

Who will you nominate?

by [Carly Delsigne](#), Director of the North Jefferson County Library District

We all know people who go above and beyond for libraries, who work tirelessly, and who deserve to be recognized. Nominate them!

The Montana Library Association would like to help you acknowledge them. We want them to feel special, appreciated, and honored by their good library works, but, in order to do that, we need you to nominate them!!

The Awards Committee invites you to send in your nominations for the 2017 Awards. Each nomination must consist of three letters of support; one from the nominator and two from other supporters of the nomination. No more than three letters of support will be considered by the committee. In addition, those nominating a work for the Media Award must provide the committee with a copy of the nominated work. All nominations will be confidential until the recommendations of the committee have been approved by the Board of Directors and the recipients notified. The deadline date should be set no later than the third Monday in January (January 23, 2017) in order for the committee to complete its work. The Montana Library Association honors individuals and groups who have served the Association and/or the Montana library community with distinction. The Montana Library Association confers the following awards and honors:

- Honorary Life Membership Award
- Pat Williams Intellectual Freedom Award
- Interest Group Excellence Award
- Media Award
- School Administrator of the Year Award
- Special Friend to Libraries Award
- Trustee of the Year Award
- Legislator of the Year Award
- Outstanding Support Staff Award
- School Library Program of the Year Award
- Librarian of the Year Award
- Library of the Year Award

Nomination Guidelines:

1. The committee chair will screen the nominations to check that they are complete. Copies of the nominations will be sent to committee members for review. Because the letters of support may provide information of historical interest about those nominated, the original letters of support should be sent to the Executive Director for retention in the Association's files/archives upon completion of the awards selection process.
2. The committee should select only one recipient should be selected for the following awards: Library of the Year Award, Sheila Cates Award for Librarian of the Year, Trustee of the Year Award, and School Administrator of the Year Award. With the approval of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors, the committee may select more than one recipient for the following awards, if in the judgment of the committee all recipients meet the criteria established for the award: Honorary Life Membership, Special Friend to

Libraries Award, Intellectual Freedom Award, Media Award, and Interest Group Excellence Award.

3. If, in the judgment of the committee, no nominees meet the criteria established for an award, no award will be conferred in that category.
4. The committee should complete its review of the nominations and select award recipients by February 15. The committee chair should recommend the award recipients in writing to the President for approval by the Board of Directors no later than March 1.
5. The Intellectual Freedom Committee, while generally making the decision as to the recipients of the Intellectual Freedom Award, works closely with the Awards and Honors Committee. Solicitation for award nominations includes information about the Intellectual Freedom Award. If nominations for this award are received by the Awards and Honors Committee, they should be forwarded to the Intellectual Freedom Committee chair. The Intellectual Freedom Committee chair should inform the Awards and Honors Committee chair of the recipient(s) selected. The Awards and Honors Committee chair includes the recipients in notification correspondence and Awards Luncheon plans. The announcement of the Intellectual Freedom Award recipients may be made with the other recipients or made separately by the Intellectual Freedom Committee. The two committee chairs should work together to make these decisions.
6. No awards may be presented on behalf of the Montana Library Association without the approval of the Board of Directors.

Nomination Categories:

Honorary Life Membership

Honorary life membership may be conferred upon an individual who either has made an outstanding contribution to librarianship or who has rendered outstanding service to library interests. To be eligible for honorary life membership, an individual shall have made a contribution of lasting importance to the field of librarianship. The contribution must be outstanding enough so there can be no question of his/her suitability. Only living persons may be considered for honorary life membership.

Library of the Year Award

The award is conferred upon any type of Montana library, library system, or library network for distinguished achievement in service. The staff, library board of administering body, and the community or people served shall all be involved in the work for which recognition is sought. The award shall be based upon, but not limited to, activities or accomplishments such as the following:

1. User services
2. Development of innovative partnerships through networks, systems, cooperative planning and programming
3. Sound collection development policies
4. Offering opportunities for professional growth and job satisfaction for all employees
5. Improvement of physical facilities resulting in better services

Sheila Cates Award for Librarian of the Year

The award is conferred upon a librarian in recognition of outstanding leadership and accomplishment in library service. The librarian must be currently employed in any field of librarianship in Montana and must be a current member of the Montana Library Association. The

librarian must be in a professional librarian position. The award shall be based upon, but not limited to, activities or accomplishments such as the following:

1. Provision of high quality, community-centered library services
2. Contribution to any area of service benefiting users
3. Distinguished service to the profession, including outstanding participation in activities of professional library associations and/or notable publications
4. Leadership in education and in-service training for librarians
5. Leadership in cooperative activities
6. Outstanding development of library techniques, management, and/or facilities.

Trustee of the Year Award

The award is conferred upon a Montana public library trustee in recognition of outstanding achievement and leadership. Nominations may be made by any library board, individual library, librarian, trustee, MLA member, or the Montana State Library Commission. Equal consideration shall be given to trustees of small and large libraries. The award shall be based upon, but not limited to, activities or accomplishments such as the following:

1. Service to the local library and participation in state and national activities.
2. Constructive accomplishments in promoting library service shall be considered rather than the length of service as a trustee.
3. Interest in and contribution to the development of library services beyond those of the local community.
4. Achievements of nominees are judged according to criteria found in the Montana Public Library Trustee Manual.

