

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

Since its inception, NALLD has stressed its dedication to machine-aided language teaching and to aiding its members in relevant and fruitful dialogue between the language teaching profession and those who provide the technical know-how for this purpose. The gratifying increase in membership is, to the Executive Board, an indication that the Association is serving the purpose for which it was formed.

Your Executive Board has been diligent in seeking means to make NALLD ever more meaningful to its members. The result has been a greatly-expanded program undertaken by the Association. The format and name of this present publication is perhaps one of the most evident examples. With it, *NALLD Newsletter*, the original voice of our Association, is reborn as the quarterly *NALLD Journal*. Over the years, the newsletter added several sections and services to provide assistance and focus for the members; it will be noted that the *Journal* is expanded even more.

The Association has grown in many ways, of which only a few will be mentioned here. The number and content of regional meetings has been increased to provide broader and more-frequent personal contact with interested people. The Executive Board, through the vote of the membership, has been expanded to include an Executive Secretary. The *Directory of Language Laboratory Directors* for the United States and Canada is completed in its first phase and copies have been deposited with the Publications Center, from which it is available to NALLD members. NALLD copyrighted material is now listed through ERIC. *Ad hoc* committees have been established to suggest academic courses and programs for prospective language laboratory directors as well as to list those programs already in existence.

In addition to designating regional membership chairmen to publicize our activities and expand membership, we are establishing a committee to promote the development of local chapters of NALLD which will function within the national organization. These local chapters will organize programs for local or regional language and A-V meetings similar to those sponsored by the national body. The result will be closer contact between members and a much greater opportunity to reach people interested in our field.

Last month at the XI Congress of the International Federation for Modern Languages and Literatures (FILLM) held in Islamabad, Pakistan, I had opportunity to introduce NALLD and its services to language and literary scholars from around the world. Much interested, they invariably asked, "What does the 'national' mean in the name of your association?" Our aims *do* serve an international audi-

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ence and our present members include not only residents of the North American continent, but of every continent. Because of this spread of interest, I urge that other organizations around the world with similar purpose establish an exchange with us so that we may all benefit.

Every member, or prospective member of NALLD, has something to add to the profession. The highly-sophisticated language laboratory or learning center may be the dream of each of us, but practicality and judgment dictate that it is not always attainable nor desirable. For this reason, NALLD dedicates itself with its services to those with the most primitive type of language lab or machine-aided language teaching program, and welcomes dialogue at its meetings and through the *NALLD Journal* on this level as well. We hope that each member will feel responsible for giving as well as receiving so that our Association will serve members with all types of installations; only in this way will NALLD effectively carry out its *raison d'être*.

A successful organization is also a democratic one. Therefore, suggestions for the Association, for its aims and services, are not only welcomed but sought. NALLD brings to its members the knowledge and experience of leaders in the various fields it embraces. We need the assistance not only of these well-known and recognized leaders but of grass-roots members as well. I should like to urge that anyone having ideas or suggestions to make NALLD serve its members, communicate these to me or to a member of the Executive Board; we also need workers in the field.

As a new year begins, I greet you and hope that in all ways the year will be a profitable one for you and your institutions.

Evelyn Uhrhan Irving
President