

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

PUBLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

MINUTES

Meeting of the Board of Directors, Midwinter Meeting,
Chicago, 1961

First Session

January 31, 1961, 4:30 p.m.
Edgewater Beach Hotel, American Room
Presiding: Elinor Walker, president

PRESENT: Board members: James E. Bryan, Jerome Cushman, Sigrid Edge, Harold L. Hamill, John G. Lorenz, William R. Oliver, Paxton P. Price, Mrs. Benjamin Saks, Harold L. Roth, Nettie B. Taylor, Elinor Walker, Raymond E. Williams, Mrs. Raymond A. Young

Nominees for office of president-elect: Clara E. Breed, Mrs. May V. K. Valencik

Executive Secretary: Eleanor A. Ferguson

Staff: Barbara Christensen

Absent: Paul J. Burnette, Mrs. Helen M. Hendrick, Nellie McAlpine, Bernard W. Van Horne

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Elinor Walker, president, at 4:35 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE MONTREAL MEETING

Miss Walker asked that the minutes of the Montreal Board of Directors Meetings be approved as distributed by mail.

IT WAS VOTED that the minutes of the Montreal Meeting be adopted.

ALTA DIVISION STATUS

The president asked Mrs. Young to discuss the statement relating to ALTA's change from section to division status which she had prepared for presentation to COO. Mrs. Young reported that the ALTA Board was unanimously in favor of the change, but would like to retain some representation on the PLA Board. It was agreed that this would be desirable, though the form it should take would have to be worked out by joint agreement between the two Boards.

The matter of finances for the new division was discussed, in view of the fact that all or most of the members would pay dues of \$6.00. The ALTA Board had expressed a willingness to have trustee dues increased in line with other ALA dues, and was also looking into the possibility of raising an endowment, to be added to the ALA Endowment, the income of which could be earmarked for trustee programs, though the division, like all others, would present a budget to PEBCO requesting funds for its program.

ALTA DIVISION STATUS
(Continued)

In reply to questions from Board members, Mrs. Young said that the present membership of the section was nearly 3200, and that while it was expected the division would be smaller, the loss would not be great. She thought that the new division would be type-of-activity and that January 1962 might be the date for the change to the new status. Major changes would be required in the ALTA bylaws, but only minor ones in the PLA bylaws.

Asked what objections COO might raise to the request, the Executive Secretary listed the following: that this would constitute the first major change since the ALA reorganization; that since ALTA members were now all public library trustees, some form of close contact with PLA would be needed; that theoretically, type-of-activity divisions had members from more than one of the several type-of-library divisions; and that there had at one time been consideration of combining trustees and Friends of Libraries as a unit within ALA.

The president asked for comments on her statement prepared for COO.

IT WAS VOTED that the statement, amended as follows: in the first line, the words "the Board of Directors" replace "to me as President of PLA"; and the paragraphs 2 and 3 and the first sentence in paragraph 4 be deleted, expressed the position of the Board.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE
REPORT

A report from the Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Robert M. Orr, was read, in which he stressed the difficulty experienced in securing candidates for President-Elect. It was suggested that while it might be advantageous to choose candidates from among those who had previously served as committee members or councilors, further restrictions would only make it more difficult to assemble a slate. There was some discussion of the value of sending in names of able people to serve on ALA and PLA committees, since only a few could be appointed in any one year. No action was taken. The slate prepared by the committee is as follows:

Vice-President and President-Elect: Clara E. Breed, Librarian, San Diego Public Library, California

Mrs. May V. Valencik, Librarian,
Allentown Free Library, Pennsylvania

Councilors: Alta Parks, Assistant Director, Gary Public Library, Indiana
Jeanne Lloyd, Director, Birmingham Public Library, Michigan

Mary C. Rice, Librarian, Austin Public Library, Texas

June E. Bayless, Librarian, San Marino Public Library, California

John F. Anderson, Director, Knoxville Public Library, Tennessee

C. Lamar Wallis, Director, Memphis Public Library, Tennessee

PEBCO REPORT

Mr. Bryan, PEBCO representative, expressed his regret that he could not attend the whole PEBCO meeting; and reported that the following priorities had been set up for ALA during the coming year: (1) Recruitment, (2) Membership promotion and participation, (3) Library education, including pre-service and in-service education, (4) Legislation on all levels - federal, state, and local, (5) Standards and implementation, (6) Communication including internal and external groups, (7) Research and statistics, (8) Publications, (9) Evaluation and selection of library materials. He also reported that an annual grant of \$25,000 had been established by Field Enterprises, to be called "World Book Encyclopedia--ALA Goals Award," to be used each year to advance the development of public and/or school library service in relation to the ALA Goals for Action. Applications for the funds would be made early in 1962, and awards made on the recommendation of a committee of PEBCO.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR MATERIALS The statement on responsibility for materials for presentation to COO was considered. The Executive Secretary said that AASL was most unhappy with the present division of responsibility for materials. Miss Walker suggested that the reorganization should have more time before any changes were made.

