

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
PUBLIC LIBRARIES DIVISION

Formalized Minutes

Meeting of Board of Directors, ALA Midwinter Meeting
Chicago, Ill., 1955

Tuesday, February 1, 1955, 8:30 p.m.
Presiding, Ruth W. Gregory, President

PRESENT: Board Members: Ruth W. Gregory, Mildred W. Sandoe, S. Janice Kee,
Harold W. Tucker, Jack B. Spear, Nell Scott,
Katherine Hyatt, Gretchen K. Schenk, Mildred Stibitz,
Harriet Rourke, Dorothy Strouse, Mary Radmacher, Mrs.
A. J. Quigley, and Mildred Stewart.

Councilors: Frances M. O'Halloran, Siri Andrews, Harold J. Baily,
Irving Lieberman, John E. Smith, and Helen M. Clark
for Nettie B. Taylor.

Committee Chairmen: Grace Gilman, Notable Books
Gertrude Gscheidle, Library Development
Mrs. Mildred McKay, Membership
Mrs. Genevieve Galick, Revision of State Grants to PL

Others: Dorothy K. Smith, PLD Office
Ruth Rutzen, ALA Committee on Division Relations
Hazel Timmerman, ALA Staff
John D. Henderson, ALA Committee on Intellectual Freedom
Paul H. Bixler, ALA Committee on Intellectual Freedom

BOOK SELECTION
POLICY STATEMENT: The meeting opened with a discussion of the proposed work
conference on book selection to be co-sponsored by the
Division and the ALA Committee on Intellectual Freedom.

The need of librarians in small public libraries for assistance in preparing a book
selection policy statement was first brought to the attention of the Board in Minnea-
polis on June 26, 1954. The PLD Executive Committee discussed it at their meeting
the following September, and agreed to move forward with the proposal.

Miss Gregory reported that from August to October, 1954, she had interviewed over 60
librarians of small public libraries to gauge their interest. She found only one of
these librarians questioned the need for a book selection policy statement. She re-
ported, also, her unsuccessful effort to secure a grant from the Norman Basset Founda-
tion to be used in connection with the work conference and told of her appeal to the
PLD membership through Public Libraries for expressions of their interest.

Mr. Henderson and Mr. Bixler presented a program outline for the work conference on
book selection, and asked if the Division Board would be interested in co-sponsoring
such a conference in Philadelphia. The Board members' questions related to the
purpose of the conference, how it would be financed, and the extent of participation
by librarians. It was made clear that neither a "model" book selection policy nor a
manual of procedure were the hoped-for results; that the conference would be financed
by a registration fee and a proposed grant to the CIF; and the conference would be

widely publicized and open to any librarian who was interested. Mr. Henderson restated its purpose; to bring together librarians, particularly from the smaller public libraries, for exchange of ideas and experiences, to identify problem areas, and to establish some guiding principles for developing book selection policies.

The Board decided to vote on the question of co-sponsoring the conference at its next meeting on February 2.

MINUTES: Copies of the Board's Minutes at the Annual Conference in Minneapolis were mailed to the members on August 25, 1954. The Board approved these minutes.

FINANCIAL POLICIES: The PLD Executive Committee had mailed to the Board for approval a set of policies relating to expenditure of Division funds for non-Division sponsored projects, budgeting, conference expenses, the expenses of officers, Division representatives, editors and compilers, and payment of bills. These policies were approved by mail vote. Since Mr. Spear had cast the one negative vote, President Gregory introduced the policies for re-consideration. After Mr. Spear stated his objections, the Board VOTED not to reconsider the policies; thereby allowing the original affirmative vote to stand.

NOTABLE BOOKS COMMITTEE: Miss Grace Gilman, Chairman, presented the 1954 Notable Books list to the Board for approval and made the following recommendations:

1. Reconstructing the Committee as a Notable Books Council made up of a larger group who would serve staggered three-year terms.
2. Work for closer relationship of the Notable Books Council with publishers of adult books.
3. Considering naming book "awards" and
4. Reconsidering change of the name of the book list from "Notable Books" to "Library Awards".

The Board discussed the recommendations and VOTED to accept the 1954 List of Notable Books. The matter of establishing a Notable Books Council, along the lines recommended by Miss Gilman, was deferred until the next meeting on February 2.

ALA HEADQUARTERS STAFF TENURE POLICY: Miss Timmerman presented background information on the ALA policies on tenure and explained the proposed plan to implement the Tenure Policy, which was adopted by the ALA Council in January 1952. She said statement of implementation had been fully discussed and approved by the Headquarters staff members, had been presented to the ALA Executive Board, who had referred it to the Division Boards for approval. Miss Timmerman pointed out the lack of provision for tenure in the case of Division Executive Secretaries, answered questions, and clarified points in the discussion. The Board VOTED to go on record as approving the ALA tenure principles, policies and rules for implementation of the tenure of personnel employed by ALA, dated October 4, 1954.

ALA COMMITTEE ON DIVISIONAL RELATIONS: Miss Rutzen, the Division's representative on this Committee, stated that since the ALA Management Survey was making a thorough study of ALA Division relations, the Committee would not present to Council during the Midwinter Meeting their last written report, dated February 2-3, 1955. Miss Rutzen asked the Board, however, to review the recommendations in this report and give her the benefit of their views on them. This was done.

The Board recognized the importance of the improved channels of communication and the bringing of Division interests before the Executive Board that might result by the approval of recommendation relating to formal representation of Divisions on the ALA Executive Board. On the other hand, objections to this recommendation were raised by several members of the Board. It was pointed out that Divisions differ greatly in size and the recommendation might encourage the establishment of a multiplicity of small ALA Divisions. One member suggested that representation might be given only to Divisions by type of library, and one suggested that the Executive Secretary could best represent the Divisions on the ALA Executive Board.

Recommendation 2, relating to constitutional implementation, was not discussed.

Recommendation 3, proposing Division representation on ALA Boards, and Recommendation 4, concerning financial support of ALA Boards, were considered pro and con. It was suggested that: (1) All Divisions would not have an intrinsic interest in having representation on all nine ALA Boards. (2) The work of certain ALA Committees is equally important to Divisions as the work of Boards. (3) The recommendation implies that financial support is a requirement for representation; implementation would be cumbersome. (4) The possible effectiveness of an ALA Board made up of representatives of units within the ALA was questioned, and (5) It would be highly desirable, however, for Divisions to have an official opportunity to share in the responsibilities in policy decisions, as well as in financial support, that are assumed by ALA Boards and Committees, particularly as they relate to the Divisions' special field of interest.

The Board agreed that the ALA Constitutional provision for "complete autonomy" of Divisions needed interpretation (Recommendation 5). It was noted that Recommendation 6 is currently a practice of the Public Libraries Division. The Board agreed that the Division Executive Secretary should attend ALA Executive Board meetings for the reasons stated in Recommendation 7. The Headquarters Committee, as described in Recommendation 8, was approved in principle. It was suggested, however, that a "cabinet" composed of the ALA and Division Executive Secretaries would represent the total membership.

Only brief mention was made of Recommendation 10, relating to the "60-40" formula.

FUTURE OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES: There was a brief discussion on the possibility of combining Public Libraries with the ALA Bulletin. Miss Gregory reminded the Board that the term of the Editor of Public Libraries would expire in July and Miss Carter would meet with the Board on the next day. No action was taken on the future of Public Libraries in the meeting.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 11:15 p.m.