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Rhode Island Library Association

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Spring 1971

## Bulletin of the Rhode Island Library Association v. 43, no. 2

RILA

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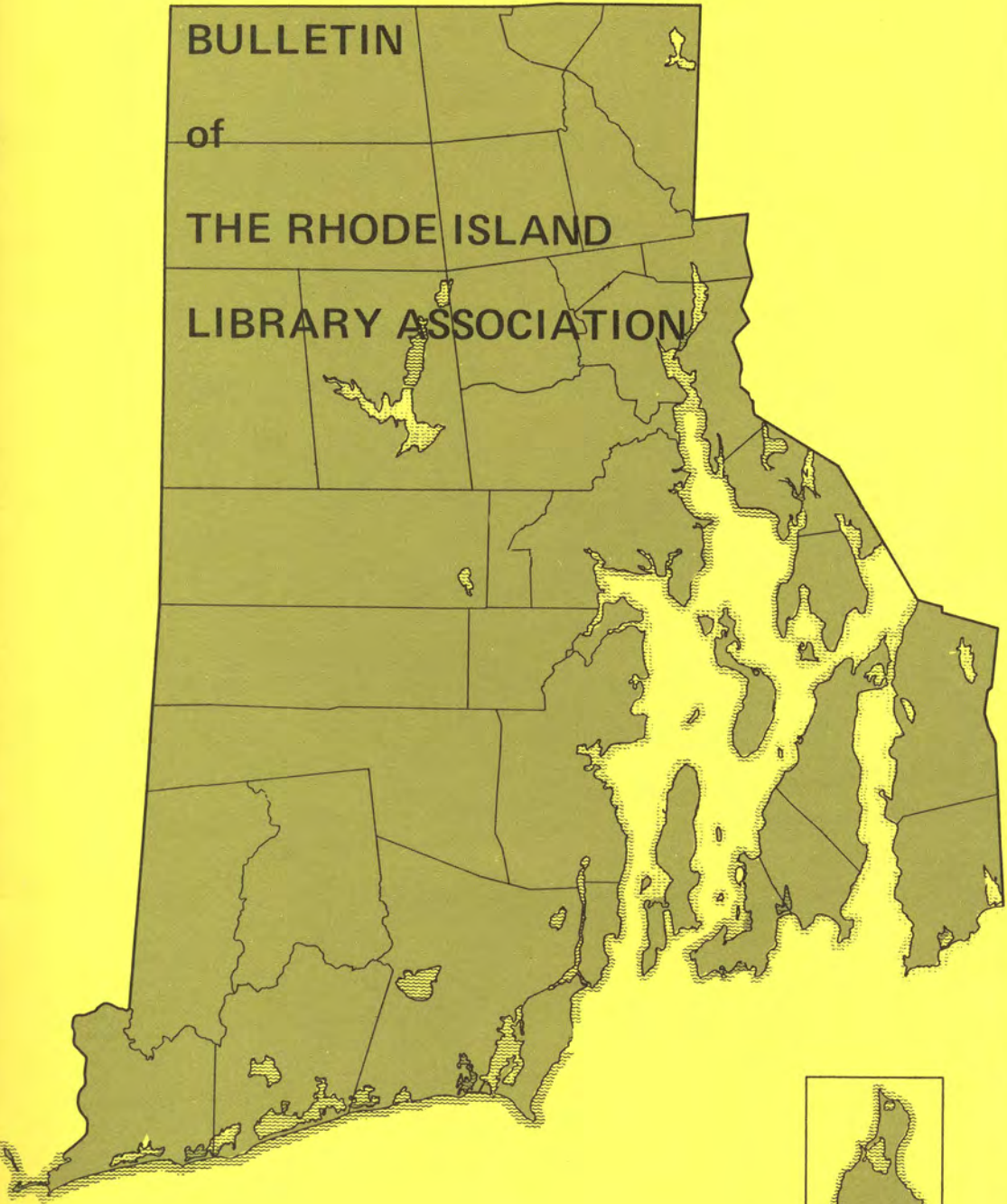
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**BULLETIN**

