

American Library Association
Public Libraries Division (old)
Minutes of Officers Meeting

Allerton Hotel, Chicago, November 10, 1950

An all-day meeting of the officers of the Public Libraries Division was held at the Allerton Hotel in Chicago on November 10, 1950, with Miss Harris presiding.

Present. Helen Harris, Richard Sealock, Marie Barkman and Helen Ridgway. Miss Ridgway's secretary took notes for Eleanor Plain, who was out of town and could not attend.

Notable Books. It was agreed that the annual list to be released on March 1 should be called "Notable Books of 1950" rather than "Fifty Notable Books..." Also that Gertrude Gscheidle, chairman of the committee, should be asked to write a note to accompany the list, explaining the standards used as a basis of selection. It was decided to have the Sturgis Printing Co. print the list for sale and to include it in the March 1951 issue of Public Libraries. (The issue was later dated February 1951 and the list appeared on p. 7-9.)

Adult Book List Committee. It was agreed that Miss Harris would ask Howard Rowe to be chairman of an Adult Book List Committee to select or compile suitable lists of adult books on various subjects for sponsorship by the Division and for reprinting and sale by the Sturgis Printing Company. Margaret Cole, Queens Borough, and Pauline Fihe, Cincinnati, were other names suggested for the committee.

Merger. Mr. Sealock then raised a number of questions for discussion, relating to the merger of the three divisions to form the new Public Libraries Division. It was pointed out that the new officers would be taking office at the July 1951 conference. It was agreed that the old Sections should continue until July 1951 and that petitions for section status under the new by-laws would be expected at that time. It was suggested that the subject be discussed at the Midwinter Meeting at both the business meeting of the Temporary Board on Tuesday, January 30, and at the joint business meeting of the three merging divisions on Wednesday, January 31. Miss Harris was to make a strong plea for a limited number of strong sections rather than a dispersal of energy into numerous sections and subsections. It was agreed that John Richards, as past-president, should be invited to attend the meeting of the Temporary Board (officers of the three divisions) at the Midwinter Meeting. It was recognized that the three temporary officers of the new Division, to be elected on January 30 by the Temporary Board would have to take financial and other responsibilities for the new Division under a joint budget and financial assessment worked out by the Temporary Board and in accordance with arrangements made with Mr. Weins for dues allocation during the interim period.

It was agreed that Miss Harris would present a resolution to the A.L.A. Council at both the Midwinter Meeting and the Annual Conference requesting that the old Public Libraries Division be discontinued. (It was later decided to present a joint resolution requesting the discontinuance of the

three divisions and Miss Harris introduced that resolution as temporary vice-chairman of the new Public Libraries Division.)

It was decided to recommend to the Nominating Committee of the new Division that A.L.A. Councilors of the three merging divisions whose terms had not expired be asked to serve out their unexpired terms as Councilors of the new Division. Miss Harris agreed to write to the four Councilors of the old Public Libraries Division, whose terms expire at the close of the 1951 Conference (Mr. Clarke, Miss Gilman, Miss Jewett, and Miss McAfee) to thank them for their services.

It was decided to ask the Elections Committee of the old Public Libraries Division to count the ballots for the 1951 election for the new Division, with additional members appointed by the Library Extension and Trustees Divisions to assist in counting the extra ballots caused by the merger.

Lapsed Memberships. Miss Harris agreed to prepare a letter urging lapsed members to renew their membership and to ask editors of state bulletins to place a similar notice in their next issues. The Public Library Executive Office agreed to handle these letters with the understanding that the labor cost be charged to the Public Libraries Division. (Before this could be done, it was learned that the Sturgis Printing Co. has destroyed the addressograph plates that were to have been used.)

Planning Committee. Miss Harris asked what function the Planning Committee could serve between the Midwinter Meeting and the Chicago Conference and the answer seemed to be none, until a new Planning Committee representing the entire Division could be appointed at or following the Chicago Conference. It was suggested that Miss Harris prepare a statement for the "December" issue of Public Libraries (which became the "February" issue) and that the Division get someone to write a critical report on the various national plans for publication in a professional journal like the A.L.A. Bulletin, Wilson Library Bulletin, Library Journal, etc.

