

**REVIEW OF EXECUTIVE BOARD ACTIONS, CD#63, Exhibit 12.** Executive Director William R. Gordon noted that these actions were taken by the Board since the Annual Conference: (1) the endorsement of an exploratory meeting for a future national forum on library issues; with the ALA President to appoint a task force at the 1999 ALA Midwinter Meeting to organize this meeting for appropriate groups; and (2) the adoption, in concept, of these next steps for the Congress on Professional Education: to appoint a Steering Committee and Content Working Groups to work on the details of concept and design for the Congress; with the Congress to be scheduled for April 30–May 1, 1999, in Washington, D.C.

**IMPLEMENTATION OF ALA ANNUAL CONFERENCE COUNCIL ACTIONS, CD#9, Exhibit 13.** The written report was presented for information only. Councilors Mary Jane Anderson and Judith Meyers requested that the report be sent out earlier and that a larger type font be used.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Councilor Kent Oliver, chair, ALA Resolutions Committee, pointed out that at this Midwinter Meeting, Council would see resolutions without signatures. To help Council conduct its business more efficiently, the committee accepted resolutions via e-mail. He assured Council that the “virtual resolutions” complied with *Guidelines for Preparation of Resolutions for Council, Policy 5.3*.

**RESOLUTION ON IMPLEMENTING THE “POOR PEOPLE’S” POLICY, CD#36, Exhibit 14.** Councilor Sanford Berman moved that ALA Council ask the Executive Board to craft a comprehensive implementation plan, including the appropriation of necessary staff and other resources, which will be presented to Council no later than the 2000 Midwinter Meeting; and, that the Executive Board direct all ALA units and divisions to report what they may already have done and plan to do to implement the Poor People’s Policy, this to be accomplished no later than the 2000 Midwinter Meeting.

Councilor Diedre Conkling, chair, OLOS Advisory Committee Poor People’s Policy Subcommittee, said that the OLOS Advisory Committee emphatically endorsed the resolution.

Since the resolution called for a comprehensive implementation plan, which would require a great deal of staff time to develop, Council and Executive Board member Sally Gardner Reed moved and Council

**VOTED,** That CD#36, Resolution on Implementing the “Poor People’s” Policy, be referred to the Budget Analysis and Review Committee (BARC) with a request that BARC report on this item during the Midwinter Meeting.

**LIBRARY EDUCATION RESOLUTION, CD#54, Exhibit 32.** Both the Committee on Accreditation, **CD#64, Exhibit #32** and the Committee on Education, **CD#65, Exhibit 32**, felt that the Congress will produce a great deal of comment and important advice for the Association as it considers the next steps in addressing the future of library school education.

Councilor Sheila Intner moved and by **CONSENT**, Council deferred action on CD#54, Library Education Resolution, which was referred to COA and COE until after the Congress on Professional Education Summit, April 30–May 1, 1999.

**BUDGET ANALYSIS AND REVIEW COMMITTEE, CD#36, Exhibit 14.** Elizabeth (Ma'lis) Wendt, chair, presented her committee's response to CD#36, Resolution on Implementing the Poor People's Policy, which Council referred to BARC at Council I.

Councilor Ma'lis Wendt, BARC chair, moved and by **CONSENT**, Council directed the Poor People's Policy Subcommittee of the OLOS Advisory Committee to include a proposal for a comprehensive implementation plan of the Poor People's Policy in the OLOS FY2000 budget request; and, that the subcommittee also work with OLOS in developing a survey of ALA units and divisions to determine what they have already done and/or plan to do to implement the Poor People's Policy.

As mover of the resolution, Councilor Sanford Berman noted that the motion had been endorsed by the OLOS Advisory Committee and the SRRT Task Force on Hunger, Homelessness, and Poverty. He also noted he had met with BARC and felt Council's directive seemed reasonable. He also commended BARC members for their speedy response, helpfulness, and friendliness.

**RESOLUTION ON THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA, REVISED, CD#51-A, Exhibit 33.**

Councilor Mark Rosenzweig moved the adoption of Resolution on the Boy Scouts of America, which read "That American Library Association urges the Boy Scouts of America to reconsider their policy of discrimination in the areas of sexual orientation and religious belief and demonstrate a commitment to human rights, inclusiveness, and mutual respect."

In speaking to the motion, Mark Rosenzweig stated that the original resolution had been rewritten and the "Whereases" that were problematic had been recast.

Although the resolution had been rewritten in a much less "inflammatory style" than the first version, according to Councilor Michael Golrick, he said the resolution still inaccurately states that the Boy Scouts of America discriminates on the basis of religious beliefs. "The Boy Scouts do require that you believe in some Higher Being, and that is the only requirement in terms of religious beliefs," he said.

**RESOLUTION ON IMPLEMENTING THE 'POOR PEOPLE'S POLICY'**

**WHEREAS** in 1990 ALA Membership and Council adopted a policy on "Library Services To Poor People" (#61); and

**WHEREAS** that policy has not been systematically implemented within the American Library Association although hunger, homelessness, and poverty persist within America and adversely affect the full and fruitful use of library resources;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that ALA Council asks the Executive Board to craft a Comprehensive implementation plan, including the appropriation of necessary staff and other resources, which will be presented to Council no later than the Midwinter 2000 meeting; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Executive Board direct all ALA units and divisions to report what they may have already done and plan to do to implement the Poor People's Policy, this to be accomplished no later than the Midwinter 2000 meeting.

