

PUBLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
MIDWINTER MEETING, 1965

FORMALIZED MINUTES

FIRST SESSION

January 25, 1965 - 8:30 to 10 P.M.

Shoreham Hotel - Council Room

PRESENT: Board Members:

William Chait, President
Alta Parks, Vice President
Ransom L. Richardson, Past President
John F. Anderson
June Bayless
Mary J. Carter
Helen D. Hutchinson
Harold D. Martelle, Jr.
Mrs. Mary K. McCulloch
Frank Sessa
Josephine E. Weaver

President Elect, AFLS: Josephine Neil

Committee Chairmen:

Meredith Bloss
William Rarigh
David Marshall Stewart

Staff:

Eleanor A. Ferguson, Executive Secretary
Mrs. Muriel Breitenbach, secretary

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 p.m. by the president, William Chait. The president asked all the Board members to introduce themselves, since several councilors were attending for the first time.

MINUTES OF 1964 ANNUAL MEETING It was voted that the minutes of the 1964 annual meeting at St. Louis be approved as mailed.

PEBCO MEETING Ransom L. Richardson, PEBCO Representative, reported that the entire meeting was devoted to legislation already being considered by Congress or thought to be needed by the various units of ALA. The Library Services and Construction Act, a new Elementary and Secondary Education Bill and a Higher Education Bill were discussed and the library implications of the latter two stressed. (Mr. Richardson's report for PLA to PEBCO was published in Just Between Ourselves and is attached to these minutes as Exhibit I.) The Board was in AGREEMENT, with minor revisions, with the following four points of the report:

1. Regulations for receiving federal aid should require the local government not merely to maintain but to increase its level of support in some relationship to the growth and wealth of the community.
2. In general library legislation, the emphasis should continue to be put upon basic library needs.
3. The concept of library systems should be strongly emphasized in using federal funds.
4. Increased building funds are an important need.

After discussion of manpower shortages, it was the concensus that funds are relatively useless without competent people to spend them and that the Elementary and Secondary Education Bill and Higher Education Bill should be strongly supported for their provisions strengthening library education and in-service training.

There was an expression of interest and support for Interstate Compact legislation, as an extension of intra-state library systems.

IT WAS VOTED to accept Mr. Richardson's report and forward it to the ALA Executive Board and the Legislation Committee as an expression of the views of PLA.

MEMBERSHIP
COMMITTEE

Roger B. Francis, Representative to the Membership Committee, was unable to attend the meeting and submitted a written report covering the following points: 1) The Committee for a Greater ALA is investigating the possibility of joint membership in ALA and the National Education Association for school librarians; 2) the Membership Committee is considering the advisability of eliminating voting privileges for institutional members; 3) all those responsible for committee appointments should keep in mind that all appointees must be personal members of ALA.

Mr. Francis requested an expression of Board opinion on the matter of institutional voting rights. The Board discussed this at some length, particularly in relation to the following considerations: 1) whether it was fair to allow the head of an institution two votes, his own, and the institution's; 2) the possible loss of income from institutional memberships if the right to vote were withdrawn; 3) the present limitation that institutional members may not hold office or serve on committees.

IT WAS VOTED that the PLA Board is in favor of abolishing institutional voting rights and the Membership Committee be so informed.

Finally it was reported that PLA had 9144 members on December 31, 1964, the largest membership in its history.

IT WAS VOTED TO accept the report of the ALA Membership Committee Representative.

DETROIT CONFERENCE PROGRAM

The president reported that he had discussed with the president of the American Association of State Libraries a joint meeting on "Widening the Horizons of the Culturally Deprived," to be a workshop program covering two two-hour periods during the Detroit Conference. Dr. George Esser, director of the North Carolina Fund, had agreed to be the opening speaker. It was the consensus that the Adult Services Division should be asked to co-sponsor the meeting, in view of the work they had already done in this area. There was agreement that if other units of ALA wished to cooperate they would be welcomed but that the actual planning should be done by ASL, PLA, and ASD if it so wished.

IT WAS VOTED to concur in the president's Conference plans.

