In answer to a call sent out by a preliminary committee composed of Mr. Con P. Cronin, State Librarian, Miss Estelle Lutrell, University Librarian, Mrs. Mary Christy Lambert, Librarian, Phoenix Public Library, the twenty-four librarians and other officials interested in library service for Arizona as listed below, gathered as a discussion group:

Miss Estelle Lutrell, on taking the chair as temporary Chairman explained the absence of Mr. Cronin as due to illness and expressed her regret at his inability to be present. She stated that the purpose of the meeting was two-fold, 1st - To organize the librarians of the state into an association, 2d - To enlist such an organization when formed as well as other educational agencies already in the field, in a program of state-wide library service, and to secure if possible adequate legislation in the furtherance of such a program.

Discussion.

The Chairman - I should like to hear from Mr. C.O. Case, State Superintendent of Public Instruction in regard to his opinion of the value and necessity of Library Extension.

Superintendent Case - I have long been working for a movement of this kind. It would, I suppose, reach the schools and become a part of home life. The importance of enlisting the co-operation of
the county school superintendents as well as school teachers is evident. Should a county library law be enacted, I think that school officials would be very much interested if it were brought into intimate relationship with the school life of the community.

The Chairman - Any form of state library extension, Superintendent Case, would certainly include work for children, though it would also comprehend that for adults.

Superintendent Case - I should be interested in the library movement even if the service to schools were not particularly stressed. However, it is obvious that the support given by school officials would have in mind primarily work with young people. This does not need to exclude service to adults which is of great importance, particularly in rural communities.

Chairman - I should like to hear from Miss Wilson concerning library conditions in Coconino County.

Miss Ida Wilson - In Coconino County particularly I think we need county organization because of the wide extent of the district it covers. Some of the libraries already existing need aid in further organization, while the whole county should have a unified plan.

Chairman - Can you tell us something further, Mrs. Acker, concerning conditions in Coconino County?

Mrs. Charlotte Acker - The schools have a very meagre supply of books. The latest form of the library law merely stipulates that trustees shall furnish libraries and books for the schools without naming any per cent which may be thus used. The result is that in many places no funds whatever are thus allocated. My plan would be to have two circulating libraries, one for the west, and one for the east end of the county.

Chairman - We should like to hear from Mr. Cookson, of the State Teachers College, Tempe.

Mr. Cookson - The demands for extension service on our library are greater than we can meet. These calls are chiefly for debate material, books on methods of teaching, and texts for supplementary reading. The requirements of our young people seem to me the most insistent and those of the most importance. However, all phases of library service should be more adequately met. A school library, as you know, is not open in the summer and this further narrows its service.

In the organization of state-wide service we should have workers among the men. The leaders in all communities could do a lot of good boosting and they are willing to do it.

We should enlist the aid of men in library work, as well as in other phases of community betterment. Do I understand that you advocate a state law or a county law?

Chairman - It is a county library law that is proposed. Miss Baker, do you not understand that Mr. Cronin is at present engaged in drafting such a law?

Miss Baker - Yes, I infer that he is.

Mr. Cookson - There is one difficulty. I feel certain that for the most part the county library will be located at the county seat. There would have to be a circulating library. This requires more books and workers. Who is going to pay these workers?

Chairman - These details would have to be worked out in each county. In some cases a contract would be made with agencies already at work.

Mr. Cookson - How much salary are you going to pay for this
Chairman - We could not get a trained library worker into these county libraries.

Chairman - Workers in some cases could likely be secured from the Women's Clubs, and the Parent Teachers Association, not necessarily on a volunteer basis, but for part time with small remuneration. It is also hoped that the county library law will carry an amendment providing for a trained librarian as secretary, part of whose duty would be to study the local conditions in each county, and place the library center at the most favorable point.

Mrs. Grace Farrell - Would such a law be mandatory or dependent upon the will of the Board of Supervisors?

Chairman - Without definite knowledge of the wording of county library laws I should say that such libraries were usually established by vote of the Board of Supervisors, or by general county vote.

Mrs. Farrell - If the law is not mandatory it would be of little value to Santa Cruz County or in fact to any of the smaller counties. Because of the large proportion in our county of Spanish speaking people it would be difficult to influence the supervisors favorably.

Chairman - Again replying without intimate acquaintance with such laws I should say that it would be difficult to secure the passage of a law by the State Legislature, should it be mandatory upon the counties. However, through publicity and the support of Librarians and others in the state favorable action could likely be secured.

Miss Martha Boggs - The State Farm Bureau is greatly interested in any measure favoring rural library service. The Senate Bill 109 allows $5,000.00 for the support of extension work in the county. This is a definite provision. Could not county libraries be placed on a similar basis?

