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Editor: Robert Munn. West Virginia University. Morgantown, W. Va.
Associate Editor and Business Manager: Vito Brenni. West Virginia University.

Editorial Assistants:

College Libraries..Frank Badger. Morris Harvey College. Charleston.

Public Libraries.....Omar Bacon. Huntington Public Library.

School Libraries...Mrs. Faith K. Frey. Chapmanville High School. Chapmanville, W. Va.

West Virginia Library Commission....Mrs. C. B. Allen. Hardy County Library. Moorefield, W. Va.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear Fellow Librarians:

As I assume my responsibilities as President of the West Virginia Library Association, it is a pleasure, indeed, to greet all of you. I consider taking office at this time a particular privilege. The Association has had several worthwhile long-term objectives presented by our previous administrations, which I feel should be promoted by this Executive Board.

We are very fortunate in having two presidents serving on our present Executive Board in addition to the very able officers whom you as members of the Association elected. I have served on the Executive Board at various times over a period of twenty some years and I have seen this Association become more vigorous each year because of the growing professional interest you members have shown. The WVLA will become an even more influential organization through the cooperation of each and every member.

As some of you already know, the Executive Board organized about thirteen committees at their first meeting which was held November 27, in Parkersburg. Several of these committees are standing committees. There are also the special committees, some of which are continuing from previous years. A new committee which the Executive Board has organized this year is the Recruiting Committee. This Committee will be represented on the Joint Committee on Library Work as a Career, the professions' recruiting committee, the members of which are representatives from forty eight state and national association recruiting committees. You will be hearing from this committee to help them in planning a recruiting campaign for West Virginia.

The many achievements of the past year by the various committees is certainly going to be a challenge to the newly appointed committee members. However, there is still much to be done when we remember our long-range program, "More Books and Better Libraries for West Virginia".

This great goal can be achieved if we continue to have as inspiring and well organized conferences as we have just experienced in Charleston. The speakers were outstanding, each in their own special areas. Reverend Gay gave the association members just what we needed, a reminder that we formed a corporate body and that we must each do our part without selfish aims, so that the Association will achieve its goals as a truly state wide Library organization. The other two speakers gave us an idea of what makes a writer-tick and how to create that "most worthwhile product" which we are supposed to sell.

I use quotation marks for the phrase, "most worthwhile product", because, as those of you who attended the banquet, will remember, this phrase was used by Mr. C.M. Reich, a trustee, when he challenged us with the statement that we had the most worthwhile products in the world to sell but that we were lagging sadly behind in our sales promotion programs. We must show the public what services librarians can offer. Only then will the task of getting funds to expand these services become a project of the people.

Where lies the answer of this challenge? Your Executive Board believes that the interest of business and industry in library expansion is

one of the answers. Several of the committees which have been organized, such as the extension, scholarship and the recruiting committees, will be cooperating with this in view.

We would like to hear from each member concerning your interest in our program. If you have not been assigned to a committee, name the committee in which you are interested and

we will put you to work.

Once again, I consider it a great privilege to be President of the West Virginia Library Association during this very progressive period in its history.

Margaret S. Bobbitt
President

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WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

FORTY-SECOND ANNUAL CONFERENCE

November 2 and 3, 1956

The forty-second Annual Conference of the West Virginia Library Association was held at the Ruffner Hotel, Charleston, W. Va., November 2 and 3, 1956. The principal speakers were the Rev. Robert Gay, Minister of the Glenville Presbyterian church; Dr. John Anthony Caruso, Professor of History at West Virginia University; and Jean Lee Latham, native West Virginian and author of the Newbery Prize book Carry On, Mr. Bowditch.

The West Virginia Library Association presented an award of merit to Miss Latham, a West Virginia author who has made an outstanding contribution to literature. Similar awards were presented to Miss Ida Peters, former librarian at Parkersburg High School, for her outstanding contribution to librarianship in W. Va.; and to Mr. Cyril Reich for his contribution as a trustee of the St. Albans Public Library

The major business on the convention was the adoption of a completely revised constitution. This became necessary in order to meet A.L.A. requirements for council membership and to incorporate many amendments made during the past few years.

Officers for the year 1956-57 will be: President, Mrs. Margaret Bobbitt, Marshall College. 1st Vice-President & President-Elect, Mr. Harold Apel, Marshall College Librarian. 2nd Vice-President, Miss Virginia Ebeling, Ohio County Library. Secretary, Miss Frances Alderson, Kanawha County Public Library. Treasurer, Mrs. Alice Bauer, West Virginia University Library.

THE LIBRARY COMMISSION

BUDGET REQUESTS

The Library Commission had a hearing before the Board of Public Works on December 10, 1956. The hearing was on the Commission's budget request for the 1957-58 fiscal year. This is the budget which will be considered by the Legislature January 9 - March 9, 1957.

Mr. Omar Bacon, Chairman of the Extension Committee, W. V. L. A. and Miss Parks appeared before the Board. Written copies of their statements and the statement prepared by Mr. E. E. Rich, Chairman of the Library Commission, were also submitted to the Board.

The statements emphasized the following points:

1. Approximately 27 million people in the United States are without access to a local public library. More than one million of those people live in West Virginia. Thirteen entire counties do not have a local public library.
2. Not until we do have channels of information to all, especially adults, can we find a people armed with knowledge and vision to solve their problems.
3. While the Federal Library Services Act will be helpful, the problem of bringing more and better public libraries into West Virginia communities is a state and local problem.
4. The Library Commission's budget request for 1957-58 is \$177,820.

5. The Library Commission's Budget request for 1956-57 was based on the amount of state appropriation necessary to qualify us for the maximum in Federal funds if the Library Services Bill passed. It was an effective technique for interpretation of the Federal Library Services Bill, but some legislators asked why we had made the state budget request to coincide exactly with the Federal requirements for maximum in matching funds. The Commission felt that their questions pointed up the need for a pilot budget which would be a guide to the phases of the Commission's program which it believes should be undertaken during the fiscal year. Therefore, the Commission's state budget request for the 1957-58 fiscal year is that pilot budget.

6. This amount will:

- (a) Provide Commission resources for the first year for one new region.
- (b) Provide a loan consultant to work with local librarians in suiting to local needs the book collections lent by the Commission to local libraries.
- (c) Provide staff and office space for ordering and cataloging book collections purchased by the Commission for regional and local libraries.
- (d) Classify Library Commission staff salary-wise according to minimum A. L. A. standards.

If the maximum in Federal money is available in the 1957-58 fiscal year, the Library Commission will have resources for the first year of