

## **School and Children's Librarians Section (SCLS)**

The goal of the section is:

To promote and support library work with children in the southeastern United States.

The objectives of the section (Article II of the 1980 Bylaws) are:

1. To plan, stimulate and support the development of effective library service to children and youth in the Southeast;
2. To cooperate with regional and national agencies with similar interests; and
3. To encourage and support research dealing with library and related problems of children and youth in the region.

### Chronology

1922 - Children's Work Round Table

1924 - School and Children's Librarians' Section

1928 - Children's Librarians Section

1932 - Divided into two Sections: Children's Librarians Section and School Librarians Section

1946 - Sections merged into School and Children's Librarians with agreement to alternate the chairship

1976 - The section became a member of the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) Affiliate Assembly providing a voice in the American Library Association (ALA) through two appointed delegates. All future SELA/SCLS chairmen are required to be members of AASL. From this time forward, each business meeting will include an AASL report.

1980 - Bylaws adopted; first report on the activities of the ALA/Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), as well as those of AASL. Section chairmen became members of the SELA Board. Published booklet: Unusual Library Programs for Children in the Southeast.

According to Betty Martin's article, "A History of the School and Children's Librarians Section of the SELA," (*THE SOUTHEASTERN LIBRARIAN*, Winter, 1980, pp. 191-194) since its inception in 1922, "The Sections have been informally organized and have seldom been concerned with a continuing or major project, thus the chief function of section officers has been the planning of programs for biennial meetings" (p. 191). Martin further states that the SELA Board has taken an active role in the support of school librarians. Activities of SELA concerning school librarians have focused on three areas:

1. The promotion of the school library standards of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
2. The improvement of education for librarianship
3. The employment of library supervisors in state departments of education.

Evaluations and/or SELA surveys in 1949, 1960 and 1976 showed gains Southern school libraries have made in the SELA's areas of focus with the following resolutions adopted by the SELA Board in 1976:

1. That the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools be commended for their support of clerical assistance to school librarians and that they continue to strengthen this support;
2. That the ALA Accreditation Committee request schools training school library professionals to improve their programs;
3. That national agencies accrediting teacher education programs be requested to include in their standards courses on the use of media and the school media center;
4. That the National Association of State School Media Professionals work with the Council of State School Officers to prepare a publication defining the role and responsibilities of state school library agencies.

While limited information is available, Martin's article reports that SELA has actively supported school libraries.

In 1976 the School and Children's Section became an affiliate of the ALA/AASL and at subsequent conferences delegates have reported the activities of the AASL. While the ALA/Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) does not have affiliates, beginning with the 1980 conference activities of ALSC have also been reported at SELA/SCLS business meetings.

In an effort to actively promote activities for children in school and public libraries in the Southeast, the first of what is envisioned to be a series of booklets was published and distributed at the 1980 Biennial Conference. Unusual Library Programs for Children in the Southeast supports in print library programs for children in the Southeast.

The SCLS continues to be concerned with Southern Association standards and plans in the 1981-82 biennium to officially address areas of concern.

### Bylaws

Adopted November 1980

#### Article I. Name

This section shall be called the School and Children's Librarians' Section of the Southeastern Library Association.

#### Article II. Objectives

The objectives of the School and Children's Librarians' Section shall be:

1. To plan, stimulate and support the development of effective library service to children and youth in the Southeast;
2. To cooperate with regional and national agencies with similar interests; and
3. To encourage and support research dealing with library and related problems of children and youth in the region.

#### Article III. Membership

General membership dues in the Association shall entitle any member to become a member of the School and Children's Librarians' Section.

#### Article IV. Officers and Executive Committee

Section 1. The Officers of the Section shall be Chair, Vice-Chair (Chair-Elect), and Secretary.

Section 2. The Officers, together with the Immediate Past Chair and one Association representative from each state shall make up the Executive Committee of the Section.

#### Article V. Duties of the Officers

##### Section 1. Chair

The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the Section and have general supervision of the activities of the Section. He or she shall have the power to appoint standing and special committees with the approval of the Executive Committee of the Section. The Chair shall be Chair of the Executive Committee of the Section and an ex-officio member of all committees. He or she shall authorize payment of functional expenditures and present the biennial budget for the Section, prepared by the Executive Committee of the Section, to the Board of the Southeastern Library Association. The Chair shall be a current member of American Association of School Librarians (AASL) in compliance with AASL Affiliate Assembly Membership requirements.