IT WAS VOTED that the statement as submitted by the president be approved for presentation to COO.

ASD INTERNSHIP PROGRAM Miss Edge attended the ASD Internships in Adult Services Committee meeting as a member of the committee and as PLA's representative. She reported that ASD, in order to promote and encourage adult services in public libraries, was planning a project for internships in the areas of advisory service to individuals, service to community organizations, and library sponsored group programs, to be financed by a grant. Interns would be library school graduates with some library experience, and it is hoped that each will work in a public library with some supervision from a graduate library school. The committee is drafting a proposal for grant funds, to be submitted to the ALA Executive Board in November 1961, and would like to add a member to the committee representing PLA.

IT WAS VOTED that the President be authorized to appoint a representative from PLA to the committee.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Second Session

February 2, 1961, 10 a.m.
Edgewater Beach Hotel, Berwyn Room
Presiding: Elinor Walker, President

PRESENT: Board members: James E. Bryan, Jerome Cushman, Sigrid Edge, Harold L. Hamill, John G. Lorenz, Nellie McAlpine, Harold L. Roth, Mrs. Benjamin Saks, Elinor Walker, Mrs. Raymond A. Young

Committee Chairmen: Ernest E. Doerschuk

Nominees for Office: Clara Breed, Helen Fry, Mrs. May V.K. Valencik

ARMED FORCES LIBRARIANS
SECTION REPORT

Nellie McAlpine, president of the Armed Forces Librarians Section, reported that in the last two years the Military-Community Library Study had taken a great deal of time and hard work because the section is scattered all over the world. It is hoped the materials the committee has prepared can be adapted to all armed forces libraries. Questionnaires and interview schedules are now being tested in pilot libraries of all services. The section plans to have a workshop at the Cleveland Conference to discuss the experience of these pilot libraries so that the committee can make needed changes before publication of the material.

CODE OF ETHICS

Miss Walker asked for comments on the Code of Ethics being submitted by LAD to all division boards. In the ensuing discussion, some doubt was expressed about the need for a code, but it was agreed that this wording was adequate, except for the omission of any reference to the responsibility of librarians to develop understanding among trustees and other lay groups.

IT WAS VOTED that the Code of Ethics be approved with the amendment that reference be made to work with lay groups.

LIBRARY 21 EXHIBIT

Irving Lieberman reported to the Board on the plans for Library 21, to be part of the Century 21 exhibit at Seattle, Washington, in 1962. Mr. Lieberman said the exhibit would have 5 units, of which he thought elements 1, 3, and 5 would be of most concern to PLA. These elements are: (1) What a person in the 21st century would see looking back 100 years to the best library service today; (3) An information center; and (5) What one could expect of libraries in the 22nd century. No action was taken.

PUBLIC LIBRARY-SCHOOL LIBRARY
RESOLUTION

The Board considered the resolution adopted by the American Library Trustee Association at Montreal, which urged public libraries to give up service to schools as the schools develop their own libraries. Several members of the Board felt that the resolution was so ambiguously worded that it might retard growth of service to children and young people in public libraries. The trustees present stressed that the resolution called for gradual assumption of responsibility for school libraries by the schools, and would work to free public libraries to develop programs uniquely theirs. It was moved and seconded that the resolution be adopted; by a show of hands, the motion was defeated, five to four, with the president and executive secretary not voting. The Board agreed that this action would not prevent ALTA from using the resolution in their National Library Week promotion, so long as it was made clear that it was an ALTA resolution, not that of PLA or ALA.

IT WAS VOTED that the resolution be rewritten by Mr. Hamill and other members of the Board and reconsidered at the Cleveland Conference.

LIBRARY SERVICES ACT
COMMITTEE

Ernest E. Doerschuk, chairman, reported that much of the committee's work will be to collect and publicize information on LSA programs and projects, and evaluate them. Maryan Reynolds of the Washington State Library has been asked to write a report of the Washington workshop meeting. John Lorenz of the Library Services Branch will keep the committee informed of outstanding LSA projects. The committee hopes to interest magazines in using this material.

DIVISION COMMUNICATION

The Executive Secretary brought up the matter of communication with PLA members, a large and diverse group. There was discussion of the possibility of a quarterly newsletter to all members, either instead of the column in the ALA Bulletin or in addition to it. It was agreed that a request for such a newsletter should be included in the PLA budget for 1961-62, and that further discussion of this and of the Public Library Reporter be postponed until the Cleveland meetings of the Board for lack of sufficient time.

