

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

DIVISION OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Minutes of the Officers' Meeting

November 7, 1948

The Officers of the Division of Public Libraries met at 10:00 A.M. on Sunday, November 7, 1948 at the A.L.A. Headquarters in Chicago with Louis Nourse, President, presiding.

Present: Louis Nourse, President; John S. Richards, Vice-President; Forrest Spaulding, Past-President; Nordica Fenneman, Treasurer; Helen Ridgway, Public Library Specialist; Florence Richards, Chairman of the Branch Libraries Section; Muriel Perry, Editor of "Public Libraries"; and Eleanor Plain, Executive Secretary.

Minutes: The minutes of the previous officers' meeting were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report: A balance of \$2842.83 was reported as of November 7, 1948. The report of the auditing committee was received and ordered to be printed in the next issue of PUBLIC LIBRARIES. Membership in the Division was reported currently as 2565. Miss Ridgway stated that the cost of handling the membership files of the Division in the Public Library Office would amount to \$350.00 for the coming year and suggested that this sum be allotted for that purpose. It was moved by Miss Fenneman, seconded by Mr. Richards, that Miss Ridgway's recommendation be followed. Motion carried.

Communications: A communication was read from Elizabeth Redmond, A.L.A. Publishing Department, asking that the Division send representatives to a meeting during the Midwinter Conference to discuss the promotion of a series of books concerning famous persons in library work to be known as the American Pioneers series. Mr. Nourse, Mr. Spaulding, and Mr. Vitz were asked to attend this meeting on Friday, January 21, 1949 at 2:30 P.M.

Midwinter Conference: President Nourse announced that due to the short period of time available for meetings at the Midwinter Conference it was thought desirable for the Division to co-sponsor programs with other agencies. The officers approved a meeting on Friday evening, January 21, co-sponsored with the Audio-Visual Board and the American Association of School Librarians on "Experts Look at Films". It was suggested that a check be made on the Division's share of the cost of this program.

The Division invited the Trustees Division and the Library Extension Division to join in sponsoring a program on Thursday evening, January 20. After discussion it was decided to build a program around the topic: THE RESPONSIBILITY OF GOVERNMENT FOR LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT - FEDERAL, STATE, and LOCAL; with outstanding speakers to represent each viewpoint and discussion from the floor. The following schedule for the Division's participation in the Midwinter Conference was outlined:

Board of Directors' Meeting, January 20, 9:00-10:00 A.M.  
Program, January 20, evening  
Program, January 21, evening  
Board of Directors' Meeting, January 22, 10:00-12:00 A.M.

It was suggested that a notice be printed in PUBLIC LIBRARIES inviting all members of the Division to attend the Executive Board meetings at the Conference. It was also suggested that letters be sent to all Section and Committee Chairmen urging them to appoint someone to represent them if they were unable to attend the Board Meetings.

"Public Libraries": Miss Perry stated that the policy of furnishing complimentary subscriptions to Public Libraries had been discontinued in cases where the recipient could afford to pay. She asked and received the approval of the officers for an increase in the price of single copies from 25 cents to 35 cents. The question of indexes and title pages for PUBLIC LIBRARIES was discussed. It was decided that an index should be made upon completion of Volume 2 and that consecutive paging should also end with this volume.

Mr. Spaulding recommended that the Editor appoint a reporter for each of the seven regional meetings.

The question of accepting advertising for PUBLIC LIBRARIES was discussed. This question was referred for further study to the Editorial Board of Public Libraries.

Miss Ridgway suggested the possible allotment of space in PUBLIC LIBRARIES for the Trustees Division.

Mr. Spaulding recommended that a summary of the Treasurer's Report be printed in PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

The question was also raised as to the manner in which a Life Member of A.L.A. could become a member of the Public Libraries Division. Miss Ridgway stated that A.L.A. was working on this question on an over-all basis. The President asked Miss Ridgway to check on this and report at the Midwinter Meeting.

