

June 7, 2007

To: ALSC Board

From: Belpré Communications Task Force

Re: Final Report

Charge: "To create procedures to improve communication between ALSC and REFORMA staff and members related to the administration of the Belpré Award and the award celebration. One expected product is a written manual of expectations, procedures, and responsibilities."

The Belpré Communications Task Force members (ALSC President KT Horning, Oralia Garza de Cortes, ALSC Executive Director Diane Foote, and REFORMA Past President Ana-Elba Pavón) plus ALSC Deputy Executive Director Aimee Strittmatter had a very productive conference call in March 2007 about Belpré arrangements.

Our key decision regarding communications improvement was to determine a "go-to" person within each organization for discussion of Belpré matters. On the ALSC side, this will be the Executive Director (currently, Diane Foote); on the REFORMA side, the chair of REFORMA's Children and Young Adult Library Services Committee (currently, Lucía González).

Our Task Force declined to create a written manual or document regarding such communication, feeling that there are already two documents governing Belpré, the MOU and the Belpré Award Selection Committee Manual. We agreed instead to add the expectations, procedures, and responsibilities to the Manual.

Other results from our discussion:

- ALSC will provide REFORMA with a timeline for REFORMA Presidents regarding appointments, etc. Aimee has prepared this, and Diane sent it to Lucia.
- REFORMA has approved the MOU; at AC07 the ALSC Board will be asked to do the same.
- REFORMA has voted that the award should be presented annually beginning in 2009; at AC07 the ALSC Board will be asked to do the same.
- ALSC and REFORMA should meet every year at Midwinter; since REFORMA's Executive Committee does not necessarily consist of youth librarians, the ALSC Executive Committee will meet with the REFORMA CYAS Committee.
- Both ALSC and REFORMA members of the Award Selection Committee should abide by the Award Selection Committee manual and the same policy for service on award committees. REFORMA needs to approve the clarified policy currently in use at ALSC. Diane will send it to Lucia, and once it is approved, Aimee will add it to the Manual.

- REFORMA and ALSC will both look at the Manual and suggest revisions; ALSC will input them and change the cover sheet to note that the Manual is for both organizations, not just ALSC.
- ALSC will retain responsibility for administering the award; REFORMA will retain responsibility for administering the celebration and has budgeted \$3000 per year. REFORMA is also open to a ticketed event or continuing to fundraise to increase funds available for celebrations.
- The 2 “go-to” contacts will negotiate responsibilities for organizing the celebrations (even if REFORMA plans it, ALSC will secure the room through ALA Conference Services, etc.), and the agreed-upon procedures will be included in the Manual. Lucía and Diane have already been in touch about this.

Not addressed by the Task Force, but still relevant, is ALSC’s commitment to an annual report to REFORMA regarding the status of the Belpré Endowment. A 2007 written report has been submitted to REFORMA President Roxana Benavides.