

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

1100 EAST 57TH STREET  
CHICAGO • ILLINOIS 60637  
312-753-3450

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 Sutherland

Zena - I'm not Chair, Task Force to examine Alternatives to the Newbery-Caldecott Banquet

but ... my comments - I favor dissolution of the N/C Dinner - the food is tasteless, the head table appears not to want to be there, the room is crowded and you can't see friends  
Let's have a reception

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