

## CLENE History prepared by Anne Masters December 2006

In January 2005, in preparation for the CLENE Board's Midwinter strategic planning session I gathered information about our history so that we could have an appreciation of those who came before us and build upon past success. As I write this I have just finished paging through the back issues of the CLENExchange and have put together a list of CLENE's past presidents and newsletter editors.

In the mid-1970s Dr. Elizabeth (Betty) Stone, a professor at Catholic University and later an ALA President, received a grant from NCLIS to study library continuing education and form an umbrella group of library associations interested in continuing education, including ALA and MLA. Betty Stone's vision was to create a self-sustaining structure for library continuing education, a standalone agency. This organization was named the Continuing Library Education and Networking Exchange (CLENE). CLENE established an arm called the National Council on Quality Continuing Education (NCQ). NCQ provided a "seal of approval" for selected CE events voluntarily submitted for review.

During this grant or perhaps a subsequent grant, Betty Stone developed "Criteria for Quality Continuing Education." Included in the development group were Ruth Patrick, Nancy Bolt, Bill Asp, John Hinkle, Gary Purcell, Ben Frankowiak, Margaret Meyers (ALA Liaison), Eileen Sheahan and Blanche Anderson. Among the recommendations of this group were measurable objectives and a target audience. They also recommended that each state library agency have a staff member who devoted at least a portion of time to the management of statewide continuing education.

In 1981, to provide CLENE with ongoing financial support, President John Hinkle applied for CLENE to become an ALA division. In January of 1983, CLENE was accepted as an ALA roundtable. At that time the other professional organization partners left CLENE. Also at about that time the NCQ attempted, with CLENE's help, to become a Standing Committee of ALA. It was not approved and ceased to exist in the late 1980s.

*The original CLENExchange, a newsletter of the CLENE organization, was published for eight years ending in the fall of 1983 with Volume 8, Number 3.*

*Volume 1, Number 1 of the second CLENExchange, the newsletter of the ALA CLENE Roundtable, was published in September of 1984.*

Editors of the ALA CLENE Roundtable CLENExchange

1984-1987	Nancy Bolt
1987-1989	Gail McGovern
1989-1998	Marie Bryan
1998-2006	Gail McGovern

*The CLENE Website archive began with Volume 15, Number 1, September, 1998. Those issues can be downloaded at <http://www.ala.org/ala/clenert/newsletter/newsletter.htm>*

Presidents of the ALA CLENE Roundtable:

1984	Vee Friesner
1985-1986	Sandy Stephan
1986-1987	Bill Asp
1987-1988	Sherrie Snyder
1988-1989	Mary Y. Moore
1989-1990	Gail McGovern
1991	Vee Carrington
1991-1992	Darlene Weigand
1992-1993	Laura Kimberly
1993-1994	Kenna Forsyth
1994-1995	Duncan Smith
1995-1996	Kitty Smith
1996-1997	Amy Bernath
1997-1998	Darlene Weigand
1998-1999	Judy Card
1999-2000	Diane Brown
2000-2001	Wendy Ramsey
2001-2002	Kathy Schalk-Greene
2002-2003	Cheryl M. Rogers
2003-2004	Barbara Rittinger
2004-2005	Jasmine Posey
2005-2006	Judy Card
2006-2007	Anne Masters
2007-2008	Pat Taviss

In the early years of CLENE the focus was on Train the Trainer workshops and those were very successful. One early member recalls that CLENE also offered one-on-one “tutorials” at ALA Conferences for CE planners. Planners could sign up in advance for an appointment with an experienced trainer. In the late 1980s and 1990s CLENE successfully published several titles that sold well. These are out of print today and there has been talk of updating them. Members of CLENE through the years commented on the quality of CLENE programs, the quality of the

CLENExchange and the ease with which one can become involved in CLENE and find a “home” in ALA. I have found those things to be true. CLENE members come from all types of libraries. We can be proud of the visionary leaders who created our organization and the hard working Board members who have steered the course through the years.

To return to the work that inspired this interest in our history – your present Board updated the organization’s Strategic Plan. As part of that process we developed new vision, mission and values statements for CLENE and I would like to share them with you. I believe they reflect our history as well as our future.

**VISION:** The CLENE Round Table is the library’s resource for continuing education.

**MISSION:** The mission of the CLENE Round Table is to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas among those interested or engaged in continuing library education.

**CORE VALUES:** The guiding principles that define the identity and actions of the CLENE Round Table are **QUALITY, INCLUSIVENESS and SUPPORT.**

**Note:** Thanks to early CLENE leaders John Hinkle, Nancy Bolt and Duncan Smith who provided information about the early years of CLENE. John Hinkle is from my home state of Oklahoma and held the CE position at the Oklahoma Department of Libraries. I would love to hear from others who have additional information to share about CLENE.