

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

PUBLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

MINUTES

Meeting of the Board of Directors, ALA Conference,
Montreal, 1960

First Session

June 19, 1960, 4:30 p.m.

Sheraton-Mt. Royal Hotel, Salon K

Presiding: James E. Bryan, president

PRESENT: Board members: James E. Bryan, Mrs. Lura G. Currier, Mrs. Helen M. Hendrick, Mrs. Benjamin Saks, Mrs. Elsa S. Thompson, Eunice A. Von Ende, Elinor Walker, Mrs. George R. Wallace, Mrs. Raymond A. Young

Incoming officers: Harold L. Hamill, William R. Oliver, Raymond E. Williams

Committee chairman: Esther Piercy

Executive secretary: Eleanor A. Ferguson

Staff: Ruth M. White

Absent: Sigrid A. Edge, Mrs. Donna D. Knudsen, John G. Lorenz, Paxton P. Price, Miriam Putnam, Hannis S. Smith, Rose Vainstein, Bernard W. Van Horne

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by James E. Bryan, president, at 4:35 p.m.

TERMINATION OF COMMITTEES

The Board voted to terminate the following committees for the reasons specified:

- Coordinating Committee for Operation Library - terminated at the request of the committee because Operation Library is no longer sponsored on a national level by the Jaycees.
- Publications Committee - terminated at the request of the committee because no longer needed under the reorganization.
- Committee to Revise Costs of Public Library Service in 1956 - terminated because revision completed and published.
- Joint Committee on School Library and Public Library Relations - terminated because the committee's function has been absorbed by an ALA committee.
- Committee on Standards for Work with Young Adults - terminated because manuscript completed and published as Young Adult Services in Public Libraries.

BOOK SELECTION STATEMENT

A letter from Mrs. Stevenson asked the board to consider the advisability of writing a policy statement on the selection and handling of books on controversial issues, since librarians have apparently been practicing censorship without realizing it. It has become such a serious situation, judging by the Fiske study in California, that the divisions of ALA were asked to take a stand for intellectual freedom in the libraries. Mr. Bryan asked the executive secretary to inquire of the staff about what other divisions are doing and report to the board at Midwinter.

STANDARDS FOR WORK WITH CHILDREN

The Children's Services Division requested that PLA appoint a committee to formulate standards for children's services in public libraries. Miss Piercy, chairman, said that the Standards Committee favors the CSD request and recommended that the membership of the committee be children's librarians and administrators who are PLA members. Standards are a function of PLA and should be screened by the PLA Standards Committee. Whether the chairmen of subcommittees should be ex officio members of the parent committee with or without vote was not decided.

IT WAS VOTED that the President of PLA should appoint a subcommittee on Standards for Work with Children.

CHEMICAL ABSTRACTS

Mr. Bryan reported that he had written the American Chemical Society protesting the discriminatory rates charged public libraries; the letter was published in the ALA Bulletin as directed by the Board at the Midwinter Meeting. He read the answer which said the Society does not consider the rates discriminatory but only what they need to charge to break even.

IT WAS VOTED that the president should reply to the letter from the American Chemical Society and say that public libraries recognize the need for higher costs but still think their rates are discriminatory and hope the Society will reconsider. The letter should reiterate that public libraries are publicly supported and operate on a limited budget but serve students and researchers just as colleges do.

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

Miss Ferguson read the report of the Elections Committee in the absence of Lester L. Stoffel, chairman:

Vice President and President Elect:	Harold L. Hamill
Treasurer:	Harold L. Roth
Directors (Nominated by PLA but elected by ALA membership):	Paul J. Burnett
	Jerome Cushman
	Nettie B. Taylor
	Raymond E. Williams
Armed Forces Librarians	
Section President:	Nellie McAlpine
AALT Representative to PLA Board:	William R. Oliver

The changes in the PLA Bylaws were approved.

TRUSTEES

By mail vote of the membership, the name of the American Association of Library Trustees (AALT) was changed to the American Library Trustee Association (ALTA). The purpose and definition of members were changed; the board enlarged; the term of the representative to the PLA board changed to four years to agree with PLA Bylaws.

READER INTEREST
CLASSIFICATION

Katherine Ball, chairman, Cataloging Policy and Research Committee of RTSD, asked PLA to explore the possibility of devising a classification scheme better suited to the needs of public library patrons than Dewey or any other, suggesting a reader interest arrangement. In the discussion the Board indicated that other matters are more pressing and that this may not be within the PLA function.

IT WAS VOTED that the request be tabled indefinitely.

DOROTHY CANFIELD FISHER
AWARD COMMITTEE

Mr. Bryan reported that the PLA Dorothy Canfield Fisher Award Committee recommended ten libraries to the Book-of-the-Month Club. BOMC was so impressed with the work of the libraries that they decided not only to give \$5000 to the winning library as they originally proposed but also to give each of the other nine \$1000 each. Miss Ferguson said she had met with Mr. Thacher, of BOMC, to discuss the revised form for the 1961 award.

IT WAS VOTED that PLA should officially thank Mr. Scherman and the Book-of-the-Month Club for the award, especially for extending it to the nine additional libraries.

PEBCO

Mrs. Currier reported that PEBCO had authorized \$1865.00 for PLA program and activities in 1960-61. Of this amount the Standards Committee would receive \$30.00, the Jury on Citation of Trustees \$85.00, each of the nine divisional committees \$5.00 each; and \$200.00 for materials for free distribution through the PLA office. AALT would receive \$1275.00 for president's travel and secretarial expense, \$75.00 for the National Assembly, and \$35.00 for seven sectional committees; AFLS would receive \$100.00 for the Military-Community Library Study Committee and \$20.00 for four sectional committees.