Chairman - We are glad to have this expression of interest from the Office of the Farm Bureau. When the law is worked out suggestions from a local committee as to details will likely be considered. The advice of experienced workers in other states is also available.

Mrs. Farrell - There is also difficulty in our county of purchasing the right kind of books. At times Trustees who have the purchasing authority are the prey of book agents with useless sets or they are led to purchase whatever is suggested first without thought of a balanced collection. In our county we have one school library that is growing slowly and has secured the right kind of books thus far.

Mrs. Saxon - We have a yearly appropriation of $300,00 for books, but it is not sufficient to supply the supplementary reading matter requested by the teachers. This year, after obtaining from our different departments the list of books that they needed we had to eliminate some of them because of insufficient funds.

Chairman - Mrs. Lambert, what do you consider would be the attitude of Maricopa County toward the proposed law?

Mrs. Mary C. Lambert - From our library we have been doing extension work not only within the county, but at other points. We find our resources inadequate to handle the demands and would be favorable to any arrangement which would make adequate provision for such service. The attendance of nearly every member of the staff of the Phoenix Public Library at this meeting demonstrates that we are heartily in favor of any movement toward library betterment.

Chairman - The University Library has, since 1910, been engaged in active state-wide service, though the bibliographies and books which we send out are chiefly for the use of schools. The response as seen in this discussion, to a movement for library betterment in
Arizona, is gratifying. I suggest that we proceed to the first steps in an organization of the librarians of the state.

Organization

Upon motion of Mr. Cookson, duly seconded and carried, the librarians were organized under the name of the Arizona State Library Association. The following officers were unanimously elected:

President - Mr. Con P. Cronin
First vice-president - Mrs. Mary Christy Lambert
Second vice-president - Mr. T.J. Cookson
Secretary-treasurer - Miss Estelle Lutrell

The following recommendations were passed:

- The Purpose - The purpose of this organization is to extend the usefulness of libraries throughout the state, to work for state-wide library service and to consider the problems of librarians within the state.
- Executive Committee - There shall be an Executive Committee composed of the Officers of the Association.
- Advisory Board - The Executive Committee shall be assisted by an Advisory Board composed of one representative from each of the fourteen counties of the state. The method of selection of the Advisory Board was left for consideration at a later date. The following organizations were suggested as suitable sources for such a board: Women's Clubs, P.T.A., County School Superintendents, Farm Bureau, American Legion.
- Membership - It was decided that any one is eligible to membership who is interested in library work in the state.
- Dues - The dues for the Association were set at fifty cents per year for each member. The suggestion that as many as possible pay their dues at the present meeting met with prompt response.
- A motion of Miss Effie J. Carmichael was duly seconded that a resolution be drawn up expressing the attitude of the organization on the question of a law for state-wide library service. A general discussion followed. Mrs. Lloyd B. Christy spoke of the splendid work now being done in many localities by members of the Women's Clubs, and the background of influence which such clubs always gave to civic movements. Mrs. Zora L. Downing described county library work in Illinois, with which she was at one time connected. Other members spoke in support of the measure.

Miss Louise Boehringer proposed the following resolution which was adopted:

Resolved that, this Arizona State Library Association here assembled wishes to go on record as favoring state legislation for a county library law.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned to convene for the purpose of adopting the constitution and other business in Tucson, during University Week, May 1927.

Margaret Wimbish, Clerk

Estelle Lutrell, Secretary.
This meeting, which was an adjourned session for the adoption of a constitution was called to order by Mr. Con P. Cronin, President. Following a brief opening address by the President the minutes of the organization meeting of November 12, were read by the Secretary, and approved. The following members were present:

Marjorie Baker, Phoenix; Katherine Berry, Phoenix; Mrs. Mary D. Breathitt, Tucson; Mrs. Effie Carmichael, Phoenix; Mr. T. J. Cookson, Tempe; Mrs. Cecil Devaney, Flagstaff; Maude Hansford, Tucson; Jane Hudgins, Phoenix; Mrs. Josephine Saxon, Nogales; Mrs. Mary C. Lambert, Phoenix; Mr. Con P. Cronin, Phoenix; Miss Estelle Lutrell, Tucson; Mrs. Gertrude Burt, Miss Mabel Guild, Mr. R. P. Hunter and Miss Hester Hunter, Tucson.

Visitors present:

Julia W. Merrill, A. L. A., Chicago; Mrs. I. F. Dodge, Eloise Kelsey, Clara Larson, Ida Hilbers, Alvin Clark, Tucson; C. Louise Boehringer, Phoenix; Mrs. Randall, Florence; Mrs. C. S. Mayflower, Flagstaff; Pres. Byron Cummings, Univ. of Arizona.

The final draft of the constitution was presented by Mrs. Mary Breathitt, Chairman of the Committee, and the provisions passed upon section by section. They were passed in their final form, as follows:

Constitution

Article I - Name

The name of this Association shall be the Arizona Library Association.