**INTERLIBRARY
COOPERATION
COMMITTEE**

William Rairigh, the chairman, reported that the Study of Library Systems, proposed by the Committee and approved in St. Louis by the Board, had been approved in principle by the ALA Executive Board in November and submitted informally to the Council on Library Resources. A number of questions raised by the Council had been discussed by the Committee, which concluded that a careful revision of the proposal would take care of the objections, and that the project was vital to further public library development.

IT WAS VOTED that the Board continue its support of the Study of Library Systems, and instruct the executive secretary to pursue the search for funds as rapidly as possible.

The meeting was adjourned at 10 PM.

SECOND SESSION

January 27, 1965, 8:30 AM to 12:30
Shoreham Hotel, Club Room B

PRESENT: Board Members: Same as for First Session

ALTA Representative: Charles Reid, President

Candidates for Vice President, President Elect: David Marshall Stewart
C. Lamar Wallis

Committee Chairmen: Meredith Bloss
Harold Hamill
William Rairigh
Harold Roth

President Elect, AFLS: Josephine Neil

Staff: Same as for First Session

Meeting was called to order by President Chait who introduced the candidates for Vice President and President Elect, Mr. C. Lamar Wallis and Mr. David Marshall Stewart.

**PUBLIC LIBRARY
ACTIVITIES
COMMITTEE**

John Anderson, chairman, reported that his committee had written a total of 154 letters to public librarians they knew well, asking for their opinions on the work of PLA and what programs were needed. From the 96 replies received, it was evident that standards were a continuing concern, as were the committees on metropolitan area service, accreditation, and illiteracy. There was interest in continuing the Public Library Reporter, and preparing how-to-do-it material. Needed new programs included ways to use federal monies, i.e., LSCA, Economic Opportunity Act programs such as VISTA, and the new education bills; a decision on the appropriate shares in public library support from federal, state and local funds; training library technicians; uses of automation in public libraries; school library-public library relations;

public library-state library relations; research on the optimum size of regional libraries; relationships with City Managers, with or without library boards. Several tabulations of these replies are appended as Exhibit III.

IT WAS RECOMMENDED that the committee refine its report further before the Annual Conference, so that the Board could take action to establish one or more of the proposed projects.

COMMITTEE TO
STUDY ACCREDI-
TATION OF PUBLIC
LIBRARIES

Harold L. Roth, chairman, reported that his Committee is experiencing difficulty in identifying appropriate criteria for accreditation. The Board agreed that the criteria would necessarily be arbitrary and therefore might not be universally acceptable. However, it was suggested that Mr. Roth send a draft of the criteria under consideration to the Board with a request for each member's reaction. (For full Committee report, see Exhibit I, page 5.)

COMMITTEE ON
METROPOLITAN AREA
LIBRARY SERVICE

Chairman Harold L. Hamill reported that the Committee's chief problem lay in breaking down barriers to good service. The Committee with the aid of a grant from U.S.O.E. Cooperative Research to Rutgers University, has been conducting a series of ten one-day meetings at which small groups of social and political scientists discussed with librarians the future of library service in metropolitan complexes. Some valuable agreements are developing and there will be a full report published during the summer.

IT WAS VOTED to accept Mr. Hamill's report.

COMMITTEE ON THE
FUNCTIONALLY
ILLITERATE

Meredith Bloss, chairman, reported that his Committee had met for the first time to discuss how it might carry out its assignment. (For the full report of the Committee's decisions, see Exhibit I, page 5.)

IT WAS VOTED to accept Mr. Bloss' report.

COMMITTEE ON
STANDARDS

Chairman David Marshall Stewart said his Committee had discussed the desirability of revising Public Library Service and were agreed that some revision was needed, and some additional statements added, since the document was nearly ten years old. However, the changes would result in a new edition rather than a new set of standards, in view of the general timeliness of the present statement. (See Exhibit I, page 1, for full report.)

In the discussion, Miss Weaver, president of the Armed Forces Librarians Section, requested that members of the section be included in any committees set up to make revisions. It was thought that the knowledge of the Standards Committee should be employed in the revision, but that additional committees would be needed as well as a highly qualified staff member, in order to produce the new edition expeditiously.

