

ALA
SoCial Responsibilities
Round Table **CORETTA SCOTT KING AWARD**
TASK FORCE

November 25, 1984

To: Coretta Scott King Award Task Force
From: Effie Lee Morris, Chair
Re: UPDATE

(Information on meeting place for Midwinter will be sent)

IMPORTANT! It is essential that each of you be present at this meeting. Your input and support is needed at this crucial time.

Enclosures

Minutes, Los Angeles, June, 1983. (Please reread your files of minutes from 1981, 1982, and 1983 Midwinter and Annual Conferences.)

Minutes from Los Angeles - Additions

BREAKFAST REPORT - (Add) FAMOUS AMOS (Wally Amos) distributed cookies to the audience. Thomas Alford, LAPL donated the centerpiece.

SUB-COMMITTEE ON LIFETIME AWARDS - Morris asked the committee to consider (add) Black authors who are not writing books on the Black experience.

BUDGET - (Add) Appreciation was expressed to the Third World Fund, a service of the Genesis Church and Ecumenical Center of San Francisco for their donation of \$300.00 to help defray expenses connected with the presentation of Peter Magubane's acceptance speech. Morris secured these funds. As unexpected expenses continued to mount, Searcy and Carr also attempted to locate emergency funds. This year for the first time Wally Amos assumed responsibility for the honorarium to the illustrator. He was present to present the check.

Financial Report (not included)

At this time a clear statement of the 1982-1983 income and expenditures has not been received, however it is clear that the Task Force is in debt. After paying for meals, there are insufficient funds to pay for the supportive costs of the breakfast i. e. printing of tickets, programs, etc. There may still be outstanding bills even though the \$300.00 solicited from the Third World Fund has helped. Donation of the flowers by Tom Alford also helped to reduce costs. It is still inconceivable to me why we cannot get

a clear understanding of our total costs. I cannot stress enough how disturbing and embarrassing this situation is. In addition, it makes preparation of a budget impossible.

Start-up costs of \$1000.00 for the June breakfast were borrowed from SRRT in the spring. In the fall Jean Coleman borrowed \$1959.59 to pay for the seals. These monies must be returned to the SRRT treasury.

We are now in need of start-up funds for the 1983-84 presentation. What do you suggest? We need cash immediately.

Fund-Raising Proposal

Given the above scenario concerning our financial status, the Fund-Raising Committee has a serious task. I thank these members for accepting this responsibility. They are very enthusiastic about their ambitious proposal. I have had reservations which I have discussed with Mary Biblo. For example, the costs of the ads, to whom will they be sold, how many copies, the format and text, need for an editor and guidelines and co-ordination. The committee is meeting frequently to address these concerns. They need your help to think through their plan and plan for implementation. What can you offer from your community?

Please write or call Mary Biblo immediately
5225 S. Blackstone Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60615
(h) 312-643-2363

The committee will report fully at Midwinter.

Seals (Material for the committee is enclosed in their packets) At the Los Angeles meeting we were told that we must have a policy authorized by the ALA Awards Committee in order to sell seals. A statement must be developed. This new committee is also requested to develop the price scale for both publishers and libraries and a clear plan for implementation which we still do not have. I have now also just received a memo from Jean Coleman to the ALA Publishing Department asking for the procedure for obtaining copyright for the seals.

Book Selection

Barbara Rollock has sent this committee a schedule of deadlines. The committee is receiving books. What books should we be receiving? What publishers were contacted? Will we receive the following books?

Thomas, Joyce Carol. Bright shadow. Avon original paperback
Words of Martin Luther King, Jr. selected by Coretta
Scott King. Newmark

Follow-up to Los Angeles

Kathryn Carr has prepared an excellent detailed manual of duties of the Local Arrangement Chair. This important document will be of inestimable value. Her financial report and thank you and other letters are models for future chairs. These materials will be included in the packet for the Dallas Local Arrangements Chair.

Following the breakfast librarians so moved by Peter Magubane's presentation delivered by Suzanne Glazer, approached her asking what they could do to help him in his work. She suggested funds. She now reports that some checks have been received which Random House has forwarded to Magubane in South Africa.

This year for the first time an item announcing the award winners appeared in Top of the News, Summer, 1983. It is good to see the information in the ALSC/YASD publication. The October, 1983 issue of School Library Journal carried a picture of the Coretta Scott King Award press conference in San Francisco. This was a surprise. Publicity spread throughout the year will help maintain interest in the award.

Tapes of the speeches at the breakfast are available for \$11.95 plus \$3.00 for postage and handling.
 Order: 83107 - 700 Coretta Scott King Award Breakfast (SRRT)
 ALA Cassettes
 c/o Eastern Audio Assoc., Inc.
 Oakland Center 8980 Route 108
 Columbia, MD 21045

Concerns

It has been difficult to write this memo but you must have more information about the serious problems with which Jean and I have been wrestling. (I ask you to keep our problems as family business within the Task Force please.) I think I tried to indicate my concerns about our operations at the Los Angeles meeting. Now that we are an ALA unit award, we must operate by the organization's rules and meet the standards. We are developing a prestigious award. We must do nothing that will embarrass it or us.

Naturally the fact that we are operating with a deficit is of greatest concern and the first problem that we must solve. In addition there are myriads of details about which we learn after the fact. For example: the artist's name has been omitted from the seals! And, if I find one more printed item which has Coretta spelled with two "r's", ----- We have simply been encouraged to move in too many areas before we had solved our basic problems. Working too rapidly has caused many mistakes which have been costly to correct. With the establishment of Martin Luther King's birthday as an official holiday, this award can aid in the understanding of his philosophy by children and young people.

We face some difficult times. (My respect for Glyndon Greer's devotion grows.) I am confident that our commitment, clear thinking and planning and implementation will make us highly successful. We owe it to the Kings, the authors and illustrators, the readers, the librarians, and ourselves. Peace!

Personal Notes

You will be sorry to know that E. J. Josey's mother died recently. I am sure he would appreciate hearing from you.

My thanks to those of you who sent me both sympathy and get well wishes. The deaths of my beloved cousin and her mother within 36 hours of each other deeply saddened our small family, with whom I spent much of the summer in Virginia. Then this fall I had foot surgery. Now I'm well enough to walk to the postoffice with this mail.

Please let me know where you will be staying in Washington. Call or write

66 Cleary Court #1009
San Francisco, Ca 94109
415/931-2733

SEASON'S GREETINGS TO YOU ALL!

*Linda,
I'd like to have a conference
with you. I'd be at The Sheraton.*