

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Public Libraries Division (New)
Saturday, July 14, 1951 - Stevens Hotel, Chicago

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Harold F. Brigham, President. Present were:

Officers:

Harold F. Brigham, President
Ruth Rutzen, Vice President and President Elect
Helen A. Ridgway, Acting Executive Secretary
Mrs. Ralph I. Burris, Treasurer

A.L.A. Councilors:

Harry F. Cook (Representing Frances M. O'Halloran)
Ruth Gregory
Perrie Jones
Joyce Nienstedt
Lucile Nix
Howard Rowe
Mrs. Helen T. Steinbarger

Section Directors:

Mary J. Carter, Armed Forces Librarians
Mary Creech, Trustees (Representing Edward J. A. Fahey)

Chief Section Officers:

Mrs. Dorothy Payne, Armed Forces Librarians
John D. Henderson, Library Extension
Mrs. Dorothy T. Hagerman, Trustees (Representing Thomas H. McKaig)

Observers:

Miriam Putnam, Chairman, old Adult Education Section
Ruth Warncke, Representative, old Adult Education Section
Mrs. Charlemae Rollins, Chairman, old Branch Librarians Section
Jesse E. Cross, Chairman, old Business and Technology Section
Marion King, Secretary, old Business and Technology Section

Board and Executive Committee. Mr. Brigham explained that the Board of Directors of the new Division were made up of the newly elected officers of the Division, the immediate past president (vacancy 1951-52), the A.L.A. councilors, the directors elected by the sections and chief officers of each section. He stated that if the Division has three sections, there would be a total of 31 members on the Board and that it would be necessary to authorize the officers to serve as an executive committee after the meeting, as authorized in the By-Laws.

Miss Jones moved and Mrs. Steinbarger seconded a motion that the officers be authorized to serve as an executive committee between board meetings. The motion was carried.

Authorization of Sections. Mr. Brigham suggested the Board act on the petitions of the three groups for section status. Miss Ridgway read the petition of the Armed Forces Librarians group for section status, which incorporated a statement

of objectives, and also read the petitions from the Library Extension and Trustees groups for section status. Miss Gregory moved that these petitions be accepted; Mr. Rowe seconded the motion and the motion was carried.

Executive Secretary. Mr. Brigham announced that Miss Ridgway had been appointed Acting Executive Secretary at the Board meeting on July 8, since under the plan being proposed by the A.L.A. Executive Board the position of Chief Public Library Specialist would probably cease to exist on August 31 and the corresponding money be available for the salary of a division Executive Secretary.

Mr. Brigham suggested that following Miss Ridgway's resignation on September 15, the Board might wish to appoint another full-time or part-time acting executive secretary until a permanent appointment can be made. Discussion followed on the possibility of asking Mildred Batchelder to serve as part-time executive secretary since she had received notice that she would not be appointed Executive Secretary of the American Association of School Librarians. Miss Gregory moved that this possibility be explored. Mrs. Hagerman seconded the motion and the motion was carried. Miss Gregory then moved that a special committee of three be appointed to investigate the possibilities of candidates for the position of executive secretary, depending on the action of the A.L.A. Executive Board that afternoon, with the understanding that the ultimate decision be made by the Board of Directors of the Division. Mrs. Hagerman seconded the motion and the motion was carried. Discussion followed regarding the duties, location and salary of the executive secretary. The Division will probably accept the position classification, and corresponding salary, of G13 as given in the A.L.A. Headquarters Classification Plan.

Miss Ridgway indicated the need for extra clerical help in clearing up conference business and other reorganization details as soon as possible. After discussion and amendment a motion by Miss Jones and seconded by Mr. Rowe was passed authorizing the Board to make monies available for additional clerical help both in connection with the annual conference and until the 1952 Midwinter Meeting.

Special Committees Representing Section Interests. Miss Warncke presented the decision of the Adult Education group to continue for the present as a committee of the new Division. Mr. Rowe moved that this recommendation be accepted and that the group's officers be appointed as members of this committee. Mrs. Steinbarger seconded the motion and the motion was carried.

Mrs. Rollins presented the decision of the Branch Librarians group to continue as a committee with the officers serving as members of the committee. Miss Jones moved this committee be authorized, Mrs. Steinbarger seconded the motion and the motion was carried.

Mr. Cross presented the decision of the Business and Technology group to continue as a committee for the present but to explore the possibility of extending the group to include broader reference interests, with possible section status later, and within which the Business and Technology group would retain their identity. Mr. Brigham suggested that the second part of Mr. Cross' motion be studied by the Board and that the Board now act only on the first portion of the motion. Mrs. Hagerman moved that the Business and Technology group be constituted a committee of the new Division; Miss Gregory seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

Miss Ridgway reported that the Order and Book Selection group had voted against petitioning for section status, since it believed that its interests within A.L.A. could be represented in other ways. Mrs. Burris moved and Mrs. Steinbarger seconded a motion that this group also function through a special committee on Order and Book Selection. The motion was carried.

Miss Gregory moved that a special committee be appointed to study the whole matter of the definition of sections and other groups for the Division and report its decisions to the full Board. Miss Rutzen seconded this motion, which was carried.

Standing Committees. After further discussion Mr. Rowe moved and Miss Creech seconded the motion that the following standing committees be authorized by the Board at this time: Archives, Auditing, Editorial, Elections, Library Architecture, Nominating, Membership, Planning, Standards, and Statistics. Authorization of other committees was deferred until the Midwinter Meeting, including a request presented by Mrs. Steinbarger that a Circulation Committee be formed.

Budget. It was decided that a tentative budget for the Division should be worked out at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board at A.L.A. Headquarters in August, for approval by a mail vote of the Board by October 1, so that the sections could be assured of at least a minimum allotment for the fiscal year 1951-52, with the possibility of additional allotments later if the final budget permitted. Mr. Brigham agreed to schedule such a meeting before Miss Ridgway left on vacation. Mr. Brigham suggested that the sections and other groups give him statements of their present continuing financial commitments as a guide to the Board in making this year's allotments.

Editorial Board (Committee). Miss Gregory gave a report from the old Editorial Board, which will continue as the new Editorial Committee and will be responsible for the planning of the October issue of Public Libraries to be devoted to conference business, reorganization policies, an editorial by the new president, Miss Ridgway's final report, etc. The January issue may be an adult education issue. The contract with the Sturgis Printing Co. was discussed (20-page issue, 5,000 copies, will cost \$675; additional 100 copies will cost \$13.) It is planned to solicit advertising, not to exceed 40% of the space in any issue, with advertising rates established after consultation with Mr. Fontaine. After discussion, Mr. Rowe moved that the Board accept the report, but that Mr. Lindquist be asked to hold the October issue to 20 pages, unless advertising income makes it possible to go beyond that size. Mrs. Burris seconded the motion, which was carried.

Mr. Brigham urged members of the Board to send him suggested names for committee appointments.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Helen A. Ridgway
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Acting Executive Secretary