

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
Division of Public Libraries (Old)
Minutes of the Business Meeting
Chicago, July 10, 1951

The A.L.A. Division of Public Libraries (Old) held a business meeting in Private Dining Room Number one of the Stevens Hotel, Chicago on July 10, 1951 at 8:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Helen M. Harris, President of the Division. Approximately thirty-five persons were in attendance.

Minutes: The minutes of the last business meeting, held in Chicago on February 2, 1951, were read and approved.

Treasurer's Report: A balance of \$4,940.04 on hand as of July 5, 1951 was reported.

Committee Reports:

Elections Committee - The Elections Committee of the old Division served in the same capacity for the newly formed Public Libraries Division. Lester F. Filson, chairman, announced the election of the following as officers and counselors of the new division: President, Harold F. Brigham; Vice-president and President-elect, Ruth Rutzen; Treasurer, Mrs. Ralph I. Burris; Councilors for a four-year term expiring in 1955 - Maryan E. Reynolds, Frances M. O'Halloran, Mildred Stewart, Helen T. Steinbarger, Roberta Bowler. Miss Harris introduced the newly elected officers and councilors who were present.

Library Architecture Committee: Ernest I. Miller, Chairman, submitted the report of the Library Architecture Committee which included recommendations for future activities of this committee.

Section Reports: Dorothy Deininger, chairman of the Armed Forces Section reported and re-affirmed the intention of this group to seek section status in the new division. John Humphry, chairman of the Order and Book Selection Section reported that this group had voted not to petition for section status in the new Division at this time.

All section chairmen were asked to send written reports of the year's activities of their sections to the executive secretary, Eleanor Plain by August 15 and to submit their expense accounts to the treasurer Marie Barkman by this same date,

Midwinter Meetings: The opinion of the group was sought concerning what type of meeting should be held at the A.L.A. Midwinter conferences. Discussion which followed stressed the cost of program meetings in time spent by A.L.A. Headquarters staff and Division officers as well as the financial expense involved. The point was also made that many persons were attending the Midwinter meetings since they had become program meetings instead of the annual conference. It was moved by Richard Sealock and seconded by Ernest Miller that the Division of Public Libraries (Old) should express the opinion that the Midwinter Conferences of A.L.A. should be limited to business meetings only of officers, committees, and boards and that the Division was not interested in having any regional meeting in connection with the Midwinter conference. The motion was carried unanimously.

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Council of National Library Associations: Mr. Brigham reported that the Board of the new Public Libraries Division had taken action to continue its membership in CNLA for another year in order to keep informed of the activities of this organization.

Merger: Miss Harris stated that final action to complete the merger of the Library Extension, Trustees, and Public Libraries Divisions would be taken by the Council on Friday, July 13. She also stated that the old Division at this time should authorize procedure to terminate its affairs. Irving Lieberman moved and John Humphry seconded the following motion which was carried:

RESOLVED: That Helen M. Harris, Richard B. Sealock, Eleanor Plain, and Marie W. Barkman be authorized to complete the business of the old Division of Public Libraries of the A.L.A. and turn over all records and monies remaining to the new Public Libraries Division of the A.L.A. by October 1, 1951.

Sections of New Public Libraries Division: Miss Harris outlined the problem of section status in the new Division. She explained that a year ago the Trustees, Extension and Armed Forces groups announced their intention of asking section status and had prepared petitions to present to the new board. Since under the new By-Laws each section is to receive funds allotted on a per capita basis, a large number of sections would be a great drain on the treasury. Under a new plan proposed by A.L.A. each Division would operate its own office at Headquarters which would mean increased financial responsibilities even though divisional allotments from A.L.A. would be increased. The immediate problem was how sections of the old Public Libraries Division could continue to function in accordance with the wishes of their members without formalizing their organization. During discussion it was suggested by Raymond Lindquist that these former sections could function as committees of the new Division. Mr. Brigham recommended that these groups take action during this conference which might be only temporary but would serve to keep the groups identified and active until the new Division can clarify its financial problems. Mr. Humphry moved that Mr. Brigham's recommendation be adopted. Motion seconded by Mr. Miller and carried.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

ELEANOR PLAIN,
Executive Secretary