

*Sam Butler*  
(1974-76)

In 1973 I was elected to the CCFLT Board of Directors for a two-year term. The wonderful colleagues with whom I worked during those two years were among the major reasons for my decision to run for the presidency in 1975. My two-year term as president was followed by another two years as past-president, and, with the untimely death of Genevieve Overman in 1979, I was appointed Secretary-Treasurer for the next six years. Those 13 years on the CCFLT Board allowed me to grow professionally and to gain a detailed overview of the foreign language programs throughout Colorado. Moreover, on a personal level, so many of the colleagues I met during those years remain my good friends today.

Betty Terrell of Boulder preceded me in the presidency, and Joseph Harris of Fort Collins served as my vice-president and Genevieve Overman as Secretary-Treasurer for most of the 1970s. In 1986, Ron Walker was appointed the Executive-Secretary, accumulating over 13 years on the Board. Their hard work and dedication provided high standards, challenges, focus, and motivation for all of us on the Board.

In 1975, our 300 members typically attended state foreign language conferences in universities, high schools, or middle schools. Our major meeting was the CCFLT Fall Conference. But since Colorado generally enjoys magnificent autumn seasons, I proposed to the Board that we meet at the historic Stanley Hotel in Estes Park in October. Mother Nature cooperated completely! Following the overwhelming satisfaction of our members, as expressed in the conference evaluation forms, we decided that the 1976 Fall Conference would be held at the world-famous Broadmoor Hotel in Colorado Springs, and for the next 10 years, we enjoyed that special site. Through the years we were joined by teachers of English and Social Studies as well as the Library Media teachers. Once again, thanks to Past-President Joan Otoupalik, we will return to the Broadmoor for the 1998 Spring Conference!

In the years following my term as president, many officers and board members have worked diligently to triple the CCFLT membership, provide three conferences each year, host national and regional conferences, and bring many national leaders in foreign language education to Colorado. CCFLT has a justified reputation around the United States as a progressive professional organization, a leader in teacher growth activities, and a shining example of the successes of a dedicated group of foreign language leaders.