The major program item for ALA will be for membership promotion.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Mrs. Young reported that the Trustees Institute had had the largest attendance to date and the participants say they gained a great deal. The seminar at Columbia University School of Library Service which preceded the Institute was a "tremendous success."

ARMED FORCES LIBRARIANS
SECTION

Miss Von Ende, president, Armed Forces Librarians Section reported that the Military Community Library Study Committee plans to have the handbook ready for the pilot libraries by fall. The AFLS meeting at the Cleveland Conference will be based on the reports of the pilot libraries and the handbook.

LIBRARY SERVICES ACT
COMMITTEE

At the 1960 Midwinter Meeting, Ralph Blasingame, chairman, Coordinating Committee on the Library Services Act, recommended that the name and function

of the committee be changed because the coordinating function is no longer needed.

IT WAS VOTED to change the name of the committee to Library Services Act Committee whose function would be: To collect information on plans and projects in various states as carried out under LSA and evaluate them as they affect local public libraries; through appropriate channels, bring LSA programs to the attention of persons outside the library field; schedule meetings to evaluate various state LSA plans and projects. The membership would be: seven members familiar with LSA programs, activities of other divisions, and public relations; three-year terms, with two members appointed each year, except the third year when three would be appointed.

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eleanor A. Ferguson
Executive Secretary
Public Library Association

Second session

Thursday, June 23, 1960, 8:30 a.m.
Sheraton-Mount Royal Hotel, Salon B
Presiding, Elinor Walker, President

PRESENT Board members: James E. Bryan, Sigrid A. Edge, Harold L. Hamill, Mrs. Helen M. Hendrick, John Lorenz, Nellie McAlpine, Paxton P. Price, Harold L. Roth, Mrs. Benjamin Saks, Nettie B. Taylor, Elinor Walker.

Chairmen and Committee members: Jerzy Maciuszko, Emilie Perillo, Frank B. Sessa, Mrs. May V. K. Valencik

Other: Mrs. Samuel Berg, Mrs. Lura G. Currier, Helen Fry, Mrs. Elsa Thompson, Rose Vainstein, Eunice Von Ende

Executive Secretary: Eleanor A. Ferguson

Staff: Ruth M. White

Absent: Paul J. Burmette, Jerome Cushman, William R. Oliver, Bernard W. Van Horne, Raymond E. Williams

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Miss Walker, president, at 8:30 a.m.

FOREIGN BOOK SELECTION
COMMITTEE

Emilie Perillo, member of the Foreign Book Selection Committee, asked the Board about the usefulness of the lists as now prepared, whether children's books should be included, and whether more frequent lists of books in several languages as opposed to lists in one language only would be desirable. Booklist is able to give 12-15 pages a year to foreign books.

IT WAS AGREED that a list of children's books in foreign languages would be desirable; that a children's librarian should be added to the committee; and that occasionally there should be a list of books in several languages.

MEMBERSHIP
COMMITTEE

Miss Ferguson read the report of Virginia Owens, PLA representative to the ALA Membership Committee. A committee has been appointed to set up a new dues scale. The ALA membership is 1348 over the same date last year. After ALA Membership Day renewals increased 39% over the year before.

COMMITTEE TO EXPLORE
DIVISION STATUS FOR AALT

Mrs. Young reported for Mrs. Merlin M. Moore, chairman of the Committee to Explore Division Status for AALT. The committee decided that the trustees have much to gain by remaining a section of PLA, but they want certain privileges as a lay group, such as representation on PEBCO and the conference planning committee. The chairman will write a letter to the Committee on Organization giving their reasons and the privileges they would like.

COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE BASES
OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR
PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Mr. Sessa reported on the questionnaire which the Committee to Study the Bases of Financial Support for Public Libraries sent to state library extension agencies. The results showed that there is confusion about what is meant by state aid: money alone or books, salaries, and money grants; ninety percent of public library support is from local real estate taxes. At present the committee does not see the need for a detailed study using grant funds.

IT WAS VOTED that the committee continue its study and make another report at the Midwinter Meeting; the board officially thanks the committee for the work it has done.

JURY ON CITATION OF
TRUSTEES

Mrs. Valencik, chairman of the Jury on Citation of Trustees, recommended that the presentations should be limited to five pages and all materials should be returned to the originator at the end of one year.

IT WAS AGREED that Mrs. Valencik should draw up a form for submitting names of trustees and the specific requirements for each recommendation.

COMMITTEE ON METROPOLITAN
AREA LIBRARY SERVICE

Mr. Hamill, chairman of the Committee on Metropolitan Area Library Service, reported that the Council on Library Resources had agreed to finance a meeting of the committee in New York. Officials of the National Municipal League would meet with the committee to help formulate a project on the whole problem of coordinating library services in metropolitan areas, for which foundation funds might be sought.

CITY MANAGER-LIBRARIAN
RELATIONSHIPS

Miss Ferguson reported that the articles to help city managers and librarians understand each other better had been written by Edwin Castagna, who until recently was librarian of the Long Beach, California, Public Library, and the city manager of Long Beach. The articles will probably be published in the late fall, the city manager's in the ALA Bulletin and Mr. Castagna's in Public Management.

COUNCIL OF NATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS

PLA has had two representatives to the Council of National Organizations, Elinor Walker and George Moreland. Since the CNO will continue to function until the next White House Conference on Children and Youth,

IT WAS VOTED that the present delegates continue in office for one year.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50.

Respectfully submitted,

Eleanor A. Ferguson
Executive Secretary
Public Library Association