

2002 ALA Midwinter Meeting
ALA Awards Committee
New Orleans, LA

Monday, January 21, 2002

Present:

Robert Newlen, Chair
Cheryl Malden, Staff Liaison
David Dowell
Kaye Grabbe
Geraldine Harris
Erlene Bishop Killen
Charles Kratz

Observer: Mary Faith Pankin

Robert called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and had each person introduce themselves.

Two items were added to the agenda: Solution to the conflict in which a jury award member was nominated for the jury award, and the results of a meeting between John Berry committee and chairs.

Increase Award Donations

Sponsors of ALA Awards will be asked to increase their donations to \$5000. The committee discussed ideas on how to approach present donors concerning the donation increase. One approach will be to contact the donors by telephone and then follow up with a letter. Those sponsors who increase their donations will be recognized at the ALA Awards Ceremony and personally thanked by members of the committee in Atlanta.

Award Manual Update

A subcommittee consisting of Robert, Charles, David, and Cheryl will draft language to revise the current Awards Manual.

Meeting at Annual with Jury Chairs

Awards Committee members are requested to attend the meeting in Atlanta with current jury chairs on Saturday, June 15 from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. The Awards Committee regular meeting will follow.

Awards Ceremony

Committee members are requested to attend the Awards Ceremony on Tuesday, June 18 at 5:45 p.m. Several suggestions were made to make the ceremony more formal by making changes in the room size, lighting and seating.

John Berry Meeting with Chairs

Robert and other committee chairs met with John Berry to discuss the handling of reports and other issues pertinent to particular committees.

Conflict with Jury Member

Robert and Cheryl attended a meeting of the Lippincott Jury in an attempt solve the conflict in which a jury member was nominated for that award. The jury member in question did not attend the meeting and after deliberation the jury chose a winner. The problem of members of a jury being nominated for the award on which they serve will be addressed in the revised Awards Manual.

Recognition Awards

Robert has been approached by someone who would like to revive the Herb and Virginia White Award. The committee agreed to have Robert investigate that possibility.

Cheryl and Robert will try to set up a meeting with Bill Boyd regarding his endowing his award in Atlanta.

Meeting Adjourned-3: 35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Geraldine Harris

ALA Awards Committee
Meeting I at Midwinter
Saturday, January 19, 2002
9:30 a.m. – Wyndham Canal Hotel
Imperial Room
New Orleans, LA

Those present were: Chair Robert Newlen,
Members; David Dowell, Kaye A. Grabbe, Geraldine G. Harris, Erlene Bishop Killeen,
Staff Liaison Cheryl Malden, Scholarship Staff Liaison Lorelle Swader, Asst. Exec.
Director Mary Ghikas, and from YALSA presenters Pam Spencer Holly, Betty Carter,
and Jack Forman.

The meeting was called to order by the chair, introductions were made and everyone
shared their personal answer to “What have you won lately?”

Kaye Grabbe moved to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Geraldine G.
Harris. Minutes were approved with 1 abstention.

A discussion ensued about problems with juries and nominations. David Dowell moved
that Scholarship Juries be made aware that no one serving on the juries may serve as a
reference for scholarship applicants. Seconded by Kaye Grabbe. Approved by
Committee.

There was some discussion with Lorelle Swader regarding the lack of participation on
scholarship juries. A solution herein outlined will be added to the Awards Manual.

A Jury Pool will be developed by the Awards Committee.

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The Current Chair will send a letter to current jury members asking if they
would be willing to continue to offer service to the association by being part of the initial
~~scholarship~~ jury pool.

The Chair will put out a call for “service to the association” to obtain volunteers
to join the pool of possible jurors.

Annually, the Awards Chair will develop and expand the jury pool, looking for
gaps and perspectives.

Annually, the Awards Chair appoints Jury Chairs. These chairs may be chosen
from the Jury Pool, but it is not necessary that they be there for appointment.

This Scholarship Jury Pool will be used to promote professional growth and
electronic/distance participation in association business for newer members.

Chair Robert Newlen presented the committee with a current situation wherein ~~the Chair~~ *a member*
of an ALA Award Committee was also nominated for that Award. Robert Newlen had
offered as a solution to the Chair that the ~~Chair~~ *member* resign from the jury or withdraw the

nomination from consideration. At this time no decision has been relayed in return from that Chair to the Award Chair.

David Dowell moved that the two options offered by the chair be extend to the current jury member again. If the jury member refuses to resign from the jury, the nomination will be withdrawn by this committee. Kaye Grabbe seconded. Approved by Committee.

