

RELEVANT DOCUMENTS OF THE LOUISIANA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Intellectual Freedom Committee

Description and Charge

Standing committee of the Association. Consisting of eight members, one from each section of the association and one member-at-large, the committee is appointed by the President with the approval of the Executive Board for overlapping two year terms.

The committee's charge is as follows:

1. To defend the right and responsibility of the publicly supported library to preserve the freedom to read, as stated in the "Library Bill of Rights" adopted by the American Library Association.
2. To promote the endorsement of the "Library Bill of Rights" by the governing bodies of the publicly supported libraries of the state, emphasizing that libraries advocate a morally responsible freedom, not a license to undermine democracy.
3. To encourage libraries to emphasize the value of intellectual freedom in their library programs by preparing exhibits, booklists, etc.
4. To keep the membership of the association informed on the subject by
 - a. Making suggestions for programs on the subject at the annual conference
 - b. Reporting to the membership articles on the subject and infringement of intellectual freedom by an individual or group.
5. To use every opportunity to work with teachers, authors, publishers and others interested in preserving free thought and expression in America.
6. To be well informed as to what to do in the event a library or librarian is attacked, so as to be in a position to advise.
7. To encourage librarians to report infringements on intellectual freedom.
8. To make recommendations to the Executive board through the President for such action by the association as is considered advisable in the light of reported infringements or reported attempts at infringement.

The Alex Allain Intellectual Freedom Award

The Alex Allain Intellectual Freedom Award (co-sponsored by the Louisiana Library Association and Social Issues Resources Series, Inc.) recognizes the contributions of an individual or a group actively promoting intellectual freedom in Louisiana. It is awarded annually, when merited. The deadline for submission of nominations is November 15 of the year prior to the presentation year. The award consists of a \$500 award to the recipient, a \$500 award for materials to the library of the recipient's choice, and expenses to the conference for the award recipient.

The successful nominee will be the person or group who/which is actively promoting intellectual freedom in Louisiana. Only activities within the past five years are eligible for consideration. Nominations for the award may be made by anyone in Louisiana, including an individual who wants to nominate herself or himself.

The nominees will be judged on the role they have played in actively promoting intellectual freedom in their sphere of influence and beyond; the degree to which they exemplify the spirit of intellectual freedom, and the impact which their efforts to promote intellectual freedom have made.

The Library Bill of Rights (American Library Association) and the AECT Intellectual freedom Statement will be considered very carefully as criteria for evaluation.

Examples of evidence which may be used:

1. Written and approved policies and procedures relating to intellectual freedom, if the nominee is employed in an educational institution.
2. A description of programming activities and other methods of encouraging intellectual freedom on a continuing basis within the environment or in the locale where the nominee lives
3. Documented reports of the role which the nominee has played in promoting intellectual freedom, i.e., newspaper clippings, letters, publicity materials.
4. Any other relevant information which further elucidates the nominee's role in the promotion of intellectual freedom.
5. One or more letters of recommendation from persons knowledgeable of the nominee's contributions to intellectual freedom.

Previous Award winners

- 1991, Alex P. Allain, Trustee, St. Mary Parish Library system
- 1994, Dr. Patsy Perritt, School of Library and Information Science, LSU
- 1996, Jeri Ferrara, School Librarian
- 1997, Deloris Wilson, School Librarian
- 1999, Barbara Forrest, Southeastern Louisiana University
- 2001, Charlene Cain, Paul M. Hebert Law Center, LSU
- 2002, Joe Cook, Executive Director, Louisiana Chapter, American Civil Liberties Union
- 2003, Holly Priestly, Young Adult Librarian, Ouachita Parish Public Library