ALTA CLEVELAND WORKSHOP

Mrs. Raymond A. Young, president of the American Library Trustee Association, distributed a written report and further announced that the trustees are planning a 1-1/2 day preconference workshop in cooperation with Western Reserve Library School on "Blueprint for Action" to study the formulation of policies.

NEW BUSINESS

A question was raised about the details of the World Book--ALA Goals Awards. These are now under discussion by the ALA Executive Board, and will be released shortly.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Attached to these minutes is a report by Ernest E. Doerschuk, who represented PLA at a meeting of the Federal Relations Committee. Time did not allow presentation of this to the Board while in session.

Also attached are the following exhibits:

- I. Statements on Division Status for ALTA approved for presentation to COO from PLA President Walker and ALTA President Young.
- II. Text of ALTA Resolution on School and Public Library Relations.
- III. Notes on Federal Relations Committee Meeting.

JN 24622

January 18, 1961

MEMORANDUM

TO: PLA and ALTA Board Members

FROM: Elinor Walker, President, Public Library Association

RE: Division Status for ALTA

It seems to me as President of PLA that the next logical step in the development of the American Library Trustee Association is the achievement of division status. ALTA has increased its membership recently to around 3000 members and we believe it deserves the additional recognition which comes with division status. Division status will further strengthen ALTA and be an added incentive to membership. It has been difficult for the trustee coming to library meetings to find a place for himself. The development of ALTA has given him a unique position from which he can contribute a great deal to the further growth of libraries. We believe that division status will give him an even better position from which to work and that in turn he will receive a better understanding of ALA problems from this new vantage point.

We counsel against moving too fast toward division status because of the two large problems confronting ALTA in trying to achieve this goal. The first is the new division's field of responsibility, which the ALA Bylaws say must be distinct from that of every other division. Thus far ALTA's has been almost the same as PLA's, while many of the specific problems that interest trustees are assigned to LAD. The trustees need to devote thought to their role in ALA and to the program their division means to work on so that they may present a field of responsibility statement that will be "clearly distinct," and furnish guide lines for ALTA's future development.

The other problem concerns ALTA's financial contribution to ALA. Because trustees' dues are not now comparable to those paid by librarians, ALTA does not pay to ALA what other divisions do, member for member. Until an adjustment can be made in dues or sufficient outside funds are found to bring income up to that brought into ALA by other divisions, ALTA will not be making its proper contribution to ALA funds. This is a particular problem, now that ALA is concentrating funds on the new building.

We hope that ALTA can find solutions to these problems. We should be happy to see them achieve new status with its added responsibilities and will do all we can to help now and later.

January 10, 1961

STATEMENT OF AMERICAN LIBRARY TRUSTEE ASSOCIATION

In support of request to Committee on Organization
for divisional status for ALTA, Mid-Winter, 1961

The American Library Trustee Association requests divisional status in the American Library Association. ALTA's field of responsibility would be:

1. A continuing and comprehensive educational program to enable the public library trustees of America to discharge their grave responsibilities in a manner best fitted to benefit the public and the libraries they represent.
2. Continuous study and review of the activities of public library trustees in the United States and Canada.
3. Conduct of activities and projects within its area of responsibility.
4. Synthesis of the activities of all units within ALA as they relate to trustees.
5. Stimulation of the development of public library trustees, and stimulation of participation by trustees in appropriate type-of-library divisions.
6. Representation and interpretation of the activities of public library trustees in contacts outside the library profession.

The membership of ALTA is wholly unique within the organization of the American Library Association, being made up of non-professional persons, serving on an unpaid and voluntary basis as members of the public library boards of the country. Unlike the professional members of ALA, who enter upon their profession with technical training and thereafter are enabled to enlarge their training by experience, trustees serve the library movement by appointment for terms of varying lengths and for periods of indefinite tenure. This means that there is a constant turnover in the trustee personnel of the country, with new and inexperienced trustees coming onto library boards constantly. These trustees have a right to expect from ALTA education in the tools of trusteeship, and they must be approached for ALTA membership in order to bring them into close participation with the over-all program of ALA through the national trustee organization.

The area of responsibility of the library trustee is, in the final analysis, the ultimate responsibility for the growth and progress of America's public libraries. The duties of trusteeship include legal accountability, as duly appointed representatives of the citizenship, for the disbursement of tax monies, the planning and construction of library buildings and facilities, the selection and employment of librarians, the framing and passage of supporting and enabling library legislation.

ALTA, as a division, would concentrate full-time upon education and assistance in discharge of trusteeship, and upon bringing trustees, through ALTA membership, into full recognition and practical realization of ALA standards for libraries. This full-time effort is necessary because, unlike professional librarians, whose responsibilities grow in proportion to professional experience, even the "freshman" trustees are placed at once in positions of grave public responsibility, necessitating informed decisions.

