

NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARIES

Volume 2, Number 2 - March 1943

Cover Quote

"We are now in a fighting epoch. We shall have to fight every inch of the way—fight to defeat the Axis; fight to achieve the promise of democracy; fight to keep industrial imperialism from plunging the world into another war; fight to save the people from exploitation by special privilege and corrupt politicians; fight on behalf of planning and good schools and full employment; fight against selfishness and indolence within our own lives; fight even as our forefathers fought to conquer the wilderness and achieve a better life for themselves and their children.

"But we do not fight without hope... The people are on the march. They may be delayed, but they cannot be stopped. They will win in the end, for the ideals of truth and opportunity and justice and democracy are mighty allies.

"An old world is dead. A new world is being born amid struggle and sacrifice. This new world gives to education a great task—to replace violence with reason and the humane and generous spirit. To that end let every pupil learn; every scholar think; and every teacher teach. Humanity faces a great challenge. New meaning has come into life. Powerful spiritual forces are at work in the world. It is a great time to be a teacher."

—Joy Elmer Morgan

Publication Information

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LIBRARIANS UNITED?

We hope you have read the words quoted on our cover. They should be digested by every librarian. We should pause to consider the place of libraries in building this new world.

Are you, a librarian, satisfied with the present status of libraries in world affairs? Should librarians not rise now to stress the fact that libraries are educational institutions to be constantly and continuously advertised as "the people's university?" Should we not insist that librarians share with the teachers of America this great educational task—"to replace violence with reason and the humane and generous spirit?"

Over a year ago, the State Planning Committee of the North Carolina Library Association planned a State program, "Mobilizing North Carolina Libraries for Action." These recommendations are here abridged and restated:

1. Review our objectives and opportunities implicit in the present crisis and formulate a program looking toward library development in the next five years.
2. Re-emphasize staunch adherence to the ideal of intellectual freedom with the emphasis in library work upon the distributive rather than the acquisitive phases of the work.
3. Develop greater co-operation among all library agencies in serving the interests of some million and one half people now without adequate book service in the State.

Co-operation in seeking State Aid for further service extension must be continued. The public library, the school library, the county and regional library, the State Library Commission, the State Department of Public Instruction, the college and university library, and the library services of the departments of university extension all have a very definite part in extending the use of books in North Carolina.

4. Strengthen our relations with organizations or groups doing similar work of supporting the objectives of libraries.
5. Make vigorous effort to raise the standard of personnel in North Carolina libraries and to insist upon the highest quality of leadership among those who are directing and organizing library services in all units.
6. Plan a state-wide program to show what libraries are doing, what citizens may expect of libraries, and why they are essential to our way of life.

This was the call to librarians of North Carolina last year, but librarians of North Carolina still lack unity. Many persons who use the name "Librarian" feel neither the responsibility of leadership nor the necessity of being a follower.

The primary factor in securing professional strength is to achieve a belief in our professional organization, the North Carolina Library Association. Study the chart below for memberships in May 1942:

Table 1: North Carolina Library Association Membership Statistics (May 1942)

Table Summary: This table shows membership data for the North Carolina Library Association broken down by seven member categories. It displays the total number of potential members in each category across North Carolina, how many had been members at any point in the previous three years, and how many had paid their 1942 dues.

Member Category	Total Number in State	Members During Last 3 Years	Members with 1942 Dues Paid
College Librarians	178	109	44
Public Librarians	156	68	26
School Librarians	198	73	36
Institutions	195	22	6

Member Category	Total Number in State	Members During Last 3 Years	Members with 1942 Dues Paid
Trustees	1,000 or more	31	3
Special	unknown	13	0
Others	unknown	21	8
TOTAL	1,727	337	127

Only one out of every four college and university librarians, one out of 32 institutions, one out of six public librarians, one out of 5½ school librarians, and less than one out of 333 trustees were members of the North Carolina Library Association when the survey was made in May, 1942. Can you wonder that the general public is not "sold" on the value of libraries? Granted that libraries are worth fighting for, it is worth your efforts to enlist now in our North Carolina Library Association's effort to "carry on."

Attention Membership Committee

We should triple our membership during March and April of 1943. From a potential membership of 727 librarians, we should easily achieve an active membership of at least 500 librarians and institutions in addition to many trustee and Friends of Libraries members. Ask your library trustees to join. Ask the school librarians in your city to join. Ask the public librarians in your city and town to join, and remember that anyone interested in North Carolina libraries can be a member of the North Carolina Library Association.

