

Nevada Young Readers' Award  
Rules of Procedure  
Adopted March 13, 2004

## **HISTORY**

The Nevada Young Readers' Award was first established in the fall of 1987 by the Nevada Department of Education with generous support of librarians and teachers. In its first year, only 4,104 students from 16 schools voted. As of 1990, Nevada Library Association and the Nevada Department of Education sponsor the Award jointly. By 2004, there were 30,423 voters from 243 schools and public libraries.

## **OFFICERS**

1990-92	Joyce Betts, Churchill County Library
1993	Maria Champlain, Clark County Library
1994	Del Bean, Helen Smith Elementary School, Las Vegas
1995	Maria Champlain, Clark County Library
1996	Frankie Lukasko, Washoe County School District
1997	Dorothy Neeley, Battle Mountain Junior High
1998	Jan Passo, Las Vegas Clark County Library District
1999	Jackie Soden, Charles Silvestri Junior High School, Las Vegas
2000	Barbara Talbot, O'Brien Middle School, Reno
2001	Betsy Johnson, Henderson District Public Libraries
2002	Jeanette Moore, Elko Lander Eureka County Libraries
2003	Carol Rapacz, Douglas County Public Library
2004	Jennifer Fabbj, UNLV Libraries
	Angela Pfeil, Tutor.com Librarians by Request
2005	Debbie Jacobs, Clayton Middle School Library, Reno

## **NEVADA YOUNG READERS' AWARD RULES OF PROCEDURE**

### **ARTICLE I. NAME**

The name of the organization shall be "Nevada Young Readers' Award," abbreviated as "NYRA."

### **ARTICLE II. PURPOSE**

The purposes of the organization shall be:

1. To encourage Nevada youth to read modern works of juvenile literature.
2. To encourage Nevada youth to develop a love of reading and lifelong reading habits.
3. To promote a sense of community through a statewide reading program.

4. To honor works in juvenile literature at many reading and interest levels.

### **ARTICLE III. ORGANIZATION AND MEMBERSHIP**

NYRA is an interest group of the Nevada Library Association, as defined by Article V, Section 2 of the Nevada Library Association Bylaws. Any member of the Nevada Library Association interested in the purpose of the organization is eligible for membership upon application and payment of dues as established by NLA Bylaws.

### **ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS**

#### *Section 1. Eligibility*

Any current member of NYRA is eligible for office.

#### *Section 2. Election*

The officers of this organization shall consist of a chairperson and a chairperson-elect, elected by a majority of NYRA members present at the NYRA Business meeting at the annual NLA Conference. The chairperson-elect shall be elected one full calendar year prior to his/her term and shall assist with functions designated by the current chairperson. It is recommended that the chairperson-elect reside in the NLA conference area for the year they will be chairperson.

#### *Section 3. Term*

The term of office for the chairperson will be for approximately one year (NLA Conference to NLA Conference), not to exceed two consecutive terms.

#### *Section 4. Responsibilities*

The responsibilities of the chairperson shall be:

- To act as a facilitator of all communications within the interest group, including dissemination of the reading list as new titles are added.
- To submit information regarding group activities to the editor of *Nevada Libraries* and to the NLA webmaster.
- To act as coordinator for business meetings of the interest group, including soliciting agenda items, reserving appropriate time and space, and conducting business of the interest group.
- To plan programs and/or appoint a NYRA program chairperson for the NLA annual conference.
- To contact winning authors and picture book illustrators and their publishers.
- To submit a budget request and program justification to the NLA Finance Committee by the publicized deadline of each year preceding the year for which the budget is requested.

## **ARTICLE V. MEETINGS**

Meetings will be held at least two times per year. There shall be one statewide business meeting coinciding with the NLA Annual Conference. There shall be one statewide business meeting in March. These meetings may be held via videoconference, phone conference, online, or in person. The main purpose of the March meeting is to choose nominations from the current reading list to be placed on the following year's ballot.

Other meetings may be called with at least 30 days advance notice, and may be held electronically.

## **ARTICLE VI. COMMITTEES AND COORDINATORS**

To enhance communication, the current chairperson will appoint a coordinator for each district and/or region.

The chairperson shall appoint a committee as necessary to carry out the functions of the interest group.

## **ARTICLE VII. RECOMMENDED TITLES**

The award is presented in four categories:

Picture Books (K-2 and general audience)

Young Reader (3-5)

Intermediate (6-8)

Young Adult (9-12)

### *Section 1. Limitations to Recommendations*

Recommended books must:

1. Appeal to the category in which it is nominated
2. Be a title recommended by a Nevada young reader
3. Have been published in the United States within the last three years (including the current year)

### *Section 2. Recommendation Submissions*

Recommendations are accepted if submitted by the readers to their school or public librarian or classroom teacher. The current Recommendation form must be filled out, or an email sent to the current chairperson with the required information. This form is available on the NYRA Website. Recommendations are due by November 15<sup>th</sup> of each year to give the Interest Group members ample time to read and consider all of the recommended books.

Recommended books will be placed in the category noted on the Recommendation Form. The Interest Group cannot move a book from its current specified reading level. Only if a recommendation is received for the same title to be placed in a separate category will it appear in two reading areas.

### *Section 3. Nominated Titles*

Recommended books are read by the Interest Group members and narrowed down to a list of six to eight books in each category at the March meeting. Once this list is created, books are considered "Nominated Titles".

A recommended title that does not make the nominated titles list is eligible to be recommended again as long as it meets the copyright date requirements, and the recommendation is made by a Nevada young reader.

Nominated Titles will be made public and distributed to schools and libraries after the March meeting and are read and voted on by young readers from June of the current year through May of the following year.

## **ARTICLE VIII. VOTING**

### Section 1. Eligibility

Readers have one vote in each reading category as long as they have been exposed to the nominated titles by:

- Reading the book(s) themselves, or
- Having the book(s) read to them, or
- A combination of the above, and
- Have read at least half of the nominated titles in that category.

Readers should vote at only one location.

### Section 2. Procedures

School and public librarians and classroom teachers should forward a tally of all student votes to the current NYRA chairperson by mail, fax or email. The chairperson and two current NLA members will merge all ballots to determine the total number of votes for each title. The book receiving the highest number of votes in each category will be deemed the winning title.

## **ARTICLE IX. TIMELINE**

November 15<sup>th</sup> – Deadline for submission of recommended titles to be considered for the Nominations list.

March 15<sup>th</sup> (or closest Saturday) – Members meet to determine the ballot for the following year from all recommendations received through November 15<sup>th</sup> of previous year.

May 15<sup>th</sup> – Deadline for submission of final ballot voting forms.

**ARTICLE X. AMENDMENTS**

These Rules of Procedure may be amended by two-thirds of the legal votes cast, provided that copies of such changes have been circulated to the membership at least thirty days in advance of the meeting at which discussion will take place. Voting by mail and email may be used for NYRA business items provided there has been an opportunity for discussion at any meeting.