Regional Conferences: Program plans for the A.L.A. Regional Conferences were discussed. It was decided that Mr. Nourse should write an Open Letter to the membership of the Division to be published in PUBLIC LIBRARIES suggesting that the findings of the Public Library Inquiry be featured on the program at each of the seven Regional Conferences. It was recommended that the Public Library Division have an official representative in each region appointed by the President. Section Chairmen who wished to have their sections represented on the Regional Programs should get in touch directly with the Regional Chairmen.

Branch Libraries Section: Mrs. Florence Richards, Chairman of this Section, asked for suggestions concerning the future plans for the section. It was suggested that the opinion of the members of the section be sought as to the needs of this group, what kind of organization was preferred and the value of continuing as a separate section.

Adult Education Section: This section was represented by Mr. Richards who asked for comments concerning the activities of this

group. Mr. Spaulding suggested that there should be a closer tie-up between this section, the National Education Association and the AAAE.

Miss Ridgway reported on arrangements in progress to wind up the work of the Harmon Foundation. It was stated that the A.L.A. Adult Education Board has arranged for the Chairman of the Public Libraries Division Adult Education Section to be on the former's Board.

Committees: Progress on committee appointments was reviewed. It was decided that it was not necessary to make any appointment to the Joint Program Committee for 1948/49.

The Secretary was asked to write to the Chairman of the Constitution, By-Laws and Organization Committee for a report at the Midwinter Conference concerning the possibility of staggering terms of Section Officers.

Since it has not yet been determined which of the Regional Conferences is to be the official A.L.A. Conference, the officers instructed the Secretary to take October 1 as the date from which to base the publishing of the reports of the Nominating Committee and the mailing of ballots for election of officers for 1949/50.

Joint Division Program Committee: Emerson Greenaway submitted a report of this committee which was read and placed on file.

The organization of the Membership Committee was discussed. It was the opinion of the officers that it would be desirable for this committee to take into consideration the A.L.A. regional groupings.

A letter was read from Mary Elizabeth Miller, Chairman of the Personnel Administration and Recruiting Committee stating that since she was to become librarian of Goucher College in January that the Division might not want her to continue as Chairman of this committee. It was the opinion of those present that Miss Miller be asked to continue as Chairman.

Mr. Richards as Chairman of the Planning Committee stated that this committee was expected to be working with the A.L.A. committee on Implementation of the National Plan but that he felt it was advisable to wait until after the report of the Public Library Inquiry had been made as this report should give emphasis and direction to the Implementation Committee. Those present thought that a statement of this position should be published in PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

It was stated that the Public Relations and Publications Committee was considering the publication of the proceedings of the Adult Education Institute at Atlantic City.

Mr. Spaulding said that the Committee on Terms and Definitions was to be a continuing committee as its work could not be done in one year.

Notable Books Project: It was decided that this should be a Division list only and should not be presented to the A.L.A. Council for approval.

Budget: A tentative budget, subject to change and approval by the Board at the Midwinter Meeting, was prepared as follows:

BUDGET

Sections and Committees .....	\$ 300.00
Clerical Help .....	250.00
Ballot Mailing .....	100.00
<u>Public Libraries</u> .....	1100.00
Travel .....	500.00
Postage - telephone - telegraph .....	100.00
Conferences	
Regional .....	1000.00
Midwinter .....	150.00
Public Library Office .....	350.00
Supplies .....	50.00
Contingency .....	100.00
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TOTAL	\$ 4000.00

Council of National Library Associations: Paul North Rice, representing P.L.D., submitted a report of a meeting of the Council. President Nourse appointed John B. Kaiser and Louis J. Bailey as delegates to the Council for 1949.

The Division was represented by Harry Peterson at a Washington Meeting to discuss proposed Library of Congress Legislation.

The meeting formally adjourned at 5:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Eleanor Plain, Secretary