

WLA Awards/Grants Committee Report
September 24, 2004
Presented by Erin Kinney, Chair

The 2004 WLA Awards/Grants Committee started meeting after the committee was assigned early in the year. Committee members included: Erin Kinney, Chair, Jack Willmarth, Sue Knesel, Debi Morley, Sheryl Fanning, Judy Garber, Barbara Oakleaf and Sandra Donovan.

The committee communicated via email and U.S. Mail. This was the second year that the committee balloted using a web-based form. There were glitches, but it eventually worked out.

There were fourteen award nominees for 2004. No nominations were submitted for the Librarian of the Year, Trustee Citation, Georgia Shovlain Award and the WLA/SIRS-Proquest Intellectual Freedom Award. We moved one of the Meritorious Service Award nominees to the Award Award, and a Distinguished Service Award nominee to Librarian of the Year. Nine individuals or groups received awards. Letters of congratulations and regrets were sent out at the end of August. Submitted were no construction/remodeling projects, seven retiring trustees, two retiring librarians/library staff, and four recognitions of accomplishments.

There were six applications for the Nora Van Burgh Development Grant. One applicant withdrew, one was awarded full funding, and two were awarded partial funding. Two other applicants were not awarded, but were encouraged to reapply or try other avenues of funding. This is a complete reversal of last year, when we received no applicants.

Susan Vittitow from the Wyoming State Library will be the mistress of ceremonies at the Awards Banquet. There will be a jazz band playing, and Mardi Gras beads for everyone to wear. A plaque will be presented to the outgoing WLA president, Carey Hartmann. There will also be a presentation of the NCLIS Award by Lesley Boughton, the State Librarian, to the state legislature. Jan Segerstrom will also present an award to the State Library for their part in securing funding for statewide databases.

Troy Rumpf, as WLA Communications Committee chair, will again design and publish the awards banquet program. This is a great example of how two committees can work together.

I will submit a list of the 2004 WLA Awards and Grants winners, contact information for the MPLA and awards for the next WLA newsletter.

Publicity about the Nora Van Burgh Development Grant and the WLA Awards, including the WLA/Pro-Quest-SIRS Intellectual Freedom Award, was included in the January 2004 issue of the WLA Newsletter. Deadlines for the nominations and supporting documentation were June 15th.