

May 28, 1979

Dear Zina

It is very hard for me to answer your request - The N-C - banquet was always a high point of the ALA conferences stretching back to the beginnings when I paid my own way and had to save up to do it - The dressing up, the feeling of the gala occasion was all part of the excitement of the evening - Later I was so pleased when we got the Honor Book winners honored as well - being mentioned and introduced and then included in the reception line afterwards - Monitoring those long reception lines I was made increasingly aware of what it meant to all those people who waited so long so patiently to shake hands with the winners - I've been inquiring around in my area and I've been told it is no

longer such a dressy affair - People are becoming more and more casual - Certainly from reading the ALA program there seem to be more and more meal functions - luncheons, breakfasts dinners etc - So apparently a lot of people are finding the money to attend a lot of things.

I always heard Time after Time during my years of budget involvement that ALA made always a great deal of money on the N-C banquet. I never could understand why this was. So there no way to cut the price and make it more cost-effective? Why not let the local committee take care of the arrangements and then the Executive Secretary wouldn't have to take the Time or spend the money with making arrangements.

A more cost effective banquet with less of a price tag might mean more young new librarians could attend. I am sure the well known leaders are still urging publishers to invite the young people as their guests instead of the "old dozs." But even at that only a limited number can get into the room some (2000+?) If you had an awards ceremony like National Book Awards would you be able to get more in an auditorium? Would there then be a receiving line afterwards such as we had at the banquet? I would hope

so -

Please don't have a cocktail party with everyone milling around and no form or shape to the awards ceremony. This would dissipate the group and no

one could meet or talk with the important winners except the board and officers and people on the "in". The speeches are important - Even when the winner is not a good speaker he reveals so much of himself (herself!) in the presentation.

We are not so set in our ways we can not change. The only way to know how effective this change could be is to try it.

The gifts to all the banquet attendees are another expense that could be eliminated.

One year you remember a contribution to the scholarship fund from the publisher was a great innovation - The Tapes of the speeches are an unnecessary expense - People could buy those if they could not

attend -

ALSC is absolutely right in trying to get more of the young librarians really involved - That was my hope when we promoted the idea of task forces of local librarians working with committee members and tried to evolve state or regional networks for quick help or inspiration with day to day problems - I still dream of that becoming a reality -

It was great to hear from you - and I'm enjoying the Newsletter very much indeed - I'm trying hard to keep quiet for a few years after talking too much for many - I'm an alternate

for the White House Conference and I
must say just now a little discouraged
about reports from Washington about
the plans. Is there any way
that ALSC members can make a
stand for a working conference
where it will be possible to take
action on resolutions of meaning
or formulate them and not be
in attendance at a showcase, an
educational process -

Is there a roster of ALSC
members from across the U.S. who
are attendees or delegates? Elaine Krusz-
burg is a delegate from Florida -

Sincerely
Anne Izard