

HEADQUARTERS REPORTER

NUMBER 6

February 12, 1954

The following is a brief summary of Council sessions and action at the Midwinter 1954 Meeting. It is hoped that this will be helpful to the Executive Board and Council as well as Headquarters staff members.

The following action was taken by the ALA Council at the First Session:

Constitution and Bylaws

The following amendments to the Constitution -

ARTICLE VII, Section 2 was approved by the Council for the second time, thus placing it in line for membership ratification.

"The Finance Committee shall have all of the accounts of the Association, including those of the trustees of the endowment funds, audited by certified public accountants and shall report to the Association annually." \* (This is the next to the last line of Article VII, Sec. 2.)

The bylaws were amended by Council and are also in line for membership ratification.

ARTICLE II, Section 5 of the Bylaws is amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 5. Votes by Mail. Votes by mail, both of the Association and of Council, may be authorized by the Executive Board between meetings. Such mail votes shall be conducted under the same requirements as votes at meetings, except that for votes by Council 50 percent of the voting membership shall constitute a quorum and a three-fourths majority of those voting shall be required to carry.

The Executive Board shall have authority to set the time limit during which votes will be recorded but if no such time limit is set no vote shall be counted unless received within 30 days from the day the text of the ballot or question voted upon was mailed properly addressed to those entitled to vote on the matter involved. In the case of a vote by mail by the Association the Executive Board may designate publication of the ballot or question submitted in the official journal of the Association as the appropriate method of submitting the matter to the members for their determination."

ARTICLE V. CHAPTERS - Section 1

(a) The purpose of a chapter is to promote general library service and librarianship within its geographic area and to cooperate in the promotion of general and joint enterprises with the American Library Association and other library groups.

(b) The Council may establish a chapter of the American Library Association in any state, province, territory or region in which a majority of the ALA members residing within the area involved and voting on the issue favors such action; provided, however, that the total number of persons voting on the issue shall not be less than ten percent of the total number of ALA members residing within the area. A regional chapter may consist of any area composed of three or more contiguous states or provinces.

(c) Any state, provincial, territorial or regional library association may, at its request, be designated a chapter of the American Library Association provided a majority of the ALA members residing in the area involved voting on the issue is in favor of such action; provided, however, that the total number of persons voting on the issue shall not be less than ten percent of the total number of ALA members residing within the area involved, and provided further that there is no conflict between the constitution and bylaws of the association involved and the constitution and bylaws of the American Library Association. The Council shall fix the interim period within which time existing chapters must apply for a formal redesignation as a chapter in accordance with the provisions of this section.

(d) A member of the American Library Association who is also a member of more than one state or territorial chapter shall be accredited only to the chapter in the state in which he works.

(e) No more than one chapter of the American Library Association shall exist in any state, province, or territory.

(f) In establishing regional chapters no state, provincial or territorial association may be included in more than one such region.

Sec. 2. A chapter may adopt its own constitution and bylaws, subject to the certification of the ALA Committee on Constitution and Bylaws that there is no conflict between the constitution and bylaws of the chapter and that of the ALA. All amendments by ALA chapters shall be subject to similar certification. A chapter may admit members who are not members of the American Library Association.

Sec. 3. Each state, provincial, territorial or regional chapter shall be the final authority within the American Library Association in respect to all programs and policies which concern only

the area for which the chapter is responsible provided they are not inconsistent with any programs and policies established by the ALA Council. Any chapter may establish committees and boards which parallel national committees and boards in order to carry out over-all programs within its own area and to maintain liaison between its members and the national committees and boards. State, provincial and territorial chapters may establish local chapters within the respective areas involved.

Sec. 4. A chapter may be dissolved by the Council and shall be dissolved if it becomes inactive or fails to comply with the provisions of this Article.

Ratification by the membership was voted for the Minneapolis Annual Meeting (Membership Meeting).

The local chapters established by the ALA Council previously are no longer in existence in view of the amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws concerning chapters and a motion was passed directing the Executive Secretary to notify those local chapters that as of February 4, 1954 local chapters are no longer in existence.

