

Wyoming Library Association  
Awards and Grants Committee, Annual Report  
September 2014

Committee Members

Megan Herold, Co-Chair, Technical Services, Johnson County Library (2015)

Steve Rzasa, Co-Chair, Technical Services, Johnson County Library (2014)

Janet Tharp, Youth Services Coordinator, Campbell County Public Library (2014)

Carrie Lucas, Assistant Manager, Youth & Outreach Services/Children's Librarian, Laramie County Public Library (2015)

Chris Van Burgh, Outreach Librarian, Wyoming State Library (2015)

Nancy Venable, Library Manager, Rock Springs Library (2015)

Activities and Accomplishments

The Awards and Grants Committee met monthly this year starting in the spring via teleconference. All meeting agendas and notes are on the committee's wiki. We tried to send regular emails to remind and encourage people about recognizing their co-workers.

Changes to Awards

On the basis of last year's survey, we made a few minor adjustments to the awards slate this year:

- **Renaming "Meritorious Service" to "Community Supporter:"** We altered the name and criteria wording for this award to better reflect that it is given to someone outside the library system who supports it, and is not directly employed by said system.
- **Sectioning of the award list:** We split up the awards into three groups to make it easier to tell at a glance what the awards are for, by dividing them under Awards for Libraries, Awards for Librarians, and Awards for Others.

As 77 % of the survey respondents from spring 2013 said they were satisfied with the current awards, we did not eliminate nor did we add any.

Awards Nominations & Presentation

Once again we chose to get the award plaques made by Westwood High School in Gillette, Wyoming, and continue to be pleased with both the quality and economy of their work. The bulk of the awards were presented at the Awards Banquet Thursday evening, Sept. 25. The Community Service and Media Awards were presented at the Legislative Luncheon Thursday afternoon, Sept. 25

We had a total of 12 nominations for 8 awards. Two, the Milstead Award and the Librarian of the Year, received no nominations.

**For Libraries**

Andy Fisher Technology Award – University of Wyoming Libraries Web Team

Georgia Shovlain Special Project Award – Teton County Library

Milstead Award – No nominations

**For Librarians**

Distinguished Service Award – Steve Boss, University of Wyoming Libraries

Unsung Heroine Award – Laura Block, Laramie County Library

Newbie Award – Pamela Fanelli, Albany County Library

Librarian of the Year – No nominations

**For Others**

Trustee Volunteer Award – Bob & Sue Moore, Natrona County Library

Community Supporter Award – Cathy Craig, Fort Washakie

Media Award – Gillette Public Access Television

**Nora Van Burgh Development Grant**

Shari Haskins, Fremont County Library-Riverton

There were two applications for the Nora Van Burgh Development Grant. We awarded the grant for \$1,000 to Shari Haskins at Fremont County Library-Riverton, for attending the upcoming YALSA conference.

Moving Forward –Thoughts and Recommendations

Our committee worked very well with its six members. There were plenty of tasks to divvy up among us and everyone contributed to the smooth operation of both the awards ceremony and the selection process.

After our final meeting for the year on Oct. 6, 2014, we will select a new chair and deal with any potential vacancies on the committee.

Submitted by Steve Rzasa, September 26, 2014

**\*\* Added notes for the committee \*\***

- Typically 20 tables at the banquet, 8 people per table, about 160 people
  - WLA Casper 2014 – 10 per table, 16 tables
- Be sure to plan award hand-off prior to actual ceremony so that is smooth and elegant
- Set up tables 45 minutes prior to reception
- Coordinate with Richard Landreth, Westwood High School in Gillette, Wyoming, for Award Plaques
- Libraries have been very generous donating printing facilities for our programs used at the banquets