

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

DIVISION OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Minutes of the Officers' Meeting

November 16 - 17, 1947

The Officers of the Division of Public Libraries met at 10 a.m. on Sunday, November 16, 1947 at the A.L.A. headquarters in Chicago with Forrest Spaulding, President, presiding.

Present: Forrest Spaulding, President; Louis Nourse, Vice-President; Carl Vitz, Past-President; Nordica Fenneman, Treasurer; Helen Ridgway, Public Library Specialist; and Ruth Gregory, Executive Secretary.

Midwinter Program: Program plans for the two open meetings at Midwinter were discussed. (1) An interpretation of the objectives and plans for the Library Inquiry. This suggestion was approved with the provision that the main speaker be Dr. Leigh, director of the Inquiry. Mr. Spaulding was authorized to explore the possibilities of his acceptance of such an invitation at the time, and to urge Robert Lester of the Carnegie Foundation to be at the Midwinter meeting to introduce him. (At the Monday morning session the Officers accepted the Trustee Division's offer to co-sponsor this program, see page 4). Other suggestions for related topics included first an analysis of the New York Survey with Katharine O'Brien of the Riverside Branch of the New York Public Library named as a possible speaker, and second, the Michigan Research Center Survey after consultation with Mrs. Fyan. These suggestions were considered also in connection with Atlantic City plans.

(2) The Officers indicated an interest in the presentation of a strong program on Adult Education. It was decided to ask Dr. Homer Kempfer, Adult Education Specialist in the Office of Education, to be the main speaker. The second half of the program will be devoted to a good film demonstration and forum. The responsibility for this program was delegated to Mr. Nourse in cooperation with Mrs. Blair (see page 4). The Audio-visual committee and the Adult Education Board will be asked to be co-sponsors with the Division for the Adult Education program.

Atlantic City Program: Mr. Vitz made the suggestion that the Division invite the Division of Children and Young People to join in presenting a program on Young People's work as a separate service for public libraries.

Mr. Spaulding reported on the request from the Adult Education Section for a Pre-conference Institute on Adult Education. Other clinics discussed briefly were the joint clinic for schools and public libraries; Legislation, and Service to Business.

The New York Survey was considered as a possible subject which would attract interest. It was decided to ask Mrs. Craig of the Adult Education Section to line up reports on Adult Education activities by regions or states for use at Atlantic City or as a resource to answer inquiries. Mr. Spaulding suggested that the top representatives from at least the two major organized adult education groups be invited to a meeting on the subject.

Miss Fenneman reminded the Officers that upon disbanding, the Lending Section recommended that the Division concern itself more with books and the power of books.

Joint Program Committee: Harry N. Peterson was appointed as the Division's representative on the Joint Division program committee composed of the Public Library, Extension, and Children's and Young People's Divisions.

Atlantic City Exhibits: Louis Bailey was suggested as chairman of the General Exhibit committee for Atlantic City and will be asked by the secretary to select his own committee. Suggested committee members to be forwarded to Mr. Bailey included Thomas Brown, Karl Brown, James Bryan, Harry Peterson, and Ernest Miller. Ideas for exhibits included Library Architecture and Planning, Gadgets, appliances not stocked by such firms as Gaylord, Library Bureau, etc.; processes such as the Toledo one-multigraph set-up, the St. Louis County addressograph system; the Shaw charging system, labor-saving devices and adult education material.

Report of the Treasurer: A balance of 2,542.25 as of November 15, 1947, was reported. The report of the auditing committee was received and accepted. The secretary's action in securing 500 reprints of "Public Libraries" at 29.50 was approved. It was decided to increase the run of 2500 for Public Libraries to 3,000, one-tenth of which will be sent to the Public Library Office for distribution.

Budget: Mr. Vitz moved that 250 dollars be allocated for the use of sections and committees, the amount for each section to be determined by the projects undertaken by the section. Seconded by Miss Fenneman. The secretary was instructed to write to each chairman to report this action and to encourage a report on projects and probable expenditures.

Mr. Vitz moved that the Division place at the disposal of the Public Libraries Office a sum of 350.00 to be used for travel expenses to meetings, for additions to the staff at Atlantic City, or for paying the expenses of a personal representative for Miss Ridgway at Association meetings. Seconded by Miss Fenneman. Carried.

