

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

DIVISION OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Minutes of the Atlantic City Meeting

Board Meeting, June 13, 1948

A meeting of the Executive Board of the Division of Public Libraries was held on Sunday, June 13, 1948, at 5 p.m. in the Convention Hall at Atlantic City, with Forrest Spaulding, President, presiding.

Present: Officers: Forrest Spaulding, President; Louis Nourse, Vice-President and President-Elect; Nordica Fenneman, Treasurer; John Richards, the in-coming Vice-President; Eleanor Plain, the in-coming Executive Secretary; Ruth W. Gregory, Executive Secretary. Directors: Thekla Hodgson (Branch Libraries); Milton A. Drescher (Business and Technology); Mrs. Mildred Mathews (Adult Education). Chairman of Sections: Mrs. Florence Craig (Adult Education); Mrs. Edith Busby (Order and Book Section); Miss Jean Taylor (Business and Technology). Chairman of Committees: Frederick Wezeman (Constitution and By-Laws); Mr. Aubrey Andrews representing Helen Rex (Membership); Miss Mary Elizabeth Miller, (Personnel Administration and Recruiting). Councilors: Miss Alice Jewett. Public Library Office: Miss Helen A. Ridgway; and the Editor of Public Libraries, Miss Muriel Perry.

Report of the President. Mr. Spaulding summarized the activities of the year including the continued publication of Public Libraries; the 50 Notable Books of the Year project; the adoption of the constitution by mail vote; Division representation in A.L.A. affairs by appointment of special representatives, and program planning for Midwinter and the Annual Conference.

Reports of Section Chairmen.

Adult Education: Mrs. Craig reported on the Adult Education Institute held on June 11-13, 1948, at the Ambassador Hotel and jointly sponsored by the Adult Education Board, the Audio-Visual Committee, and the section. Mrs. Craig transmitted to the Board the action of the section in voting unanimously to recommend that all of the papers of this Institute be published by the Division. Mr. Richards recommended that the Proceedings be published in a form which would be a permanent contribution to the literature on adult education and which would add to the prestige of the Division. (see page 3 Publications). Tributes were expressed by other members of the Board who attended the Institute to Mrs. Craig for the thought and planning which made the Institute such a success.

Branch Libraries Section: Mrs. Hodgson presented a brief report of the conference plans of the section.

Business and Technology: Miss Taylor reported on the outstanding plans and accomplishments of the Section summarized in the annual report. Miss Taylor recommended that the Division become more aware of the need for better coordination of activities within the Division, particularly in terms of overlapping programs.

Book and Order Selection: Mrs. Busby reported that her section had concerned itself with such problems as uniform discounts on books; the availability of book displays for book selection purposes outside the areas of large cities, and with the standardization of rates for publications on a service basis.

Each section chairman commented on the advisability of extending the term of the chairman to a two year period to allow for a continuity in the development of plans and projects. The Board informally approved this recommendation for both sections and committees.

Committee Reports.

Personnel Administration and Recruiting: Miss Miller reported on her work on the Joint Committee on Recruiting as the representative of the Division, and reminded the Board of the Recruiting Exhibit and of the pamphlet which is now available for quantity distribution through her office at Enoch Pratt. Miss Miller stressed the need of the committee for financial support by the Division. She was assured that the fifty dollars which was authorized as a contribution to the cost of publishing the recruiting pamphlet at Midwinter was available upon application to the Treasurer.

Constitution, By-Laws and Organization: Mr. Wezeman stated that the Constitution and By-laws had been adopted by mail vote in May of 1948 with a vote of 633 to 5. Mr. Wezeman was instructed to explore the need for an amendment to allow for an extension of the terms of office of chairman of sections and committees to two years, and to report back to the Executive Board at its next meeting.

Membership: Mr. Andrews announced that the membership totaled 1,662 as of March 1948. Expression of appreciation for the splendid work of the membership committee this year under the direction of Miss Rex was heard from both the officers and individual members of the Board.

Public Relations and Publication: Miss Perry as a member of the committee reported that the function of the committee during the year had been primarily advisory, and that the Committee had worked chiefly with the A.L.A. Editorial Board in reviewing and commenting on the outlines of proposed publications. She further reported that the committee might furnish the material for the List of the Month project until a committee was appointed.

Planning Committee: Miss Ridgway recommended that the utilization of this committee in the immediate future would strengthen the Division and would contribute to the program for the implementation of national plans and to the effective channeling of the future activities of the division.

Treasurer's Report: Miss Fenneman discussed the financial report which is to be presented at the annual meeting. Allocations to sections were subject to inquiry. Mr. Spaulding suggested that uncertainty as to Executive Board action on finances and policy would be eliminated if each section and committee would adopt a system of representation by alternates when the designated official is unable to attend the Midwinter or annual conference meetings.

The Division at Regional Meetings: Miss Ridgway reminded the Board that an official annual meeting would have to be designated in the 1949 regional meeting setup. No action was taken at this time.

Publications: Mr. Nourse moved that the matter of publishing the proceedings of the Adult Education Institute be referred to the chairman of the Public Relations and Publications Committee for exploration of the best means of reproducing the Institute papers in print. Seconded by Mr. Drescher; all in favor. Miss Perry was asked to inform Mr. Settelmayer of this action and to request an immediate investigation. It was suggested that the other sponsoring agencies might wish to support the publication of these proceedings.

The meeting was declared adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth W. Gregory  
Executive Secretary