian Allegra Westbrook and the President of NCLA. It was our task to examine applications for public library certification and to discuss rules and regulations governing them.

We were gratified to see the School of Library Science in new quarters which are much more adequate than the old ones. It was great not to have to climb all those steps as in previous years. And we welcome Dean Holley who is planning a fuller and improved curriculum with much enthusiasm. We were his guests at lunch and enjoyed hearing of some of his innovative programs.

Many trustees and public librarians attended the Trustee-Librarian Conference held in Chapel Hill March 21-22. Sponsored by the North Carolina Association of Library Trustees, the State Library, the Public Libraries Section and the Institute

of Government, this annual event was said to be one of the best ever held.

Much of the credit goes to Rebecca Ballentine who coordinated the program. On the second day I spoke to the Conferees about our association.

Bill Roberts of Salisbury, our National Library Week Director, deserves much praise for his outstanding performance. He has given time and talents in encouraging people to make special plans for this special week.

One significant event deserves recognition here. An award ceremony was held to honor Lenoir County Schools for winning second place in the Encyclopaedia Britannica competition for school library progress. Mrs. Edith Wiley deserves great praise for her ingenious leadership in stimulating and motivating the people of her county to improve their libraries. Gene Lanier represented our association at the award ceremony and he reported an exciting evening, including cheering sections from the school libraries.

The Spring Workshop of officers, committees and sections was held at East Carolina University April 15. It was a beautiful day and attendance was good. This marked the beginning of committee work for the biennium and excellent plans were presented.

The Executive Board voted to support another project by the Reprint Company of Spartanburg on North Carolina books. We feel this is very worthwhile and hope to move forward with it.

The Executive Board also made an important decision about NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARIES. Our former financial support was no longer available and the future of the magazine seemed uncertain. Because we believe that our journal is one of the best in the South we decided to continue its publication during this biennium. The Association will underwrite the cost with the hope that eventually it will become

self-sustaining. We are especially optimistic since Herbert Poole agreed to be the editor.

On April 21, Gene Lanier and I traveled to Wilmington for another National Library Week occasion. We were entertained by Katherine Howell and Hilda Townsend for dinner. Later we went to the University Library where Helen Hagan was hostess to more than fifty librarians representing all types of libraries. They were exploring the possibilities of a Southern N. C. organization. Gene Lanier gave a delightful illustrated talk on public relations.

The Junior Members have been busy with meetings, all kinds of plans and regional recruiting parties. With Theresa Coletta as coordinator, they have agreed to assume the work of recruiting for the whole associ-

ation. We welcome their enthusiasm and energy.

On May 25, I went to Guilford College and attended the first meeting of the new editorial board for *NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARIES*. I was impressed and gratified at the amount of work Herb Poole had already done and at the fine talent he had gathered to assist him in this endeavor. It was a stimulating meeting filled with excellent ideas from busy people who are willing to work to make our magazine better than ever.

We are looking forward to two years of activity on the part of all of our members. We invite your suggestions and your participation. As we said before, our organization will be just as strong as you wish it to be.

Joseph Ruzicka, Inc.

911 NORTHRIDGE ST.

P. O. BOX 21568

GREENSBORO, N. C. 27420

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