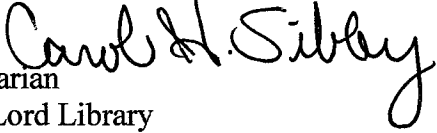


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Date: February 8, 2012

RE: NLLN Professional Engagement Award Report

I attended the American Library Association Midwinter Meeting in Dallas, Texas, January 20-23, 2012.

The main purpose for attending this ALA Midwinter Meeting was to participate in the first meeting of the 2013 Randolph Caldecott Committee. We met on Saturday afternoon on Jan. 21. The chair, Sandra Imdieke, presided over the meeting, welcoming members and having us each introduce ourselves. Besides our names and present employment, Sandra asked each of us to discuss a favorite Caldecott Book. It was interesting to note that each of us had a different favorite book. I talked about *The Little House* by Virginia Lee Burton, which won the Caldecott Medal in 1943.

Sandra briefly went over the Caldecott Manual, emphasizing the terms, criteria, and definitions. She carefully explained the calendar and what was expected of members throughout the next year. She also discussed confidentiality, conflict of interest, and how the committee will communicate. Judy Zuckerman, an ALSC Priority Group Consultant, attended the latter half of the meeting. She shared her own experience on the 2011 Caldecott Committee and offered advice to our committee. She also talked about eligibility issues related to publishers and illustrators.

In addition, we discussed how to keep track of the books received from publishers and how to take notes on each book. Sandra told us to expect 500-900 titles! We were told to keep a list of our top twenty books and change it as time goes on. We were also advised to develop our listening skills with no frowning allowed. We also were reminded that there is no such thing as a perfect book. We need to consider how the flaws relate to the overall book.

In addition to the Caldecott Committee meeting, I attended many events sponsored by children's book publishers. The first two events were on Friday evening from 7:30-midnight. At 7:30, I was invited to a dinner at the Wolfgang Puck restaurant sponsored by Macmillan. Here we had the opportunity to meet colleagues and the staff of Macmillan. The first person I talked with is from

Chicago Public Library and is a member of the 2013 Newbery Committee. I also met and talked with Laura Godwin, who is the Vice President and Publisher of Henry Holt and Company, Books for Young Readers. Laura gave me an excellent lead on a **possible speaker for Spotlight next year—Ann Rider who is a Houghton Mifflin editor living in Lutsen, MN**. She has been the editor for a number of Caldecott winning books. After the Macmillan dinner, I attended an event hosted by Chronicle Books. Attendees learned about upcoming 2012 and 2013 juvenile publications.

On Saturday, in addition to the Caldecott Committee meeting, I attended the Little, Brown Publisher Breakfast, where juvenile publications for 2012 were reviewed. On Sunday, I attended three juvenile publisher events: Candlewick, Random House, and Disney Hyperion. Finally, I attended the ALA Youth Media Awards, the event where all of the ALA juvenile awards are announced. I also spent considerable time each day, Saturday through Monday, visiting the exhibits to look at 2012 juvenile publications for the Caldecott Award as well as our library's Read Aloud Award.

Overall, the main goals of attending the ALA meeting in Dallas was to participate in the orientation for the Caldecott Committee and to attend as many sessions as possible to learn about juvenile publications for 2012. Visiting the exhibits was another way to meet with publisher representatives and to view the upcoming books, which were mostly available in galleys or advanced copies.

I want to thank Northern Lights Library Network with the funding that supported my attendance at this conference.