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MPLA Awards Committee Report
October 12, 2005

Suzanne Taylor, Chair (CO-2005)
Diane Briggs (ND-2005)
Rosario Garza (CO-2006)
Leroy Gattin (KS-2005)
Louis Howley (AZ-2005)
Cassandra Osterloh (NM-2006)

The Awards Committee received 10 nominations for six awards for 2005. All six awards were given as follows:

Literary Contribution Award – Joseph Marshall III
Distinguished Service Award – Donna Jones Morris
News Media Support Award – The Wyoming Tribune-Eagle
Carl Gaumer Library Championship Award – I.D. Weeks Library, University of South Dakota
Youth Services Award – Paraprofessionals of Youth and Outreach Services Division of the Laramie County Library System, Cheyenne, Wyoming
Intellectual Freedom Award – 2004 Hays, Kansas Public Library

Notification of award recipients was made via phone and email. Notice of these awards will be sent to national and regional publications.

The Awards Committee would like to propose the following change (underlined) to the MPLA Manual of Procedure:

VI. Standing Committees

Awards Committee

Pre-Conference Duties and Activities

4. Notify award recipients of their selection.

b. The individual will be the guest of the association at the awards presentation (indicate date, time, and location). Reimbursement from the association will cover direct air fare or mileage, one night's lodging, appropriate meals including the awards banquet, and taxi fees for one recipient for each award (including recipients who are MPLA members).

Rationale: Mileage is included to make it clear that MPLA will pay for the travel expenses of a recipient even if they drive to the conference.

The Committee feels that MPLA members who receive awards should not be penalized for being members of the association. The monetary benefit to the recipient should be the same for all. The awards are a way to recognize those both within and without the Association who have contributed in some major way to the Association or to the libraries/librarians of the region. It is little enough thanks to reimburse recipients their costs to attend the banquet. MPLA should not make a distinction between members and non-members when reimbursing recipients' expenses.

We added in the "one recipient" because sometimes, as is the case this year, an award may be given to a department or board with many members. We thought it should be clear that only one person's expenses will be paid.

A question for the Board: If an award recipient cannot attend the conference banquet to receive the award, will MPLA pay for the expenses of a representative that that person might designate?

A further note: the online version of the Manual of Procedure needs to be changed to reflect the new name and focus of the Carl Gaumer Library Championship Award, as passed by the Board last July.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Taylor, Chair of the Awards Committee