Membership Dues

North Carolina Library Association dues are payable on January 1 of each year.

- Individual memberships: \$1.00
- Institution memberships: \$3.00

Mail your dues to:

Miss Evelyn Harrison, Treasurer
North Carolina Library Association
Woman's College Library of Duke University
Durham, N.C.

THE DECLARATION OF THE FEDERATION OF THE WORLD

March 13, 1941 may become as important a date in North Carolina history as May 20, 1775, but few North Carolinians are aware that on March 13, 1941, the North Carolina General Assembly adopted a Resolution, "The Declaration of the Federation of the World."

With the increased interest in postwar planning, all librarians would be wise to distribute copies of the "Declaration of the Federation of the World." Although the Resolution is included in the Public Acts of the General Assembly for 1941, it will not become popular reading unless copies of the pamphlet are available.

The Resolution was written by Robert Lee Humber of Morehead City, N.C. Mr. Humber was in France during the German invasion in 1940. He returned to North Carolina to write a document which is already recognized as an outstanding contribution to postwar planning literature. Mr. Humber appeared on the Town Hall of the Air, Thursday, March 11, 1943 to discuss postwar planning. Copies of the pamphlet were printed by Edwards and Broughton Co., Raleigh and they can usually be secured from Mr. Humber.

Quotable phrases may be selected at random from the Declaration such as the one which follows:

"Man, the source of all political authority, is a manifold political being. He is a citizen of several communities: the city, the state, the nation and the world. To each of these communities he owes inalienable obligations and from each he receives enduring benefits."

REPORT OF A FAILURE

We have failed to secure from the North Carolina Legislature a material increase in State Aid for Public Libraries. The fund was increased from \$100,000.00 to \$125,000.00 annually. If the fund is allocated on the same basis as it was for the past biennium, the amount available to each county will be increased from \$900.00 to \$1,125.00 annually. This increase of \$225.00 will certainly not make possible the realization of a minimum standard of public library service in North Carolina. A few Legislators can be singled out for the vision they exhibited in working hard and long for increasing the State Aid. We salute these Gentlemen for their untiring efforts. But they failed because we, as librarians, as library boards, and friends of libraries had not sold the importance of public libraries to the Legislators both before and after the election.

Too many Legislators were without positive conviction that public libraries have an important place in democratic society and the State's welfare. During the Session, public libraries were pictured as a light, recreational agenda to the educational facilities of the State. Some Legislators consider libraries as institutions filled with trash unfit to read. Another large group, which did not actively oppose an improvement of public library facilities in North Carolina, lacked the vision to support actively the library program. Their passivity amounted to a support of the opposition.

The Advisory Budget Commission which met in the Fall before the Session of the Legislature had not recommended an increase for State Aid when they made their recommendations to the Legislature. This was the beginning of our failure. If this small group of Legislators on the Advisory Budget Commission had been assailed by a general public demand for more funds to assist libraries, it is certain that they would have recommended additional funds for State Aid.

The Library Commission renewed its request for increasing State Aid from \$100,000 to \$211,098 annually before the Joint Appropriations Committee of the Legislature. Although strong supporters were present on this Committee, it soon became evident that a material increase in State Aid had little chance against the opposition and the passive group. Amidst oratory "glorifying" libraries into nothingness, the Library Commission's request was amended to \$125,000 which was later successfully increased to \$150,000 by a very narrow vote. When a Sub-Committee was appointed to put the Appropriations Bill into final shape, this small group reduced the State Aid to \$125,000, which recommendation to the Joint Committee was sustained by a narrow vote. State Aid had either lost a few friends on the Joint Committee, or they were not present to vote. Again, the failure was caused by an insufficient number of Legislators faced with demands from their home districts to support actively the increase in State Aid for Public Libraries.

The enactment of the Appropriations Bill which came during the final hurried sessions before adjournment, resulted in few changes in the appropriations recommended by the Joint Committee.

Contrasted with the lack of success in library legislation, the schools and the agriculture group accomplished their aims in securing enactment of practically every point outlined in their programs. Their lobbies in Raleigh were powerful. They had thousands of friends on the home front to besiege the Legislators with the demands of the school and agricultural groups. In fact most Legislators were committed to the support of school and agricultural programs before they were elected.

