

Minutes
ALA AWARD COMMITTEE MEETING
Saturday, January 20, 2007, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.,
Sheraton-Ballard Room

Committee Members:

Liz Bishoff
Chris Bradley, Chair
Jon Cawthorne
M. Nathalie Hristov, Intern (Recorder)
Bill Kinyon
Alison Landers
Cheryl Malden, Staff Liaison
Susan Melcher
Angela Williams

Guests:

Judy Nelson, YALSA

The meeting was called to order at 10:40 am by Chris Bradley, Chair.

Introduction

Chair Chris Bradley welcomed all attendees to the meeting. Each member in attendance introduced themselves.

Greenwood Publishing Service to Young Adults Achievement Award - Proposal

YALSA President Judy Nelson presented a proposal to establish a Greenwood Publishing Service to Young Adults Achievement Award. Despite being the fourth largest division in ALA, YALSA does not currently have a mechanism to recognize outstanding achievement in the areas of young adult services. According to Ms. Nelson, the proposed award is comparable to existing awards administered by ALA, ALSC, and AASL.

In reviewing the proposal, Chris Bradley asked Ms. Nelson why the award would only be presented every three years. Ms. Nelson responded that the decision to present the award every three years was made as a result of discussions with Greenwood Publishing who would be sponsoring the award. Liz Bishoff expressed concern that by only presenting the award every three years, the lag time in between awards would make it difficult to generate and maintain momentum. Ms. Bishoff suggested that the award be presented at the very least every other year. Christine Bradley agreed with the suggestion.

Additionally, Alison Landers pointed out that by offering the award more frequently, YALSA would be in a better position to evaluate how well the process of administering the award was going, and make revisions to the process as needed. Bill Kinyon was also concerned by the statement in section four of the proposal, "if a suitable candidate is not found, the award will not be presented that year." If the award was only presented every

two or three years, the concern would be that an award could go up to six years without being presented. Ms. Nelson said she would check with the YALSA Board for clarification to determine a course of action in the event no award was presented in a particular year. Christine Bradley then went on to say that ideally, the award ought to be presented annually. Since Greenwood Publishing is financing the award, Ms. Nelson said she would have to discuss the matter with them.

Liz Bishoff would like for the proposal to include a section explaining the purpose of the cash award, dictating how the money for the award may be spent. Ms. Nelson will take that suggestion to the YALSA Board and make the addition to the proposal.

Jon Cawthorne stated that more information was needed in sections five and seven of the award proposal addressing selection of juries and screening of candidates. As written, the proposal is unclear as to the process of selecting a jury. What is known from section two of the proposal is that the award jury will be comprised of three members. Ms. Nelson responded by saying that standard YALSA protocol is for the YALSA Board to appoint a five member jury with a chair. However, she is uncertain of the exact procedure for selecting a jury for the proposed award. Ms. Nelson will seek clarification from the YALSA Board and will provide a more thorough explanation in sections five and seven of the proposal.

In section twelve of the proposal, "Evaluation of the Award Program," Liz Bishoff would like to see a list of the actual criteria used in evaluating the program, as well as procedures for making revisions to the program in light of the evaluations. In general, Ms. Bishoff would like to this section greatly fleshed out. Judy Nelson will discuss the Award Committee's comments with the YALSA Board and Greenwood Publishing, and will bring the proposal back to the Awards Committee at its meeting on Monday, January 22, 2007.

Liz Bishoff asked Cheryl Malden whether or not YALSA would have to resubmit the proposal to the Awards Committee if the award frequency were to change. Ms. Malden responded by saying that YALSA would simply have to notify the Committee, and that a new proposal would not be needed.

Minutes

The minutes of the 2006 ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans were presented.

In the minutes from the June 24 meeting, Jon Cawthorne noted an omission of one of the guests, Elizabeth A. Dupuis, from the original minutes. Nathalie Hristov will make the necessary revisions. Liz Bishoff made a motion to accept the minutes with revision, Susan Melcher seconded. The motioned passed.

Alison Landers made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 26 meeting as written, Liz Bishoff seconded. The motion passed.

Also presented were the minutes from the November 8 conference call. Alison Landers made a motion to approve the minutes as written, Bill Kinyon seconded. The motion passed.

Award Manual – Final Copy

The Committee reviewed the latest draft of the Awards Manual. Minor changes were made in the sections, “Duties of the Jury Chair,” and “Jury Meeting.” Cheryl Malden and Nathalie Hristov will work together to incorporate the changes agreed upon by the committee members.

Other Business

Following up on the discussion at the June 26 Committee meeting, Cheryl Malden will ask a representative from BARC to attend the Awards Committee meeting on Monday, January 22, 2007 to discuss ways in which the Committee can work on cultivating future awards.