**of**

**THE RHODE ISLAND**

**LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**





**BULLETIN**  
**of**  
**THE RHODE ISLAND**  
**LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**

Vol. 43 – No. 2

Spring 1971

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## EDITORIAL

This year has been one of flux— both planned and unintended changes have influenced the publishing of the last three issues of the Rhode Island Library Association *Bulletin*. This issue included! The fall conference issue introduced a new editor, a new type style and a slightly lighter note to the generally more somber contents. The winter issue was delayed by nearly five weeks due to unforeseen and unavoidable problems in printing (including the unusual cover— treasure it!). This issue introduces the coming spring conference plans for which had not been fully formulated at the time this issue went to press.

Within this issue we have a long-awaited article on a long-worried about subject— membership. Perhaps seeing that the committee is trying to do something towards involving all librarians in the state in our programs can give us hope toward the unity the state needs in areas such as inter-library loans. Professor Schneider has an unusual project to present and National Library Week again becomes the object of discussion. We also have the tentative program for the all day spring meeting, its location . . .



January 7, 1971

## Letter to the Editor:

So you are unhappy with the name of the RILA *Bulletin* and would like something more distinctive! Well, I am unhappy with the contents and would like something more relevant than the schedule of events for last year's meeting. Like maybe some advance publicity for this year's meeting. Most societies are mailing out Spring bulletins now, and who cares what they're called? It's what's inside that counts.

I know you inherited all kinds of problems with the job, and it takes time to work them out. You've done a great job on everything else, and you will on this too. Good luck!

—Esther Small

*The "conference issue", fall 1970, was not even discussed until the week after the conference. The new editor created as tight a schedule as was feasible— 3 weeks to write the articles, 1 month at the printer and 1 week in the mails. Hence, everyone's issue arriving not in September or October, but in the first half of January.*  
Derryl R. Johnson

INTERIM REPORT OF THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE  
1970-1971

by  
Bill O'Malley

*"ACTIVELY recruit me..."*

*"find me a job in R.I."*

*"What would you like to contribute to a library association?" "My sympathy!"*

The aims of the Membership Committee for 1970-71 are twofold: 1) to create a more meaningful relationship between the University of Rhode Island Graduate Library School and RILA and 2) to create a wider participation by its members in achieving the aims of RILA.

The role of the membership committee, as stated in its by-laws, is to suggest ways to increase the membership rolls. We have concentrated our efforts toward finding ways to attract Graduate Library School students to become active members in our association. We were working under the premise that RILA does not need any more apathetic members, and that students are the least apathetic members of our society. The committee devised a questionnaire which, with the cooperation of Dean E. J. Humeston, was presented to the library school students. The response to the survey pointed up the fallacy of the second part of our premise: of over 200 questionnaires distributed, only 64 were returned. Their replies indicate the total lack of recruitment done by RILA in this area. The students have never been approached by RILA, they know little about it, and to those who asked for some information about RILA, we had nothing in the field of recruitment literature (other than an application form) to send.

The membership committee intends to recruit students during this year, and two of its members, Elin Crowley and Carol Anderheggen, have taken on the task of preparing a brochure describing the activities and aims of RILA. We have also recommended to the Executive Board that a student membership fee of \$1.00 be initiated beginning with the year 1970-71. It has been established.

Implementation of our second aim, that of creating a more active membership, has been limited to distributing a form at the Fall Meeting. The form was designed so that the present members of RILA could choose to take part in the most visible area of RILA activities— its committee work. As of this writing, only 9 have been returned. We hope that this apparent apathy is limited to the filling out of forms.

Here are some typical answers to the Membership Committee's questionnaire.

*What do you expect a library association to do for you?*

(Lots of duplication and platitudes appeared here including job placement as the most asked for service.)

"Provide professional encouragement, friends within the area, inter-change of ideas for problem-solving."

"Take an interest in salaries."

"To serve as a middleman between ALA and R.I. professionals."

"Become more vocal in regular communications media."

"To be a good source of the available job openings in the area."

"Improve service, fight censorship."