Council heard reports from President Ludington concerning the activities of the Association; Edmon Low, Chairman of the Finance Committee, reporting on the Association's finances as provided in the Constitution; the list of Notable Books for 1953 was announced to the Council; and members present were asked to return the questionnaire concerning a possible group insurance policy for the Association.

The following action was taken at the Second Session of Council:

Committee on Boards and Committees

Discontinuance of Committees

The American Merchant Marine Library Association Committee was discontinued by the Council upon recommendation of the Committee and the ALA Committee on Boards and Committees since the Committee has completed the task for which it was established.

The Out of Print Books Committee was discontinued by the Council upon recommendation of the Committee on Boards and Committees.

Establishment of Committees

The E. P. Dutton-John Macrae Award Committee was established by Council upon recommendation by the Committee on Boards and Committees with functions established as follows:

"The E. P. Dutton-John Macrae Award, an award of \$1000 to be made annually by the ALA for advanced study in the field of library work for children and young people, was donated to the ALA by the E. P. Dutton Company in June, 1952 as part of the centennial celebration of the E. P. Dutton Company. It was accepted by the ALA Council in June 1952.

"The committee, consisting of five members, shall include one member chosen to represent each of the following organizations: AASL, DLCYP and BEL.

"The committee shall have the following functions: To prepare, and revise as needed, the specifications for the award; to publicize it through appropriate channels; to set up the procedure for inviting and evaluating candidates; to carry through the selection procedure; to notify the ALA Executive Secretary of the winner for official announcement from ALA Headquarters office."

The Committee on State Legislative Action was established upon recommendation by the Committee on Boards and Committees, which had received a request from a group of ALA committee chairmen and representatives of 26 state library extension divisions. Functions were set as follows: TO PRESENT SUGGESTED LIBRARY LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS TO THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS BY JULY 1, 1954, IF POSSIBLE, WITH A VIEW TO GAINING THE SUPPORT OF THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE IN PRESENTING THESE PROPOSALS TO ALL STATE LEGISLATURES IN TIME FOR CONSIDERATION IN 1955.

The Committee on Boards and Committees recommended to Council that consideration be given to representation of the following groups on this new special committee: National Association of State Libraries, ALA Committee on Library Legislation, ALA Special Committee on Study of State Library Agencies, School Library Supervisors, PLD Library Extension Section, PLD Trustees Section, PLD Library Development Committee.

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### Establishment of the Audio-Visual Round Table

Upon the recommendation of a Special Committee appointed to consider the petition for the establishment of an Audio-Visual Round Table, the Council established the Audio-Visual Round Table with purposes outlined as follows:

1. To promote closer relationship among librarians engaged in audio-visual work.
2. To bring these librarians together for informal discussions of mutual problems and for programs and workshops on these problems.
3. To serve as a clearing house for information on problems in the field of audio-visual activities.
4. To cooperate with other committees and agencies having similar functions and interests.

### Association of American Library Schools

The AALS voted to affiliate with the American Library Association and, upon recommendation of a Special Committee appointed to study the Constitution of the group and to recommend Council action, and in accordance with Bylaw Article X, the Council voted the affiliation of the group.

The Council heard reports from Jack Dalton, Chairman of the Board of Education for Librarianship, on accrediting; from Douglas Bryant, Chairman of the International Relations Board, on the activities of the Board; and from Mrs. Grace T. Stevenson who reported the activities of the newly established ALA Office for Adult Education.

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The following action was taken by the Council at the Third Session:

The Council was referred to the Universal Copyright Convention, which is described in the current issue of Publishers Weekly, and the Council adopted a resolution as follows:

The American Library Association wholeheartedly supports the ratification of the Universal Copyright Convention now pending before the Senate. We believe that the effective and comprehensive protection, here and abroad, of the rights of authors and composers is a fundamental moral responsibility, and express the hope that by the ratification of this Convention the United States will at last take its proper place with other countries in the mutual granting of this protection.

