

MOXUM

6/11/79

Dear Zena,

Please overlook this scrawl. I don't have access to a typewriter at the moment, but wanted to reply to your urgent note re N/C.

While I believe it is very important to retain the spirit of the awards, I do see a need to consider an alternative to the banquet. Speaking quite personally and not for anyone else on the staff here, I have several objections to the banquet concept -

- 1) I don't like banquets
- 2) In recent years, they seem to have become longer and more entrenched in the ceremonial aspects, to the detriment of those whom we wish to honor
- 3) The cost is excessive, although somehow even the younger members of the profession usually manage to scrape it up if they attend the Conference at all (ah - there's the rub!)
- 4) When I attend the banquet, I am really interested in

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earing the speeches of the winners and not in the food, interminable introductions of head table guests etc etc. Also, most people I know really appreciate the chance to meet the winners in the receiving line.

So - I am all for another approach, preferably an evening meeting such as the NBA ceremony, or the Arbutnot lecture as I remember it. There the spotlight is directly on the speakers, there are few distractions, the time frame is compressed, and the audience is satisfied. I would hope such a plan would retain the element of the reception following the talks. I would also hope that the ALSC office work load could be lightened.

(Incidentally, the So. Calif. Council on Literature for Children ... which has always had an <sup>annual</sup> awards banquet, went to the less expensive brunch program last fall because of the rising costs. Success was mixed - lots of complaints about food (justified!); attendance was lower than for the banquet. However, we're going ahead with it again this year, and think it will grow - and probably become a new tradition.) At any rate, I'm still in favor of a lecture-meeting set-up sans meal.

Hope this helps - Sincerely, Priscilla