The feeling of the Library Services Branch that the standards should be more readily adaptable to statistical analysis was discussed. The Committee has requested a more detailed statement on statistical needs from LSB, and will explore the matter further at the Detroit Conference.

IT WAS VOTED that Public Library Service be revised as the Committee recommends, the executive secretary being instructed to seek a source of funds.

IT WAS FURTHER VOTED that it is expected that the revision will result in an additional document which will provide statistical interpretations.

LAD/LOMS
STATISTICS
COMMITTEE FOR
PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Gerald Gold, chairman of the Committee, stated that part of its function was to promote the prompt collection and publication of public library statistics. The Committee had met with Frank Schick of the USOE Library Services Branch to express dissatisfaction with the current status of such statistics though they were aware that the Branch faced considerable problems. Mr. Schick provided the following information about the Fiscal 1962 report:

1. Part I (Statistics of Public Library Systems serving populations of 35,000 to 49,999; 50,000 to 99,999; and 100,000 and more) is completed and is on the way to the Government Printing Office. It should be available by March or April of 1965.
2. Part II (An analytical report on public libraries of all sizes) is not quite finished. Tabulations have to be completed. It is hoped that it will be completed by the end of 1965.
3. Statistics for libraries serving populations under 35,000 will be prepared by the University of Illinois as soon as it receives the IBM cards for these libraries. The cards are still in the process of preparation by USOE. No date on transference of the cards to Illinois is as yet available.
4. The Public Library Manpower Survey is completed and is now in the editorial office. Should be available by June, 1965.

Mr. Schick proposed that the 1964 statistics survey include all public libraries serving 50,000 population or more (approximately 600 libraries) but only a sampling of about 900 of the more than 7,000 smaller ones. If this were done every two years, it was hoped the resulting figures could be available in October of the following year.

Mr. Gold said his Committee thought this schedule realistic and would be satisfactory to all concerned. The Board concurred in this feeling and thanked Mr. Gold for his efforts. He in turn expressed his appreciation at being asked to report on the work of his Committee and said he would be happy to do so at any time.

COUNCIL
APPORTIONMENT
COMMITTEE

Mr. Anderson, as chairman of the ALA committee to study present methods of Council reapportionment, reported to the Board the following possible changes in council reapportionment:

- 1) 4-year intervals
- 2) Membership totals as of June 30 instead of the previous December 31 be used to bring the procedure more up-to-date; or
- 3) Assignment of an equal number of councilors to each division

These suggestions were put to the Board for consideration.

IT WAS THE CONSENSUS of the Board that it had no strong feeling in the matter.

J. MORRIS JONES- Mr. Chait asked the Board if they wished to make an application
WORLD BOOK for the award of \$24,000.

ENCYCLOPEDIA-

ALA GOALS AWARD IT WAS VOTED that the executive secretary investigate the
J. Morris Jones-World Book Encyclopedia-ALA Goals Award as
the first choice of funds for the revision of the Standards.

Mr. Chait reported that PLA had been invited to cosponsor the ASD meeting
on July 5 and that ASD will cosponsor the program with ASL and PLA on July 8.

IT WAS VOTED to cosponsor the meeting with the Adult Services
Division on July 5.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:30.

Mr. Gold proposed that the 1967 statistics survey include all public libraries serving 50,000 population or more (approximately 600 libraries) but only a sample of about 300 of the more than 7,000 smaller ones. If this were done every two years, it was hoped the resulting figures could be available in October of the following year.

Mr. Gold said his Committee thought this schedule realistic and would be satisfactory to all concerned. The Board concurred in this feeling and thanked Mr. Gold for his efforts. In his own experience his appreciation of being asked to report on the work of his Committee and said he would be happy to do so at any time.

Mr. Anderson, as chairman of the ALA committee to study present methods of Council reorganization, reported to the Board the following possible changes in Council reorganization:

- 1) 4-year intervals
- 2) Membership table as of June 30 instead of the previous December 31 be used to bring the procedure more up-to-date; or
- 3) Assignment of an equal number of committees to each division

These suggestions were put to the Board for consideration.

IT WAS THE CONSENSUS of the Board that it had no strong feeling in the matter.