

CO-3

Awards Committee Board Reports  
Awards 2008

We have begun advertising for the awards this year. We have had announcements in the Newsletter, a mailing to every member in Memberclicks, and requested the State Reps to publicize it in each state. The deadline for nominations is February 8th.

The five awards we will be giving in Salt Lake are the MPLA Unsung Hero Award (For the first time), the Carl Gaumer Library Champion Award; the MPLA Distinguished Service Award; MPLA Literary Contribution Award, and the MPLA Beginning Professional Award.

Board Choice Award Recommendation

Of the 95 winners, we could not locate current addresses for nine, one has retired, and three have moved out of the MPLA area. Only 29 were in the 2007-2008 membership. Given that we seem to get small return for this effort, the committee recommends reducing the number of awards and making them more significant.

Only seven awards should be given, one by each member of the Administrative committee. Recommend that they be recognized at the Awards Ceremony, be given free membership and conference registration for the year in which they win and a partial stipend for travel. Ideally, this stipend would be matched by the winner's institution.

They should also be recognized at their state meetings, through ads in the programs and a display at the MPLA table.

In addition, to increase their participation in MPLA there should be a formal mentor program which brings the award winners into more active MPLA participation. The mentor should be the Administrative Committee member makes the award. This program would provide regular meetings, in person, by phone, or online. During these meetings the mentor would encourage their participation in MPLA committees, giving presentations at MPLA conferences or state conference that have MPLA-sponsored programs and writing articles for the newsletter.

These awards should be announced prior to the beginning of the membership year and in sufficient time that the award winners can make plans to attend the annual conference. This could be accomplished by having the winners notified in October of each year and the official announcement made in late November/early December.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Beth Avery  
Chair