

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

PUBLIC LIBRARIES DIVISION

MINUTES

Board of Directors Meeting, Annual Conference  
Kansas City, 1957

President Hotel, Room 229  
Monday, June 24, 8:00 a. m.  
Presiding, John T. Eastlick, president

PRESENT Board Members: John T. Eastlick, Arthur H. Parsons, Jr.,  
Mildred Sandoe, Helen Fry, Frank T. Milligan,  
Mrs. George R. Wallace, Mrs. Dorothy K. Smith  
Councilors: Harold Baily, Dorothy Deininger, Ruth Hyatt,  
Irving Lieberman, Violet Myer, Helen Norris,  
Nettie Taylor, Bernard Van Horne, Rose Vain-  
stein  
Committee Chairmen: Mrs. Loleta D. Fyan, Mrs. V. Genevieve Galick,  
Edna G. Peck, Muriel E. Perry, Leona Ringering,  
Hannis Smith  
Staff: Mrs. Gene Leher  
Other: Mrs. Lura G. Currier, vice-president-elect,  
and Mary V. Gaver, president-elect, AASL.

MINUTES The meeting was called to order at 8:10 a. m. by John  
T. Eastlick, president. Minutes of the Midwinter 1957  
Board meeting were approved.

AASL STATEMENT ON LIBRARY SERVICES ACT Mary Gaver, president-elect of the American  
Association of School Librarians, presented  
for endorsement a statement on the Library  
Services Act and school libraries, which had been approved by the AASL Board of  
Directors. This statement had been considered by the PLD Board at its 1957 Mid-  
winter meeting, but action on it was postponed until the Board could have (1)  
some knowledge of the way in which the statement was to be used, and (2) clarifi-  
cation of some of the points made in the statement. Miss Gaver said that the  
statement was to be used for its public relations value in the library and educa-  
tion press and for circulation to school authorities. It was hoped that such a  
statement would forestall possible attempts on the part of school administrators  
to obtain use of federal funds for library service to schools in lieu of the es-  
tablishment of school libraries with school funds.

During the discussion of the statement the following points were made:  
(1) there is need of a clear understanding by all persons concerned of the differ-  
ence between public library service to schools and school library service; (2) the  
situation will be greatly helped by the development of standards for school library  
service in rural areas, a project now in process in AASL; (3) the Library Services  
Branch of the U. S. Office of Education cannot be expected to interpret the Act  
more fully than has been done in the Regulations.

(OVER)

A committee (Mr. Eastlick, Miss Sandoe and Mrs. Smith) was appointed to meet with a similar committee from AASL for the purpose of revising the statement. The Board was to act on the recommendations of this joint committee at its next meeting, on Friday, June 28.

PLD FIELD OF RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT

Mr. Eastlick read the statement of the field of responsibility of the Public Libraries Division as recommended by the ALA Special Committee on Reorganization. This statement was to be presented for adoption to the ALA Council as a part of the report of the Special Committee. The Board had APPROVED this statement by a mail vote in April, so further action at this time was not necessary.

REVISION OF FARMERS' BULLETIN

Hannis Smith, chairman, reported for the Committee on Revision of Farmers' Bulletin, No. 1847 (Rural Library Service). It was expected that the text would be ready in the Fall. Photographs illustrative of bookmobile service to adults were being sought.

NOTABLE BOOKS COUNCIL

The Board proceeded to a review of committees in view of the recent ALA reorganization. First to be considered was the Notable Books Council. The Special Committee had recommended, and the PLD Board had approved by mail vote, the transfer of this committee to the Adult Services Division since that division was responsible for the function of book selection. Despite the mail vote, the Board was reluctant to transfer the committee. In reviewing its action, the Board made the following points: (1) The Notable Books list might be construed as an activity aimed at the stimulation of librarians (Point 5 in the PLD field of responsibility statement) and it offers a point of departure for working with publishers; (2) the list is intended specifically for public libraries; (3) the selection of materials is a function which probably should be dispersed among the various divisions rather than being assigned to only one or two. The Board VOTED that the president be instructed to convey the feelings of the Board in this matter to the Special Committee on Reorganization at its meeting on June 26, and to request that the Notable Books Council and Foreign Book Selection Committee be permitted to remain in the Public Libraries Division.

