

Friday, January 4, 1985
Social Responsibilities Round Table
Coretta Scott King Award Task Force
8-10pm, Annapolis Room/ Washington Sheraton Hotel

Present: Beatrice James, Lucille Thomas, Ethel Ambrose,
Barbara Jones, David Searcy, Joyce Mills, Henrietta Smith,
Margaret Poarch, Effie Lee Morris, Violette Brooks and Mary
Biblo

Meeting was called to order by Chair David Searcy. Committee members introduced themselves. Minutes for the Dallas meeting were approved. A letter was shared with the committee from Roger H. McDonald congratulating the Task Force on the program in Dallas.

Committee Reports

ARCHIVES-- Beatrice James reported that file is being kept at her address -90 Harcourt Ave. Bergenfield New Jersey 07621 phone (201) 384-3091. Members may contact her to add to the file. Harriet Brown was not able to attend.

BOOK SELECTION-- Ethel Ambrose and Henrietta Smith reported. Areas of concern were: 1. The time frame for the award. Suggestion made that we do like other book award committees and serve from the calendar year Jan. to Jan. rather than July to July (summer conference to summer conference) Serving the calendar year would give the committee a better time frame with which to work. David was asked to check the policy of the Task Force for any conflicts if such a change was made. He did not think so at the meeting. It was explained that publishers needed to be contacted early in the calendar year to secure spring publications. Ethel Ambrose motioned that the CSK Book Selection Committee serve from Jan. to Jan. rather than July to July. Seconded by Margaret Poarch. So carried.

2. Written Guidelines. Committee asked for written guidelines to make award choices. Chairperson Searcy stated they were printed in the program at the Dallas meeting. Question was raised about the criteria printed in the ALA Handbook for selection of the CSK Award. Lucille Thomas suggested that we publicize criteria in Journals. Ethel Ambrose stated that we needed clarification of whether the book needed to be about the black experience and that the criteria did not specify. Joyce Mills stated that she didn't feel the intent of the Task Force was to limit the selection to books solely about the black experience. The criteria was read that was submitted to ALA. Effie Lee Morris stated that the award was originally geared for a Black author/illustrator writing about the black experience.

Glyndon Greer's ideas of the original award were interpreted in two ways. One interpretation was that the award go to a Black author/illustrator writing about the black experience and the other was that the book did not have to be about the black experience just be in the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. A specific question was raised about letter (b) of the Criteria "Must portray people, places, things and events in a manner sensitive to the true worth and value of all beings." It was decided that the book selection committee would further discuss this issue but presently follow guidelines as printed.

3. Confidentiality. The committee wanted meetings held in closed session. It was decided that they could meet in closed session. The BSC comes under ALA criteria as such. Lucille Thomas asked that the BSC give her a report of the award books so she could submit them to the Cognotes.

4. Lifetime Award. Henrietta Smith started discussion of lifetime award. Chair David Searcy stated that info about a lifetime award he received was in conflict with info in the file. Discussion followed. Suggestions included a Life Time Charlemae Rollins Creativity Award. What about authors who have done excellent works continuously about the black experience and wrote sensitive works who are not Black? Then there are authors who consistently write excellent works who have already received the CSK Award and continue to produce good works. Do they continue to get the CSK Award or should another award be given to them for lasting contributions? What would the process be? Would the CSK Award be weakened by branching out into another area? It was decided that the BSC would keep these discussion ideas in mind as books are reviewed and wait until a later time for a Life Time Award.

4. Non-functioning Book Selection committee members. Should the BSC be tough minded about committee members that are not functioning. It was suggested that everything be put in writing and deadline dates met. Are committee members elected or appointed for one year, two years, three years, etc.? So far there have been no guidelines in writing. The Book Selection committee will be looking at tightening up guideleines at the meeting Sunday.

GREER SCHOLARSHIP--Joyce Mills reported. Carolyn Gaines absent. Scholarship will be given to a high schol student. Committee is looking at establishing guidelines for the Greer Scholarship. Tentative suggestions are: winner should reside in host conference city, award would be coordinated through local shcool system, and award would go through the ALA Award Committee. Criteria will have to be fine tuned and various authors would be contacted to suggest potential illustrators.

LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS--Violette Brooks reported. Innovocation will be given by Rev. Harry B. Gipson. There will be a representative from Mayor Washington's office. Still trying to secure the Hyatt Regency as the location site. Effie Lee mentioned that there was a question raised about not having an invocation. Since Rev. Gipson had already been contacted we will have an invocation in Chicago. Violette will handle tickets and those not sold before the deadline will be given to the meal ticket counter. Lucille Thomas will handle publicity.

FINANCIAL REPORT--Jean Coleman had a conflict and was not at the meeting but sent a report. \$4,151.39 is in the treasury as of November 30th. Effie Lee stated that we need to formulate a budget with line items covering: meal tickets, awards, flowers, certificates, placques, photographer, printing, etc.

It was moved by Mary Biblo and seconded by Violette Brooks that meeting be continued Sunday Jan 6th from 8-10pm. at the Idaho Room-Sheraton Washington.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Jones
Recorder