

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
PUBLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

MINUTES

Board of Directors Meeting, Annual Conference
San Francisco, 1958

Palace Hotel, Room 2047
Friday, July 18, 4:30 p.m.
Presiding, Mrs. Lura G. Currier, president

PRESENT

Board Members:

Mrs. Lura G. Currier, James E.
Bryan, Hannis S. Smith, Mrs. Merlin
M. Moore, Helen E. Fry, Katharine
Hyatt

Councilors:

Miriam Putnam, Mrs. Elsa S. Thompson,
Rose Vainstein, Bernard VanHorne

Committee Chairmen:

Edwin Castagna, Mark L. Crum,
Elizabeth Hage, Mrs. Janet McKinlay

Executive Secretary:

Eleanor A. Ferguson

Staff:

Mrs. Yuri Nakata

MINUTES

The first session of the 1958-59 Board of Directors convened at 4:30 p.m., Mrs. Lura G. Currier, presiding. Mrs. Currier reviewed two questions discussed at the July 14 Board meeting, at which there was not a quorum, and requested action.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF STATE LIBRARIES -
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Copies of Mr. Clift's request asking PLA to share their executive secretary with AASTL had been sent to members of the Board.

IT WAS VOTED that the Board of Directors accept Mr. Clift's recommendation to share the services of the Executive Secretary with the American Association of State Libraries.

PUBLIC LIBRARY REPORTER
TRANSFER OF PRODUCTION

A proposal had been made to transfer the production of the Reporter to the ALA Publishing Department. In the past, time of the Assistant to the Executive Secretary and part-time clerical assistant had been assigned to work on the PLD Reporter. It is not clear whether this assistance will continue under the PLA or under the Publishing Department if the transfer were to take place.

IT WAS VOTED that the production of the Public Library Reporter be transferred to the Publishing Department provided budgetary problems can be ironed out.

DIVISION ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE

Mark L. Crum, Chairman, reported on a meeting of the ALA Constitution and Bylaws Committee. Mr. Custer had suggested changes in the PLA bylaws to conform with the spirit of the ALA bylaws regarding a provision to forbid members of the Board of Directors from serving on the Nominating Committee and members of the Nominating Committee from nominating themselves for office. The PLA Committee will make definite recommendations for changes after the ALA Bylaw revisions have been approved.

LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Edwin Castagna, Chairman, reported six recommendations of the committee:

1. That every effort be made to include public libraries as an integral part of all federal aid programs to education, including eligibility for building funds.
2. The re-submission of the request for a new edition of the ALA Glossary of Terms.
3. That a continuing effort be made to find methods of dramatizing the standards including documentary films.
4. The appointment of a standing committee on standards with sub-committees. The committee would work toward the greater use of standards by libraries and the development of case histories.
5. That consideration be given to recognition by awards of libraries meeting the standards and improving library service. It would be necessary to have criteria for judging excellence in public library service.
6. The development of a questionnaire that would indicate the true position of public libraries in terms of systems.

IT WAS VOTED that Miss Rose Vainstein would draft a statement outlining succinctly the reasons why a glossary of library terms is needed. The president would then send it to the boards of other divisions requesting any supporting data.

COMMITTEE ON NEEDS OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES

James E. Bryan, Chairman, reported that the committee discussed such questions as: Do all public libraries have the same needs? Does the PLA Board favor federal aid to public libraries in rural areas? Does the PLA Board favor federal or state aid to public libraries? The committee has a first draft of a statement pointing up the needs of public libraries in the current national scene along with recommendations. The ALA Committee of Five is working on a similar statement for all libraries which should be considered in relation to the PLA statement.

IT WAS AGREED that Mr. Bryan should send his draft to the members for comment.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Mrs. Merlin M. Moore, President, reported on the action taken at the trustee meetings. They concluded

that their number one problem is securing the acceptance by the public of the library as an educational institution. AALT will explore the possibility of getting a foundation to finance a research study on why people are not using public libraries as educational institutions.

AALT complimented the Library Services Branch on their administration of the Library Services Act program and the congressmen on what they have done so far.

Bennet Cerf will be the speaker at the first General Session at the Washington D.C. Conference. This meeting will be sponsored jointly by AALT and Friends of Libraries.

On the two proposals made by AALT, the following action was taken:

IT WAS VOTED that the PLA Board of Directors recommend to the AIA Awards Committee that the deadline for nominations for citation of Trustees be changed from December 1 to April 1.

IT WAS VOTED that the powers of the Jury on Citation of Trustees be enlarged to allow citations to be given to entire library boards in addition to, or instead of, single trustees. Any publicity should indicate that it should not be a matter of policy to give citations to entire boards but this enlargement of powers takes into account any unusual circumstances where a whole board should be cited.

COMMITTEE ON PROMOTION
OF THE REVISED STANDARDS

Mrs. Janet Z. McKinlay, Chairman, reported a great demand for the report prepared by the Committee on Stand-

ards for Work with Young Adults. The Children's Service Division is very anxious to have a committee start working on a manual amplifying the standards. Standards need to be evaluated, promoted, and implemented. Such action is beyond the scope of the committee.

IT WAS VOTED that the Committee on Promotion of the Revised Standards be terminated; that an overall Committee on Standards with sub-committees (called special committees) for promotion, revision, and implementation be established. Revision would be concerned with work on the basic document involving recommendations for changes, additions, and, eventually, a complete revision. Implementation would involve amplification and use of the standards. Promotion would involve promoting the use of the standards.

COORDINATING COMMITTEE
FOR OPERATION LIBRARY

It was decided the committee would remain a special committee and other members should be added as needed.

The committee recommended that the division needs a committee to coordinate the activities of other national organizations which have books, reading, and library service to the public as part of their programs with the activities of the PLA. Although the Board recognized the value of this suggestion, no action was taken.

MANUAL FOR NEW
BOARD MEMBERS

It was suggested that a manual in the form of a looseleaf notebook which would contain such papers as

bylaws, statement of responsibility, list of committees, etc. would be helpful to all Directors. The Executive Secretary was instructed to distribute the President's Handbook to members of the Board of Directors.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Eleanor A. Ferguson
Executive Secretary
Public Library Association

JN 22793

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