*What would you like to contribute to a library association?*

"Experiences that might help others."

"Support."

"I'd have to grow into the spirit of the organization before contributing."

"Nothing."

"I have contributed my time and energy to RILA and will continue to do so.

Although it has many faults I feel that it can be a worthwhile organization."

"My sympathy."

*What can RILA do to attract you?*

"Concentrate on practical situations more than administrative problems."

"Develop a job opportunity center and some sort of a sounding board for your and other ideas."

"Offer specialized workshops, practical demonstrations and round-table discussions (under good leadership) on specific topics."

"Find me a job in R.I."

"Get rid of pompous, middle-aged and over, individuals who ridicule new ideas, and are scared of losing the tradition of the past, even if the tradition is outmoded."

"*Actively* recruit me . . . perhaps an on-campus reception or half-day conference on an up-to-date topic that should be of interest to library science students."

". . . have an exciting, well-planned year-round program."

"Show an interest in getting URI Library School accredited."

"Provide more information about itself and its benefits."

These answers are a selection from the 64 responses. Five were RILA members, the remainder were non-members.

*Postscript:* The Membership Committee plans an intensive recruitment drive in the early Spring among graduate library students. We feel that \$1 membership for students in RILA and job listings may be good selling points. We will try for a good attendance by GLS students at the RILA Spring Meeting. Perhaps classes will be dismissed for that day to ensure better attendance at the meeting.



Adapted from PEANUTS.

The President's budget recommendations for the Library Services and Construction Act for fiscal 1971-72 reflect a 56% cut below the amount provided public libraries in the current year ending June 30, 1971. As a result of this planned cut Rhode Island will lose approximately \$80,000 in funds that would normally go to public libraries throughout the state.

Have *you* written to the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, Elliot Richardson?



## GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS:

### A Checklist Project

by

Stewart P. Schneider

*University of Rhode Island*

The United States Government is the world's most prolific publisher in terms of the number of individual items issued each year. While some government publications are directly related to the functions of government (those, for example, issued during the course of enacting legislation) or are published in accordance with the requirements of the law (e.g., annual reports of departments and agencies), the vast majority are issued primarily for the purpose of disseminating useful information to the citizens of the United States. As the extent of government involvement in all areas related to the national welfare has expanded enormously in recent years, the scope of the publications issued by the government has been similarly enlarged. Today the publications issued by the United States Government cover almost every field of interest to its citizens. They range from popularly written pamphlets on gardening and making jam to technical reports embodying the results of original research undertaken by government agencies or funded by the government. The government is the principal compiler of statistics pertaining to the United States, and the wide variety of statistical publications which it issues constitute an invaluable storehouse of primary source material. Students and educators, businessmen and farmers, lawyers and scientists, and persons in almost every field of endeavor have come to rely on government publications as key sources of information.

In order to insure that publications of public interest and educational value are widely distributed and readily accessible to the public, the government places copies of many of these publications in over 1,000 depository libraries throughout the United States. The depository library system plays a vital role in bringing these publications to the citizen as government publications are seldom available in bookstores with the exception of the government bookstores operated by the Superintendent of Documents in Washington and a few major cities. (A government bookstore was opened in the John F. Kennedy Government Center in Boston last year.) While these stores do fill orders by mail, their stock is selective, and items not stocked must be obtained from the Government Printing Office in Washington. Depository libraries, however, will often have these same publications available for immediate use and will also have many older publications no longer available for purchase. A library which accepts designation as a depository agrees to make its holdings of government publications freely available to the public, at least for on site use. Many depository libraries, however,

permit their government publications to circulate.

As of June, 1970, some 2,205 "items" were available to depository libraries. The term "item" as used in this context refers not to individual publications in most cases but to regularly issued series. (The majority of government publications are issued in series.) Therefore, a library selecting everything offered to depositories would receive more than 18,000 individual publications each year. Regional depositories do receive everything available for distribution to depositories, but designation as a regional depository is a purely voluntary matter on the part of the library. Since regional depositories are also expected to provide reference and interlibrary loan service to other libraries in their geographical areas, they must be prepared to make substantial expenditures for staffing and space. To date no library in Rhode Island has found it feasible to become a regional depository. (The Massachusetts State Library in Boston and the Connecticut State Library in Hartford are the nearest regional depositories.)