Article II - Object

The object of the Association shall be to extend the usefulness of libraries throughout the state, to work for statewide library service and to consider the problems of Librarians within the State.

Article III - Membership

Librarians, Library trustees and all other persons interested in the purposes of the Association may be eligible for membership.

Article IV - Officers.

Section I. The officers of the Association shall consist of
a president, a first and second vice-president and Secretary-Treasurer.

Section 2. Officers shall serve for one year and may be eligible for re-election.

Section 3. There shall be an executive committee composed of the officers of the Association.

Section 4. There shall be an advisory board composed of one representative from each county in the State.

Section 5. The officers together with the Advisory Board shall constitute a Board of Directors with authority to transact the business of the Association between meetings.

Section 6. Vacancies among the officers or directors shall be filled by election through the Board of Directors, such officers or directors to serve until the next annual meeting.

Article V - Dues

The annual dues shall be fifty cents per year, payable in advance.

Article VI - Meetings.

The annual meetings shall be held at such time and place as shall be decided upon by the Executive Board of the Association, at which time reports of Officers and Chairmen of Committees for the year shall be considered and officers elected.

The official year of the Association shall be from July 1 to June 30.

Article VII - Amendments.

The Constitution may be amended at any annual meeting by a vote of three-fourths of all members of the Association in good standing.

President Cummings of the University of Arizona welcomed the visiting delegates to the campus, expressed his approval of the newly organized association and his sympathy with its aims.

Miss Julia Wright Merrill, from the American Library Association Headquarters at Chicago made the chief address of the morning. She spoke of the needs of rural library service and gave many examples showing how this service had been adequately performed in other states from central county libraries as distributing points. She pointed out that although there are county libraries in 40 odd states there are still 50,000,000 people who need library service. Agencies cooperating in other states were mentioned, such as:
the General Federation of Womens Clubs, the Parent Teachers Association, and the Farm Bureaus. She considered that the first step for Arizona should be the passage of a county library law, permitting counties to organize library service. She further urged that Arizona Librarians be not discouraged because the law failed of passage at the last Legislature. No state, she said, had ever succeeded at the first attempt.

At the suggestion of Mr. Cronin, a vote of thanks was extended Miss Merrill, and the American Library Association, for their interest in the local library situation.

Mr. Cronin explained to the members of the Association what had been accomplished toward the passage of the County Library Law. As finally drafted, the Bill carried an appropriation of $400.00, only, to cover the traveling expenses of the Secretary. The Bill was at first rejected by the Committee of Education in the House. Through the efforts of Mr. Cronin the Bill was later passed by the Committee, however, in the jam of the closing days of the Legislature, it became impossible to get the Bill on the floor. The work of the Association from now on, Mr. Cronin, considered to be that of working to see that the Bill becomes a law during the next session of the Legislature.

Mrs. Josephine Saxon, in speaking of library conditions in Santa Cruz County, said that it would be somewhat difficult to make a county library law operative in this county as it is small and contains a small per-cent of English speaking people, however, she favored the passage of the Bill.

Mrs. Devaney of Flagstaff, expressed her strong desire for a passage of such a law. She spoke of Coconino County as the largest county in the United States and one which presents great physical difficulties. She expressed the hope that in the next Legislature all the representatives from this county would favor the law.

Mr. T. J. Cookson, of Tempe, favored publicity for the law through the children in the schools.

Mr. Cronin expressed the opinion that Maricopa, Pima and Mohave Counties would immediately take advantage of the opportunities offered by such a law.

Mrs. Breathitt and Mrs. Dodge of Tucson recounted their difficulties with the supervisors of Pima County who always met requests for County Appropriations with the statement that there was no law allowing such appropriation.

Mrs. Breathitt referred to Article IV, Section IV, of the New Constitution, which calls for an Advisory Board. A discussion followed in which an informal suggestion was made that the President should select one member from Mohave, Yuma, Gila and Greenlee Counties and that a member of the Womans Club should be selected from Pinal County. The
Secretary was asked to select members to represent the following counties: Santa Cruz, Coconino, Maricopa and Pima. Mrs. G. H. Madden of Winslow was suggested as a representative from Navajo; Mrs. W. B. Kelly of Safford for Graham, Yavapai, Cochise and Apache Counties to be decided upon later. It was thought that the Advisory Committee then selected could take care of the plans for publicity.

Following this discussion Mrs. Randall, County School Superintendent of Pinal County gave an interesting talk on the purchase of books for rural schools.

Miss Louise Boehringer, Editor of the Arizona Teacher, expressed her desire to cooperate with all plans for library betterment in Arizona.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned to meet in Phoenix November, 1927.

SECRETARY ARIZONA STATE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION