

Guidelines and Criteria for Arkansas Library Association Awards

The Awards Committee is responsible for soliciting nominations and selecting the recipients of the various continuing awards which the Association presents (and which are listed below) with the exception of the President's Award, which is the purview of the award in any year, except where there are multiple levels of an award as with the Arkansiana Award and the Committee may choose to make no award. Members of the Committee are ineligible for nomination. It is the policy of the Association not to make awards posthumously except when death occurs between the time a recipient is selected and when the award is announced at the awards ceremony. Nominations received in one year will be carried over a second year for those that were eligible and were not given an award. At the end of the second year the nominees would have to be resubmitted to be considered again.

Arkansiana Award – Given biennially, rotating with the LaNell Compton Award

A. Purpose – First awarded in 1979, the award is given to the author(s) of a book or other work which represents a significant contribution to Arkansas heritage and culture. Three categories were established to receive nominations biennially for the Award. They are:

1. Adult Non-Fiction = Cash Prize of \$1,000.00
2. Adult Fiction = Cash Prize of \$500.00
3. Juvenile Books (Fiction and Non-Fiction) = Cash Prize of \$500.00

B. Eligibility:

1. May be adult, young adult or juvenile level
2. Must have been published or produced during the two calendar years preceding the Annual Conference at which award is made
3. May deal with either part or all of the state
4. May deal only partially with the state, provided that a major portion of the work which deals with the state is of special significance
5. Must be a composition, not merely a compilation. If it includes the assembled work of others, then major interest must be in the exemplified theme of the accompanying commentary
6. Must not be a revised edition, reprint, pamphlet, periodical publication or brochure
7. May be a translation
8. May be either print or non-print

C. Criteria for adult and juvenile material:

1. Non Fiction – authenticity, organization and arrangement of material; literary merit; format; illustrations
2. Fiction – literary merit; authenticity of background material; sincerity of presentation; effectiveness and illustrations if applicable

LaNell Compton Prize – Given biennially, rotating with the Arkansiana Award

A. Purpose – First awarded in 1982 and named in honor of LaNell Compton, editor of Arkansas Libraries from 1949 to 1971, the prize is given to the author of the best contribution to library literature published in Arkansas Libraries during the eligibility period.

B. Eligibility:

1. Publication in Arkansas Libraries during the two calendar years preceding the Annual Conference at which the award is made will be an automatic nomination for the LaNell Compton Prize
2. The author of any type of material published in Arkansas Libraries during the eligibility period may be considered for the LaNell Compton Prize

C. A cash prize of \$300.00 will be given to the author or author

Frances P. Neal Award

A. Purpose – First awarded in 1984, and named in honor of Frances Potter Neal (1905 – 1990), who served as Librarian and Executive Secretary of the Arkansas Library Commission from 1952 to 1977, as Arkansas Chapter Councilor to the American Library Association from 1952 to 1971, and was Arkansas Woman of the Year in 1958, the award is given to recognize a career of notable service in librarianship within the state of Arkansas.

B. Eligibility:

1. Must no longer be employed in a library
2. Must have worked in libraries within the state of Arkansas

Distinguished Service Award

A. Purpose – First awarded in 1979, the award is to recognize distinguished service in librarianship, e.g., continuing service to the Arkansas Library Association, outstanding achievement in some area of librarianship, active participation in library affairs, notable published professional writing, etc.

B. Eligibility:

1. Must be a member of the Arkansas Library Association
2. Must be a resident of the state of Arkansas for a major portion of the year in which the award is made
3. Must be employed in a library at the time of nomination
4. Shall be neither selected nor excluded on the basis of a position held
5. Is ineligible for this award for the following five years

Bessie B. Moore Trustee Award

A. Purpose – First awarded in 1979, the award is given to an individual trustee or board of trustees who/which has made a significant contribution to the development of a library at the local, regional or state level.

B. Eligibility:

1. Any library trustee or board who/which has made notable contributions toward the development of a library service in any community, town, city, county, or region in Arkansas is eligible for nomination. If a Board of Trustees is elected to receive the award, that Board of Trustees will choose two representatives to attend and represent the Board and receive the award. The rest of the Board will be welcome to attend at their own expense
2. A recipient is ineligible for this award within the following three years

C. Criteria:

1. Equal consideration will be given to trustees or boards from small, medium or large libraries
2. Trustee service honored may have been performed at the local, regional, state or national levels, or a combination of levels

Retta Patrick Award

- A. Purpose – First awarded in 1989 and named in honor of Retta Patrick, former Director of Library Media Services of the Pulaski County Special School District, the award recognizes an individual member of the Arkansas library profession who has made an outstanding state or national contribution to school librarianship and school library development.
- B. Criteria: Individuals nominated should have demonstrated achievements in such areas as:
 - 1. Service to the library media profession through the Arkansas Library Association and related organizations
 - 2. Planning and implementing of a school library media program of exemplary quality
- C. Eligibility:
 - 1. Must be a member of the Arkansas Library Association
 - 2. Must be a resident of the state of Arkansas for a major portion of the year in which the award is made
 - 2. Shall be neither selected nor excluded on the basis of a position held

President's Award

- A. Purpose – Established in 1993, the award may be given by the President at the Annual Conference as means of recognizing:
 - 1. The contribution of a person (or persons) that does not fit into any of the other award categories, or
 - 2. A person who has provided extensive assistance to the President or the Association during the association year B. Members of the association and/or the Awards Committee may recommend individuals to the President for consideration. The selection of a recipient(s) rests with the President. The President may choose to make no award

Arkansas/SIRS Intellectual Freedom Award

- A. Purpose – Established in 1994, the award is given to a person(s) or group(s) for notable contributions that have furthered the cause of intellectual freedom on behalf of a library in the state of Arkansas. The award is sponsored by the Arkansas Library Association and funded by the Social Issues Resources Series (SIRS), Inc., of Boca Raton, Florida. SIRS provides brochures (optional), \$500.00 for a library designated by the recipient.
- B. Eligibility:
 - 1. The award is open to individuals or groups, e.g. librarians currently employed or retired, a library board, a Friends of the Library group, or a civic organization supportive of intellectual freedom
 - 2. The nominee must have conducted intellectual freedom activities during the five calendar years preceding the Annual Conference at which the award is made
 - 3. Nominations may be submitted by anyone in the state, and individuals and/or groups are encouraged to nominate themselves
 - 4. Notable contributions may have been performed at local, regional, state or national levels on behalf of a library within the state
 - 5. Nominations should be accompanied by detailed commentary and/or a chronology of intellectual freedom activities and should include supporting documentation (newspaper clippings, letters of commendation, etc.) and letters of recommendation
 - 6. The chosen recipient shall be informed in advance and be given the right to refuse because of the recognition that intellectual freedom activities may not always be cited publicly without rekindling controversy

C. Criteria:

1. The role of the individual or group in promoting
 - a. the cause of intellectual freedom
 - b. the spirit of the First Amendment, and
 - c. the American Library Association Bill of Rights and its interpretations
2. The impact of the person's or group's efforts.

Lorrie Shuff Paraprofessional Award

- A. Purpose – First awarded in 1996, the award is to recognize distinguished Paraprofessional library service in Arkansas libraries. The name was changed to the Lorrie Shuff Paraprofessional Award in 2002 in memory of Lorrie Shuff.
- B. Eligibility:
 1. Must be a member of the Arkansas Library Association
 2. Must be employed in an Arkansas library as a paraprofessional at the time of nomination
 3. A recipient is ineligible for this award within the following three years
- C. Criteria – Award criteria is based upon:
 1. the role of the individual in promoting staff development,
 2. the issues of concern to paraprofessionals, and
 3. participation in the Arkansas Library Association Paraprofessional Roundtable

Suzanne Spurrier Academic Librarian Award

- A. Purpose – First awarded in 2001 and named in honor of Suzanne Spurrier (1947 – 1998), Director of the Brackett Library at Harding University from 1990 – 1998. The award recognizes an outstanding academic librarian within the state of Arkansas. The award is presented annually to a currently employed academic librarian who exemplifies Suzanne Spurrier's attributes of: a spirit of outstanding service and dedication professionalism to all library patrons; an attitude of devotion to the library profession and fellow colleagues; and consistent in state, regional or national library associations.
- B. Eligibility:
 1. Must be a member of the Arkansas Library Association
 2. Must be employed in an academic library in Arkansas at the time of nomination
 3. Must have worked in an academic library in Arkansas for the last 3 years
 4. Is ineligible for this award for the following 5 years

Ann Lightsey Children's Librarian Award

- A. Purpose – Named in honor of Ann Lightsey, children's librarian who dedicated her life to children and reading.
- B. Eligibility:
 1. Children's librarian who is currently working or has been retired less than a year. They must have worked in a public or school library in the state of Arkansas for at least five years and done direct programming with children during their career
 2. Must be a member of the Arkansas Library Association
 3. Nominations may be submitted by anyone in the state of Arkansas
 4. Nominations should be accompanied by a detailed commentary and/or a chronology of children's activities and should include supporting documentation (newspaper clippings, workshop agendas, letters of commendation, etc.) and letters of recommendation
 5. Is ineligible for this award for the following three years.

- C. Criteria – Individuals nominated will have contributed to the improvement of children’s programs in the following two areas:
 - 1. They have conducted programs directly with children in their place of work
 - 2. They must have actively contributed to raising the level of children’s programming on the state level by conducting peer training at the State Library Conference, regional training conferences, Arkansas Library Association Conference or equivalent

Rising Star Award

- A. Purpose – First awarded in 2017, the award is to recognize a library worker who has worked in libraries less than 5 years
- B. Eligibility:
 - 1. Must be a member of the Arkansas Library Association
 - 2. Must have worked in libraries less than 5 years
- C. Criteria – has provided exceptional service for their library community