

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
PUBLIC LIBRARIES DIVISION

Formalized Minutes

Meeting of Board of Directors, ALA Midwinter Meeting
Chicago, Illinois, 1957

First Session

Tuesday, January 29, 8:30 P.M.
Berwyn Room, Edgewater Beach Hotel
Presiding, John T. Eastlick, President

- PRESENT Board Members: John T. Eastlick, Arthur Parsons, Jr., Harold W. Tucker, Mildred W. Sandoe, Mrs. George R. Wallace, Frank T. Milligan, Dorothy K. Smith
- Councilors: Donna Finger, Ruth Hyatt, Evelyn Mullen, Helen Norris, Mildred Young Johnson, Charles M. Mohrhardt, Irving Lieberman, Dorothy Deininger, Miriam Putnam, John E. Smith, Mary C. Rice, Sigrid Edge, Rose Vainstein, Bernard Van Horne, Elsa S. Thompson
- Committee
Chairmen: Loleta D. Fyan, Edna G. Peck, Jerome Cushman, Evelyn Mullen, Irving Lieberman, Bernard Van Horne, Mildred Sandoe, Leona Ringering
- Staff: Delphine Milstein
- Other: Elizabeth H. Hughey

PEBCO Miss Mildred Sandoe, PLD representative (as past president) on the ALA Program Evaluation and Budget Committee, reported on the November meeting of the Committee in Chicago. She reviewed this new machinery adopted by ALA in its reorganization for setting the budgets of AIA and its various units and reported on amounts assigned to PLD for its 1956-57 program. These amounts were as follows:

Division committee expense	\$ 450
Salaries (for program only)	3,933
Revision of State Grants to Public Libraries	400
Promotion of Revised Standards	3,000
(\$2,000 allocated at the Midwinter session of PEBCO)	
Promotion of "Operation Library"	100
Notable Books Council	200
ALA Coordinating Committee on the Library Services Act	3,325
Subsidy for Public Libraries (September 1956 and December 1956 issues)	2,480
Section Projects:	
American Association of Library Trustees	550
Armed Forces Librarians Section	125
Section Committee Expense	200
Total	\$14,763

(over)

The foregoing figures relate only to PLD program activities. The routine expenses involved in maintaining the PLD Headquarters Office (salaries, equipment, supplies, etc.) are covered by other categories in the ALA budget under general operating expense of ALA Headquarters. Also included elsewhere are funds for expenses of division presidents. An amount of \$400 has been allocated to each division president for official travel expenses, including travel and other expenses to the annual conference and midwinter meeting. This fund is used at the discretion of the division president. Similarly, an amount of \$75 was made available to the chairman or president of each section for out-of-pocket expenses such as telephone and telegraph, postage, clerical assistance, etc., but not including travel expenses.

The budget for The PLD Reporter was approved. The figures do not appear here as a part of the Division's program, since FEBCO concluded that estimates for The PLD Reporter should be made on the same basis as that which now prevails in the Publishing Department.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES Miss Sandoe continued her report of the FEBCO meeting, and explained to the Board her reasons for proposing to FEBCO a merger of Public Libraries with the ALA Bulletin for a trial period of one year, subject to the approval of the PLD Board. At a meeting of the Committee on Public Libraries held at midwinter previous to the Board meeting, the Committee voted endorsement of the proposed merger. It felt that this would be action in the direction recommended by the management survey; that it would bring news of Division activities more quickly to a greater number of ALA members; and that it would result in financial economies. The Committee expressed the hope that by taking the lead in this matter PLD might show the way to other divisions, and that soon there might develop a much more unified, economical and satisfactory communication program for all parts of ALA. It was also recommended that the Committee be continued in order to evaluate the success of the merger.

The Board voted to accept the recommendation of the Committee that Public Libraries be merged with the ALA Bulletin for a period of one year. It was understood by arrangement with the ALA Bulletin that the Division will have entire responsibility for the content of the Public Libraries department of the ALA Bulletin. The Division will also solicit articles of general interest in the field of public library service for publication in the ALA Bulletin.

LIBRARY SERVICES In reporting for the ALA Coordinating Committee on the
ACT Library Services Act, Mrs. Loleta D. Fyan, chairman, gave a summary of a meeting of the Committee earlier in the week with representatives of ALA divisions, the library press, library schools, and staff members of the USOE Library Services Branch. At that meeting two immediate needs were indicated: (1) a rapid means of communicating the activities of ALA and other agencies in implementing the Act, and (2) recruitment for the many new positions opening up everywhere as a result of the Act. She said the Committee will be responsible for periodic reports to ALA (through the ALA Bulletin) and asked that all units report their activities to the Coordinating Committee. Part of the coordinating function of the Committee is to differentiate between the functions of the Library Services Branch of USOE and those of ALA units and offices in order to avoid duplication of effort.

