

PUBLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

ST. LOUIS CONFERENCE, 1964

FORMALIZED MINUTES

FIRST SESSION

June 30, 1964, 2:00 p.m.

Sheraton-Jefferson Hotel

St. Louis, Mo., Room 8

PRESENT

BOARD MEMBERS:

John F. Anderson, June Bayless, Clara E. Breed, Paul Burnette, Mary Carter, William Chait, Helen Hutchinson, Alta Parks, Barbara Prince, Ransom L. Richardson, Nettie B. Taylor, Raymond E. Williams

PRESIDENT-ELECT, AFLS

Josephine Weaver

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN:

Kate Kolish, William Rairigh

ALA STAFF:

Eleanor A. Ferguson, Executive Secretary; Mrs. Barbara Seshadri

ABSENT:

Jerome Cushman, Roger Francis, ALA Membership Representative; Mrs. Weldon Lynch, ALTA Representative.

MINUTES

Meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Ransom L. Richardson, President

MINUTES OF 1964 MIDWINTER MEETING

IT WAS VOTED that the minutes of the 1964 Midwinter Board meetings be approved as mailed.

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

In the absence of the chairman of the Elections Committee,

Katharine Hyatt, the executive secretary reported that Alta Parks, Assistant Librarian, Gary Public Library, had been elected Vice President and President-Elect for 1964-65. Other members of the Committee were Dorothy Weber and Reginald Scurr. Newly elected Councilors nominated by the division who become members of the Board of Directors are Mrs. Mary McCulloch, Fairfax County (Va.); Harold Martelle, San Francisco; and Frank Sessa, Miami.

PEBCO REPORT

Miss Breed, the division's PEBCO representative, reported that all

the items in the PLA Budget request had been approved by PEBCO. PLA is now the largest division of ALA, with 8,869 members. There was not enough money for some of the vital projects proposed at Midwinter when PEBCO discussed needs. Several

ways of getting more money for ALA, such as increasing the fees of exhibitors, and raising the prices of ALA publications, with a special discount to ALA members, had been suggested. PEBCO recommended that the 1964-65 J. Morris Jones-World Book-ALA Goals Award, which in the last two years has been given to recruiting, be divided as follows: \$7,000 to the Intellectual Freedom Committee for a conference to explore the possibilities of securing legal support for librarians who are faced with loss of their jobs because of taking a stand for intellectual freedom in their communities, \$10,000 to the Legislation Committee for a workshop on legislative problems and techniques, and \$7,000 to the Adult Services Division for a project in the area of materials and methods of working with functionally illiterates. It was recalled that there was a meeting to explore ways of helping these people at Midwinter. Miss Ferguson had attended a meeting of librarians and publishers in New York where she felt that publishers were becoming more aware of the need for materials for people with poor reading ability. Since the proposed ASD project would cover almost all age groups using public libraries, it was agreed that the Public Library Association might work with them in some way. It was the consensus that PLA should do something in the area of helping the functionally illiterate and various programs set up by public libraries were discussed. In one community a librarian works with community groups to identify the people who need help which the library can give and tries to bring them into the library. Another library has given space to welfare workers so that the people who can be helped by the library need not be referred to a library some distance away. Mr. Williams suggested that PLA might help in some way in the Appalachia Project. Once people have learned to read, what is the division of responsibility between the school library responsibility and the public library to provide books that will not only give them reading practice, but useful information as well; Mr. Anderson mentioned his library provided books for a tutoring service which cut the rate of school drop-outs considerably in Tucson. Miss Bayless suggested there may be a need to bring the library to the people instead of getting people into the library, and perhaps there should be a sort of "book corps" composed of younger members of the profession to go out into the field. Another idea was that a poll be taken to find out what is being done in various states along these lines. It was agreed that although some ideas on this subject might come from the new Public Library Activities Committee, their short meeting time would not allow them to go very far into the problem, so that a special committee to concentrate in this area should be appointed. It was further suggested that the Junior Members Round Table and the state library associations should somehow be involved.

IT WAS VOTED that the president appoint a special committee to investigate the Public Library Association's relationship to the whole problem of helping the functionally illiterate.

Miss Breed was asked to draft a statement of function for the new committee for the Board to consider at its next meeting.

**PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL
STUDY OF YOUNG ADULT SERVICE**

IT WAS VOTED that the Public Library Association concurs with the request of the Young Adult Services Division to IFLA for an international study of young adult services in public libraries.

