

M.P.L.A. BULLETIN

Issued from time to time by the Mountain - Plains Library Association

No. 1

June 6, 1949

Denver, Colorado

At Estes Park, Colorado, on August 31, 1948, the conference that organized the Mountain-Plains Library Association also provided for interim progress reports from the President and Executive Board to keep librarians in the region informed.

Proceedings: One month after the Estes Park Conference, delegates received copies of the Proceedings, prepared under the able editorship of conference secretary Eugene Wilson, librarian of the University of Colorado. If it happened that you did not yet your copy, write now to your president -- the stock is not quite exhausted.

Annual Meeting. Our annual meeting has been set for Monday, September 5, in Fort Collins, Colorado. Your Executive Board would liked to have planned an outstanding MPLA conference for 1949, but it agreed that it would be folly to attempt a program meeting during the same year that the A.L.A. is coming into our area with one of its regional conferences. When it was learned that the A.L.A. conference would meet in Fort Collins, the Executive Board voted to hold a business meeting in the same place and during the A.L.A. meeting. This decision is based on the assumption that most of our M.P.L.A. members will be attending the A.L.A. sessions anyway, and that they would hardly want to attend a second meeting in a different place. Furthermore, the Board decided that there would be no need to plan a professional program, since the A.L.A. meeting will provide plenty of that kind of thing. We end up, therefore, with our annual meeting consisting of one session -- a business meeting. However, we have a lot of business to transact, so your officers are looking forward to a lively session. We need to adopt a permanent constitution and elect new officers, and recently appointed committees will have activities to report.

Executive Board. According to the temporary constitution adopted in Estes Park last August, the president was empowered to appoint "state representatives" to serve, with the elected officers, as an Executive Board. Appointments were consequently made, and a full roster of eleven is now serving on the Board. Seven are state representatives; four are the elected officers chosen at the Estes Park meeting. They are all listed at the end of this Bulletin.

Constitution. You will recall that after the temporary constitution was adopted at Estes Park, a motion was carried that instructed the president to appoint a committee to draw up a permanent constitution and by-laws to replace the temporary document. Accordingly, a Constitution Committee was appointed early in October, with Mr. Robert Canny as chairman. The difficult task of reconciling

varied opinions has been under way, and a second draft was completed April 27. Mr. Canry's committee proposes to make further improvements and is preparing a final draft for Executive Board examination. The Board will not be permitted to make further revision of this draft, but may append comments and suggestions to it. Thereupon the draft will be mailed to those who attended the Estes Park conference and others in our region. Look for your copy around July 15. At the business session of September 5 in Fort Collins action will be taken by the membership with a view toward the adoption of a permanent constitution.

Board Meeting. The Executive Board held a lengthy meeting during February and March. This was accomplished in absentia, and through the facilities of the U. S. Post Office. It began with a seven-page letter from your president to the other ten Board members. A flurry of correspondence followed. By the end of March a surprising number of decisions had been reached involving such matters as: the geographical jurisdiction of the Association, the constitution, interim reports, the treasury, status of Sections, standing committees, special committees, the agenda of the September 5 meeting, and plans for two Board meetings on September 1 and 6.

Geographical Jurisdiction. The Board re-affirmed the general sentiment of the Estes Park delegates, namely: that the M.P.L.A. should not be rigid in defining its territory; that we are an association of librarians rather than an association of state organizations; that we should begin with the seven states that participated in the Estes Park organizational meeting but must not think in terms of hard-and-fast state boundaries; that we should keep our thinking flexible; and that we should provide for both easy withdrawal and easy joining of any sections of our region where librarians in general feel that their best interest is served outside or within the general framework of M.P.L.A. activities. This would seem to indicate that the "state representatives" on the Executive Board are there to represent any special interests of those librarians in their respective states who choose to participate in the M.P.L.A.; they are not in any sense actual representatives of state library associations.

Committees. By action of the Board, seven standing committees and three special committees have been created. Chairmen are functioning for all of them, but committee membership is still being filled out for some. The committees, their functions, and their personnel as of now are listed at the end of this Bulletin. Your Board welcomes suggestions from members as to the need or functions of existing committees, and, perhaps more important, recommendations for additional committees. And, most important of all, please let your president know of any librarians you think would do a good job on a particular committee. He knows quite a few of the librarians in the region, but by no means all of them. Consequently, the job of making appointments is not an easy one.