NOTABLE BOOKS COUNCIL Mr. Bernard Van Horne, chairman, reported for the Notable Books Council, whose list of Notable Books of 1956 compiled with the assistance of 35 participating libraries was scheduled for release at the ALA membership meeting on Thursday, January 31. The Council suggested that the list be categorized, and that the titles be weighed against other titles for which the same standards might apply, rather than against the whole publishing effort. The recommendation was that "we continue to compile a list of the better books of the year at about the same level of selection, but a little longer, and arrange it in broad categories. The following are suggested: Biography and travel; literature; fiction; education; philosophy and psychology; history; fine arts; science and technology; religion; social science." The Board received the report, but took no action on the recommendation, preferring to transmit it to the Notable Books Council for 1957, for consideration and possible adoption.

CNLA Mr. Harold Tucker reported on the December meeting of the Council of National Library Associations at which he represented PLD. He limited his report to those matters which directly concerned PLD. These were (1) the concern of the CNLA Editorial Committee over inaccuracies in the listing in the American Library Annual of committee membership of the Council's member organizations, inaccuracies which might be avoided if incoming presidents of the organizations would appoint committees prior to the annual meeting; (2) a proposed survey of library education by the Joint Committee on Education for Librarianship, and (3) the appointment of a committee to study the possibilities of a Congress of National Library Associations at some time after 1963. Member organizations will be asked to appoint representatives to serve on this committee.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE Mr. Jerome Cushman, chairman, reported the following slate for the PLD spring election: For vice-president and president-elect, Lura G. Currier and Estellene Walker; for treasurer, de Lafayette Reid and Hannis Smith.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE The report of the Publications Committee was presented by Mr. Irving Lieberman, chairman. Matters that engaged the attention of the Committee at its midwinter meeting included the need for a relationship between the Committee and the type of activity divisions, and the desirability of finding a means for reprinting worthwhile free distribution material published by public libraries. The Committee submitted the following proposals for publication: (1) a collection of in-service education materials addressed to library supervisors of untrained assistants in county or regional library branches, and (2) a volume of ideas and techniques for establishing better librarian-trustee relationships, addressed to librarians.

BOOKMOBILE COST ACCOUNTING Mrs. Elizabeth Hughey, reporting for Mrs. Minnie J. Little, chairman, Committee on Bookmobile Cost Accounting, said that an article based on the first year replies (of the five-year project) would appear in the May issue of the ALA Bulletin. This will be the first of a series of articles on bookmobile service which will be carried by the Bulletin.

(over)

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY The Board voted to submit to the ALA Committee on Organization the following field of responsibility statement which had been formulated and adopted by the Board at the Miami Beach Conference: "The Public Library Association represents and is responsible for the advancement and expansion of public library service to all ages, in all kinds of life situations in various types of communities. The association is also responsible for the coordination of the activities of all the units within the ALA that relate to this type of library and for a program of service to individuals and groups who constitute the Association."

REVISION OF REGIONAL AND DISTRICT LIBRARY LAWS The report of this Committee was presented by Mrs. Elizabeth Hughey for Miss Dorothy Randolph, chairman. She reported the work of the Committee completed with the publication on February 4, 1957, of County, Regional and District Library Laws.

PLD HEADQUARTERS OFFICE Mrs. Dorothy K. Smith, Interim Executive Secretary, presented an account of activities of the Headquarters Office. She reported the 1956 membership of the Division as 5,889.

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK Mr. Eastlick told the Board of plans for National Library Week to be observed in early spring of 1958. This promotion will be sponsored by the National Book Committee and ALA, and PLD will have an important part in it.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 P.M.

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The report of the Publications Committee was presented by Mr. Irving Liberman, chairman. He reported that the attention of the Committee at its winter meeting included the need for a relationship between the Committee and the type of activity, and the desirability of having a more far-reaching working plan distributed in order to public libraries. The Committee also stated the following proposals for publication: (1) a collection of information addressed to library supervisors of selected institutions in county or regional library districts; and (2) a volume of ideas and techniques for establishing better library-public relationships, addressed to libraries.