

Mendelsohn Award Committee

Purpose: To honor a librarian who has exhibited continual, dedicated, outstanding service to the Southeastern Library Association.

History: The Mendelsohn Award was established by the Board in 2012 in recognition of Hal Mendelsohn's dedicated service to the Southeastern Library Association.

Criteria:

1. Must have made significant contributions to SELA through unselfish, dedicated service to the organization. This service should reflect involvement requiring extensive investment of time and effort.
2. Must be a current member of SELA and have been a member for at least 3 years.
3. The nominations will be made by the President and the winner will be decided by the Board.
4. If no nominations are made, the award may be omitted.

Outstanding Southeastern Author Committee

Purpose: To recognize authors in states of the Southeastern Library Association for current works of literary merit.

Duties:

1. To announce information about the award in *THE SOUTEASTERN LIBRARIAN* and other sources and to circulate information about the award.
2. To receive and review nominations for this award.
3. To select recipients of the award if a worthy candidate is found.

History: The award was established during the 1976-78 biennium. In the beginning, it was jointly sponsored by the Southern Library Bindery of Nashville and Title Books, Inc. of Birmingham. This committee should be made up of members from varying southeastern states belonging to SELA.

The 1988-90 Committee recommended that the Association sponsor and fully fund two awards biennially, one for fiction and one for non-fiction. 1992 was the first year two awards were given.

Criteria:

1. Authors considered must be native to or bona fide residents of a SELA state at the time the work was written or published.
2. Caliber of author should be considered, and, if no deserving person is nominated, the award may be omitted for the biennium.
3. Authors' works should be considered on the basis of their significance and importance to the general public as well as on their literary excellence.
4. Two awards may be given during each biennium – one in fiction and one in nonfiction. This is recommended if the Budget Committee agrees it is financially feasible. In each category, works must have been published within five years prior to December 31 of the year preceding the biennial conference.

Award: Each award consists of an engraved plaque. A monetary prize and travel expenses to the conference where the awards are presented if funds permit.

Procedures:

1. The Committee will publish announcements of the award in *THE SOUTEASTERN LIBRARIAN* at least one year prior to the conference. The announcement should be sent to the state associations and other publications where appropriate, including listservs.
2. Nomination forms may be requested from the chair of the Awards Committee.
3. Nominations are made in writing to the chair of the Outstanding Southeastern Author Award Committee at least six months prior to the biennial conference.

4. The Outstanding Southeastern Author Award Committee shall recommend recipients to the Awards Committee within two months of the biennial conference.
5. The awards shall be presented at a general session of the biennial conference or at a time and place designated by the Awards Committee and Conference Committee.
6. The Outstanding Southeastern Author Award Committee shall publish announcements of recipients in the next issue of *THE SOUTEASTERN LIBRARIAN*.