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AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
PUBLIC LIBRARIES DIVISION

Formalized Minutes

Meeting of the Board of Directors, AIA Midwinter Meeting,
Chicago, 1956

Friday, February 3, 1956, 2:30 p.m.
Presiding, Mildred V. Sandoe, President

PRESENT Board Members: Mildred W. Sandoe, John T. Eastlick, S. Janice Kee,
Harold W. Tucker, Ruth W. Gregory, Nell Scott, Helen
E. Fry, Gordon Bennett, Mildred Stewart, Mildred
A. Hammond, Verna Nistendirk, Dorothy Truesdale

Councilors: Dorothy F. Deininger, Ruth Hyatt
Substitutes: June Bayless for John E. Smith, Muriel Perry for
Miriam Putnam and Elizabeth Hughey for Margaret
Johnston

Committee Chairman: Mary L. Huber, Nominating Committee

Also Present: Katherine Hyatt, Lois Edgecomb, Arthur H. Parsons, Jr.
Clytie Strahler, Dorothy K. Smith. (two unidentified)

"REGISTER AND VOTE": Miss Kee presented a proposed poster which had been de-
signed for wide distribution among public libraries and asked for comments.
It was decided "Don't Vote in the Dark," combined with the 1952 slogan, would
be acceptable; but almost unanimously, this poster met disapproval on the
ground that it had too much on it, and it promoted phases of the Campaign
other than working for intelligent voters.

GFWC - AIA PROJECT: Miss Kee announced the intention of the Libraries Divi-
sion of the General Federation of Women's Clubs to continue the "Know Your
Library" project. She told of a recent conference with the national chair-
man, Mrs. Inez Herrig, in which agreement was easily reached that the project
should be a community rather than a club project. Miss Kee reported also the
wide distribution by GFWC Headquarters of three papers on libraries written
by Dorothy K. Smith.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Mary Huber, Chairman. Miss Huber was present to present
the slate of candidates. The Board VOTED to accept the report. President Sandoe
introduced Arthur H. Parsons, Jr., who was present.

DIVISION ORGANIZATION: President Sandoe called for reports from the Sections.
The Reference Section, Dorothy Truesdale, President, adopted a statement of
field of interest, which had been prepared in cooperation with the Reference
Section of ACRL. The two groups were recommending the establishment of a Refer-
ence Division, Miss Truesdale said. The Library Extension Section, Verna
Nistendirk, President, was still undecided how to organize in the new AIA

DIVISION ORGANIZATION: (continued). The Trustees, Miss Kee said, were so concerned during the Conference about their internal organization problems they had not given direct attention to the question of their place in the reorganized AIA.

The Adult Education Section, Edith Foster, President, worked during the Midwinter to allign their field of interest statement with that of the AIA Adult Education Board, and she said the two groups were ready to ask for the formation of an Adult Education Division.

In a discussion of the next steps for the Division to comply with the report of the Steering Committee, Miss Kee suggested that the ten "primary interests", as submitted by the Division Organization Committee and approved by the Membership, might be fitted into the three areas of responsibility, (stimulation, synthesis and operation) which were recommended by the Steering Committee.

NOTABLE BOOKS COUNCIL: Florence S. Craig, Chairman. Mrs. Lois Edgecomb reported for Mrs. Craig. The Board VOTED to accept the recommendation of the Notable Books Council with minor revisions. There was approval of the following policy and procedure: Purpose of the Notable Books List. The purpose of the list shall be to focus attention on books of such caliber as are required to carry out the educational, informational, cultural, inspirational and recreational functions of a public library--books that are genuinely meritorious in terms of literary excellence, factual correctness and in sincerity and honesty of presentation--books that have some of these intrinsic qualities and are useful to librarians in advising adult readers. Participating Libraries. The number of public libraries participating in selecting the books for the list will be limited to forty, of which ten will change each year. Each participating library must have: (1) access to a wide selection of books; (2) staff with ample time to read books; (3) ability to write succinct book notes and to meet deadlines; and (4) enthusiasm for the work of the Notable Books Council, as well as acceptance of the purpose of the list.

Release of the List. The list will be announced at the AIA Midwinter Meeting. An advance news release will be made available to all public libraries requesting it, with the understanding that the release date will be safeguarded. Hereafter, this news release will indicate exactly what part of the calendar year is covered by the list, since it is impracticable to fully consider books published in December, when the list is completed early in January.

LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: Gertrude E. Gscheidle, Chairman. According to the report of the chairman, this Committee believes one of the most urgent needs of the public library now is a national public relations program, such as has been carried on in the last several years in the interest of public schools and public health. The means by which these programs were initiated and maintained have been explored, and a report of the findings submitted to the PLD Board. The Board voted to transmit this report to the AIA Executive Board with a recommendation that continued effort be made to interest the Advertising Council in promoting library development.

COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF STANDARDS: Dr. Lowell Martin, Chairman. Miss Kee read Mr. Martin's report which outlined the steps taken by the committee in the past eighteen months, and expressed the intention of the committee to have the new document ready for the approval of the Board and the ALA Council at the Miami Beach Conference. The funds for the project will be adequate, he thought.

Mr. Martin's report also mentioned the formation of a sub-committee of the Coordinating Committee on Promoting the new standards.

SUB-COMMITTEE ON PROMOTION OF THE REVISED STANDARDS: Mrs. Janet McKinlay, Chairman. Miss Sandoe stated the function of this committee as follows-- "To study the entire question of how best to draw the attention of the country as a whole to the new public libraries standards; in other words, to plan a general and inclusive publicity program for the new public libraries standards; to prepare an abbreviated version of the standards for the consumption of trustees and laymen; to direct the preparation of such additional materials as, in the opinion of the Committee, might be needed to publicize the standards; i.e., magazine articles, film-strips, recordings and etc."

Miss Sandoe said appointments to this committee were being made, and she expected to complete a committee of seven or nine members who are located in the east, so that frequent meetings of the group could be held.

CNLA: Harold W. Tucker represented the Division at the December meeting of the Council of National Library Associations. He gave and filed a report, saying no action of the Board was required.

SUPPORT OF WASHINGTON OFFICE: The request for funds, as presented in the previous meeting, was discussed again. The Division's financial policies were reviewed and the treasurer examined the budget and financial statements. It was pointed out that the Division contributed \$337.74 in May, 1955, and that contributions from the Sections allocations are from PLD funds. The question was discussed fully. Although interest in helping in this endeavor to raise needed funds ran high, the Board VOTED against contributing to the Washington Office at this time. This action was due only to the tight financial situation in which the Division was operating.

SRA - PLD COOPERATIVE PROJECT: Miss Kee gave background information on the proposed "5¢ - questionnaire" of the Science Research Associates. Upon the suggestion of Miss Kee, SRA representatives discussed with a selected group of twelve librarians earlier in the week a plan for a standardized inexpensive public library survey for the use of librarians or library board members, designed to obtain accurate expression of the feeling of the community concerning needs for library services and facilities. This questionnaire would be based on SRA's experience in Woodstock, Illinois, the representatives said.

Miss Sandoe agreed to appoint a committee to work in a liason capacity with the SRA.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.