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May 15, 1979

Ms. Zena Sutherland
University of Chicago
Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books
Chicago, Illinois

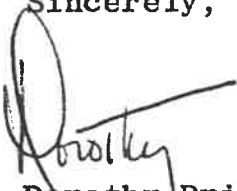
Dear Zena:

I'm delighted that ALSC is thinking seriously about making substantial changes in the way the Newbery/Caldecott medals are awarded at the summer convention.

I would like to see us dispense with the banquet and, instead, have an awards ceremony in an auditorium large enough to accomodate the members of ALSC who come to the summer meeting, plus people from other divisions who wish to attend. There could be a cash bar reception after the speeches. I think the banquet has become too expensive for the majority of ALSC members to pay out of their own pockets and, for the same reason, a burden on publishers. We should be able to make the Newbery/Caldecott Awards an evening memorable for something other than the exorbitant price paid for a not very good meal.

The most important result I would hope for from this change is that we will take the opportunity to spend our energies on promoting the idea of the awards and the books that receive them to the general public. I do not think ALSC or publishers do enough to create public interest in the Newbery/Caldecott books.

Sincerely,



Dorothy Briley
Vice President/Editor-in-Chief

DB/jw