There was considerable discussion of the Notable Books list, occasioned by several criticisms which had been received from publishers. Mr. Van Horne, 1956 chairman of the Council, discussed (1) the problem of machinery and (2) misconception of what the list is. He said that the Council would never be able to operate as a council until the members could meet together instead of having to do their work by correspondence. The release of the list at Midwinter precludes this possibility since the annual conference comes too early in the year for consideration of books published in the Fall, and the Midwinter Meeting comes long after the list is completed. The Midwinter release date also means that only the books published during the first nine months of the calendar year can be adequately considered for inclusion in the list.

Mr. Van Horne said that the name "Notable Books" may be a factor in misconception of what the list is. Attempts have been made over a number of years to arrive at a better and more descriptive name, but these attempts have so far been unsuccessful. The Notable Books list, said Mr. Van Horne, is not a prize list, but is a working list, for librarians, of books especially usable in public libraries.

In the discussion following Mr. Van Horné's statement the Board was in agreement that the list should continue to cover the calendar year, and that the best date for issuance of the list would probably be March. This date would (1) allow the committee to meet at Midwinter for consideration of all books published during the preceding year, and (2) would help in public relations by providing publicity material between conferences. Official action on the new release date was deferred to the Friday Board meeting to allow for discussion of the matter with the ALA Executive Secretary, the ALA Public Relations Director, and members of the Notable Books Council.

FOREIGN BOOK SELECTION  
COMMITTEE

Since it also lies in the field of selection of materials, the Foreign Book Selection Committee was included in that part of the discussion of the Notable Books Council dealing with possible transfer from PLD to another division. Official Board action is noted above.

COMMITTEE ON CASE HISTORIES  
OF MULTI-COUNTY ORGANIZATIONS

Mrs. Lura Currier, chairman, reported that a number of things had prevented the Committee on Case Histories of Multi-County Organizations from doing its work, among which were lack of time, lack of knowledge as to how to collect data for case studies, and some lack of interest. The Board VOTED to terminate the committee, and to use other means of getting this information into print, either in The PLD Reporter or another publication as early as possible. The headquarters office was instructed to pursue the subject with the appropriate ALA unit, stressing the need for speed.

COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF  
COUNTY LEAFLET

This project to revise the leaflet "A County or Regional Library Serves All the People," was originated nearly two years earlier by the Library Extension Section of PLD. At the time this Section was dissolved, its projects and the committees responsible for them were taken over by the Division. No work had been done on the revision, and the chairman of the committee, Evelyn Day Mullen, had resigned. Feeling that the need for the leaflet no longer existed, since many states had prepared similar materials, the Board VOTED to terminate the committee.

COMMITTEE ON COST OF  
OPERATION OF BOOKMOBILES

Also originating in the Library Extension Section, the Committee on Cost of Operation of Bookmobiles began in 1955 a five-year survey of cost figures. Since, under the reorganization, bookmobiles and finance come within the field of responsibility of the Library Administration Division, the Board VOTED to transfer this project to LAD with the recommendation that the composition of the committee be retained for the duration of the project.

NEW EXECUTIVE  
SECRETARY

Mr. Eastlick announced that an executive secretary had been selected and approved by the PLD Executive Committee and recommended to the ALA Executive Secretary. The name of the appointee could not be made public until further details of the appointment were completed.

ALA COUNCILORS

Mr. Eastlick greeted the ALA Councilors representing the Division who were present at the meeting. He said that in accordance with the ALA bylaws, the councilors were members of the PLD Board, but were non-voting, pending the adoption of revised PLD bylaws, which provide that the councilors nominated by the Division shall be voting members of the Board of Directors.

SAN FRANCISCO CONFERENCE

Mr. Parsons reported tentative plans for general sessions at the annual conference to be held in San Francisco, July 13-19, 1958.

The divisions have been asked to suggest a general sessions program. The division which makes the best suggestion (if good enough) will be asked to be responsible for presenting it as a general session. The theme of the conference will be libraries in the international scheme. One general session will be on that theme, another will be on the Liberty and Justice Awards, and a third will be devoted to the president's inaugural address.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a. m.

Dorothy K. Smith  
Interim Executive Secretary  
Public Libraries Division

JN 22067

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