

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION PUBLIC LIBRARIES DIVISION

Formalized Minutes

Meeting of Board of Directors, ALA Annual Conference
Philadelphia, 1955

Sunday, July 3, 1955, 8 P.M. - John Bartram Hotel
Presiding, Ruth W. Gregory, President

PRESENT Board Members: Ruth W. Gregory, Mildred W. Sandoe, Harold W. Tucker, Jack B. Spear, Nell Scott, Katharine Hyatt, Mildred W. Stewart, Mildred Stibitz, Harriet L. Rourke, Dorothy Strouse, Mary Radmacher, Josephine M. Quigley and S. Janice Kee.

Councilors: Mildred Stewart, Siri M. Andrews, Dorothy Cutler for Maryan Reynolds, L. Marion Moshier, Harold J. Baily, Margaret Johnston, Ruth Shapiro, Helen L. Norris, Miriam Putnam, John E. Smith and Nettie B. Taylor.

Committee Chairmen: Harley O. Spencer, Keith Doms, Harriet I. Carter, Gertrude E. Gscheidle and V. Genevieve Galick.

Others: John T. Eastlick, Dorothy Deininger, Verna Nistendirk, Dorothy Truesdale, Edith Foster, Ruth Hyatt, Helen E. Fry, Mildred Hammond and Dorothy K. Smith.

President Gregory introduced the thirteen voting members of the Board of Directors who were seated at a front table and welcomed all who had come to the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the two meetings of the Board held at the 1955 Midwinter Conference were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Harold W. Tucker filed a treasurer's report which he received from the ALA Comptroller and which he had examined. He stated the Division was operating well within its budget. The fiscal year ends August 31.

ALA SALARY SCALE: Miss Gregory announced approval by the ALA Executive Board of an increased salary scale which affected the salary of the Division's Executive Secretary. She said currently the position was classified as a G-13 with a salary range of \$6,590 - 7,790, with four increments. The new range for this grade is \$7,050 - 8,490, effective September 1, 1955.

ALA POLICY ON GRANTS: A report from the ALA Executive Board, Miss Gregory said, announced a revised policy to guide units within the ALA in developing projects and seeking outside financial aid.

SUPPORT OF WASHINGTON OFFICE:

In accordance with the favorable mail vote of the Board, the Division paid the travel expenses of Harold Hacker, Sallie Farrell and Harold Baily to testify in the House hearings on the Library Services Bill, May 25-27, 1955.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Elections Committee, Harley O. Spencer, Chairman, reported the results of the election as follows: Vice-President and President-Elect: John T. Eastlick, Director, Denver Public Library. ALA Councilors representing the Division: Dorothy F. Deininger, U.S. Department of Navy, Washington, D. C.; Donna Dorothy Finger, Kansas City (Mo.) Public Library; James E. Bryan, Newark (N.J.) Public Library; Mary Carter Rice, Austin (Tex.) Public Library; Ruth Hyatt, Fitchburg (Mass.) Public Library; and Harry N. Peterson, District of Columbia Public Library.

Coordinating Committee on Standards. Miss Gregory announced that this committee's report would constitute the annual conference program of the Division, scheduled for July 5.

Other Committees: To conserve time at the Board meeting Miss Gregory did not call for oral reports from the Committee Chairmen, but announced that excellent committee work had been accomplished during the year, according to the reports she had received. She said the highlights of these reports had been incorporated in her annual report, which would be published in the September, 1955 issue of Public Libraries.

PRINTED REPORTS: Miss Gregory announced that both annual reports of the President and of the Executive Secretary, had been prepared in leaflet form to be distributed at the PLD membership meeting on the following Tuesday.

FUTURE OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES: Miss Gregory told of her appeal to the members, through Public Libraries, for an opinion on whether or not the Division's official organ should be a part of the ALA Bulletin. Only eleven members responded. From these responses, a majority opinion was not evident. The Executive Secretary was instructed to ask both the ALA Bulletin and ALA Publishing Department for information on costs of production of Public Libraries, leaving solicitation of material and editing to the PLD office. Dorothy K. Smith, Assistant to the Executive Secretary, commented on the replies, saying the costs involved would be approximately the same as they are now, and advantages and disadvantages in both offers were obvious. With this report, Miss Gregory decided to turn further study of the problems back to the PLD Executive Committee and the PLD office staff. She then asked for Board approval of a Committee on Public Libraries in lieu of the Editorial Committee and a transfer of the editorship of the magazine to the PLD office. The Board expressed appreciation to the past voluntary editors of Public Libraries and V O T E D to transfer the work to the ALA Headquarters office and to abolish the Editorial Committee and establish a new Committee on Public Libraries. This Committee, headed by the immediate Past-President of the Division, is divided into two groups: (1) A Working Group (the PLD Executive Secretary and her Assistant and the Presidents of Sections) to solicit material and plan each issue of Public Libraries and to compile an index for each volume; and (2) An Advising Group (the immediate Past-President, Chairmen of Public Relations and Publications Committees, treasurer and/or a business manager, and two members-at-large appointed by the President for 3-year staggered terms to meet annually for the purpose of evaluating the last volume of Public Libraries, in terms of its usefulness to PLD members, its relation to other Divisions and ALA publications, and its relation to other library periodicals; to make recommendations for improving Public Libraries to the Board of Directors or to the editorial staff, depending upon whether policy or administration is involved.

