

PBA 18 - Introductory Meeting - Minutes
Sunday, January 22, 2017 - 4:30pm
Marriott Atlanta, Georgia - Room L403

1) Introduction

Committee members in attendance: Patty Ramirez, Amy Martin, Susan Polos.

Committee Chair: Alicia K. Long

- Selection of a member to take minutes: Patty Ramirez.
- Committee members introduced themselves, and mentioned previous committees at which they've been members.

2) General directions:

- Committee Chair gave general guidelines about today's meeting, and the fact that we will have guest speakers coming in at different times, so the agenda could be interrupted.
- Committee Chair will send the Agenda and the Calendar by email, since sharing in Google Docs is not allowed by ALSC award committee rules.
- The Agenda has been uploaded to ALA Connect. (Note made that one member is not able to access ALA Connect Group. Chair will follow up.)
- Members were asked to verify that their address and contact information in their ALA account is correct.

3) **Guest:** Oralia Garza de Cortes, Cultural Competence Consultant and PBA co-founder.

- Overview of PBA, history and origins.
- Discussed infographic about number of works by different cultures, lack of diversity. Oralia discussed the importance of diversity in children's lit.
- Specifically addressed the disparity of Latino books, the need to make sure they are culturally accurate and represent the different cultures. Committee can consult her on cultural competence/authenticity.
- PBA confirms and portrays the Latino experience and the community. It honors the author or illustrator.
- We look at the BEST book for children highlighting the latino experience.
- Oralia's advice:
 - Study the manual, keep it, and at the end of the term, make suggestions for improvement.
 - Keep up with readings and keep a record of annotations.
 - Write a justification for every book you want to nominate.
 - Read and review past winners.
 - Use the PBA website for information.

4) Guidelines for committee members (Alicia Long, Chair)

- Read Manual and ask questions.
- Calendar will be uploaded to ALA Connect and sent to all members.
- Read criteria. Pay attention to eligibility, and age (14 and under.)
- Recommended readings on pp. 22-23 of manual: Try to read as many as possible. Chair recommends the book by K. T. Horning: From Cover to Cover, especially if one doesn't have a lot of experience writing reviews.
- Alicia will receive our suggestions of books and nominations by the deadlines (see Calendar), will compile, and share the results with all members.
- ARC and Galleys could be used for preliminary reading, but for nominations the final book needs to be read.
- Artwork: can be digital or hand-drawn art now.
- Procuring books: Members should search for eligible books... everywhere! Horn Book, Booklist, SLJ, blogs, publishers, exhibits, bookstores. Must be a USA publisher. Check out compilations by bloggers, Latinx in Kids Lit, We Need Diverse Books, & others.
- Read, read, read!
- Midwinter of our selection year will be in February 2018 (we will have January to finalize readings and prepare for discussion.)
- Books are considered in English, Spanish, and bilingual.
- **Important:** Confidentiality. Read the manual instructions. All discussions remain confidential forever! We cannot discuss with others anything related to the selection of books for the rest of our lives. It helps maintain the integrity of the committee, and members feel confident giving their true opinion.
- **Communications:** E-mails are confidential. Chair will use SUBJECT line "PBA18". Be careful if you share computers at work, do not let others see correspondence. Lock screen. You can create a rule that all emails with PBA18 go to a specific folder in your email (some email providers do that.)
- Prepare questions for a Google Hangout with other committee members.
- Read deadlines for suggestions and nominations. The committee will discuss one book as practice in Annual Conference (Chicago, June.)
- June 25th will be the 2017 PBA Celebración. Our committee is expected to help.

5) **Guest:** Kathleen T. Horning, Priority Group Consultant, ALSC.

- K. T. works at CCBC. They compile statistics of diversity in children's books.
- Created a database of information. See website.
- Books should provide historical content.
- Author/illustrator must reside in the U.S. or be a U.S. citizen.
- Some eligibility issues: writer/illustrator resident or citizen, US publisher, cultural content (not just Latino characters), only original books, no re-issue or re-creations. If one of co-authors is not Latino, not eligible. Simultaneously published in US and Mexico is okay, first US is okay, first Mexico is not. Only 2017 year of publication.
- Discussion about place of publication: Oralia brought up the case of Groundwood Books, a Canadian publisher, makes them ineligible. (Maybe change that in the future?)

6) Guest: Alma Ramos McDermott, Past committee member

- Alma discussed her experience in the committee. In her year, discussions took place by email, but now we are not allowed to discuss books by email, only in person.
- She suggested reading blogs, follow reviewers. Her own blog is called “Should I read it or not”, a wordpress blog.
- She had a great time in the committee. Recommends the experience. Be open minded to other’s opinions, prepare to defend your favorite books.

7) Guest: Eva Mitnick, 2017 PBA Committee Chair

- Eva reflected on the experience of the 2017 committee (they just picked the winners! Top secret until the next morning!).
- Read everything, but make sure to follow guidelines on what is allowed.
- Check in with committee regularly. Deadlines come closer than you think.
- Be prepared to defend your choices and why. But also keep an open mind.
- Enjoy the experience!

8) Conclusion:

Committee Chair will send out a Doodle Poll to try to arrange a Google Hangout to introduce ourselves to other committee members.

Remember confidentiality, and start reading titles!

** Adjourned at 6:30pm. **