The meeting adjourned at 12:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Nathalie Hristov

Minutes
ALA AWARD COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday, January 22, 2007, 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.,
Sheraton-Ballard Room

Committee Members:

Liz Bishoff
Chris Bradley, Chair
Jon E. Cawthorne
Romina Gutierrez, Intern
Janie Hermann
M. Nathalie Hristov, Intern (Recorder)
Bill Kinyon
Alison Landers
Cheryl Malden, Staff Liaison
Susan Melcher
Angela Williams
Annie Zeidman-Karpinski

Guests:

Sarah Flowers, YALSA Board
June Pinnell Stevens, ALA Executive Board Liaison
Patty Wong, BARC Chair

The meeting was called to order at 1:33 pm by Chris Bradley, Chair.

Introduction

Chair Chris Bradley welcomed all attendees to the meeting. Each member in attendance introduced themselves.

Greenwood Publishing Service to Young Adults Achievement Award - Proposal

YALSA Board member, Sarah Flowers, presented a revised version of the Greenwood Publishing Service to Young Adults Achievement Award Proposal, incorporating the suggestions made by the Awards Committee at the meeting on Saturday, January 20. Liz Bishoff commended the YALSA Board for the proposal, stating that the proposal revisions addressed all concerns posed by the Committee. Additionally, Chris Bradley stated she was pleased that Greenwood has agreed to sponsor the award every other year rather than every three years.

Liz Bishoff moved to accept the proposal as written. Jon Cawthorne seconded. The motion passed.

Award Manual – Final Copy

Final revisions were made to the Awards Manual. Cheryl Malden will incorporate the changes to the official copy of the Awards Manual and distribute to committee members.

Cultivating Future Awards/Patty Wong, BARC Chair

Chris Bradley began the discussion by conveying the Award Committees interest in cultivating future ALA awards. Ms. Bradley then asked BARC Chair Patty Wong how members of the Awards Committee may go about asking donors to contribute monies towards awards and programs.

Patty Wong began by explaining that all solicitations should go through Joan Claffey in ALA's Development Office. One of the primary reasons for contacting the Development Office is so that different units/divisions within ALA do not end up asking the same donors for money, especially if it is for the same type of program or event. This would leave donors with the impression that ALA has poor communication between its divisions and that our activities are essentially uncoordinated.

If the Awards Committee was interested in hosting an event or reception with refreshments, the Committee would have to work with ALA staff, the Development Office, and ALA Conference services. Occasionally, Conference Services has been able to negotiate complimentary refreshments as part of the package when reserving meeting rooms and other facilities. Regardless of the venue, any activity would require coordination with at least three or four different ALA units.

Jon Cawthorne asked Ms. Wong if there existed any procedures or checklists the Awards Committee could use to begin the process of organizing such events. Ms. Wong said she would investigate the possibility of creating a BARC task force that would create official procedures and/or checklist for organizing events, and soliciting donations that would apply association-wide.

Donor Recognition

Chair Chris Bradley stated that she would like to see efforts made by the Award Committee to recognize donors, demonstrating our appreciation of their sponsorship. Ms. Bradley asked if ALA could allocate in its budget monies to provide refreshments during the Annual Awards Banquet. Liz Bishoff explained that it was too late to do anything for the 2007 Annual Conference, but that a request could be made for inclusion in the 2008 budget. In the meantime, the Committee considered other ways of recognizing donors that would not require any type of funding.

One idea to be implemented immediately was to increase the font size of the donors name in the Awards Program. Chris Bradley also suggested talking with donors at their exhibit booths an asking them how they would like to be recognized. Liz Bishoff suggested that we assign each Award Committee member a donor to contact prior to Annual to gather this type of information. Additionally, Cheryl Malden will continue to provide award

winner with contact information of the donors sponsoring their awards, encouraging them to send letters of appreciation to the donors.

June Pinnell Stevens, ALA Executive Board Liaison

Representing the ALA Executive Board, June Pinnell Stevens updated the Awards Committee on some of the topics of discussion by the ALA Board. Ms. Pinnell Stevens encouraged members to forward thoughts on the National Library Agenda to Leslie Burger. Other topics included recent publications outlining ALA's diversity initiatives, future changes in cataloging standards having broader input beyond the Library of Congress, high satisfaction rate among ALA members of the association, and the Emerging Leaders Program.

Publicizing Awards

The Committee discussed ways in which we could assist jury chairs in publicizing particular awards, particularly those with low applicant pools. Since many of the awards have substantially large applicant pools, Cheryl Malden will send members of the Awards Committee a report of awards with significantly low pools that are at risk of having no award given in a particular year. Once that report has been distributed, the Committee will begin investigating ways in which to provide jury chairs support in publicizing awards by identifying appropriate venues of communication for releasing announcements and other publicity.

Future Business

It was decided that the Committee would discuss ways of increasing funding for unendowed awards at its next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Nathalie Hristov