

Please help us.....

The Newbery/Caldecott dinner has long been a tradition at annual ALA meetings. Each year members of ALSC, publishers and interested people from every corner of the book world have bought a ticket, eaten with friends or "strangers" and listened to moving and exciting speeches from the honored recipients.

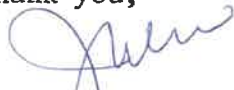
Each year however, the cost of attending the dinner has risen...due to escalating economics, both within ALA structure and convention center and hotel costs. This summer in Dallas the dinner tickets will cost \$17.50. Unfortunately this high cost is reflected in dinner attendance...not in the actual numbers attending...rather in the composition of the banquet guests. Fewer and fewer of the children's librarians themselves are able to attend, finding the high cost a detriment. Conferees who attend ALA must often choose not to attend the dinner, rather to come in late to stand and share the speeches.

It is a reality that the ALA New York Convention in 1980 will see the ticket sold for an even higher price.....

In an effort to investigate the existing situation a Task Force has been named by Lillian Gerhardt to solicit responses and opinions from interested persons. Please help us compile an adequate geographical answer.....first, by reading the enclosed UP FOR DISCUSSION from the ALSC Newsletter.....second, by briefly filling out the questionnaire below.....and third, by verbalizing why you feel the dinner should be retained, why you feel it shouldn't and if your answer is "no"...some possible alternatives.

Please mail your reply as soon as possible, in the enclosed addressed envelope to Zena Sutherland. The Task Force will study all suggestions and present their ideas and your ideas to the ALSC Executive Board meeting this June at ALA. Please mail by June 10th to expedite the study.

Thank you,



Julie Beth Todaro
Zena Sutherland
Suzanne Glazer

Jungman Branch/
Houston Public Library
University of Chicago GSLS
Atheneum

Name Mary R. Boyney Position Media Program Director
State Dept. of Education

Work with children? Not directly How long?
Work with children's librarians ——— 16 years

Member ALA? yes ALSC? No If no...which divisions...

Attended ALA? yes Attended Newbery/Caldecott banquet? yes

Retain dinner? If no...alternatives? Use back.....

I enjoy the pomp and formality of the dinner; however I shall attend an alternative presentation form.
I agree that the dinner is expensive, presents a

logistics burden to the office. Consider a T/V special similar to Emmy Awards that does not require personal attendance. Video tape the awards and speeches and permit each state to buy copies at cost or slight profit. (~~May~~ Many libraries would buy and retain these) Whatever form the presentation becomes, the video tapes could extend coverage and use.