FOREIGN BOOK
SELECTION COMMITTEE

Miss Kate Kolish, chairman of the committee for eight years, reported the difficulty in getting people to serve on her committee which prepares lists in foreign languages for publication in the Booklist as suitable for purchase by a small library. Members must have a good reading knowledge of their language and have access to the books in that language. The lists are published several times a year and many more languages have been included in recent years. It was agreed that the lists were very useful and should definitely be continued. The executive secretary had suggested that if libraries with adequate books in foreign languages would take the responsibility for preparing the lists as staff projects, it might be easier than to find individuals who would have to prepare them on their own time. Miss Kolish was willing to try this but also wanted to put a request for committee members in the Booklist. It was also suggested that she put the request in the Library Journal and the ALA Bulletin for a better response. A college or university librarian might be added to the committee, although Miss Kolish feared the lists might then be slanted for college collections. It was agreed that Miss Kolish would supply a list of public libraries with large collections and staff, to which the executive secretary would write, in the name of the president, asking them to contribute one or two lists a year.

BOOK-OF-THE-
MONTH CLUB AWARD

Miss Ferguson reported that the Book-of-the-Month Club had been discouraged from making the 1965 award in the form of books chosen from their stock. There will be one \$5,000 award and nine \$1,000 awards for the runners-up in place of the state-by-state awards. The possibility of making it an ALA award is now under investigation. Several members of the Board felt strongly that if it does become an ALA award, the name should be changed back to the Dorothy Canfield Fisher Award.

INTERLIBRARY COOPERATION COMMITTEE

Mr. Rairigh, the chairman, reported that the consultants representing state and school libraries had met with his committee and had been very helpful. He asked that the Board approve in principle the draft proposal for a survey of cooperative systems in the United States subject to editorial changes. It will then be referred to the ALA Executive Board, which would direct Mr. Clift to look for the funds to finance it. Mr. Rairigh said that many questions addressed to the speakers at his meetings on cooperative library systems justified the need for such a survey. The chairman said his committee was in complete agreement that the advisory committee for the survey should not necessarily be chosen from the Committee membership. Miss Ferguson said that the budget was still in very rough draft form and questioned the \$5,000 item for free distribution of the report following a suggestion made by the Conference-within-a-Conference. It was agreed that the Board was not bound to this suggestion and perhaps more value would be placed on the report if there was some charge for it.

IT WAS VOTED that the proposal of the Interlibrary Cooperation Committee for a survey of cooperative systems be approved in principle, acknowledging that there will be minor changes in the proposal.

JUST BETWEEN OURSELVES

Miss Ferguson reported that the budget for the division's newspaper had been increased to allow for a six-page publication instead of a four-page publication. She asked for the Board's guidance on whether the membership of PLA should become more involved in it, through a volunteer editor or otherwise. One issue might be devoted to a single subject, or perhaps the Junior Members might be encouraged to write articles for it. Special features, such as those contained in some state publications, might be considered. Miss Ferguson said that at a recent staff meeting, it had been thought that if a member of the ALA staff edited a division publication, it should be made very evident to the members. It was the consensus that Miss Ferguson should continue as editor of Just Between Ourselves and be identified as such on the masthead. It was agreed that if an advisory committee consisting of members representing all regions of the country could be appointed, it would be very helpful in identifying activities of interest to all PLA members. The incoming president was authorized to handle the matter in the light of the points discussed.

STATISTICS COORDINATING PROJECT

Members of the Project staff have developed a glossary of library statistical terms. Four regional meetings have been held, in which the kinds of statistics needed by different types of libraries were reviewed. The report of the Project will suggest what types of statistics should be collected nationwide for all types of libraries.

POST ENTRY TRAINING

Miss Ferguson said that about 25 organizations -- the Council of State Governments, International City Managers Association, and others -- were interested in finding funds to provide courses in administration for people who had technical training in their particular fields, when they were promoted to administrative positions. Scholarships would probably have to be provided the first few years to get people to take the administrative training; universities would have to be persuaded to give the training; and the agencies employing these people would need to give them the necessary time off. It was the consensus that problems faced by administrators in the various fields represented by these organizations were shared by all and would be desirable for librarians.

IT WAS VOTED that the Public Library Association Board of Directors recommends to the ALA Executive Board that PLA be represented in this project.

STATISTICS FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Miss Ferguson pointed out that the latest public library statistics published by the Library Services Branch for public libraries over 35,000 population are the 1960 statistics; the latest nationwide public library statistics are the 1955-56. The Library Services Branch has collected the 1962 statistics but has not yet published them. Mr. Anderson, chairman of the LAD section responsible for statistics, agreed to convey to it the concern of the Board and the great need for up-to-date statistics for public libraries.

IT WAS VOTED that the Board express its concern at the lack of current public library statistics and urges the immediate publication of the most current figures available, and the institution of a continuing program of publication of statistics.

IT WAS FURTHER VOTED that the president of PLA be instructed to send a letter to the Statistics Committee of IAD with a copy to Mr. Lorenz expressing this concern.

