

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
DIVISION OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES (Old)

MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS MEETING
Chicago, February 2, 1951

The A.L.A. Division of Public Libraries (Old) held a business meeting at the Edgewater Beach Hotel on February 2, 1951, at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting was called to order by Helen M. Harris, president of the Division. About fifty persons attended. Miss Harris introduced the Division's officers, directors, councilors, and section chairmen.

Minutes: The reading of the minutes of the previous meeting were dispensed with upon a motion of Ruth Gregory, seconded by Jane Morey and carried.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer reported a balance on hand on January 29, 1951 of \$2,778.06.

Notable Books: Gertrude E. Gschidle, chairman of the Notable Books project reported on the techniques used in the compilation of the list for 1950. During discussion of whether the list should be ready by the time of the Midwinter Meeting it was generally felt that timeliness was important and that the list should be ready as soon after the first of the year as possible. It was the opinion of the group that the committee should have the power of final decision on the titles to be included.

Ford Foundation: Members of the Division were asked to suggest to Lowell Martin projects of benefit to libraries which might be submitted to the Ford Foundation.

Council of National Library Associations: Miss Harris reviewed the subject of the Division's membership in the CNLA and the proposed plan of federation. She stated that this plan had seemed unsound and undesirable to the Executive Board at its meeting on February 1. Forrest Spaulding moved that the Division confirm its action taken at the Cleveland Meeting in July 1950 on this matter and continue to oppose the formation of any federation of library associations which would weaken a strong A.L.A. Motion seconded by Alice Jewett and carried.

New Division: Miss Harris announced that the name of the new division formed by the merger of the Public Libraries, Trustees, and Library Extension Divisions was Public Libraries Division. The temporary officers of this Division are: Edward J. A. Fahey, Chairman; Helen M. Harris, Vice-Chairman; Eleanor Plain, Secretary-Treasurer.

It was stated that it would be necessary for any section which desired to continue in existence to petition the Temporary Board of the new Division before July 1951. The Trustees, Library Extension workers and Armed Forces librarians have previously announced that they plan to petition for section status in the new Division. The question was raised concerning the future status of the old Division of Public Libraries. In the discussion which followed, Louis Nourse and Forrest Spaulding stressed the desirability of leaving the organization in a fluid state at this time and advised against the formation of a large number of sections. Additional speakers stressed the need of simplification in organization and joint action on common problems. The motion passed by the Executive Board at its meeting February 1 was reported: "That the old Division of Public Libraries should not consider petitioning for section status under the new Division."

Status of Present Sections: It was announced that membership in all present sections had been frozen until July 1951 so that the identity of each section may be kept. All sections will have funds to complete any projects already undertaken or to carry out any commitments made until July 1951.

Membership: When it was stated that the Division had lost over 1,000 members last year with a corresponding loss of funds, Mr. Spaulding suggested that A.L.A. be asked to explore the possibility of automatically continuing Division status for each member after it had once been checked unless the member indicated otherwise.

Publications: It was suggested that there was a need for some convenient source for securing the publications of other A.L.A. divisions without the necessity of becoming a member of each one.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eleanor Plain,
Executive Secretary