

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO  
BULLETIN OF THE CENTER FOR CHILDREN'S BOOKS

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May 21, 1979

Dear overworked ALSC directors:

Since the motion made by Marilyn Miller ( in re the task force examining alternatives to the Newbery-Caldecott banquet ) specified that reactions from directors be solicited, I earnestly plead that you send me a letter, a

postcard, even this sheet with your response on it. Some of us have already made our views clear, but humor me and write it anyway?

UP FOR DISCUSSION

From ALSC board member Zena Sutherland, some thoughts: Over the years, there have been many changes in the procedures used in choosing and announcing the Newbery and Caldecott Awards, and most of the changes have been made for the purpose of broadening participation or increasing efficiency.

In response to some of the comments made by Lillian Gerhardt in her "President's Message" in TON, some of the members of ALSC's Board of Directors have proposed an examination of possible alternatives to the Newbery/Caldecott banquet. Some of the facets discussed at the ALSC board meeting in Washington, D.C., were:

1. The cost of the banquet. According to Mary Jane Anderson, ALSC executive secretary, a large number of banquet tickets are sold to non-ALSC members. Can our younger members not afford to buy tickets?
2. The amount of time given by the office, far more to the banquet than to the N/C committee work. This emerged in a study done by the Secretariat Services Study Task Force.
3. The amount of time given by ALSC members who work on the banquet. Could that time perhaps be better spent on projects directly related to library services for children?
4. The space available at a banquet. Would more members be able to see and hear the winners if there were an alternative arrangement?

One of the alternatives discussed was a presentation program that would include all components of the banquet save for the food and its cost, which would enable more members to attend at a minimal cost. It was pointed out at the meeting that there had not always been a banquet. Are we ready to try something new

Send your comments or questions to the ALSC Newsletter they will be forwarded to the task force that will soon be appointed by President Gerhardt to study the pros and cons.

I've had some thoughtful letters examining several facets of the possibilities. One of them, from a past president, felt the group we should be striving to reach are the "librarians in the field." Short of a questionnaire to the membership, the task force must depend on voluntary response. I don't want to ask any of you to take on extra work, but do plead that you urge any member you see to write and give an opinion.

See you in Dallas. Daily.

Best,

*Zena*  
Zena Sutherland  
Chair, Task Force to  
Examine  
Alternatives to  
the  
Newbery-Caldecott  
Banquet

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Gail Sage*

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Dear Bena,

A short note to tell you what I've been thinking about -

1. Gene Shalit - TODAY SHOW  
Interview with both winners (15 mins) This is OK only if aired at 7<sup>30</sup> a.m. before librarians go to work.

2. As part of the "Afternoon Special" TV series. Perhaps a 1/2 hr. taped show from a Mid-winter "announcement ~~show~~ program". The latter audience to include librarians and children. Or maybe a "summer annual announcement show" (reschedule "choosing" time) which would lend a regional air (Detroit, San Fran. etc.)

3. No longer shout "Down with Disney" and ride coattails of the Sunday Disneyland Show (both librarians & kids could watch).

4. Most of all, I'd like to hear the winners announced on the evening news!

5. TV coverage or no - I'd like to see the presentation/announcement be open to everyone at the conference - NO CHARGE NO DINNER  
NO LUNCH - JUST ONE HOUR OF HEAVEN. LARGE AUDITORIUM - KIDS TRY

② ANNOUNCEMENT PROGRAM -  
LIVE FROM CONF.