Sections. You will recall that on the morning of August 30, a number of special interest groups met in separate sessions. For lack of a better name, these groups were called "sections." The permanent constitution now being drafted provides for "Divisions" to take care of special interest groups, but provision does not exist within our present framework. The Board discussed the status of these groups, however, and arrived at the following decision: A communication should be sent to each of the section chairmen who were elected at the Estes Park section meetings suggesting that each Section cooperate, through its elected officer, with the appropriate A.L.A. Division or Board in planning that group's program at the Fort Collins A.L.A. conference; that the officer or officers elected at Estes Park remain in office through the 1950 M.P.L.A. conference; and that each section report briefly at the Fort Collins M.P.L.A. business meeting (September 5) on any activities of the past year and on plans for 1949/50. The sentiments of the Board have been transmitted to each of the Sections.

Great Plains Library Planning Council. In view of increasing interest in regional development in the Missouri River basin, your president sat down recently with Bibliographical Center chairman James Hodgson to talk over possibilities of library extension in that area. We decided that librarians should get in on the ground floor of any development and made haste to call a meeting of key librarians and rural sociologists to discuss regional library expansion in the northern Great Plains area -- a region characterized by semi-arid farming and grazing, sparse population, and largely dependent upon outside capital and outside markets. On March 12, 17 librarians and sociologists met in Billings, Montana. Representatives came from North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming, and Montana. From Chicago came Miss Helen Ridgway, library extension specialist at A.L.A. headquarters. All day was spent discussing the possibilities of extending library service on a regional basis in this vast Missouri Basin-Great Plains area, and many excellent suggestions were made. Action was taken to create a NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS LIBRARY PLANNING COUNCIL, which would decide on policy for library development in the region and on which would serve non-librarians as well as librarians. Some 30 persons have subsequently agreed to serve on the Council, including representatives of farm bureaus, the Farmers' Union, the Department of Agriculture, the U. S. Soil Service, Bureau of Reclamation, Corps of Engineers, livestock associations, and several other interested groups -- as well as one or two librarians from each state who are most intimately concerned with rural library development. Miss Margaret Fulmer, Montana extension librarian, is serving as Council chairman. The Council's interim activities are the responsibility of an Executive Committee of seven -- all librarians -- and James Hodgson is the committee's chairman. The Council should have news to report at Fort Collins.

Bibliographical Center. At the annual meeting of the Denver Bibliographical Center, March 26, your president took the liberty of advising the sponsors in attendance that an M.P.L.A. Committee on Coordinating Resources had been authorized. It was pointed out that this new committee has objectives very much like those of the Bibliographical Center and that a healthy working relationship was implied if goals were to be achieved. After a discussion that indicated a warm reception for the new committee, it was moved and carried that the Bibliographical Center offer whole hearted cooperation to the M.P.L.A. Committee on Coordinating Resources. The Center also asked that it be permitted to name one member of the Committee.

Wyoming State Librarian. When the Wyoming state librarianship became vacant during the winter, it seemed proper for the M.P.L.A. to take appropriate action to urge the governor to appoint a strong, well-trained person to fill this important position. Before we were able to mobilize, however, news reached your president that Miss Ellen Crowley had been named to the post. Since Miss Crowley is a trained librarian and well-suited for her new job, we did express the Association's appreciation to the governor, whose reply indicates official support of state library objectives.

Publicity. Association affairs have been reported regularly to state library bulletins during the months since Estes Park. Members will be pleased to know that bulletin editors have been most generous in giving space for M.P.L.A. news.

Shaw Report. Librarians who have followed the progress of the A.L.A. Fourth Activities Committee and its recommendations will know that Part II of the committee's final report will be the subject of full discussion at each of the seven A.L.A. regional conferences this fall. Since the report contains much that relates to decentralization of the national Association and to regional organization, it is of particular concern to those librarians who put their efforts into

the formation of an independent regional association in the Mountain-Plains area. For this reason, M.P.L.A. officers hope that members will give careful study to those parts of the Activities Committee report that relate to regional groups, and that they will be prepared to participate in the discussions scheduled for the Fort Collins A.L.A. meeting. Part II of the report was published in the A.L.A. Bulletin January 1949, pages 28-43.