School Administrator of the Year Award

The award is conferred upon a Montana school administrator in recognition of outstanding achievement and leadership in the development and promotion of school libraries. Nominations for this award should come from the librarian currently employed by the school district of the nominee. The award shall be based upon, but not limited to, activities or accomplishments such as the following:

1. Constructive accomplishment toward the advancement of library service to the students and teachers of the school.
2. Development of sound school library policies.
3. Creative and effective work in interpreting the library to the school board, school administration, teaching staff, students, and community.
4. Fostering cooperative relations with other libraries in the area.
5. Implementation of programs to address special needs or problems.
6. Defense of intellectual freedom.
7. Promoting and supporting the employment of professional librarians in schools.

Special Friend to Libraries Award

The purpose of the award is to recognize individuals or groups who are not members of the Montana Library Association and who have rendered outstanding service in support of library interests within Montana. The award is conferred simply as a reward for a job well done. Nominations are accepted only from members of the Montana Library Association. The award need not be based solely on service rendered during the previous year, but may be based on cumulative years of service.

Intellectual Freedom Award

The award is conferred upon an individual or group who has made significant contributions during the past year to the enhancement of First Amendment rights or upon an individual whose body of work over time has made significant contributions to the enhancement of intellectual freedom. The recipient should have demonstrated a clear understanding of the principles, nature and responsibilities and implications of the First Amendment. The recipient should be a Montanan or a non-Montanian whose contribution has a demonstrable effect on Montana. The recipient should have applied that understanding of the principles in one or more of the following ways:

1. In defense of the principles in the face of a serious challenge to it which defense is not necessarily limited to libraries.
2. In support of the principles through an active role in:
 - Formulating programs which develop people's ability to deal with a full range of opinion/controversy and with the issues associated with such controversy, or
 - Developing, or materially assisting in the development of, a legal base for the continued enjoyment of freedom of mind, its strengthening, and its defense, or
 - Expanding the philosophical foundations of the principle or contributing to better understanding of it.

Interest Group Excellence Award

The award is conferred upon an individual member of an MLA interest group, or upon an interest group as a whole, for meritorious service on behalf of Montana libraries and/or librarians. The award shall be based upon, but not limited to, activities or accomplishments such as the following:

1. Comprehensive projects which benefit the larger library community.
2. Exemplary programs or outstanding services which are not available through other channels.
3. Extraordinary assistance to other libraries and/or librarians in Montana.

Media Award

The award is conferred to honor a production for broadcast or a work for publication which best underscores the value of libraries to community and society. This includes works prepared for television, radio, cable, film and/or print media. News articles/programs and documentaries also qualify. The broadcast or publication of the nominated work should be within the two year preceding the annual conference at which the award is to be made. A copy of the nominated work must be submitted to the Awards and Honors Committee for review.

Outstanding Support Staff of the Year

This award is conferred upon a Montana library Support Staff employee in recognition of outstanding service to the library profession and excellence in job performance. The Support Staff worker must be currently employed in a Montana library. The award shall be based upon, but not limited to, activities or accomplishments such as the following:

1. Provision of high quality library services
- 2.
3. Contribution to any area of service benefitting library users

- 4.
5. Commitment to promoting library service and free access to information for all
- 6.
7. Leadership in strengthening the image of library staff
- 8.
9. Leadership in fostering communication between library workers
- 10.
11. Active service in library activities at the local, state, regional, or national level
- 12.

School Library Program of the Year Award

This award is conferred upon a distinguished Montana Teacher-Librarian and the school library program in which they serve. This award recognizes the outstanding achievement of the teacher-librarian in fully integrating the school library program with curricular goals. A cash award of \$500.00 will be provided by Follett Library Resources to be used for library development. The award shall be based on, but not limited to, activities or accomplishments such as the following:

1. Emphasis of the school library program's role in the instructional process through professionalism, collaboration, and design of library resources that are in support of curricular goals
- 2.
3. Leadership in information literacy instruction through a variety of models for students, staff, and other community members
- 4.
5. Administration of information management systems that support student learning and school and district programs
- 6.
7. Establishment of a powerful, relevant, and ubiquitous culture of reading in the school community.
- 8.

Presentation of Awards:

Awards are presented to the recipients at the Awards Luncheon during the annual conference. The chair of the Awards and Honors Committee serves as coordinator of the awards presentation segment of the luncheon. The chair should make arrangements with nominators to identify who will present awards to the recipients at the luncheon. Recipients should be informed that may make a brief response, if they wish. Recipients should also be informed of the date, place, time, and menu of the Awards Luncheon. This information may be obtained from the chair(s) of the conference Local Arrangements Committee.

1. The Association provides each award recipient with two complimentary tickets for the Awards Luncheon. If printed and available, the tickets may be included in the letter of notification. Otherwise, tickets should be sent later or arrangements made for them to be

picked up at the conference site. Nominators/presenters of awards do not receive complimentary luncheon tickets.

2. Award recipients should also be notified that they may purchase additional luncheon tickets, if they wish. The chair should confirm whether recipients will attend the luncheon and who will present each award. The chair should also confirm how many people will be in each recipients group of supporters so that enough places for them may be reserved at the luncheon.
3. Depending on the circumstances and on a very limited basis, the Association may provide a hotel room for a recipient, who is not a member of MLA and who is required to travel a long distance to the conference. Such an expense must be approved by the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors.

Please send all nominations and letters of support to Chair [Carly Delsigne](#) and at northjeffersoncountylibraries@gmail.com or mail them to 3 N. Main St., Clancy, MT 59634.