

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Item: MEMBERSHIP Item Number: 212.2
 Approved by: ALA Executive Board Page: 1 of 1
 Issue Date: July, 1958 Supersedes: _____

Honorary membership

It was agreed that honorary membership must be meaningful and, therefore, limited, and that only ALA honorary members should be made honorary members of the divisions, and the Board approved as policy the following statement:

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 "That the ALA Executive Board, which, according to Bylaw Article I, Section 1, A, ~~K~~, has the sole authority to nominate honorary members, give consideration to the candidates for such membership recommended to it by the board of directors of such divisions. If such persons are elected to honorary ALA membership, the divisions may make them honorary members."

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Item: MEMBERSHIP Item Number: 212.2.1
Approved by: ALA Executive Board Page: 1 of 1
Issue Date: March, 1960 Supersedes: _____
Amended January 1973

Honorary membership

Persons nominated by the Executive Board and elected for life by the Council.
(Bylaws I, Section 1-~~(e)~~.)

A-5

General Statement

Honorary membership may be conferred on a living citizen of any country whose contribution to librarianship or a closely related field is so outstanding that it is of lasting importance to the advancement of the whole field of library service. It is intended to reflect honor upon the ALA as well as upon the individual.

In order to make more meaningful this highest honor the Association bestows upon an individual, election shall be held at the Midwinter Meetings with presentation at the First General Session of the following Annual Conference.

Supplementary Guide

1. To be eligible for honorary membership, a person should be so outstanding that there can be no question about his suitability.
2. Honorary membership should be conferred for a significant contribution to librarianship or a closely related field rather than as a reward for "a job well done."
3. The designation should recognize the contribution of an individual per se, rather than an individual representing the accomplishments of many.
4. The person elected to honorary membership should be of such caliber as to reflect honor upon the ALA by this designation.
5. Honorary membership should be conferred because of a contribution of more than passing importance and interest and of more than local or limited achievement. It should not be conferred because of momentary enthusiasm.
6. A citizen of any country is eligible for honorary membership.
7. The recipient may be a librarian or a person in a related field.
8. Only a living person should be considered for honorary membership.
9. Potential candidates are not likely to be numerous at any one time.

Report of the Executive Board Committee on Honorary Members,
Special Nominations and Assignments

Approved by Executive Board, June, 1979

The Committee recommends that the criteria for Honorary Membership be revised as follows. The criteria were originally a part of Policy 212.2.1, now replaced by the quite brief Policy 2.1 in the Policy Manual.

Honorary membership

Persons nominated by the Executive Board and elected for life by the Council. Bylaws I, Section 1 A6 and Section 2 A6.

General Statement

Honorary membership may be conferred on a living citizen of any country whose contribution to librarianship or a closely related field is so outstanding that it is of lasting importance to the advancement of the whole field of library service. It is intended to reflect honor upon the ALA as well as upon the individual.

Election of Honorary Members shall be held at the Midwinter Meeting, with presentation of this highest honor of the Association at the First General Session of the following Annual Conference.

Supplementary Guide

1. To be eligible for honorary membership, a person should be so outstanding that there can be no question about his/her suitability.
2. The designation should recognize the contribution of an individual per se, rather than that of an individual representing the accomplishments of many.
3. The person elected to honorary membership should be of such caliber as to reflect honor upon the ALA by this designation.
4. Honorary membership should be conferred because of a contribution of more than passing importance and interest and of more than local or regional achievement. The contribution may be to librarianship or to a closely related field.
5. The recipient may be a librarian or a person in a related field.

The changes made by the committee are as follows:

1. Rewritten second paragraph of General Statement.
2. In the Supplementary Guide we have eliminated the old paragraphs 6, 8 & 9 and have amalgamated the old paragraphs 2 & 5 into the present paragraph 4.

Kathleen Molz, Norman Horrocks
and Eric Moon, chair.