

ALA Awards Committee 2015-16 Midwinter Report

The Awards Committee met in Boston on January 9, 2016. Five members were present.

Issues discussed:

1- Robert Newlen presented the proposal for a new award – The GLBTRT Award for Political Activism. After a brief discussion and clarification that this award is a Round Table award and not a direct ALA Award, the committee members present approved the award. Several members not in attendance approved the award by email.

2- Julius Jefferson, Executive Committee Liaison, discussed ALA Membership, Midwinter registration, and The Libraries Transform Campaign.

3-Susan DiMattia (former committee chair) presented a review of the Award Manual and ALA Awards, in general. The committee will evaluate Susan's suggestions.

Accomplishments:

Chair helped to select jury members, sent Welcome letters to each Jury Chair and provided sample letters for Jury Chairs to send to jury members.

Committee members wrote Selection Criteria for those awards without selection criteria posted on their award website. All ALA awards now have selection criteria posted making the application and selection process more transparent.

Chair has surveyed 2014 and 2015 award winners posing the following questions in order to improve the visibility of our awards and award recipients:

Q1 – What special recognition did you receive from your peers or sponsoring organization upon winning this award?

Q2 – What suggestions or ideas do you have for the Awards Committee on ways to publicize the awards and award winners? We would appreciate any/all websites, listservs, etc.

Planned Activities:

Committee will survey Jury Chairs/members as to the ease of soliciting nominations as well as selecting and publicizing our awards and award winners

Revise/update wording in the ALA Awards Manual where appropriate

Committee Involvement:

The majority of the committee is involved in some sort of activity...at least half are actively are respond quickly to email requests.

Susan Hess

ALA Awards Committee Chair 2015-2106