1950 MPLA Conference. President-Elect Ruth Tyler and the Executive Board will soon be faced with making a decision on the time and place for the 1950 M.P.L.A. conference. If you have any ideas, don't be modest about them. Send them on to Mrs. Tyler or to your state representative on the Board.

Suggestion Letters. A number of Estes Park delegates took the trouble to write letters and to make suggestions to your M.P.L.A. president. These were very welcome, and your Board would like to see more of them.

Look for your copy of the final draft of a permanent constitution about July 15. And, if I don't see you sooner, I'll be looking for you in Fort Collins on the fifth of September.

Ralph T. Esterquest

Ralph T. Esterquest
President

MOUNTAIN - PLAINS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

OFFICERS, 1948-49

President

Ralph T. Esterquest, University of Denver Library, Denver, Colo.

Vice-President and President Elect

Mrs. Ruth V. Tyler, Salt Lake County Public Library, Midvale, Utah.

Secretary

Miss Hail Fischer, University of Wyoming Library, Laramie, Wyoming

Treasurer

Mrs. Charles Hall, Trustee, Hutchinson Public Library, Hutchinson, Kansas

Executive Board

The president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and seven other members as follows:

Ruth E. Bergman, University of South Dakota Library, Vermillion, S. D.
Charles Dalrymple, Manhattan Public Library, Manhattan, Kansas.
Mrs. Florence P. Foltz, South High School Library, Denver, Colorado.
Mrs. Ruth D. Harris, Hastings College Library, Hastings, Nebraska.
Mrs. Ethel E. Homes, Salt Lake City Public Library, Salt Lake City, Utah.
Jane R. Patterson, Platte County Library, Wheatland, Wyoming.
Erana M. Stadler, Bismarck Public Library, Bismarck, North Dakota.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Nominating Committee

"To recommend and report an annual slate of officers and Board members as provided in the Constitution and By-Laws of the Association."

Anna Neal Muller, Topeka Public Library, Topeka, Kansas, CHAIRMAN
Mrs. Hazel Webster Byrnes (North Dakota)
Nellie M. Carey (Nebraska)
Louise L. Critchlow (Utah)
Mary Marks (Wyoming)
Harriet E. Howe (Colorado)
Marjorie Smith (South Dakota)

Membership Committee

"To solicit new members; to make recommendations concerning membership participation, dues, etc.; to solicit membership suggestions and to transmit them to the Executive Board; to maintain membership records and statistics."

John Spellman, University of Wichita Library, Wichita, Kansas, CHAIRMAN
(Others being appointed.)

Committee on Publications

"To study the matter of Association publications; to recommend methods for publishing conference proceedings; to edit and manage Association publications."

Mrs. Lois B. Payson, University of Wyoming Library, Laramie, Wyo., CHAIRMAN
(Others being appointed.)

Committee on Coordinating Resources

"To promote efforts looking toward the efficient development and use of library resources in the Mountain-Plains area; to support and coordinate the work of existing agencies such as the Bibliographical Center; to study such matters of subject specialization, regional store-house, centralized acquisition and cataloging, liberalized interlibrary lending, etc. as seem appropriate for the region; to initiate cooperative bibliographic projects, regional indexes, cooperative discarding programs, etc."

Malcolm G. Wyer, Denver Public Library, Denver, Colorado, CHAIRMAN
(Others being appointed.)

Committee on Library Supplies and Equipment

"To assemble and make available to M.P.L.A. members information on supplies and equipment secured from libraries where such supplies and equipment have been tested by use; to act as a clearing house for information on supplies and equipment."

Richard A. Farley, University of Nebraska Library, Lincoln, Nebraska, CHAIRMAN
Miss Hail Fischer (Wyoming)
Carl Hamilton (Colorado)
G. H. Sandy (Kansas)
(Other appointments not yet made.)