Dollar for dollar expended, we know that public libraries provide educational facilities equal to schools, and reach a larger group. Public libraries provide educational opportunities to adults as well as to children at a time when adult educational development must proceed at a rapid pace. Words of the wise of all ages confirm the importance of books and libraries. If we are to be realistic, we must recognize that people in North Carolina do not actively support this view. In some instances where people have not had access to libraries, they cannot be expected to recognize the importance and value of public libraries in the democratic way of life. In other instances, libraries have failed to demonstrate their potential effectiveness as an educational agency in the community. Perhaps we have given our opponents evidence for their belief that public libraries are merely a recreational and unnecessary agenda to the educational life of the community.

Analysis of Our Failure

Specifically our failure can be broken down into the following:

1. **Librarians and library boards** have not been actually active in seeking the support of the Legislators, and in many cases they have failed to operate their libraries as a "people's university." Libraries have failed also to develop an organization which can be compared to the Parent-Teachers Association. It is evident that the Parent-Teachers Association was a powerful influence in the successful enactment of legislation for the improvement of the public schools of North Carolina during the 1943 Session of the Legislature.
2. **The members of the Library Commission Board** were not forceful in the support of their Secretary and Director of the Commission in presenting to the Advisory Budget Commission and the Legislature requests for increasing State Aid for Public Libraries. They also failed to assist in the organization of a powerful lobby to support the request of the Library Commission. Leadership was their responsibility, but the burden was carried by their Director, who as a State employee, was not in a position to lobby effectively.
3. **The North Carolina Library Association** failed to organize an effective legislative program to support the request of the Library Commission. The writer, as President of the North Carolina Library Association, accepts responsibility for this inauspicious failure. I was present in Raleigh on only two occasions during the Session of the Legislature, when apparently I should have resided in Raleigh during most of the Session. Printed propaganda materials were not prepared by the Association to define the needs for additional State Aid funds. A contrast is obvious when we compare the work of the Classroom Teachers Association and the North Carolina Library Association with the Legislature. The Library Association should

have organized a continuous flow of library board members and librarians to Raleigh during the session of the Legislature to lobby for enactment of library legislation. The Classroom Teachers Association not only organized a constant flow of visitors, but also employed an expert lobbyist. The North Carolina Library Association should have carried out a similar program.

By recognizing the cause of our failure, we shall be able to prepare for a successful campaign in 1945. The Editors of North Carolina Libraries will welcome contributions outlining other points which may have contributed to the failure of our legislative program.

Hoyt R. Galvin, President

North Carolina Library Association

FOR SUCCESS IN 1945

Our next opportunity for securing an increase in State Aid for Public Libraries will come when the Legislature convenes in January, 1945. It is not too early to plan our program of action, and since transportation restrictions may not permit a meeting of the Association, we submit a tentative plan for consideration. We hope also that the Editors of North Carolina Libraries will receive contributions amending and improving the plan suggested here:

1. Librarians and library boards must work together to make public libraries in North Carolina effective educational institutions which will be recognized as vital by the community.
2. Librarians must overcome their timidity in order to discover the political attitudes of candidates. Librarians must secure the active support of library board members and friends of libraries to elect Legislators who comprehend the importance of public libraries in the democratic way of life. The success of a legislative program depends more upon work done before the Legislators go to Raleigh than it does upon requests and oratory during Legislative Sessions.
3. The Library Commission Board and the N.C.L.A. should develop joint plans for a successful campaign before the Legislature. The members of the Library Commission Board should make their presence evident in the campaign.
4. The North Carolina Library Association should proceed immediately to organize a powerful lobby. This lobby should include the employment of an executive secretary as a lobbyist who would serve before the election as well as during the session of

the Legislature. The executive secretary, possibly a North Carolina librarian who would secure a leave of absence from his library for that period, should be able to record the attitude of each candidate regarding library legislation before the legislator reaches Raleigh.

5. The Membership Committee of the North Carolina Library Association should strive to enroll every librarian and every library as a member of the Association. But we, as members, must not expect the Membership Committee to accomplish this goal without our assistance. Hundreds of library board members, hundreds of school, public, college librarians, and hundreds of friends of libraries are potential members. If each library in North Carolina should become an institutional member, it alone would provide an annual fund of \$600.00. Only by increasing our membership shall we be able to conduct a successful legislative program, which will bring rich dividends to libraries in North Carolina.

