

THE CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY

MEMORANDUM

To: Zena Sutherland, ALSC Task Force on the
Newbery-Caldecott Banquet

Date: 30, May 1979

From: Linda Ward Callaghan, Children's Services
Northwest Branch Library, 4041 W. North Ave., Chicago, Il. 60639

Subject: Request for feedback on the Banquet

The Newbery and Caldecott Awards are a long honored tradition within the American Library Association and an event that many of us look forward to with excitement and anticipation. Yet, for those of us who are new to the profession, the banquet honoring the recipients takes on the aura of a royal ball.

Many factors often prohibit attendance by younger librarians: the general expense of A.L.A. Conference attendance, limited library budgets to support conference attendance, and attention to "no frills" philosophies in this age of cut-backs. Justifying attendance at such a banquet can be difficult for the young professional who just establishing contacts within the national organization.

Like Cinderella without a fairy godmother, many young librarians "stay at home" rather than pay the price for the banquet. I feel that the banquet ticket itself is rather expensive; combined with the formality of the occasion that demands a certain degree of formal dress, attendance at the banquet can be an expensive proposition. Beyond the cost considerations the atmosphere of the banquet can appear exclusive to new professionals and therefore keep them away.

I feel a more casual reception during which the award speeches could be given and librarians could mingle with peers, publishers, writers, and attendees would be preferable to the formality of the banquet. I know I would feel more comfortable attending such a reception than attending the banquet as it traditionally has been held.

I thank you for your concern for the members opinions and for this opportunity in communicating my feelings with the ALSC board.

Sincerely,


Linda Ward Callaghan