NOTABLE BOOKS COUNCIL: Miss Gregory asked for Board approval on a change in the Notable Books Committee, which had been approved in principle at the last Board meeting. The Board V O T E D to change the name of the Notable Books Committee to the Notable Books Council, to enlarge the membership to 12, with staggered terms, and to ask the 1955 Notable Books Council to establish working policies and procedures for insuring a truly significant list of outstanding adult books for release at each Midwinter Conference. The function of this Committee was approved as follows: "To select a list of outstanding books of the calendar year, fiction and non-fiction, which in the opinion of the Council members are genuinely meritorious in terms of literary excellence, factual correctness and in the sincerity and honesty of presentation."

THE UNION LABEL: Miss Gregory announced that her attention had been called to the fact that the Division's Notable Books List, printed and sold by Library Products, Inc., does not carry a Union label. She explained her unsuccessful effort to have for the Board a statement from the printer. Discussion followed, and the Board V O T E D to require a Union label on all of its printed lists.

THE PLD REPORTER: Dorothy K. Smith was asked by the President to report briefly on the status of The PLD Reporter. Mrs. Smith said two issues had been completed and the third was in the hands of the printer. She reported 523 Series (standing) orders, but urged the promotion of the publication. She said only if more copies are sold can the price remain \$1.50 on Series orders and \$1.75 on single issues.

COUNCIL OF NATIONAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS: S. Janice Kee attended, for the President, the April, 1955 meeting of the Council of National Library Associations. She spoke briefly of the constitution, membership and purposes of the CNLA and mentioned one specific project of the organization - that of editing the forthcoming American Library Annual to be published by R.R. Bowker. She said she and Julia Bennett had contributed a chapter on State and National Library Legislation. She asked for Board action on CNLA's request to its member organization for approval of CNLA's becoming incorporated in order to become eligible for foundation grants. This request provoked some discussion, and action upon it was tabled.

ALA MANAGEMENT SURVEY: President Gregory introduced a discussion of the ALA Management Survey, as it affects PLD, by referring to the Survey as "one of the most provocative ALA reports we have had in a long time," and by announcing that the ALA Executive Board had asked for a statement of the PLD Boards' views on it for the information of the ALA Council. Miss Gregory had distributed three working papers which she explained. One was a compilation of direct quotations from the Survey report relating to general principles of organization and administration. The second was also direct quotations dealing with the surveyors' specific proposals that effect PLD, and the third was her attempt to compare the functions of the present PLD with those recommended by the surveyors for the Public Libraries Association. Miss Gregory asked first for comments on the general principles and proposals. Miss Sandoe (a member of the ALA Executive Board) reviewed the position of the ALA Executive Board, speaking of their favorable acceptance of the major concepts in the survey: (1) the General Assembly (2) an Executive Committee of the General Assembly (3) an organizational structure providing a multiple focus of membership (4) central program and evaluation (5) financial support, providing a basis allotment, supplemented on basis of need and (6) a headquarters organization with "top management."

Miss Gregory called upon the PLD Section representatives for an opinion of the proposals. Miss Stibitz inquired about the relationship of the proposed Adult Education Council to the Public Libraries Association, stating "adult education can not exist independently." Miss Gregory reviewed the recommendation that each ALA Association and Council be "clearly distinct from that of any other," and that these units be the "final authority with the ALA on matters of its exclusive interest." Miss Sandoe reminded Miss Stibitz that she could belong to both the Association and the Council. At this point it was generally agreed that the definition of "exclusive interest" was important and might be difficult to state.

Miss Strouse, representing Library Extension, said she could visualize the work of the Council but was confused when it comes to the Association.

Miss Rutzen (PLD representative on the ALA Divisional Relations Committee) spoke of the advantage of giving all who work in public libraries an opportunity to share in the over-all program of a national organization of public librarians. She mentioned particularly the fact that children and young peoples' librarians and catalogers have been "divorced," organization-wise, from PLD. She went on to emphasize the importance of the coordination process in order to make the recommendations of the surveyors workable. She questioned the mechanics, saying she could visualize few, if any, projects that would be appropriately an exclusive responsibility of an Association or a Council. She said the proposed Association might represent the service aspects of public libraries; for instance, the catalogers have a job of supporting library services. In any event, she said, an Association would have to be not only aware of, but have something to say about projects in the Councils that affect public libraries as a whole.

