

Our task force would very much like to hear from people who have been actively involved, especially board members and past presidents. We've had many responses from members and non-members. Please add your views....

1-15-79

Dear Zena,  
I meant to get this back to you right away and then let it slip to the bottom of the pile - Sorry!

The N.C. Banquet as always, a very special occasion for me. I enjoyed and participated in many of them. However, it was not the food that made them special - In fact, I hardly knew what was eating and caring.

If the ALSC Board can achieve this I would approve whole heartedly and consider it a significant step in the words of Clark Sagers "Does not he righting side!"  
Good Luck!  
Isabella

UP FOR DISCUSSION

From ALSC board member Zena Sutherland, some thoughts: Over the years, there have been many changes in the procedures used in choosing and announcing the Newbery and Caldecott Awards, and most of the changes have been made for the purpose of broadening participation or increasing efficiency.

In response to some of the comments made by Lillian Gerhardt in her "President's Message" in TON, some of the members of ALSC's Board of Directors have proposed an examination of possible alternatives to the Newbery/Caldecott banquet. Some of the facets discussed at the ALSC board meetings in Washington, D.C., were:

1. The cost of the banquet. According to Mary Jane Anderson, ALSC executive secretary, a large number of banquet tickets are sold to non-ALSC members. Can our younger members not afford to buy tickets?
2. The amount of time given by the office, far more to the banquet than to the N/C committee work. This emerged in a study done by the Secretariat Services Study Task Force.
3. The amount of time given by ALSC members who work on the banquet. Could that time perhaps be better spent on projects directly related to library service for children?
4. The space available at the banquet. Would more members be able to see and hear the winners if there were an alternative arrangement?

One of the alternatives discussed was a presentation program that would include all components of the banquet and its cost, which would enable members to attend at a minimal cost. It was pointed out at a meeting that there had not always been a banquet. Are we ready to try something new?

Send your comments or questions to the ALSC Newsletter; they will be forwarded to the task force that will soon be appointed to study the pros and cons.

Dear Isabella - we'd be so grateful to hear from you, just a note; you can even send this back with your views on it. Response to date (May 15) has been primarily pro-change, but you may disagree - - I'd like to report on as many responses as possible by the time of the conference.  
Best,  
Zena