-Submitted  
by Sanford Berman, Councilor at Large

Seconder: Dr. Maurice Freedman  
Councilor at Large

REVIEWED FOR CONFORMANCE WITH  
GUIDELINES  
by Council Resolutions Committee

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION  
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**POOR PEOPLE'S SERVICES POLICY RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, The American Library Association promotes equal access to information for all persons, and

WHEREAS, Poor people are affected by a combination of limitations, including illiteracy, illness, social isolation, homelessness, hunger, and discrimination, which create barriers that reduce the effectiveness of typical library service, and

WHEREAS, The number of poor children, adults, and families in America is increasing, therefore, it be

RESOLVED, That the American Library Association adopt the following policy on Library Service to Poor People, modeled on the ALA Minority Policy:

The American Library Association promotes equal access to information for all persons, and recognizes the urgent need to respond to the increasing number of poor children, adults, and families in America. These people are affected by a combination of limitations, including illiteracy, illness, social isolation, homelessness, hunger, and discrimination, which hamper the effectiveness of traditional library services. Therefore, it is crucial that libraries recognize their role in enabling poor people to participate fully in a democratic society, by utilizing a wide variety of available resources and strategies. Concrete programs of training and development are needed to sensitize and prepare library staff to identify poor people's needs and deliver relevant services. And within the American Library Association the coordinating mechanisms for programs and activities dealing with poor people in various divisions, offices, and units should be strengthened, and support for low-income liaison activities should be enhanced.

The American Library Association shall implement these objectives by:

- 1. Promoting the removal of all barriers to library and information services, particularly fees and overdue charges.

## POOR PEOPLE'S SERVICES POLICY RESOLUTION/2

2. Promoting the publication, production, purchase and ready accessibility of print and non-print materials that honestly address the issues of poverty and homelessness, that deal with poor people in a respectful way, and that are of practical use to low-income patrons.
3. Promoting full, stable, and ongoing funding for existing legislative programs in support of low-income services, and for pro-active library programs that reach beyond traditional service-sites for poor children, adults, and families.
4. Promoting training opportunities for librarians, in order to teach effective techniques for generating public funding to upgrade library services to poor people.
5. Promoting the incorporation of low-income programs and services into regular library budgets in all types of libraries, rather than the tendency to support these projects solely with "soft money" like private or federal grants.
6. Promoting equity in funding adequate library services for poor people in terms of materials, facilities, and equipment.
7. Promoting supplemental support for library resources for and about low-income populations by urging local, state, and federal governments, and the private sector, to provide adequate funding.
8. Promoting increased public awareness--through programs, displays, bibliographies, and publicity--of the importance of poverty-related library resources and services in all segments of society.
9. Promoting the determination of output measures through the encouragement of community needs assessments, giving special emphasis to assessing the needs of low-income people and involving both anti-poverty advocates and poor people themselves in such assessments.
10. Promoting direct representation of poor people and anti-poverty advocates through appointment to local boards and creation of local advisory committees on service to low-income people, such appointments to include library-paid transportation and stipends.
11. Promoting training to sensitize library staff to issues affecting poor people and to attitudinal and other barriers that hinder poor people's use of libraries.

POOR PEOPLE'S SERVICES POLICY RESOLUTION/3

12. Promoting networking and cooperation between libraries and other agencies, organizations, and advocacy groups in order to develop programs and services that effectively reach poor people.
13. Promoting the implementation of an expanded federal low-income housing program, national health insurance, full-employment policy, living minimum wage and welfare payments, affordable day care, and other programs likely to reduce, if not eliminate poverty itself.
14. Promoting among library staff the collection of food and clothing donations, volunteering personal time to anti-poverty activities, and contributing money to direct-aid organizations.
15. Promoting related efforts concerning minorities and women, since these groups are disproportionately represented among poor people.



AOPTED BY THE  
COUNCIL OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION (ALA)  
June, 1990, in Chicago, Illinois

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda F. Crismond". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Linda F. Crismond  
Secretary of ALA Council

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## POVERTY FACT SHEET

An estimated three million people are homeless nationwide, with more and more families with children becoming homeless.

[Safety Network, June 1989]

Percentage of American children living in poverty in 1979: 16%.  
Percentage of American children living in poverty in 1987: 20%.

[Congressional Budget Office]

The number of members of family households seeking shelter has nearly doubled since 1984. In large jurisdictions, numbers of persons in sheltered families has more than quadrupled over the past four years, to over 60,000 in 1988.

[Office of Policy Development and Research, HUD, 451 7th St. SW,  
Washington, DC 20410]

During the eight years of the Reagan Administration, the average income of the poorest 20% of Americans fell 6.1% to \$5107, while that of the richest 20% rose 11.1% to \$68,775.

[U.S. House Ways and Means Committee, March 1989]

A U.S. Conference of Mayors survey of 27 major cities found that demand for emergency shelter increased an average of 25% in 1989. In 1988, the mayors reported an increase of 13%.

[Status Report on Hunger and Homelessness in America's Cities: 1989]

In a survey conducted by the Council of State Governments, 41 states reported that the size of their homeless population is increasing, 4 states reported that the number of homeless is not changing, 4 states did not respond to the survey, and one state reported that their homeless population was decreasing.

[Council of State Governments, Iron Works Pike, P.O. Box 11910, Lexington,  
KY 40578-9989]

Between 1978 and 1987, the number of full-time workers who remained poor rose by 43%. Full-time work at the minimum wage now leaves a family of three \$2,900 below the poverty line, a family of four \$5,000 short of it.

[National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty, 1575 I St. NW,  
Washington, DC 20005, 202-289-1680]

AFDC grant levels in 1976 were at 89.7% of the poverty level.  
AFDC grant levels in 1988 were at 66.9% of the poverty level.

[Women Work and Welfare]