This divisional status and projected program has been the subject of a growing demand from America's library trustees. A constantly increasing volume of requests points up the necessity of full-time educational communication to supplement the annual Trustee Workshop held at the ALA Conference. As of December 1960, ALTA's membership was 3,179, and ALTA's membership is steadily growing. Continuous and concentrated effort and closer communication with the trustees of America would undoubtedly result in ultimate achievement of ALTA's long-time goal of "at least one member of every library board in America a member of ALTA."

Organizationally speaking, ALTA's divisional status can work nothing but advantage to ALA. Knowing that the professional members of ALA are subject this year to an across-the-board increase in membership dues, ALTA's Board proposes a voluntary increase in ALTA's membership dues if divisional status is granted. The exact amount of this increase will be fixed by the Board at its Mid-Winter Meeting, and will be submitted after that meeting as supplementary information to this statement.

The advantages to ALTA of divisional status would be increased flexibility and independence of program and implementation, increased prestige and consequently greater drawing power for membership in the field, and increased and more equitable representation in the ALA organization.

The advantages to PLA, should ALTA be granted its own type-of-activity divisional status, are increased freedom to concentrate on the professional side of the public library movement through the framework of its present type-of-library set-up.

An important aspect of ALTA's request for divisional status is the need for its own executive secretary. Of recent years, the presidency of ALTA has become a full-time responsibility requiring secretarial assistance to handle the volume of correspondence, programming, speeches and articles called for. An executive secretary could assume much of the desk work involved in the administration of ALTA's affairs, and could be in close and constant communication with individual trustees, library boards, and with the state trustee organizations which are so important in the library movement.

The effect of such a change on PLA's executive secretarial set-up would be most advantageous, freeing the present staff of a considerable amount of work on trustee affairs and allowing them to concentrate on the professional librarian's demands on their time. This would be a most equitable solution for all, since ALTA's Board and membership realize that their growing demands are time-consuming, and have no wish to require more than their fair share of the present staff of PLA, yet are keenly desirous of full-time assistance from a divisional executive secretary.

ALTA's field of responsibility, like ALTA's membership, is clearly distinct from, and entirely unique in comparison with, any other branch of the ALA organization. Working in close cooperation and constant liaison with other divisions, ALTA's membership would present a dynamic tool for the progress and improvement of America's libraries. To deny ALTA's members divisional status would be a tragic barrier to much important work that could and would be done by the trustees, and would be felt by the whole library movement, whereas, ALTA, as a division of ALA, would enrich and expand the public libraries of America.

AMERICAN LIBRARY TRUSTEE ASSOCIATION

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS: The American Library Trustee Association believes that the time has come for both public library trustees and school officials to recognize and accept their separate but complementary responsibilities in strengthening the total library resources of the community to serve all age groups and all individual interests; and

WHEREAS: The legal authority and responsibility to establish policies that will provide citizens of every age in the community with the best possible public library service resides in the public library trustees; and

WHEREAS: School libraries are an essential part of the total school program; and the provision of libraries and school library programs in the schools is the responsibility of the school board and administrative officers;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That trustees should work for the gradual assumption of this responsibility by the Board of Education, relinquishing school library service as the schools are able to undertake it.

(Adopted by the American Library Trustee Association in session at the ALA Montreal Conference, June 20, 1960.)

Ernest Doerschuk, Jr., Chairman of the Library Services Committee, attended a meeting of the Federal Relations Committee and Division Presidents as representative of PLA, since the meeting was scheduled at the same time as the PLA Board meeting. This is a synopsis of his report.

The meeting stressed the following NEEDS:

- ... for reliable facts and figures on the total library picture in the U. S. to show the gap between present performance and ultimate goals
- ... for a fresh look at immediate and long-range goals
- ... for establishing priorities and a time table for reaching goals
- ... to develop an orderly plan for action at the state and federal levels
- ... for total support by the library profession of legislation to close the gaps
- ... to look to the federal administration, the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, the Office of Education and the ALA Washington Office for help and guidance in formulating and timing a legislative program
- ... for cooperation between the library profession and other professional organizations and groups for support of library programs
- ... to utilize the experience and knowledge gained from the Library Services Act program in developing other areas of library legislation

Miss Germaine Krettek, ALA Washington Office, reported on pending library legislation and urged full cooperation from librarians in its support. (See Washington Report, ALA Bulletin, February 1961, p. 110)

Mr. Emerson Greenaway, Chairman of the Federal Relations Committee, closed the meeting by saying the Committee stands ready to advise on any federal legislative proposal, and seeks suggestions and counsel from all ALA Divisions and units. His final words were, "Keep one another informed and present a united front!"