The Board on Personnel Administration presented a resolution to the Council which has been similarly adopted at the Los Angeles Conference and it was felt desirable that reiteration be made known to the Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee and Congressmen. The following resolution was, therefore, adopted:

WHEREAS the retirement income of librarians is in many cases inadequate, especially in view of the effects of inflation in recent years, and

WHEREAS almost nine million persons on retirement income are already exempted from the payment of federal income tax on certain types of retirement income above individual exemptions, and

WHEREAS the Mason Bill (H.R. 5180) now before Congress has been analyzed by the Board on Personnel Administration and found to contain reasonable and desirable provisions on the exemption of retirement income of all persons,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the American Library Association heartily endorses the Mason Bill, H.R. 5180, and strongly urges on the members of Congress the enactment of this measure into law.

The Council and members of the Association present were acquainted with the canvass that has been made of the Chicago downtown area hotels as possible meeting sites for the 1955 Midwinter Meeting. They were told that the hotels in the Chicago area which did not charge for meeting rooms are booked up and that there is only a slight possibility that one hotel might be able to make a desirable week available. They were told further, that the Edgewater Beach Hotel, which could now accommodate a larger attendance, has tentatively set aside for ALA use the week of January 30-February 5. The opinion was requested as to the general feeling concerning a permanent return to the Edgewater Beach Hotel or to try to make arrangements for future meetings well in advance in order to establish priorities and it was felt that, if this was the case, it might be necessary to increase the registration fee if a hotel which might be secured charges for its meeting rooms. Opinion was divided about equally on the question of meeting in a downtown location in the future, but the members present felt that in any event a return to the Edgewater Beach Hotel in 1955 is desirable.

The Council heard reports from Louis M. Nourse, Chairman of the Divisional Relations Committee, reporting on his committee; John H. Ottemiller, Chairman of the Federal Relations Committee, reporting on his committee; Leonard Kirkpatrick reporting for the Public Documents Committee; Walter T. Brahm, Chairman of the Special Committee on Federal-State Relations; Julia D. Bennett reporting on the Washington Office; and the report of David H. Clift, Executive Secretary, on the activities of Headquarters. In the Executive Secretary's report the current local issue concerning the Illinois State Library was mentioned as a subject which was not proper for the Council to discuss at this time since the Association has already taken a definite stand on matters of censorship through the Freedom to Read Statement and the Library Bill of Rights, and the matter has been discussed with the Committee on Intellectual Freedom and is under consideration by the Illinois Library Association officers.

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Attached to this Reporter is a revised statement of Council Duties which has been prepared for Council information.



# AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

EXECUTIVE OFFICES: 50 EAST HURON STREET, CHICAGO 11

## A. L. A. Council -- Duties, Responsibilities and General Practices

### Powers

The Council is the legislative body of the Association and all powers of the Association not otherwise specifically provided for in the Constitution and By-laws are vested in the Council.

The Council determines all policies of the Association. Its decisions are binding on the Association, its officers, boards, and committees, except as otherwise specifically provided for in the Constitution and By-laws. The Council has the right to review the action of officers, boards and committees of the Association.

The Constitution gives to the Council great power and responsibility. The Council more than any other body speaks for the Association. This implies a responsibility on the part of a Councilor to be informed about what the Association is doing and to have opinions about what it should be doing for the advancement of libraries and librarianship in the United States and Canada.

### Composition and Terms

The Council consists of voting and non-voting members.\* All voting councilors must be members of the A.L.A. The terms of voting members are for four conference years. The conference year begins with the adjournment of an annual Conference and ends with the adjournment of the next succeeding annual Conference.

The voting members of the Council consist of

1. Representatives elected by the A.L.A. at large. There are 24 councilors at large, 6 elected each year.
2. Representatives elected by state, provincial and territorial library associations which have been made chapters of A.L.A. by Council action. Each of these chapters has one councilor for each 300 A.L.A. members or fraction thereof.

Chapter representation is through the separate state and provincial chapter associations unless these separate associations choose to be represented through their regional association instead. In such case a regional chapter is entitled to one councilor for each 600 A.L.A. members or fraction thereof in the regional association. There are 3 regional chapters,

\* See list of members in A.L.A. Bulletin.

none of which is entitled to choose regional councilors as their constituent associations elect councilors separately.

