

PUBLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Midwinter Meeting, January 28, 1958

2 P.M., Tuesday

East Lounge

The Membership Meeting of the Public Libraries Division was called to order at 2 P.M., January 28, 1958, by Arthur H. Parsons, Jr., the President.

Mr. Parsons, acting for Mark Crum, Chairman of the Division Organization Committee, who was unable to be present, presented the revised Bylaws, which had been approved by the ALA Constitution and Bylaws Committee with certain reservations. The Board of Directors of the division has considered these objections and determined that they were not sufficiently serious to prevent adoption of the Bylaws if the membership so decided. The questions raised by the ALA Committee were referred by the Board to the Division Organization Committee for further study. Mr. Parsons moved the adoption of the Bylaws as printed in the ALA Bulletin for November, 1957, seconded by Ann Kirkland, President of the Armed Forces Librarians Section. There was no discussion and the Bylaws were adopted unanimously. Mr. Parsons called attention to the fact that the vote changed the name of the division to Public Library Association.

Mrs. Loleta D. Fyan, Chairman of the Coordinating Committee on the Library Services Act, reported for her committee that while they are a Committee of PLA, their responsibility is to coordinate all activities within ALA in relation to the Library Services Act. The establishment recently of an Advisory Committee to the Library Services Branch, USOE, of which Mrs. Fyan and several other ALA people are members, will make for closer liaison between the Association and the Branch.

The fact that the various states have employed 41 new field consultants as a result of LSA pointed up the need for an in-service training institute which the Committee co-sponsored with the Section on Personnel Administration of IAD. The very successful institute was held just before Midwinter; Mrs. Fyan particularly congratulated Sallie Farrell, who acted as Chairman and represented the Committee in planning the institute.

The Committee feels that its next responsibility is to encourage joint action by all units of ALA to make the most of Library Services Act funds, to develop a long range plan for public libraries of all types, and to publicize the accomplishments achieved through the use of federal funds to the library profession and the general public.

Mrs. Merlin Moore reported as President of AALT that 39 states were represented by the largest turn-out of trustees ever to attend a Midwinter meeting. She outlined plans for the AALT Membership campaign and urged all librarians to help by informing their trustees of the benefits of membership in the national organization. Channing Bete has designed an attractive brochure addressed to trustees which would be distributed widely through State Library Agencies and State Associations. The AALT is also planning a four-page newsletter for trustees, if funds can be found for a sample issue.

S. Janice Kee made an excellent report for the Coordinating Committee on Operation Library, of which she is Chairman. The production of a new manual for Jaycee chapters, called "Your Jaycee Library Manual" was an activity of the Committee; about 10,000 copies have been distributed through the PLA Office, and many more through Jaycee channels. The National Chairman of Operation Library, Charley Reynolds, urged the need for how-to-do-it information about some of the projects listed in the manual. Various units of ALA have worked on this project and produced three leaflets entitled "It's Your Library." The leaflets, useful with any lay group, are called "How to Evaluate Your Library's Building and Site," "Branch Library or Bookmobile," and "How to Conduct a Tax Campaign or to Pass a Bond Issue." Several others are in preparation.

The Jaycees have received financial support from the Gerstenslager Company, National Library Week, the AALM, and others for the project. They are planning nation-wide support for National Library Week, and have statewide Operation Library activity in over 30 states, as well as numerous local projects underway.

The meeting was adjourned on motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Eleanor A. Ferguson
Executive Secretary
Public Library Association