The tentative budget, subject to change and approval at the Board Meeting at Midwinter is as follows:

Sections and Committees	250.00
Clerical Help	600.00
Mailing (2)	250.00
Bulletin, including postage	800.00
Travel	400.00
Supplies	150.00
Postage, Telephone, Telegraph	300.00
Conferences	
Midwinter	50.00
Atlantic City Speakers	200.00
Atlantic City Exhibits	500.00
Public Library Office	350.00
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	3,850.00

Mr. Vitz moved that the budget of 3,850.00 be adopted. Seconded by Mr. Nourse. Carried. Mr. Spaulding recommended that the budget be published in Public Libraries with an explanatory note.

Committees: The committee appointments for 1947-1948 were approved. Will Collins, whose name was inadvertently dropped from the Library Architecture committee, is to be re-instated.

A Planning Committee for the Division was proposed by Miss Ridgway and approved. The suggestions for membership were as follows: Amy Winslow, Grace Gilman, Carl Vitz, and Forrest Spaulding, for one-year terms; Mary Rothrock, Marian McFadden, for two-year terms; and Lowell Martin and Marjorie Beal for three-year terms. These individuals were chosen to represent large and small public libraries, library schools, and rural and extension areas, so that the Division might profit in its planning by wide variety of approach to its problems.

Council of National Library Associations: The Officers accepted the invitation for affiliation with the Council of National Library Associations. Miss Fenneman moved that the ten dollar membership fee be allowed. Seconded by Mr. Vitz. Carried. Mr. Spaulding and Mr. Vitz are to serve as representatives. Alternates are to be appointed as needed.

Advisory Committee: The report of Miss Winslow, the Division representative on the Advisory committee to the public library office, was presented by Miss Ridgway. Mr. Vitz moved that Miss Winslow's expenses be allowed. Seconded by Mr. Nourse. All in favor.

Library Architecture Committee - Special Services: It was suggested that the President write to Ernest Miller, chairman of the A.L.A. Architecture committee, urging a meeting with Mr. Bailey of the Division committee and the A.C.R.L. chairman to plan for coordinated efforts on advisory services.

List of the Month: The request from Jean Roos of the Division of Children and Young People for a Division representative to aid in selecting titles for the List of the Month is to be referred to John Settlemayer, chairman of the Publications and Public Relations committee.

The Sunday session adjourned at five o'clock.

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The Officers reconvened at 9:30 on Monday, November 17, 1947.

Midwinter Schedule: The following schedule was outlined for presentation to Mr. Reichmann:

- Officers' meeting, January 29, 5 p.m.
- Program, Open Meeting, January 29, 8 p.m.
- Program, Open Meeting, January 30, 10 a.m.
- Board of Directors Meeting, February 1, 10 a.m.

Midwinter Program: Mrs. Blair was called in for consultation on a film forum on the Adult Education program. It was suggested that an effort be made to secure Julien Bryan for the presentation of films and discussion. It was decided to extend an invitation to the Audio-Visual committee and the Adult Education Board to co-sponsor this meeting.

Mr. Benson, chairman of the Trustee Division, called to offer his Division as a co-sponsor for the Library Inquiry program. This offer was accepted.

At the suggestion of Mr. Milam, the Division will co-sponsor a program with A.L.A. and A.C.R.L. on European Reconstruction and the Marshall Plan.

The following motion was presented by Mr. Vitz: that the A.L.A. Program committee consider the possibility of having one program at Atlantic City on books and the current limitations on publishing policies with such probable speakers as John Farrar, Dorothy Canfield Fisher, Bennett Cerf, or Norman Cousins. Seconded by Miss Fenneman. All in favor.

50 Notable Books Project: Mr. Milam suggested that the Division take over the 50 Notable Books of the Year project. Mr. Spaulding will serve as chairman for the year and will be assisted by the staffs of the libraries represented by the Officers, selected individuals, and other libraries such as New York City, Detroit, Los Angeles, Baltimore, and Seattle. The criteria discussed included American publications of 1947, their usefulness, contribution to permanent literature, timeliness, and use as books primarily for reading rather than reference. Condensations and anthologies and children's books were ruled out. The books will be selected by staff groups on a discussion rather than a popular vote basis. Mr. Milam suggested that the Division present the list to the Council for authorization of the use of the name A.L.A. List.

It was suggested that a letter over Mr. Spaulding's signature be sent to members of the Council apprising them of the plans for the project and asking for their cooperation in selecting titles. The deadline for Mr. Spaulding's office was set for December 10. Mrs. Margaret Post, editor of the Bulletin, indicated that the list could be published in the February issue provided that the copy be received by January 1. It was suggested that an exhibit be planned for displaying the 50 Notable Books at Midwinter with the help of the publishers. The arrangements for this exhibit are to be made directly through the Division rather than through the Booklist.

The meeting formally adjourned at noon on Monday.

Respectfully submitted

Ruth W. Gregory
Executive Secretary