OUR STATE LIBRARY COMMISSION DIRECTOR

Recently many letters have been received at the Editor's office urging the North Carolina Library Association to take action which would lead to an increase in the salary for the Secretary and Director of the Library Commission. No action was taken since the Library Commission had presented its budget to the Advisory Budget Commission in the Fall of 1942 and the amount of salary had been set before the letters were received at the Editor's office. Now is the time to plan for a salary increase in 1945, but it is too late to secure an increase for 1943.

North Carolina is fortunate to have, in Miss Marjorie Beal, one of the outstanding library extension workers in the United States. Her opportunities to move from North Carolina to similar positions in other states at a higher salary are well known, but fortunately for us she has apparently developed a sincere love for North Carolina and has chosen thus far to remain with us.

As long as the State Library Commission continues to accept the present salary status for the Secretary and Director of the Commission, it is an admission of the relative subordination of library service as compared with other activities of the State. The heads of major departments of the North Carolina state government receive \$6,000.00 annually. Other department heads receive salaries in a scale between the top and bottom ratings. The Secretary and Director of the Library Commission is rated at the bottom of the scale of salaries for heads of departments in the State Government.

We have heard President Roosevelt, Wendell Willkie, and other great leaders orate on the importance of books and libraries in the democratic way of life, and we have seen educational institutions recognizing more and more the importance of books and reading in education, but still the importance of library leadership in North Carolina has not been recognized.

It is true that the 1943 Legislature has adopted a war bonus system which will increase the salaries of most state employees, but this does not affect the status of the salary of the Secretary and Director of the Library Commission in comparison with other Department Heads of the state government.

The Library Commission Board cannot be expected to carry the burden of this salary adjustment without assistance, but the responsibility for leadership to secure this salary increase rests with the Board. We raise these questions:

1. Does the Board consider the salary increase justified?
2. Have they made an honest effort to secure an increase?

DAVIDSON COUNTY LIBRARY VOTE

The Davidson County Commissioners have continued to appropriate funds to operate the Davidson County Library in spite of the contradictory opinions by state officials regarding the legality of appropriating tax funds for public libraries without an election authorizing a library tax levy. In recent years, the Commissioners included the County Library appropriations in the county school budget for Davidson County. This was a technical camouflage. Early in 1943 the State School Commission refused to approve the county school budget with the library appropriations included. The County Library appropriations have since been separated from the school budget, but state officials have now ruled that the Board of Commissioners of Davidson County can not appropriate funds for the County Library after July 1, 1943 unless authorized by a vote of the people.

To avoid the necessity of a vote against the old registration books, a bill has been enacted by the present General Assembly which permits the Davidson County Board of Commissioners to call a special election on the library tax levy. Registration books for the special registration will be open on March 13, 20 and 27. The election is called for April 5, 1943.

The strategy to date is to work quietly among friends of the library, both among individuals and among groups. Letters, mimeographed information, reminder postcards and personal

contacts are the media being used. There has been no report of organized opposition, but the greatest danger is the general lethargy on the part of the voting public.

Points being emphasized are that a favorable vote will not increase the tax rate, but that it will merely legalize appropriating for the County Library in the same manner as has been done for the past fourteen and one-half years; and that a failure to carry the vote will mean the closing of all five divisions of the County Library System on July 1, 1943.

A successful vote will establish the Davidson County Public Library on a stable basis, and it will have a favorable effect upon other public libraries in the State.

EQUAL CHANCE

The new edition of *The Equal Chance* is just off the press. The original *Equal Chance* was called in a *Wilson Bulletin* editorial "the best piece of general library publicity that we have yet laid eyes on." Printed in 1936, the original edition has been out of print since December, 1941. The fact that statistics from which the graphs and charts prepared for the earlier edition were based on the 1930 census made it necessary to revise the entire copy.

The United States Department of Agriculture has requested sufficient copies of the new edition in order to supply a copy to the County Planning Committee in every county of the United States.

It is regrettable that copies could not have been available for North Carolina's 1942-43 campaign to secure an increase in State Aid for Public Libraries, but we shall certainly have copies for the 1944-45 campaign. North Carolina's place in the graphs and charts ranks not far from the bottom.

Because *The Equal Chance* is the best library extension propaganda available today, North Carolina libraries should purchase copies for distribution among patrons and friends of libraries. Orders may be placed with the Publishing Department of the American Library Association at the following rates:

- Single copy: \$0.25
- 25 copies: \$2.50
- 50 copies: \$4.00
- 500 copies: \$28.00

The new edition of *Equal Chance* is one of a series of library extension publications planned by the Joint Publications Committee of the A.L.A. working under the chairmanship of Hoyt Galvin.

