Three cheers for the extraordinary success of the 1984 NYLA Legislative Program! The Legislative Committee sincerely thanks all of you who helped in our united effort to secure passage of the 1984 Omnibus Library Bill... and a special "thank you" to the Reference and Adult Services Section which cosponsored the last legislative alert post card to all NYLA members.

Unfortunately, the calendar does not allow us to rest: the "dance of legislation" continues. A new legislative year will begin soon and we have both unfinished legislative business from 1984 and new library concerns to promote in Albany and Washington.

1985 Legislative Program Development

While securing passage of the 1984 legislation in the hectic days of June and July, the Legislative Committee and NYLA Council also developed and adopted the 1985 NYLA Legislative Program. The 1985 program is based on proposals submitted by NYLA Sections and other interested groups and individuals. It is a compilation of the legislative issues of most concern to the New York Library Association and includes legislative initiatives which the Association will undertake to achieve these goals. NYLA uses the Legislative Program to advance its interests as legislation is developed, introduced and amended in Albany and Washington.

The Legislative Program focuses on the content of proposed legislation: it does not address matters of legislative strategy. For example, the program does not recommend the number and type of library bills which will be introduced. These strategy decisions are made throughout the legislative session and are based on the situation in Albany and Washington as it develops. NYLA may prepare its own legislation if the Regents or legislators do not respond adequately to NYLA's interests.

1985 Legislative Program Highlights

At the state level, the program includes proposals for the effective use of technology, sharing of library resources, and public access to state documents. A comprehensive library study is recommended to review the interrelationships and linkages of the state's chartered libraries and systems as well as the funding formulas used for distributing state aid. The school library legislative proposals reflect the elementary and secondary education recommendations contained in the Regents Action Plan for 1984.

NYLA's 1985 Legislative Program also includes increases for existing library services such as public library systems, local public libraries, 3R's councils, public library construction, coordinated collection development, hospital libraries, and the library services of the State Education Department.

At the federal level, NYLA traditionally works with and endorses the American Library Association's legislative program. Federal concerns described in the 1985 NYLA program include telecommunications issues, LSCA, HEA, school library media programs, and postal rates.

The last section of the NYLA program lists topics for discussion and review. These topics will be explored to determine if they might be addressed through future legislative proposals. The new discussion topics include the possibility of providing incentives to academic libraries to provide service to a larger community, programs to aid libraries in for-profit corporations, and initiatives to encourage the development of interfaces between local online systems and between national online bibliographic utilities.

Program Distribution and Review

NYLA members will receive and review the 1985 Legislative Program at a formal meeting at the NYLA Annual Conference in October at the Concord Hotel. Revisions are made in the program by NYLA Council as needed throughout the legislative year.

To discuss the Legislative Program and to obtain information on the latest NYLA positions and the status of legislation, call your Section representative on the Legislative Committee, or NYLA executive director Nancy Lian at the NYLA Office (212-227-8032), Legislative Committee chairperson Janet Welch (716-232-7300), or Legislative Committee vice-chair Richard Panz (607-273-4074). If you would like to receive a copy of the 1985 Legislative Program prior to the October NYLA Conference, please contact the NYLA Office.

Development Specialist Services: Peter Paulson, State Library director, and a large group of representatives from NYLA. On behalf of NYLA, its vice president/president-elect Roy Miller presented the governor with a framed poster commemorating the Regents' Bicentennial. In a more spontaneous gesture, NYLA executive director Nancy Lian and Legislative Committee chair Janet Welch presented the governor with a congratulatory buss on each cheek.

Nancy Lian and Janet Welch enjoy a congratulatory moment with Governor Cuomo.