David Dowel moved that the Awards Manual be updated to address conflicts that must be resolved when jury members are also nominated for awards. Seconded by Geraldine G. Harris. Approved by Committee.

A presentation was made by a group from YALSA for a permanent division award for the top ten adult books for young adults to be called the ALEX Awards. Questions and a short discussion followed.

Erlene Bishop Killeen moved that the committee approve the ALEX Awards and congratulate YALSA for their good work. Seconded by Kaye Grabbe . Approved by Committee.

The Meeting was adjourned at 11.07 a.m.

The next committee meeting will be 1:00, January 21, 2002 in the same location.

Respectfully submitted,



Erlene Bishop Killeen
Committee member

**A PROPOSAL FROM THE YOUNG ADULT LIBRARY SERVICES
ASSOCIATION TO THE ALA AWARDS COMMITTEE**

**THE ALEX AWARDS: THE BEST ADULT BOOKS
FOR TEEN READERS**

1. Name of Award

Alex Awards

2. Definition, Purpose, and Criteria

The Alex Awards will be given annually to ten authors who have each written an adult book with special appeal to young adults. From 1998-2002, the Alex Awards have been a part of the Adult Books for Young Adults Project funded by the Margaret Alexander Edwards Trust with additional support from *Booklist*. The Adult Books for Young Adults project is currently scheduled to end after the 2002 ALA Annual Conference.

The task force appointed to develop and implement the project decided to select ten titles annually, and with the approval of the Trust they named the awards the Alex Awards, after Margaret Alexander Edwards, who was called "Alex" by her friends. Edwards was a young adult specialist for many years at the Enoch Pratt Library in Baltimore. Her work is described in her book *Fair Garden and the Swarm of Beasts*, and over the years she has served as an inspiration to librarians who serve young adults.

The task force decided to select a top ten list rather than a single title or a long list because of the popularity of the concept and because it parallels the Top Ten titles selected by the Best Books for Young Adults and Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers committees. The task force members also believed that selecting more than one book provided a greater variety of titles, whereas a longer list would be less selective than desired. A top ten list also allows for a more balanced list—fiction and nonfiction, as well as various genres. They also wanted to make diversity a priority in the lists. The task force recommends the continuation of the practice of selecting ten winners if the award becomes an official ALA Award.

Other criteria for selections include:

- Published in the calendar year prior to the announcement.
- Must come from a publisher's adult list.
- Works of joint authorship and editorship will be eligible.
- Books published in another country in English or in the United States in translation are eligible.
- Selected from genres that have special appeal to young adults.
- Are potentially appealing to teenagers.
- Are well written and very readable.

3. Number and Frequency of the Award

The Alex Awards will be given annually to ten authors who have each written an adult book with special appeal to young adults. Ten Alex Awards will be given annually. If ten suitable candidates cannot be selected in a given year, the number of awards can be less than ten.

4. Selection of Jury to Administer the Award

The YALSA Vice-President/President-Elect will select the Alex Awards Committee members. The committee will consist of nine YALSA members, including the chair, plus a consultant from the *Booklist* staff. Members will be appointed for a two-year term, with the possibility of reappointment for another two-year term. The designation of the chair shall be made annually.

5. Deadline for Nomination of Candidates

The deadline for nominations will be the end of the calendar year. The chair will accept nominations throughout the year, including those from the field. A form used to nominate titles similar to those used by YALSA's other selection committees will be made available online and from the YALSA office. This form will ask for bibliographic information and a brief explanation of why the title is deserving of an Alex Award. Publishers may not nominate their own titles.

6. Screening of Candidates and Recommendations

The Alex Awards Committee will meet in closed meetings at the ALA Midwinter Meeting and the ALA Annual Conference to discuss nominated titles. The Chair of the committee will contact publishers to obtain copies of nominated titles for all committee members. The YALSA Office will arrange for an electronic discussion list for exclusive use by the committee, so that discussions and nominations will continue between conferences. A simple majority vote will determine the winners. A consultant from *Booklist* will serve on the committee and have a voice but not a vote.

7. Presentation of the Award

The final list, with annotations written by the committee, will be due in the YALSA Office and to the *Booklist* consultant before the end of the Midwinter Meeting. The list will then be included in the annual edition of *ALA's Guide to Best Reading* and in an issue of *Booklist* (usually an April issue) as close as possible to the dates selected for that year's National Library Week. Simultaneously, it will be made available on the YALSA Web site. Lists of Alex Award winners will also be widely distributed at subsequent YALSA programs and conferences.

Alex Awards can be presented at a program at the ALA Annual Conference if the committee so desires. Committee members can discuss the Alex Award winners for that year and include other program items that explore the use of adult books with young adults.