



WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARIES

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"BUSINESS ADVISES LIBRARIANS" THEME OF MIDDLE ATLANTIC REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Plan now to attend the Middle Atlantic Regional Library Conference to be held at the Ambassador Hotel in Atlantic City from October 15 through 17. The program promises to be unique, stimulating and inspiring with something of interest for all, from the recent library school graduate to the seasoned administrator representing small, medium-sized or large libraries in special or public fields.

The overall theme of the Conference will be "Business Advises Librarians." Following the keynote speech on Thursday, October 15, there will be a special program geared to "Business Looks at Library Management" with workshops on simplification processes for the small and medium-sized library, organizing for business efficiency and coordinating functions.

The morning session on Friday, October 16, will deal with "Business Looks at Library Public Relations" with a talk and workshops on reporting to the taxpayer, planning a public relations program and educational television with emphasis on storytelling and programs for young people. The afternoon session will cover "Business Looks at Library Personnel" with a talk and workshops on supervision and morale, staff development and selection.

State meetings and a Friends of the Library luncheon will be held on Saturday, October 17. The afternoon sessions will include a trustees meeting and a workshop on "How to Buy a Book." The banquet will be held that evening.

Each workshop will consist of a representative from the business world, a librarian and a library chairman.

The evening speakers will be distinguished personalities who will discuss the role of the librarian in today's world.

A partial line-up of participants in the conference includes Mr. J.M. Shaw, Assistant Vice President, Public Relations, American Telephone & Telegraph Co.; Mr. Kenneth Wells, President, Freedom Foundation; Mr. Lynn Poole, Director of the Johns Hopkins Science Review--an award program in educational television; Professor Forrest H. Kirkpatrick, Dean of Students, Bethany College, and Assistant to the President, Wheeling Steel Corporation, plus many other outstanding leaders in library and related fields.

An added feature of the conference is the Leadership Training Institute, dealing with group dynamics and audio-visual aids, to be held each morning for a limited number of registrants. Reservations may be made in advance.

In addition, an employment exchange will be directed by Robert F. Mann. It will serve merely as a clearing house with no attempt to evaluate qualifications or positions. The Exchange will function more efficiently if interested persons will register in advance of the Conference. Please send information to Robert F. Mann, West Virginia University Library, Morgantown.

PUBLIC LIBRARIANS DISCUSS COMMON PROBLEMS AT MOUNDSVILLE WORKSHOP MEETING

Librarians from twelve northern West Virginia counties met in Moundsville on Saturday, May 16, for a one-day workshop on "Problems Facing the Small Public Library." More than fifty people attended the sessions which began at 9:30 A. M. and continued until 4:00 in the afternoon at the Snyder Hotel. (cont. on pg.2)

Mr. Delf Naron, Chairman of the local committee and a member of the Moundsville Public Library Board, introduced the welcoming speaker, Mr. W. F. Dalzell, President of the Moundsville Public Library Board. West Virginia Library Association President, Mr. E. Hugh Behymer, set a practical tone for the workshop in his keynote address on "The Role of Administration." He outlined principles and described in detail methods and procedures for attaining better management in small libraries.

The morning general session consisted of a panel discussion. Dr. B. C. Harrington, W.Va. University, served as moderator; and Mrs. Adrian Belt, of the Morgantown Public Library; Mr. Delf Naron; and Mrs. John Jones, a trustee from the Weirton Library, served as panel members. The panel's purpose was to identify problems which confront small libraries in each of three areas of library service---Routines, Acquisitions, and Community Relationships. As problems were described they were listed on the board. The audience then designated those which they wished to have discussed during the afternoon session.

Following lunch the workshop group divided for visits to the Mound Museum, the public library, and the Ohio County bookmobile before convening for discussion of problems.

Discussion groups met during the afternoon to talk over the problems which had been selected at the morning meeting. Reports from the groups were heard at a brief summary session. Mr. Behymer then summarized his impressions of the workshop in a concluding talk. He felt it to be a great success and predicted that other such workshops could be held in the state with much profit for the participating library people.

Resource people for the discussion groups were furnished by Ohio County Library, Huntington Public Li-

brary, the W. Va. Library Commission, and the Kanawha County Public Library.

FIRST W.VA. ADULT EDUCATION CONFERENCE POINTS WAY FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIANS

Adult educators from every part of the state met at Camp Caesar in Webster County on May 8 and 9 to inventory West Virginia's adult education personnel and programs, plan the expansion of community adult education programs, and discuss some of the problems common to all adult educators. Public libraries and their services, both to adult individuals and groups, were kept active in the thinking and conversation of the delegates because librarians took a part in the planning and running of the conference.

For public libraries the importance of this conference lies in the fact that adult educators in the state have come to realize that they know little about each other or other programs. The public library can help the situation by acting as an information center about adult education resources in its community. Furthermore it can channel individuals who come to the library into existing adult education groups.

