

Merit Awards, General Descriptions

All nominators must be WLA members unless otherwise noted

April 2017

General WLA Awards:

Lifetime Memberships Awards:

- **Emeritus Membership(s)**: Recognizes an outstanding WLA member who has retired from library service prior to the annual conference acknowledging consistent and outstanding service in WLA and for their years of service promoting and providing excellence in libraries.
Criteria: Member of WLA; has retired from library service prior to the date of the annual conference; has demonstrated consistent and outstanding service in WLA and has excelled in promoting and providing library service. Other criteria examples are leadership roles, publishing in WLA journals, maintained an active membership, chaired a committee, etc.
- **Honorary Membership(s)**: Recognizes an individual who has supported libraries who is not a library staff member by profession. An individual who demonstrated consistent and prolonged support of library service in Washington, and or/promoted legislative action, and/or participated in statewide committee work and other library activities.
Criteria: Has demonstrated consistent and prolonged support of library service in the state of Washington, and/or promoted legislative action, and/or participated in statewide committee work and other library activities.

Merit Awards:

- **Advances in Library Services**: Recognizes outstanding contributions by an individual who has been instrumental in improving library services. A member of WLA, currently working in Washington, whose personal efforts have increased library services to underserved areas or populations, providing access to information not previously available.
Criteria: A member of the Washington Library Association currently employed in the library field in Washington State.
 - Examples of service improvement: Providing service to a previously unserved area or population; providing access to information not previously available.
 - Greatest weight will be given to the personal efforts of the nominee.
 - Each nomination will be appropriately documented with narrative statement and information that supports the nomination.
 - It is not mandatory that the award be given annually.
- **Outstanding Performance**: Recognizes an individual who has performed outstanding work for libraries. A member of WLA, currently working in Washington whose outstanding work in the area of public relations; technical services; rural librarianship;

library instruction, digital inclusion, outreach services; support service; facilities; library education; promoting library values or other areas of library service.

Criteria: Member of Washington Library Association; currently employed in the library field in Washington State.

- Examples: Public Relations; technical services; rural librarianship; outreach services; support services; facilities; library education; promoting library values.
- Each nomination will be appropriately documented with narrative statement and information that supports the nomination.
- It is not mandatory that the award be given annually.

- **Trustee Award:** Recognizes individual or group achievement by a Trustee/s for advancement of library services through the development of sound library policies or for wisdom, sound judgment and creative ideas in instituting library practices which have improved library services and efficiency.

Criteria: Nominations for these awards may be submitted by any WLA member, a Library Board, an individual Trustee, a Friends of the Library group, an individual Friend of the Library, a library foundation or library staff.

- Each nomination will be appropriately documented with a narrative statement and information that supports the nomination.
- It is not mandatory that the award be given annually.

- **Friends/Foundation Award:** Recognizes a Friends group or Foundation for effective advocacy of the library community; bringing its services and possibilities to the attention of the community and its leaders. Acknowledges their interest and contributions provided in support of library service.

Criteria: Nominations for these awards may be submitted by any WLA member, a Library Board, an individual Trustee, a Friends of the Library group, an individual Friend of the Library, a library foundation or library staff.

- Each nomination will be appropriately documented with a narrative statement and information that supports the nomination.
- It is not mandatory that the award be given annually.

- **Candace Morgan Intellectual Freedom Award:** Honoring the lifetime contributions of Candace Morgan in support of Intellectual Freedom and the Library Bill of Rights, this award goes to an individual, or group for their efforts to defend, champion, support and/or educate others about Intellectual Freedom in Washington State.

Criteria:

- Each nominee may be an individual, a group of individuals, or an organization.
- The nominee should be engaged in an activity affecting information access in the state of Washington.
- Each nominee's efforts will have furthered the cause of intellectual freedom in the state.

- Each nomination will be appropriately documented with a narrative statement and any news releases, supporting letters, published articles and other documentation that supports the nomination.
- It is not mandatory that the award be given annually.
- **WLA President's Award:** To be given at the discretion of the current or acting President. Examples are performance, innovation, or outstanding service.

Division and Section Awards

School Library Division:

- **Outstanding Teacher Librarian of the Year Award:**
To be annually awarded to an active member of the School Library Division currently practicing in a k-12 school library position.
Criteria:
 - Nominee must be an active WLA Member
 - Hold a valid Washington state teaching certificate
 - Hold a learning resources endorsement and/or Masters of Library Science or equivalent
 - Be in a current K-12 school as a teacher librarian
 - May include other letters of support (encourage other nominations from colleagues)
- **Superintendent of the Year Award:**
To be annually awarded to a school superintendent who has demonstrated a noteworthy commitment to school libraries.
Criteria:
 - Actively employed as a superintendent in a K-12 school
- **Principal of the Year Award:**
To be annually awarded to a school principal who has demonstrated a notable commitment to school libraries.
Criteria:
 - Must be actively employed as a school principal
- **Small District/Private School Administrator of the Year Award:**
To be annually awarded to an administrator in a small or private school who has demonstrated a noteworthy commitment to school libraries.
Criteria:
 - Must be actively employed in a small district/private school
- **Supervisor of the Year Award:**
To be annually awarded to a library supervisor who has demonstrated a notable commitment to school libraries.
Criteria:
 - Must hold current position as a library supervisor

CAYAS:

- **CAYAS Visionary Service Award**: Recognizes an individual who, through practice and example, provides inspiration and leadership for others who serve children and young adults in libraries. May work in a public, school or special library. May acknowledge cumulated efforts over several years in the field of library service to youth, or may be a singular and exceptional effort that sets new standards for practice. This award will bring attention to the remarkable and tireless efforts of all individuals who work with young people in libraries.

Criteria: Those eligible to be nominated for this award include staff or volunteers from public, school or special libraries. The work that qualifies an individual for nomination may include cumulated efforts over several years in the field of library service to youth, or may be a singular and exceptional effort that sets new standards for practice.

WALE:

- **WALE Outstanding Employee Award**: Recognizes a member of WALE who has made significant contributions to or accomplishments in the library field. May recognize an innovative project or activity for a specific library in Washington or a support staff organization. Project and activities should directly involve support staff working in libraries or information centers and will have had an impact on the status and work of support staff. Individual has been active in WALE serving on a committee or in another leadership capacity.

Criteria:

- Nominee is a member of WLA and WALE Interest Group
- Nominee is a library employee who demonstrates significant contributions or accomplishments in the library field.
- Nominee must have been active within WALE, working on a committee or providing leadership in some other capacity.
- Examples:
 - An innovative project or activity for a specific library in Washington or a support staff organization.
 - An innovative project or activity (for example: creator of a specialized database or service which can be used by library staff)
- Projects and activities should directly involve support staff working in libraries or information centers.
- Projects and activities will be judged according to the degree by which the status and work of support staff are improved or enhanced within the library profession.
- Nominations will be solicited and accepted from WALE and Washington Library Association members.
- It is not mandatory that the award be given annually.