Mrs. Hadley, representing Gretchen K. Schenk and Library Extension, read from Mrs. Schenk's letter her favorable reaction to the recommendations in the survey. She said she had felt the "independent Divisions represent the tail wagging the dog" and that "ALA is more important than any of its parts." Mrs. Hadley spoke favorably on the plan to make more efficient use of the ALA dollar.

Miss Sandoe reminded the group of the provision for a basic allotment to each division, thereby eliminating the necessity for financial competition to carry on all division activities. She also said the ALA dollar will not pay for all that needs to be done, but she felt the competition concept, as suggested by the surveyors, was sound.

A point made by Mrs. Schenk was discussed further -- the theory that a whole is greater than its parts. Miss Gregory asked if this might be applied to the Public Libraries Association and the Councils representing types of work in public libraries. She stated the surveyors had not clearly indicated a line of relationship of the Council to the Association, but rather each division is the "delegated authority to act for the ALA as a whole on matters related exclusively to the field of interest of that division." In this connection, Mr. Spear spoke of the function of the General Assembly, and the subject was changed.

Mr. Smith mentioned several fields of activity in which he thought the Public Libraries Association could engage. He was reminded not to confuse activities with interests.

Miss Rutzen spoke of the possibility of accepting the Survey's recommendations in principle and approving the general pattern of organization; but she thought many

specifics in the implementation process would necessarily be worked out by the profession. For instance, some existing ALA units seemed to be misplaced by the surveyors. She spoke also of the place of library administration in the Public Libraries Association and the need for the Association's being in a position to "talk to Councils about what they think ought to be done" and "to point out technical areas that need attention." She said she did not believe the public librarian in the Council would necessarily represent the point of view of the Association, since the Council member would represent a type of work in the public library, wherein the Association member should represent a combination of all types of work in libraries.

Miss Sandoe again reminded the group that the surveyors have suggested a framework on which we could build a professional organization.

Miss Putnam raised the questions of when the ALA Council would act on these recommendations and what would be the responsibility of the PLD Executive Secretary to Councils. In answer to Miss Putnam's last question Miss Gregory pointed out that an ALA Headquarters staff member might serve as Executive Secretary for more than one Association or for an Association and one or more Councils.

Mr. Smith suggested that the General Assembly might be made up predominately of public librarians; Miss Deininger suggested, we are "librarians first, public librarians second"; and Miss Nistendirik spoke of the overlapping interests of public librarians, state librarians and library trustees.

Mr. Baily and Miss Fry asked for confirmation on the place of Trustees and Armed Forces in the organization. (The Surveyors left these sections in the Public Libraries Association). Mrs. Quigley spoke of the Survey as a "forward-looking step," the common interests of trustees and public librarians and stated her doubt that the Trustee Section "has the strength or the desire" to be separated from the Public Libraries Association.

Miss Radmacher, representing the Reference Section, raised the question of who would give Headquarters staff assistance to the proposed Reference Council, how the Council would be financed and of whether or not the surveyors had attempted to simplify the ALA organization. She pointed out the number of Round Tables and Boards that had been retained. It was suggested that the surveyors had shifted rather than eliminated ALA units.

Miss Strouse spoke again for Library Extension, pointing out the overlapping of interest in library extension that would exist in the State Libraries Association and the Public Libraries Association

Mr. Doms, speaking for the Architecture Committee, expressed concern on how the library buildings interest would be identified in the various Associations.

Miss Rourke, speaking for Armed Forces, said she would compare Armed Forces librarians with Hospital librarians and wondered why they had not been treated as comparable by the surveyors.

Mr. Tucker stated his inability to see, at this point, the full application of the survey recommendations. He expressed an interest in the Public Libraries Association's remaining an active and strong organization.

Miss Cutler spoke for Maryan Reynolds who had questioned the number of ALA Boards -- wondering why some of them could not be incorporated in the Association.

Miss Sandoe stated she did not believe the Board was ready to vote on its position on the Survey recommendations, and she suggested that another Board meeting be held after the visual presentation by Cresap, McCormick and Paget. The President agreed to call a later meeting of the Board of Directors.

Miss Gregory asked for comments on the recommendation relating to "top management" at Headquarters. In response, Miss Rutzen said this feature was essential to the plan, and she saw in it opportunities for the Executive Secretary of the Public Libraries Association to participate in all important decisions affecting public libraries -- a practice not currently followed at Headquarters. She reminded the group of the ALA Executive Secretary's accountability, i.e. increased responsibility, to the General Assembly.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 P.M. after the President's announcement that the thirteen Board members would meet in the PLD Hospitality Center immediately after the ALA Council meeting on July 4.

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