There are at present nine depository libraries in the state, four of which have been designated since the enactment of the Depository Library Act of 1962, which provided for the designation of additional depositories. (Two additional depositories are as yet undesignated. Both vacancies are in the First Congressional District.) Last year Mrs. Mildred Giusti of the Providence Public Library's reference staff conceived the idea of compiling a checklist which would show which libraries in the state receive each of the items available to depository libraries. She visited the nine depositories and made a record of the items selected by each library. She found that, of the 2,205 items available to depositories, only 231 were not received by at least one library in the state. Even though Rhode Island does not have a regional depository, the combined resources of the depository libraries in the state closely approximate those of a regional library. The number of items selected by individual depositories ranged from a high of 1400 at the University of Rhode Island to a low of 150.

On the basis of the information obtained from each library, Mrs. Giusti compiled a *Checklist of Government Depository Items Currently Received in Rhode Island*. The list is arranged by Superintendent of Documents Classification number and follows the order of the *Classed List of Publications Available for Selection by Depository Libraries*. Following each item the names of the depository libraries which receive the item are listed. (Letter symbols have been assigned to each library for this purpose.) An index by item number facilitates use of the checklist when the Superintendent of Documents Classification number for an item is not known. Thus any depository library in the state can easily determine whether or not one of the other depositories receives various items which it has not selected.

Although compilation of the *Checklist* was undertaken as part of Mrs. Giusti's degree program at the Graduate Library School at the University of Rhode Island, the Providence Public Library has consented to permit use of its equipment and staff time

to produce a computer print-out of the list. When completed, copies of the *Checklist* will be sent to each of the depository libraries in the state. In conjunction with the interlibrary loan services provided through the statewide network of Interrelated Library Systems, the *Checklist* should make a significant contribution toward making government publications more readily available to the citizens of Rhode Island. It is hoped that some means will be found to update the *Checklist* from time to time.

#### *DEPOSITORY LIBRARIES IN RHODE ISLAND*

John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Library Brown University Providence	Rhode Island State Library Providence
Library United States Naval War College Newport	Library University of Rhode Island Kingston
Providence College Library Providence	Warwick Public Library Warwick
Providence Public Library Providence	Westerly Public Library Westerly
James P. Adams Library Rhode Island College Providence	



*Since this document will be presented at the Annual Meeting on May 11 for discussion and possible approval, I urge all of you to carefully read and examine the following revision of Standards For Regional Library Centers in Rhode Island.*

*Charles W. Crosby, President  
Rhode Island Library Association*

The Standards Committee of the Rhode Island Library Association was asked by the Executive Board of the Rhode Island Library Association to revise the 1967 Standards For Regional Library Centers in Rhode Island. The Committee respectfully submits the following to the membership:

Mr. Abner Gaines  
 Mr. William D. Alexander IV  
 Miss Martha MacPartland  
 Mrs. Lucille Rotchford  
 Resource (Mr. Charles W. Crosby  
 Persons (Miss Jewel Drickamer  
 Mr. E. J. Humeston, Jr.,  
 Chairman

PROPOSED REVISION  
 STANDARDS FOR REGIONAL LIBRARY CENTERS  
 IN RHODE ISLAND

Libraries applying for regional library center status and responsibility will be considered as having declared their intention of meeting the criteria listed in each of the categories shown.

I HOURS

Regional library centers shall be open at least 60 hours per week, with additional hours open Sundays and holidays as a highly desirable goal.

II PERSONNEL

Regional library centers shall be libraries staffed with:

One library director\* who shall have had administrative experience in library work.

Three librarians\* for the types of services and responsibilities indicated:

One or more for work with young readers

One or more for technical processes

One or more for reference and other reader's services

To which shall be added the following for regional services:

One coordinator\*

One or more librarians\* to provide services in the areas of:

a. reference b. consulting c. work with young readers

Supportive staff to include clerical or paraprofessional personnel for nonprofessional responsibilities and delivery service

\*A professional librarian holding a graduate degree in library science or an equivalent degree in an appropriate discipline.