##### Section 2. Vice-Chair (Chair-Elect)

The Vice-Chair (Chair-Elect) shall assist the Chair in the performance of his or her duties and shall act for the Chair in his or her absence or at his or her request. This person shall be responsible for the Section's program at the biennial meeting. In the event that the Chair finds it necessary to withdraw from office, the Vice-Chair shall serve for the balance of the un-expired term and continue as Chair for the following two years.

##### Section 3. Secretary

The Secretary shall record the proceedings of all meetings of the Section and of the Executive Committee of the Section. He or she shall present the minutes of the preceding biennial meeting for approval at the

next biennial meeting. Other duties, such as correspondence, may be assigned the Secretary by the Chair.

#### Section 4. Vacancies

Should a vacancy occur in any office, it may be filled by the Executive Committee of the Section until the time of the next regularly scheduled biennial election unless another procedure for filling the vacancy has been specified in the Section's Bylaws.

### Article VI. Nominations and Elections

#### Section 1. Election of Officers

a. The Chair shall appoint a Nominating Committee for the Section. The Nominating Committee shall prepare a slate of officers, composed of one candidate for Vice-Chair (Chair-Elect) and one for Secretary, for presentation to the Section at the biennial business meeting. Written acceptance shall be obtained prior to submission of a name to the Section membership. Election shall be by vote of a majority of the members present at the biennial meeting. Election of officers for the Section must be completed by the end of the biennial conference. The outgoing Chair is responsible for giving the slate of the new officers, and Executive Committee members of the Section to the Executive Secretary and the Editor of *THE SOUTHEASTERN LIBRARIAN*.

b. Nominations may be made from the floor if accompanied by written acceptance of the nominee.

c. Terms of office shall be for two years and shall coincide with the terms of office for elected officers of SELA.

#### Section 2. Election of the Executive Committee of the Section

a. The State Representatives serving on the Executive Committee of the Section shall be elected for a term of four years. All states shall not elect their representatives in the same biennium. Five states shall elect a representative one biennium and six states the next biennium in order to assure continuity on the Executive Committee.

b. The Executive Committee of the Section shall appoint a Nominating Committee from each state composed of three to five Association members whose primary professional interest is in children and youth. Each Nominating Committee will submit one candidate from its state to the Chair of the Section. These names will be presented to the Section at the biennial business meeting. Written acceptance shall be obtained prior to submission of a name to the Section membership. Election shall be by vote of a majority of the members present at the biennial meeting. Election of Executive Committee members of the Section must be completed by the end of the biennial conference.

c. Nominations may be made from the floor if accompanied by written acceptance of the nominee.

d. Executive Committee members of the Section assume duties immediately following the biennial conference.

e. When a vacancy occurs in the office of any Executive Committee member representing a state, the Executive Committee of the Section itself is empowered to fill the vacancy from the active membership of the state in question. A new election shall be held when the original four-year term has expired.

### Article VII. Meetings

Section 1. The official biennial meeting shall be held at the time of the biennial Southeastern Library Association Convention.

Section 2. Ten percent (10%) of the active membership of the Section, representing at least five states, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any biennial meeting. A majority of the members of the Executive Committee of the Section shall constitute a quorum.

### Article VIII. Committees

Section 1. The Chair shall appoint all committees with the approval of the Executive Committee of the Section. The Chair shall serve as an ex-officio member of all committees.

Section 2. The Chair, with the approval of the Executive Committee of the Section, may establish standing committees to consider matters of the Section which require some continuity of attention. Members of all standing committees may be appointed for terms of two or four years as the Chair designates, which will also provide continuity of membership. Members may be reappointed for a second but not a third consecutive term. The terms of approximately half the committee members shall expire each two years. Ad hoc committees may also be appointed by the Chair, with the approval of the Executive Committee of the Section, as the need arises.

#### Article IX. Amendments to the Bylaws

The Bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting of the Section by a majority vote of those present and voting, providing due notice of the proposed amendment has been given to the membership of the Section at least thirty (30) days before its presentation for adoption. Notice of the proposed amendment may be circulated by mail or by publication in *THE SOUTEASTERN LIBRARIAN*.

#### Article X. Parliamentary Authority

Section 1. The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition shall govern the section in all cases to which they are applicable, provided that they do not conflict with the bylaws of the Section or Association.

Section 2. The Chair shall appoint a parliamentarian to serve at each business session of the Section. A parliamentarian may also be appointed by the Chair to serve at Executive Committee and other similar meetings of the Section.