

Minutes of the  
Joint Library Extension Section - Public Libraries Division Board Meeting  
Tuesday, February 3, 1953, 8:30 p.m.  
Edgewater Beach Hotel, Chicago

PRESENT WERE:

Ruth Rutzen, PLD President  
S. Janice Kee, PLD Executive Secretary  
Mrs. Helen Gilbert, LES President  
Carol Trimble, LES Secretary  
John D. Henderson, Past-President of LES  
Mrs. Gretchen K. Schenk, LES Director  
Violet Myer, President, PLD Adult Education Section  
Julia Bennett, Director, ALA Washington Office  
Clara Breed, ALA Councilor  
Ruth Gregory, ALA Councilor, and Chairman, PLD Archives Committee  
Perrie Jones, ALA Councilor  
Lucile Nix, ALA Councilor  
Howard Rowe, ALA Councilor  
Mildred Stewart, ALA Councilor  
Margaret Goodrich, representing Frances M. O'Halloran, ALA Councilor  
Dorothy Cutler, representing Maryan Reynolds, ALA Councilor  
Mrs. Marion Hawes, Chairman, PLD Publications Committee  
Dorothy Alvord

COMMITTEE STRUCTURES. Mrs. Gilbert called the meeting to order and introduced the main purpose of this joint meeting of the two Boards -- that of the committee structure of the Division and the Section, bearing in mind the reasons for the amalgamation of the two old divisions. Miss Rutzen highlighted some of the problems involved, such as overlapping functions and duplication of effort. She stated that it was felt that one PLD committee would do the job for all when it had members from the appropriate Sections on it and she gave as an example the PLD Membership Committee. Mrs. Gilbert mentioned the possibility of duplication of effort of many committees. It was decided to discuss separately the committees in question.

LES ARCHIVAL AND LIBRARY MATERIALS COMMITTEE. Miss Kee reviewed the functions of the PLD Archives Committee. Miss Gregory, Chairman, reported that this committee had drafted a statement of policy and an instruction sheet for officers, committee chairman. Miss Nix stated that the instruction sheet should include recommendations as to the kind of materials which should be kept. It was mentioned that the function of the present PLD Archives Committee would require officers to do their own weeding before sending materials to the PLD office. The annual reports of each group should serve as a complete history of the group for that year. Miss Gregory suggested the group table any action on this committee until the PLD Committee's instruction sheet is complete. Miss Rutzen pointed out that the important thing was to have complete records at the ALA office. There was discussion on the area of archival materials these instruction sheets would cover. Miss Kee explained that this PLD Committee is charged with responsibility of working out a system of record keeping which might be incorporated in 1953. She said the collecting and arranging of the backlog of old materials and records constitute a great problem -- not only for PLD but for ALA as well. Mr. Henderson suggested that it would be desirable to have the LES archival materials, which are now scattered around the country, gone over by an archivist and a history of the Section drawn up from these materials, which would then be weeded, discarded, etc.

LES BRANCH BUILDINGS COMMITTEE. The function of this committee was discussed, as well as the possibility of a LES representative serving on the PLD Architecture Committee. It was pointed out that this section representative could be a member of the Division Committee and be responsible directly to the Section. Miss Rutzen also suggested the possibility of a Section Committee acting as the official Division committee; for instance, such a committee could be concerned with bookmobile garaging and facilities. There was discussion that this committee might take the form of a subcommittee and could be part of the report of the buildings committee. The committee might be concerned with the planning of functional buildings which house bookmobiles which would apply to small and large, city and county libraries. Miss Jones suggested that when this study is completed, a regional differential be made. The name of the revised LES committee could be extension building needs. Mrs. Schenk stated that an LES project on headquarters building for operation of large scale services would be a great help. Discussion followed, but no decisions were made at this time.

LES EXHIBITS AND PICTURES COMMITTEE. It was reported that this committee has been inactive but could be re-activated any time the Section wants to have an exhibit. There was discussion on the possibility that a need for this committee might arise regarding the Library Services Bill and extension services which could be made available. Also discussed was the need for a current collection of good pictures, and filmstrips, on library buildings, bookmobiles, etc. Suggested ways of accomplishing this were: 1) urging state library agencies to supply this committee with the material, 2) by investing Section funds to collect good photography, that would show library extension activities. It was suggested that perhaps the whole function of this committee should be rewritten to include a fuller scope of a committee to produce and collect pictorial materials. These materials would be filed at ALA Headquarters for loan. There was discussion on the possibility of this committee's overlapping with the function of the Architecture Committee. Miss Kee mentioned that she would like to see the LES committee concentrate on rural library service. Discussion followed but no decision was reached.

LES LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE. Mrs. Gilbert discussed the functions of this committee. It was pointed out that the Division Library Development Committee is not an action committee, but rather one that views public libraries as a whole and makes recommendations to the PLD Board as to needs and lacks in the field. It was mentioned that there has been no over-all follow-up of the Public Library Inquiry, and that Post-War Standards should be revised and both re-evaluated. There was discussion on whether or not the Division committee could absorb the Standards Committee. Miss Rutzen suggested that the LES Standards Committee might limit itself to county and regional library standards and that its report could ultimately be incorporated in a PLD Standards Committee report. The group agreed that the title of the Library Development Committee was confusing and should be changed to indicate an advisory committee. There was discussion to the effect that the definition of a county library accepted by LES at Atlantic City was for statistical purposes and not a standard, and should be revised.

LES LIBRARY EDUCATION COMMITTEE. The original purpose of this committee was related to the training of extension librarians. It was expected that the committee would point up needs of extension work. Discussion followed and it was decided this should be referred to the LES Board.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE. There was discussion as to whether the PLD, LES and ALA committees might work more closely. Miss Kee pointed out that the PLD Committee is set up to produce materials for use by the ALA Committee to encourage ALA membership.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE. While the LES Committee is set up to produce materials, the PLD Committee's function is to work with the ALA Editorial Committee in an advisory capacity.

IT WAS AGREED that the Library Extension Section would not set up committees that are already functioning in the Public Libraries Division, except as they are found by the LES Board to be necessary to carry out the objectives of the Section.

Julia Bennett presented a mimeographed sheet on library legislation. She mentioned the present need to secure additional sponsors for the Library Services Bill in the 83rd Congress, giving a brief history of representatives. She mentioned that a legal brief must be prepared and presented to Senator Taft to secure his support. Miss Bennett reported there is a good chance that this Bill will pass since this Congress, after labor legislation is over in two months, will need to produce some kind of social legislation. She stressed the need of the support of trustees and interested citizens, as well as librarians all over the country. (Referred to article, Library Journal, February 1).

Mrs. Gilbert asked for suggestions for the Los Angeles Conference. It was decided that plans for over-all program would be discussed by each Board at its own meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 p.m.

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