**LIBRARY HERITAGE—**  
**The Providence Athenaeum, built 1838**



*—Courtesy Providence Public Library*



*—Courtesy Providence Public Library*



This photo survey of libraries then and now will be run from time to time as space permits. Send interesting old photos of your library to the editor, c/o Providence Public Library.



—Courtesy Mowbray Co.— Publishers

### III FINANCES

Each regional library center shall have a minimum income of \$5.00 per capita per annum, excluding state grant-in-aid funds, based on the population of the immediate city or town served by the library applying for regional center status.

Each center shall recommend funding adequate to its program after consultation with its constituent libraries, the other regional library centers, and the Department of State Library Services.

### IV SERVICES

Each regional library center shall provide:

- A. Service to Individuals:
  1. Reference service, with a professional librarian on duty when the center is open
  2. Reader's advisory services
  3. Promotion of such goals as universal returns, reciprocal borrowers' cards, last copy storage, and other cooperative programs.
- B. Intra-System Services to Libraries
  1. Interlibrary loan\*
  2. Reference\*
  3. Consultation
  4. In-service training including staff orientation to outreach concepts.
  5. Developmental, experimental, innovative projects.
  6. Research
  7. Delivery
- C. Inter-System Services
  1. Interlibrary loan
  2. Reference
  3. Consultation
  4. Liaison
  5. Research
  6. Delivery
- D. Specialized Services
  1. For students
  2. Non-users
  3. For selective acquisitions (second-level specialization, e.g., act as supplementary resource center until such is implemented as delineated in the law)

\*An answer regarding the status of any request shall be sent by the regional library center to the requesting library within 48 hours or "as expeditiously as possible!"

## V COLLECTIONS

The holdings of each regional library center shall meet requirements concerned with both quality and quantity.

## A. Policies

1. Selection of materials for each regional library center shall be governed by a written policy which incorporates professional principles and practices and clearly defines and fixes responsibility for selection which will accurately reflect the needs of the region.
2. Each regional library center shall exercise leadership in maintaining freedom to read and freedom of access to materials presenting varying views on controversial issues, working to prevent censorship of materials and provide resources in accord with the "Library Bill of Rights" and "The Freedom to Read."
3. Where state historical agencies have not assumed this responsibility, each center shall provide materials in support of the study of regional history.
4. Until provision is made for a state-wide system of storage, each center shall provide storage for little-used or one-of-a-kind materials important to the system.
5. Each center shall make provision for regular evaluation and weeding of its materials.
6. Each center shall cooperate at intervals with independent evaluations of its collections.

## B. Resources

1. Each regional library center shall purchase at least 5,000 volumes per year, excluding periodicals.
2. The resources or collections of each regional library center shall consist of books, records, pictures, maps, pamphlets, periodicals, newspapers, and such other printed (original or miniaturized) and nonprint (cassettes, filmstrips, etc.) materials as are essential to meet the needs of the libraries and patrons of the region, thus constituting resources of greater strength than those of local outlets and providing specialized materials at central locations in the system.
3. Government documents and foreign language publications and similar materials shall be included in the collections as required by the services to be rendered.



## VI PHYSICAL PLANT

Each regional library center shall provide space for:

1. 150,000 volumes
2. Teletype and other communication devices
3. Supplementary materials, as in V above
4. Interlibrary loan operations
5. Use by visiting librarians of professional tools
6. Consultation, conferences, workshops
7. Audio-visual services
8. Delivery entrances
9. Free parking

and include facilities for:

1. Reproducing library materials
2. Teletype and other communications devices
3. Audio-visual services
4. Delivery and transportation

## VII REPORTS

Each regional library center shall communicate regularly as follows:

- A. Submit reports to the Department of State Library Services in conformity with that organization's rules and regulations, providing such statistics as will accurately reflect the program of the center.
- B. Submit such reports to its constituent libraries as will be useful to them in developing their services.
- C. Exchange and share information and reports with the State's principal public library, with special research centers, and with the State's other regional library centers.