TRANSPORTATION

Amidst tentative plans to conduct an Institute on War and Postwar Issues in Raleigh in the near future as one of a series of regional institutes following the Chicago Institute, Miss Beal has received the following letter from H. F. McCarthy, Director of the Division of Traffic Movement of the Office of Defense Transportation:

"The Office of the Defense Transportation urges that travel by civilians be curtailed wherever possible. This policy is outlined in the attached papers. We know that travel conditions are going to be increasingly critical in the months to come. However, we are hopeful that compulsory restrictions will not be necessary but that voluntary co-operation toward curtailment will suffice. I ask, therefore, that you and your other officers give serious thought to canceling your proposed meeting. Such action would be very helpful in our war transportation program."

As we go to press, it is not known definitely that the proposed institute will be canceled, but we anticipate this action. This transportation factor will probably cause the Executive Board of N.C.L.A. to cancel plans for a 1943 Conference.

WORK PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION

With the closing of the WPA Library Projects in North Carolina on March 1, 1943, the books purchased by the WPA for demonstration and bookmobile operations are being lent to the North Carolina Library Commission and the defense counties where they are now in use.

The ten bookmobiles, which have been operating in the defense counties, are also being lent to the North Carolina Library Commission for county use until the federal government requests them. The counties assume the responsibility for maintenance, repairs, insurance and operating expenses.

The loan of books and the use of the bookmobiles for an indefinite period are gratefully received and will aid in the continuance of county library service. Copies of the Work Book for library clerks are free to any library making a request and sending 4¢ for postage. Most librarians are familiar with the contents and know that much of the information in the booklet is a simple and direct method for training library workers.

The counties and localities must now assume the responsibility for the service which the federal government has provided over a period of years. This brings home an appreciation of the WPA Library Project.

ATTENTION SCHOOL LIBRARIANS

The May issue of *North Carolina Libraries* will be mailed to members of the North Carolina Library Association about May 15, 1943. If your school closed before May 17, and if you will have a different summer address, please advise the Editors regarding your summer address.

North Carolina Libraries is not published in July and August and issue No. 4 will be mailed about September 15.

NORTH CAROLINA NEWS

Winston-Salem - Miss Mary Duncan McAnally, formerly associate librarian at Salem College, has been given a leave of absence to accept the post of executive librarian in the United States Army. Mrs. Ruochs Pyron is replacing Miss McAnally at Salem College.

Concord - At the January meeting, the Cabarrus County Commissioners agreed to appropriate \$300 per month from February through June, 1943, for county-wide library service with a contract between the Concord Library Board and the County Commissioners. State aid funds are being authorized for Cabarrus county under this arrangement. A loan of a WPA bookmobile has been promised, and two additional rooms in the Community Center have been assigned to the Library. One room will be used as a Children's room, and the other for county service headquarters.

Hickory - A gift of \$30,000 for a new building to house the Worth Elliot-Carnegie Library of Hickory is to be given to the City by George F. Ivey and family as a memorial to the late Elbert Ivey.

Hickory - Lenoir Rhyne College has moved its library into the new Carl Augusta Rudisill Building which was the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Carl A. Rudisill. Students helped to move the 25,000 volumes.

Chapel Hill - Dr. Carl M. White, former librarian of the University of North Carolina, and recently Director of the University of Illinois Library and Library School, has been appointed Director of Libraries and Dean of the School of Library Service at Columbia University.

Greensboro - Miss Annette Shinn, formerly librarian at Greensboro College, has been appointed county librarian in Cabarrus County. Contract service with the Concord Public Library was started on February 1, 1943 to provide county-wide library service.

Certification - Eighty-three certificates have been issued since the passage by the 1933 General Assembly of the certification requirements for public librarians. Since July 1942, certificates have been issued to:

- Miss Elizabeth H. Carroll, Edenton
- Mrs. Rosaline Rives Dowdy, Morehead City
- Miss Dorothy Scott Evans, Raleigh
- Miss Mary Scott Gurley, Richlands
- Mrs. Alvia Eugene Hendry Jr., Hertford
- Miss Ruth Dillard Johnston, Show Hill
- Mrs. Helen Hand Kittrell, Fontana Dam
- Miss Catherine Robinson Ogden, Bryson City
- Miss Annette Harris Shinn, Concord

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