The public library should do what it can in the field of adult education leadership training and in running program planners' institutes. It often has the opportunity to act as a community exhibit center for other adult education agencies.

There are many ways for the public library to fit into the adult education pattern of its community. There will be other conferences on a state level and probably small conferences on a multi-county level. The idea will be to promote adult education, to coordinate and improve programs, to discover and train leadership, and to learn effective adult education techniques and materials.

(Con't. on pg.4)

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AN INTERPRETATION OF WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARY LAW

There are about five points of primary importance in the State law affecting libraries. In my words, they are as follows:

I. Any county court, municipality, or school board, either by itself or in cooperation with one or more of the other governing bodies named, may establish and maintain a new public library or may take over and maintain an existing library. Note the word "may." There is nothing obligatory about government providing public library service in our state.

II. The governing body which wishes to support a library cannot give the library a sum of money, but is required to keep that money under its own control. The library cannot pay its own bills, but must submit those bills to the governing authority for

payment. This means that a library supported by three agencies has three budgets, three agencies to pay its bills, three salary scales, etc. This is the case where a library is supported cooperatively by the city, county, and school board. It would also be the case if the library were supported cooperatively by several county courts

III. In West Virginia public libraries "...shall be free for the use of all persons living within the area...." Fortunately libraries are not segregated in our state.

IV. Funds to finance a public library may be appropriated from the general funds of the governing authority, or obtained through an excess levy for library purposes which must be approved by 60% of those voting, is limited to three years, and is limited to 50% of certain authorized votes.

V. The West Virginia Library Commission can do certain things, if it has the money. (A) Give assistance, advice and counsel to libraries and to communities wanting to establish libraries. It may send its members to assist in organization of new or in improvement of existing libraries. (B) Purchase and operate traveling libraries. (C) Purchase books and distribute them where library service is inadequate. (D) Issue printed materials such as booklists and information circulars. (E) Conduct courses and hold institutes. (F) Develop a plan for regional library service and propose its adoption by county courts. (G) Render financial, advisory, or other assistance to libraries of the state. The rendering of financial aid has several limitations. The Commission is empowered to accept gifts and to receive appropriations from the federal treasury. It could use any funds received from these sources to render financial aid to individual libraries. Money appropriated to West Virginia as a result of the passage of the Library Demonstration Bill now before Congress would be used to give indirect finan-

cial aid to individual libraries. Money appropriated to West Virginia as a result of the passage of the Library Demonstration Bill now before Congress would be used to give indirect financial aid to libraries through the setting up of regional demonstrations. As far as I can determine there is no provision for the state to appropriate money to the Commission which could be used to give direct financial aid to individual libraries. The Commission is able and has been giving advice and counsel, reference and loan services to public libraries in our state. (H) Gather statistics, conduct surveys, and publish results.

Note: It must be remembered that the law gives the Library Commission legal authority to perform the above services. In practice, the financial limitations placed upon the Commission by minimal appropriations have severely limited its ability to perform some of these services and prevented its undertaking others.

As was stated at the beginning of this article these interpretations are my own. They are not official nor are they necessarily accurate. The complete text of the law may be found in "The School Laws of West Virginia," published by the State Department of Education, or in Article I, Chapter 10, of the West Virginia Code.

--- Mr. Mark Crum, Chairman
Legislation Committee

ASSOCIATION NEWS: PUBLIC LIB. SECTION

At the Keyser meeting of the W.V. L.A., several persons mentioned the desirability of organizing a Trustees Section within the Association. It was suggested that each interested librarian or board member should bring the matter to the attention of his board for an expression of opinion either for or against its formation.

Such an organization was discussed by the Board of Directors of the

Kanawha County Public Library at its regular March meeting. The feeling among the members was that they would be willing to join such an organization and participate in its activities.

As each public librarian or board member obtains an expression of opinion from his board it should be reported to the Chairman of the Public Library Section, Mr. Mark Crum. Then, if their weight is strongly in favor of it, positive steps toward the establishment of a Trustees Section can be undertaken at the next annual state conference.

The purposes and obligations of membership in the Trustees Section would be: 1) To promote and foster the development of libraries and library service; 2) To provide for the exchange of ideas and experiences among library board members through conferences and publications; 3) To join the W.Va. Library Association and its Trustees Section, pay dues, and read West Virginia Libraries; 4) To participate in association and section activities, mostly by having a few members of each board attend each annual state library convention.

ADULT EDUCATION CONFERENCE (con't.)

Libraries have an important, perhaps central, role to play. This first conference hinted at it. We are in adult education - have been for years - but with the individual and on an informal basis. Let's ally ourselves with groups, too. Public libraries can be the official library unit for school, university extension, vocational, women's study club, and every kind of program. We can provide intellectual community leadership, if we will. We can't be quite the center of the adult education universe, but we can be coordinators, information headquarters, and planners. The job is there to be done.

--- Mr. Mark Crum, Librn.
Kanawha Co. Public Lib.