\* \* \* \*

## NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK:

### The Edsel of Aquarius

by

William D. Alexander, IV

*Director, Westerly Public Library*

The decision by the Executive Directors of National Library Week in New England to scotch the return of National Library Week for the year 1971 jerked short the reins of not a few executive offices from which expansive plans were oiled and perking toward a more 'socially relevant' week for '71. What lies behind this move in a section of the country never noted for its willingness to take the distant directive to heart? More, I think, than the easy explanation based on a historical view of individualistically minded New Englanders. Consider the times we live in, the media has created an image to be sure, but the diverse vocalizing heard from groups which formerly made no discriminating social comments on the human condition is now a source, albeit mystifying, of some acute perceptions. If the Rock groups, the pamphleteers, the underground newspapers and the poets can be used as a gauge, it seems to be the rediscovery of the individual and a personal scale of values that must be our concern if we are to survive.

Because NLW did not offer an alternative to the buttons, gimmicks, mobiles and other manifestations of an annual nebulous theme created by National Headquarters with little concern for the needs of individuals on both sides of the service desk, the doughty New Englander has designed his own. He has in fact been forced to rebel in the tradition of the Boston Tea Party participants by throwing the whole load over the side into the receding tide. This is a lesson to our State Association that would succeed by providing for alternatives in every spearhead. In what direction have the New England NLW Directors chosen to channel the force generated through the funds and structure of the NLW organization? The least obvious and most neglected of the many avenues: the Librarian herself.

It is no coincidence that many of the attendees at the New Hampshire meetings which hashed out the far-reaching decision to abandon NLW had either attended or been influenced by those who had participated in a Regional Action Workshop conducted at Springfield College, Springfield, Mass., which was sponsored by the U.S. Office of Education. Those workshop participants came swiftly to the realization that to reaffirm the human scale of values through successfully creating a climate of effective personal interaction, the one person in the scheme of things that really needed to be tuned-in was the librarian. Before the librarian could hear what the public was asking, she had to learn how to listen, before she could understand her



community she had to communicate with it on its own terms, now hers, and before she could design programs to fit the needs of her community, she had to learn skills in group dynamics, program design, implementation and evaluation.

The New England Directors have gone out on a limb it would seem, by cutting away the husk surrounding the lone tender librarian, unadorned by one lone week's paraphernalia. But I suggest it is fitting that it should be done in this new decade when the patterns of the '50's in librarianship are as irrelevant as the other trappings man looks back on as dinosaurs of another age.

Adapted from SHORT RIBS.

Meetings, meetings, meetings!



I'm sick of these party meetings!



That's not a hammer and sickle.



It's a GAVEL and sickle!



## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

*The Woonsocket School System will need 2 professional librarians (one secondary, one elementary) for the coming school year. Applicant must meet certification requirements. Salary range: \$7,600 – 11,000 (1970-71 scale). Contact: Louis R. Leveille, Co-ordinator, McFee Memorial Library, Woonsocket Senior High School, Woonsocket, R.I. 02895. Tel. (401) 762-0842.*

\* \* \* \* \*

*Professional librarian with 8 years experience, very interested in relocating in the Southeastern Massachusetts - Rhode Island area. Most interested in work with children; extensive experience storytelling to all ages, with book talk and other enrichment programs within the library, in addition to immediate book service to children. Active member of American Library Association. Jeraline N. Nerney, 14009 Parkdale Ave. S.W., Cleveland, Ohio 44111.*

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TENTATIVE CONFERENCE SCHEDULE  
SPRING CONFERENCE

Ramada Inn  
Seekonk, Massachusetts

9:00 – 10:00	Coffee and Registration
10:00 – 11:30	Business Meeting
12:00 – 1:30	Luncheon

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\* \* \* \* \*

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 19 Hawthorne Avenue  
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Deadline for reservations is May 1, 1971

Make checks payable to R. L

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 Creamed Chicken \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_