3. Representatives elected by A.L.A. divisions by mail vote. Each division is entitled to one councilor for its first 50 members or less, and one additional councilor for each additional 250 members. There are 7 A.L.A. divisions entitled to councilors.
4. Representatives selected by affiliated national organizations. Each affiliated national organization is entitled to one councilor. There are 9 affiliated national organizations.
5. Members of the A.L.A. Executive Board. There are 12 voting members of the Executive Board, the executive secretary is without vote, and the presiding officer may vote only in case of a tie.

The non-voting members of the Council consist of the following ex-officio members who may participate in discussion but have no vote unless they have been chosen as voting councilors in some other capacity. Their terms are co-existent with their official designation.

1. Past presidents of the A.L.A. except the immediate past president who is a voting Executive Board member.
2. Chairmen of all A.L.A. Boards.
3. Chairmen of A.L.A. Standing Committees.
4. Councilors representing chapters or affiliated national organizations, but who are not personal A.L.A. members.

#### Officers, Meetings, Quorum, Votes

The A.L.A. president, president-elect, second vice president, and executive secretary are officers of the Council. The executive secretary has no vote, and the presiding officer may vote only in case of tie.

The Council must hold two meetings each year - one at the annual Conference of the Association, if feasible on the first day of the Conference, and one not less than three months before the next annual conference at a time designated by the Executive Board, and called the midwinter meeting. Other meetings may be called by the president or on request of twenty members.

Twenty-five members of the Council constitute a quorum,



## Duties

A councilor represents the constituency which made him a Councilor. This places on him the responsibility of reflecting to Council the interests and points of view of these constituents, and of reporting back to them on Council discussion and action from time to time.

The Council chooses the Finance Committee, which reports annually to Council.

It receives a report annually from the Budget Committee.

It receives a report annually from the President for the Executive Board and from the Executive Secretary for the headquarters staff.

It acts on proposed amendments to the Constitution and By-laws before they are submitted to the Association for a vote.

It receives the report of the Nominating Committee.

It receives petitions for any additional nominations signed by not fewer than ten councilors, and determines by council vote which names shall be the official candidates.

All important A. L. A. committees present their reports to Council.

It acts on petitions from national organizations for affiliation with the A. L. A.

It establishes as A. L. A. chapters, state, provincial, regional, and territorial library associations as provided in the By-laws. It can dissolve a chapter under certain conditions.

It establishes A. L. A. divisions and can discontinue a division when Council decides a division's usefulness has ceased.

It establishes round tables and can discontinue a round table when Council decides its usefulness has ceased.

It establishes committees and boards and discontinues committees and boards as the Association's needs require.

It designates standing committees. It authorizes special committees. It approves definitions of functions of committees and boards. It decides on which boards' and committees' activities are of special concern to certain divisions.

All resolutions coming before the Association are referred to Council except resolutions of thanks. A summary of all resolutions, not confidential, adopted by the Executive Board must be reported promptly to the Council.

## Practices and Procedures

At council meetings which are open to all members of the Association, special seats are reserved for council members who are expected to occupy them to facilitate the legal conduct of the council's business.

Councilors are given special badges to wear during meetings to establish their official identity and to help members to identify them as council representatives.

Each councilor elected by a chapter or a division must present credentials signed by the president of the chapter or division to the secretary of the Council in advance of the first meeting of the Council which he attends after his election.

If regularly elected councilors representing chapters or divisions cannot attend a meeting of the Council, the chapter or division or its president may elect or appoint a substitute for the regularly elected councilor.

The president of a chapter or of a division may authorize any elected councilor of his chapter or division to give his proxy to another elected councilor, preferably from the same chapter or division, if he is unable to attend a meeting of the Council.

Forms for designating substitutes or proxies may be had by chapter and division presidents from the office of the Executive Secretary.

Material for information and study is sent to councilors from time to time and when possible in advance of council meetings or mail vote where action is to be taken.

January, 1954

JN 16417