Library Pioneers. Miss Harris asked what was being done to recognize pioneers in the library profession at the 75th Anniversary Conference and Miss Ridgway reported on tentative plans. It was agreed that it should be done by A.L.A. as a whole rather than be just a division project and Miss Harris was asked to write a letter to Mr. Cory expressing the interest and backing of the Division officers in such a project.

Conference Exhibit. Miss Ridgway suggested that either the old Public Libraries Division or the new Division might wish to have a special exhibit in connection with the 75th Anniversary Conference.

Conference Meetings. In addition to the meetings of the Temporary Board on Tuesday, January 30, and the Joint Business Meeting on Wednesday morning, January 31, it was agreed to have a breakfast meeting of the old Public Libraries Division Board on Thursday morning, February 1, and that Miss Plain would send invitations to officers, directors and section chairmen.

C.N.L.A. Representatives. It was agreed that Ralph Beals and Amy Winslow should be asked to represent the Public Libraries Division at C.N.L.A. meetings this year. (Later Mr. Beals and Miss Winslow were unable to attend and Louis Bailey and John Kaiser were asked to continue as representatives.)

Section Chairmen. Mr. Sealock said that he would like to see more guidance and help given to section chairman and cited the election of Mrs. Charlemae Rollins as chairman of the Branch Libraries Section at a time when she was not a member of that section or even of the Public Libraries Division. (To achieve a better liaison the by-laws proposed for the new Division provide that both the chief officer and another representative of all sections shall be on the Division Board of Directors.)

Annual Report. It was suggested that a copy of the annual report of the Division be sent to Mr. Lindquist for inclusion in the "December" issue (later February issue) of Public Libraries.

Membership Records. It was thought that the Editorial Board ought to explore the possibility of using the new addressograph equipment at A.L.A. Headquarters for addressing envelopes and sending them to the Sturgis Printing Co. for the mailing of Public Libraries. Miss Ridgway, who is also a member of the Editorial Board, reported that some such arrangement would be possible by September 1, 1951 but that until then she and Mr. Weins had agreed that the present membership records in the Public Library Executive Office would be maintained with the corresponding addressographing done by Sturgis. By that time his records will be sufficiently complete to change over. Miss Ridgway indicated that the \$516.04 (based on membership as of September 30, 1950) already paid by Miss Barkman would need to be supplemented when the final membership figure as of December 31, 1950 were known. Accordingly, \$600 was earmarked in the budget for this purpose.

Paper Quota. It was suggested that the estimated paper quota should allow for 1500 rather than 1000 more copies of Public Libraries because of growing membership.

Budget for 1950-51. After careful consideration of the individual items included the following budget was adopted for 1950-51:

Sections and Committees	\$200.
Clerical Help	200.
Ballot Mailing	300.
<u>Public Libraries</u>	2500.
Travel	750.
Postage, Telegrams, Telephone	100.
Conferences - Annual and Midwinter	500.
Public Library Executive Office	
Membership Records	600.
Clerical Help	75.
Supplies	50.
Washington Office	500.
Contingency	100.
Meeting of Constitution Committee	200.
Total	<u>\$ 5875.</u>

Proposed Constitution. After a recess for luncheon the meeting continued with a presentation by Mr. Sealock of the changes suggested, at and following the Cleveland Conference, in the By-Laws proposed for the new Division. Mr. Sealock outlined the procedure he expected to follow in presenting the changes at the Joint business meeting at the Midwinter Meeting and the later provision for mailing the By-Laws to members of all three merging divisions with the election ballots for a mail vote in June 1951

Program Meeting. The kind of program meeting that might be held by the new Division at the 75th Anniversary Conference in July 1951 was the last item of business to be discussed. An evening meeting with an emphasis on a philosophical or inspirational approach to books and reading was suggested and John T. Frederick, Clifton Fadiman, Warren Beck, Edward Weeks, and Mrs. Lucile Pannell were the type of speakers mentioned. Miss Ridgway was asked to transmit these suggestions in her conversation with Mr. Fahey and Mr. Henderson the following week so that some thought could be given to the program even before the appointment of a Program Committee by the new Temporary Officers.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Helen A. Ridgway
Secretary for the Meeting

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