Committee on Public Relations

"To study library publicity objectives and methods with a view to Association programs; to assemble information on publicity methods and publicity programs used by libraries in the region and to appraise and report on them to the membership; to act as the public relations agency of the Association both during the year and at the time of the Association conferences."

Jerome Cushman, Salina Public Library, Salina, Kansas, CHAIRMAN
Miriam E. McNally (Colorado)
(Others being appointed.)

Committee on Resolutions and Obituaries

"To prepare and report to the Association at its annual conference suitable resolutions; to make recommendations regarding all resolutions submitted to the Association for action."

Beth Oyler, Free Public Library, Salt Lake City, Utah, CHAIRMAN
(Others being appointed.)

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Constitution Committee

"To consider amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws and to make recommendations to the Association."

Robert Canny, Denver Public Library, Denver, Colorado, CHAIRMAN
R. Paul Bartolini (Kansas)
Frank A. Lundy (Nebraska)
Mary C. Martinez (Wyoming)
Mrs. Marjorie M. Riley (Utah)

Committee on Intellectual Freedom

"To work with the A.L.A. Committee on Intellectual Freedom in all efforts to safeguard the rights of library users to freedom of inquiry in accordance with the Bill of Rights of the United States and the national Library's Bill of Rights."

Miriam E. McNally, Denver Public Library, Denver, Colorado, CHAIRMAN
(Others being appointed.)

Subcommittee on Freedom of Expression in Library Periodicals

"To encourage and support the free expression of responsible opinion, conviction, and experience for publication in library periodicals -- national, regional, state, and local; to assemble information on instances of editorial censorship."

(Chairman to be appointed)

Committee on Recruiting for Librarianship

"To assemble information on recruiting activities and to report to the Association; to study methods and make recommendations for Association action or Association programs."

Arthur Vennix, University of Nebraska Library, Lincoln, Nebraska, CHAIRMAN
Margaret Hayes (Colorado)
(Others being appointed.)

SECTIONS

With the exception of the College and University Libraries Section, all the Sections listed below now exist either as an actual M.P.L.A. Section or as an interest group loosely organized with a hold-over chairman for 1948/49.

Large and Medium Public Libraries Section. Organizing group met in Estes Park, August 30, 1948, under chairmanship of Mrs. Anna Neal Muller, Topeka Public Library. Miss Jennie C. Phelps, Greeley Public Library, was elected chairman for 1948/49.

Small Public Libraries Section. Organizing group met in Estes Park, August 30, 1948, under chairmanship of Mrs. Lora H. Steele, Woodruff Memorial Library, La Junta, Colorado. Mr. Jerome Cushman, Salina, Kansas, Public Library, was elected chairman for 1948/49.

County Libraries Section. Organizing group met in Estes Park, August 30, 1948, under chairmanship of Miss Mary C. Martinez, Carbon County Public Library, Rawlins, Wyoming. Mrs. Lucille Dean, Weld County Library, Greeley, Colorado, was elected chairman for 1948/49.

School, Children's and Young People's Libraries Section. Organizing group met in Estes Park, August 30, 1948, under chairmanship of Mrs. Marjorie M. Riley, Salt Lake City Junior High School. Voted to organize as a section of the M.P.L.A. Miss Frances Sullivan, Head, Children's Department, City Library, Wichita, Kansas, was elected chairman for 1948/49.

Catalog Section. Organizing group met in Estes Park, August 30, 1948, under chairmanship of Miss Lillian P. Cooper, University of Colorado Library. Voted to organize as a regional chapter of the A.L.A. Division of Cataloging and Classification. Miss Laura Neiswanger, University of Kansas Library, Lawrence, was elected chairman for 1948/49.

Business and Technology Section. Organizing group met in Estes Park, August 30, 1948, under chairmanship of Miss Elizabeth Knowles, Librarian, Gates Rubber Company, Denver. No one was elected chairman for 1948/49.

Music and Art Libraries Section. Organizing group met in Estes Park, August 30, 1948, under chairmanship of Miss Louise M. Wells, Art and Music Department, Denver Public Library.

College and University Libraries Section. College and university library interests did not meet as such during the Estes Park meeting. A chairman for 1948/49 should be appointed.