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Letter to Carlton West regarding the North Carolina Library Association Constitution and Bylaws, May 9, 1963

Carlyle Frarey

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May 9, 1963

Mr. Carlton West, President
North Carolina Library Association
Wake Forest College Library
Reynolds Station
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Dear Carlton:

In reply to your memorandum of May 3, I agree with you that the proposed revisions to the Constitution and By-laws should be referred to the Committee on Constitution and Codes before they are considered by the Executive Board. Also, the proposed outline for the manual looks good and logical, and I believe the Committee on Organization should be encouraged to complete the manual along the lines proposed. It also seems to me that the next Executive Board might wish to consider whether or not the Committee on Organization ought to be made a standing committee. I note that the minutes of the meeting at which it was established does not specify whether it was intended to be "standing" or "special", thus we must operate, I expect, from the presumption that it is a "special" or an "ad hoc" committee.

Two observations with reference to the recommended changes in the By-laws. On page 4, Article II, Sect. 3, provision is made for appointment of committees by the President. Some years ago, when I served before on the Board, we discussed the desirability of having committee appointments made by the President-elect during the last year of his tenure in this office prior to succeeding to the presidency. If this were done, then committee appointments could be reviewed by the Executive Board at its spring meeting before the biennial conference, and the membership of the committees would be established in time for the committees to begin their work immediately after the end of the conference. This would also afford opportunity for new members of a committee to meet with the old committee during the conference, if such a meeting is held then, thus to contribute more effectively to continuity in the work of each committee.

I might add that in the Cataloging and Classification Section of ALA, RTSD, this device has proved to be extremely effective in keeping committees at work; and ALA also uses the device with reference to the Association as a whole.

My second comment relates to Article XIII, Section 10 (proposed). Here we note that the Executive Board is empowered to establish the registration fee for the biennial conference without specification as to limit or amount. However, the fee for library science students is set at 50 cents. My chief comment relates to
this specification of amount. I agree wholeheartedly that library school students should be encouraged to attend the conferences in every way possible, including a minimal registration fee. However, I question the desirability of specifying what this should be in the by-laws. It might, for example, be desirable some day either to charge no fee at all to students, or, if the general fee goes up for any reason, to adjust the minimal fee accordingly. Thus it seems to me that the by-law should be less specific with reference to the amount. Perhaps some wording such as this might achieve the objective, oblige the Board to recognize this objective in its actions with reference to the fee, yet leave the amount unspecified:

10. The Executive Board shall prescribe the amount of the registration fee to be charged each person attending the Biennial Conference. In doing so, the Board shall be guided by established policy and tradition that students enrolled for one or more courses in library science programs recognized and approved by either agencies of the State of North Carolina, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, or the American Library Association shall be encouraged to attend the Conference in all ways possible, including waiver of or substantial reduction in their registration fee from that which is established for other registrants.

The "recognized and approved" clause in my suggested revision takes care of my other comment here, since the phrase "students of library science" may not always be sufficiently specific to provide a basis for the resolution of any questions which might be raised concerning the eligibility of a registrant for the reduced fee.

One last comment, reference Article V, Section 4, of the Constitution, page 2. No change is recommended for this Section which prescribes the powers and duties of the Executive Board. I think that an additional sub-section is needed, since I do not find any provision in either the Constitution or the By-laws which specifies how committees shall be established, but only a provision for the appointment of members thereto. Such sub-section might be worded as follows:

d. to establish such committees as may be required to carry out the work of the Association. The action providing for the establishment of any committee shall specify whether the committee is to be a standing, special, or ad hoc committee, and shall prescribe its purposes and functions.

Actually, the whole Article might be re-written to put all of the duties of the Board in one section.

I hope you will agree that my observations and suggestions merit the consideration of the Committee on Constitution and Codes at the time that they review the recommendations of the Committee on Organization.

Sincerely yours,

Carlyle J. Frarey
Member, The Executive Board
North Carolina Library Association