

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

DIVISION OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Minutes of the Board Meeting at Atlantic City

June 19, 1948

A meeting of the Executive Board of the Division of Public Libraries was held in the Garden Lounge of the Dennis Hotel at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 19, 1948.

Present: Louis Nourse, President, presiding; Forrest Spaulding, Past President; John S. Richards, Vice-President; Nordica Fenneman, Treasurer, Ruth Gregory, Past Executive Secretary; Eleanor Plain Executive Secretary; Directors - Milton Drescher (Business and Technology Section) Dorothy Deininger (Service Librarians Section); Jeanne Taylor (Business and Technology Section) Helen Ridgway, Public Library Specialist.

Minutes: The minutes of the Board Meeting held on June 13, 1948 were read and approved upon a motion made by Miss Fenneman, seconded by Mr. Drescher and carried.

Committee Appointments: President Nourse appointed Mr. Richards as Chairman of the Planning Committee for the Implementation of the National Plan. Other committee appointments were then discussed. It was the feeling of the Board that insofar as possible persons now serving on committees should continue for another year and that the chairman of each committee could fill vacancies with due attention to geographical coverage.

Terms of Directors: It was also felt by the Board that the terms of the Directors should be staggered so that there would be more continuity of service. This question was referred to Mr. Wezeman, chairman of the committee on constitution, By-laws, and organization.

"Public Libraries": Mr. Richards urged that "Public Libraries" should publish material on the Great Issues as this would encourage libraries, especially smaller ones, to act with more assurance in emphasizing the Great Issues locally. Miss Taylor asked that space be provided for news from the various sections.

Regional A.L.A. Meetings: The Board felt that it would be desirable to select a person to represent the Public Libraries Division at each of the regional A.L.A. Meetings next year. It was moved by Mr. Spaulding, seconded by Mr. Drescher and carried that Miss Ridgway attend as many of the regional meetings as possible.

Archives: It was suggested by Miss Gregory that there was a need for a committee to determine which of the records of the Public Libraries Division should be placed in the permanent archives at A.L.A. headquarters. The President was authorized to appoint such a committee.

Sections: Miss Gregory stressed the importance of having all

material for the Proceedings number of the Bulletin turned in by July 1.

Business and Technology: Miss Taylor gave the names of the new officers of the section and mentioned some of the plans for future development.

Service Librarians: Miss Deininger reported that the name of this section had been changed to Armed Forces Librarians Section.

Adult Education: No report.

Branch Librarians: No report.

Order and Book Selection: No report.

The Board emphasized that the Sections should send a representative to board meetings if the Chairman cannot attend.

There was some discussion of the possibility of a Section for Reference Librarians of Public Libraries. It was decided to have the Planning Committee make a definite project of working with the Fourth Activities Committee on the organization of sections within a Division and between Divisions. Miss Ridgway stressed the need for greater integration in the entire public library field including trustees, extension, and public libraries.

Notable Books: It was announced that a committee in the St. Louis Public Library had charge of this project. Mr. Spaulding recommended that the list of Notable Books be issued without specifying any definite number.

Public Affairs Pamphlet: Miss Ridgway stated that a Public Affairs pamphlet on public libraries was in preparation and urged that any suggestions for material to be included in it be sent to her.

U.S. Book Exchange: Mr. Spaulding reported that Harry Peterson had been appointed to represent the P.L.D. at the meeting to be held in Washington on June 24.

Council of National Library Associations: A report was received and placed on file concerning a meeting of the Council of National Library Associations. John Kaiser represented the Division at this meeting and submitted the report.

A Communication was received from Brother A. Thomas asking that the Division send a report of the reaction of its membership to proposed reorganization plans for the American Library Association. The Secretary was instructed to acknowledge this communication and state that the Division will try to take such a poll at a later date.

Mr. Spaulding stressed the fine job done by the retiring Executive Secretary and stated that it was a privilege and pleasure to have worked with her, with the new President and with Miss Ridgway at A.L.A.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eleanor Plain,  
Executive Secretary