

5/60/56

Handwritten signatures and initials, including "The Robinson" and "McNeal".

LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR THE MIAMI BEACH ALA CONFERENCE

May 17, 1956

Members present:	Miss Bertha Aldrich	Mrs. Anne B. McCreary
	Mrs. Lois Pilson	Mrs. Helga Eason
	Mrs. Betty Lunnon	Miss Lillian Baker
	Miss Peggy Beaton	Mr. George Rosner
	Mrs. Adele Emery	Dr. Archie L. McNeal
	Miss Elizabeth Peeler	Dr. Frank B. Sessa
	Miss Emily Copeland	Mr. Richard Neuman
	Mrs. Emmie S. Hayes	

Guest present: Mr. Harold Gordon, University of Miami, a member of the Meeting Rooms committee.

Registration

Dr. McNeal read a letter from Mr. Weins, a portion of which was as follows: "I note from the minutes of the Local Committee meeting on April 19, during Miss Beatty's visit, the item concerning the registration for Local Committee members. It has been our policy in the past that all professional members of the Local Committee register and pay the usual registration fee. It has also been our policy that clerical people such as messengers and those working at the Registration Desk do not pay the registration fee. Celluloid badges will be made available to those clerical workers at the time they appear for duty."

Room for Local Committee Members

Mr. Weins also stated in his letter: "Due to uncertainties concerning the number of room reservations that are being made in various hotels and the definite withdrawal of the Belmar and also the sticky situation regarding the Saxony, San Souci, and Sea Isle the availability of some of the complimentary accommodations is extremely uncertain. Therefore, I think we must say that there will be no possibility of a room being set aside for Local Committee use. If the situation should change, I shall advise you promptly."

Miss Aldrich (who has a reservation at the Eden Roc) and Miss Beaton (with a reservation at the Fontainebleau) volunteered the use of their rooms for the Local Committee members. Dr. McNeal requested any others having rooms and would care to offer them for similar use to notify Miss Baker. A list of such rooms will be on file at the Local Information booth and the Local Committee desk.

First General Session

There is still confusion about the speaker. Governor Collins is unable to give a definite commitment due to a Special Legislature Session. If he finds that he can be in Miami at that time he will drop by one of the sessions.

Since it has not been determined who will make the Official Welcome address, no name will appear opposite this caption on the official program. Miss Aldrich will ask the Mayor of the City of Miami Beach to make the address.

It was also agreed that only Dr. McNeal, Dr. Sessa, Miss Aldrich and Miss Copeland should be introduced as the Local Committee. This is usually done at the first general session.

Parking

Mr. Tom Smith of the Miami Beach Convention Bureau replied via telephone to Dr. McNeal's letter concerning the matter of parking for automobiles on official business during the ALA convention week. Mr. Smith stated that no arrangements for convention parking had ever been made. Mr. Smith also said that any police tickets received by persons on official ALA business should be turned over to him and he will take care of them. Dr. McNeal cautioned committee members to refrain from abusing this privilege.

Parking lot tickets will be paid out of the ALA Local Committee fund.

Restaurants

Mr. Tom Smith assured Dr. McNeal that there would be no problem concerning the restaurants' serving Negro delegates.

Labor Union

The President and Executive Secretary of the Dade County Labor Union and a young woman representing the Hotel Employees Union called on Dr. McNeal last Friday requesting that ALA pull out of the Fontainebleau. Dr. McNeal pointed out that arrangements had been under way for the ALA convention over the past two years; that at the time there was no other hotel capable of handling the convention; and that contracts had been signed with all the exhibitors (on which revenue ALA is quite dependent). For these reasons, Dr. McNeal explained to the Union representatives, he felt it was too late to change. The delegation was quite understanding and agreed that they had waited too late. They assured Dr. McNeal that the convention would encounter no trouble from them; that they were simply making a plea. They did state, however, that those of ALA who are Union members would be unable to attend any meetings in the Fontainebleau.

Committee Reports

HOSPITALITY

The reception plans are about as they were. Miss Beaton reported that Mr. Zuckerman (the caterer) is a little worried as to whether he will be able to handle so many people in the space available. He may try to arrange something

on the lawn. However, at this late date, there is no alternative but to have both the First General Session and the Reception in the Miami Beach Auditorium and hope that they can be handled successfully.

Flower decorations for the Monday and Wednesday evening sessions will be the responsibility of the Parks Department of the City of Miami Beach. Flowers for the Council meetings will be ordered from a local florist and paid for from the Local Committee ALA fund.

ENTERTAINMENT AND TOURS

Mr. Neuman is working up a tour brochure for inclusion in the envelopes. It will have information about places to see and a calendar of events of the week.

To date, 100 reservations for formal tours have been received.

PUBLICITY

All articles have been submitted except one. Eight newspapers have been visited. All seem enthusiastic and willing to cooperate. Appointments have been made to visit radio and television stations to line up programs.

Dr. Sessa will request a car from the City of Miami motor pool for this committee to use in transporting speakers to and from radio and television stations.

EQUIPMENT

Everything in good order. A file has been set up showing locations where additional or emergency equipment can be obtained quickly.

LOCAL INFORMATION

Mrs. McCreary reported that she had a couple of items prepared for the kits: an ALA Hotel and Convention Area Guide and an invitation to Open House at the Miami Public Library. She also has several items to distribute from the booth. Dr. McNeal instructed Mrs. McCreary to present a bill to the Finance chairman for the paper used to prepare the maps and invitations.

REGISTRATION

In Mrs. Wakasugi's absence, Miss Aldrich inquired if food should be provided for those working at the stuffing party. Dr. McNeal replied that everyone will be given time to go out for a bite to eat.

FINANCE

Miss Baker reported that no expenditures have been turned in to her for payment as yet.

Special Groups Reports

SCHOOL LIBRARIES DIVISION

Mrs. Pilson reported that in order to avoid any unpleasantness for Negro delegates in public buses, the School Libraries division has chartered a bus to shuttle back and forth between the Fontainebleau and the Miami Beach High School for meetings.

NEWBERY-CALDECOTT BANQUET

Reservations have reached the 750 mark and are still pouring in.

In closing the meeting, Dr. McNeal stated that the Local Committee will probably have one more meeting before the convention. However, he will not call a meeting unless there is a purpose to be served. From this point on, most problems will be sub-committee problems, such as making schedules and assignments, etc.

Meeting adjourned.

Secretary,

Lillian Baker