

WLA Children/YA Section

Report 2009

September 30th, 2009

WLA Executive Board

The joint Spring Section Meeting between C/YA and SSLMP was held in Riverton, Wyoming on April 17th 2009. Over thirty people attended the Spring Section event that featured Great Northern Books, Author Mackie d'Arge promoting and signing her book, respective business meetings and the following day, breakout training sessions at the Riverton Public Library.

During Business Janet Tharpe presented the options that Chris Crutcher would be the guest author for WLA conference and that up to \$500 dollars would be set aside for preconference program "Books Between Cultures" by Mitali Perkins. The section agreed on this. Chris Crutcher will speak at the C/YA Luncheon. His talk is called "Turning Real Life into Fiction". The possibility of Crutcher doing a talk on censorship was mentioned by Sue Knesel who is also on the Intellectual Freedom Committee, so he is also doing the programs "Banned: When Real Life Fiction Meets the Censor" and "Diversity: The Facts Behind the Fiction".

Panel discussions were considered and the program "TheirSpace: Connecting to Teens through Social Networking" is on the events list to be hosted by: Shari Haskins, Jennifer Beckstead, Holly Hendrix, Ian Lindeman, Darci Stafford, and Beth Cook.

Children's book awards are being handled wonderfully by the tireless Sally Mack and the C/YA express their gratitude for that.

In an effort to become more paperless, online voting for incoming Chair Elect and Secretary was suggested provided it didn't go against state bylaws. I don't see anything that says this cannot be done for a section. However our single nominee for chair elect dropped out of the running Sept 1st and that brings us back to square one. Nominations that were taken are Darci Stafford for Chair Elect and Bonnie Stahla for Secretary. Voting will take place at conference.

C/YA scholarship was voted and changed to a grant. Members are to stay on committee two years or longer so no one has to start blind. The grant wasn't given out this year due to bad communication and initiative on my part. I did not contact the committee and did not send out call for applicants. I could claim major personal problems and busy summer at the front desk, but that would be a cop-out. I dropped the ball and messed up.

The Collaborative Summer Library Program was held in Omaha Nebraska. The total cost for three C/YA members were \$1,380. This included air fare, motel, and meals that were not provided for by CSLP. CSLP provides motel accommodations for the representative from Wyoming and most meals for all participants. At the spring business meeting copies of slogans and themes were passed around and voted on.

Members were encouraged to nominate candidates online for the WLA awards.

Sue Knessel wanted input on changing the Intellectual Freedom Committee from 5 members to a single liason. More books being challenged in schools and public libraries vs. the amount of info on what to do in case of a challenge seems more logical for the committee to become a contact person that provides good orderly direction to anyone facing a challenge.

Respectfully submitted,

Ian Lindeman
Children/YA section Chair