AMERICAN HERITAGE REGISTER AND VOTE CAMPAIGN

The American Heritage Foundation has again asked for PLA's support in its Register and Vote Campaign. Posters, bookmarks, etc. will be

available to interested libraries.

IT WAS VOTED that the Board of Directors of the Public Library Association go on record as supporting this campaign.

METROPOLITAN AREA LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Miss Ferguson reported that ASL felt it should have some connection with the Seminar on

Metropolitan Library Problems to be held at Rutgers University with USOE Cooperative Research funds and had instructed her to convey this interest to the Board and the committee. There were no objections.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

SECOND SESSION

Tuesday, June 30, 1964, 4:30 p.m. Sheraton-Jefferson Hotel, Room 7 St. Louis, Missouri

Present: Board Members: John F. Anderson, June Bayless, Clara E. Breed, Mary Carter, William Chait, Helen Hutchinson, Alta Parks, Barbara Prince, Ransom L. Richardson, Nettie B. Taylor, Raymond E. Williams, George Coen, ALTA Representative.

New Board Members: Frank B. Sessa, Josephine E. Weaver

Committee Chairmen: Harold L. Roth, William Rairigh, David Marshall Stewart

Incoming President-Elect, AFLS: Josephine Neil

ALA Staff: Eleanor A. Ferguson, Executive Secretary; Mrs. Barbara Seshadri, Secretary

MINUTES

Meeting was called to order at 4:45 by William Chait, president-

elect. He introduced the new members of the Board present - George Coen, ALTA representative, councilor Frank Sessa, and Josephine Weaver, incoming AFLS president. Mrs. Mary McCulloch and Harold Martelle, newly elected councilors nominated by the division, were not present.

COMMITTEE TO STUDY ACCREDITATION OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Harold Roth, chairman, reported that the committee had met with the Standards Committee to determine whether standards enter into accreditation of libraries. Since the Committees agreed that their responsibilities related to each other, they will meet together frequently. The committees will remain separate but will communicate with each other. It was agreed that Mr. Roth and his committee should continue to work with the Standards Committee as necessary.

PUBLIC LIBRARY ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Mr. Anderson, the chairman, said that his committee had held a very brief meeting to consider their charge of looking at the needs of public libraries in general with a view to suggesting or initiating new activities for PLA. Between now and Midwinter he has asked each member of his committee to contact a few friends all over the country as to what in their opinion are the important needs of public libraries. At Midwinter the Committee will consider how these needs can be met by some kind of program for PLA. Miss Parks, as president-elect, has been added to the committee and members of the Board were invited to communicate any ideas they might have to the committee. Miss Parks suggested that an item be put in Just Between Ourselves to ask for ideas for the Committee to consider from the membership. The Board discussed whether it would be possible for the committee to meet before Midwinter. Because there are no funds available, it was suggested that perhaps the Committee could meet for an entire day either before or after Midwinter.

LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

Mr. Chait reported for Mr. Eggen, the chairman of this committee. Before Conference the committee had asked to be dismissed, but at their meeting they agreed to continue at least until Midwinter. The committee requested a specific charge from the Board. It was pointed out that in view of the new legislation there would probably be a great deal the committee could do; possibly as a first step the committee might appoint a person in each state to act as liaison for any public library legislation activities that may develop. In the past the public libraries have depended to some extent on the state agencies to do their lobbying for them; however under the new law the point of view of the state agency may not be the same as that of the public library. One thing the committee could do would be to see how many state organizations have committees on legislation. Miss Krettek will be asked how the committee could be useful to her.

COMMITTEE ON FUNCTIONALLY ILLITERATE

Miss Bread read the function she had been asked to draft for this committee with a recommendation that the Board make its deep concern known to the president of ALA.

IT WAS VOTED that the function of the committee be to study ways in which the public library, as a total institution, serving all age levels, can reach the functionally illiterate and cooperate with other interested institutions and organizations, as well as with other divisions of ALA, in serving their needs.

IT WAS FURTHER VOTED by the Board of Directors of the Public Library Association to communicate to the president of ALA its deep concern with the problems of the culturally and economically underprivileged and functionally illiterate, and their willingness to be of service. The Board further asks that this concern be expressed to the President of the United States through the president of ALA.

Mr. Richardson will present this motion to Council at its Friday meeting.

LIAISON WITH ALTA

ALTA meetings which prevented her from attending the ALTA Board meetings. It was questioned whether the liaison with ALTA was really necessary. The executive secretary was instructed to discuss this with the executive secretary of ALTA.

Miss Breed mentioned there were schedule conflicts between PLA and

DETROIT PROGRAM

Detroit Conference would be left until Midwinter. He suggested that perhaps PLA could cosponsor a meeting with ASD.

Mr. Chait said that the planning for the PLA program at the 1965

Meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eleanor A. Ferguson
Executive Secretary