

DETROIT PUBLIC LIBRARY

5201 WOODWARD AVENUE, DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48202 313/833-1000

MRS. JANE HALE MORGAN, Director

ARTHUR CURLEY, Deputy Director

June 11, 1979

Miss Zena Sutherland
The University of Chicago
1100 East 57th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60637

Dear Zena:

After Mid-winter I reported at a Children's Department meeting the Task Force's responsibility of studying alternatives to the N/C banquets. This is how I remember the responses:

1) When the convention is held in Detroit and possibly even in Chicago, the staff is excited about attending what they identify as a formal and important occasion. Dinner price is high but is probably expected for such an event.

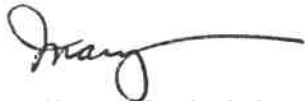
2) Again, if held in Detroit or Chicago, staff would support a N/C function if some festivities were attached to it, before or after; e.g. reception (open bar?) where they could meet with other librarians, as well as have the opportunity to mingle with and meet the N/C honorees.

3) When ALA conventions are held further afield, DPL representation drops to about a half dozen. (The over-all cost of transportation, housing, meals, registrations, etc. has a lot to do with attendance.) The "regulars" are not as concerned with ticket price.

To sum up the consensus: 1) speeches, alone, would be deadly; 2) keep some of the feeling of a dress-up, special occasion; 3) over-all costs of attending ALA keep many of the younger librarians from traveling the circuit.

Note: I know I did not outline the internal cost, labor and time that goes into N/C banquets as outlined in your memo letter. This does seem far out of proportion to other activities and needs. I encourage your Task Force to seek alternatives. Hope this helps. Good luck.

Sincerely,



Mrs. Mary Plosnick, Coordinator
Children's Services

MZP:mds