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SLAYS Chair 2022-23
North Dakota Library Association SLAYS Committee
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The School Library and Youth Services (SLAYS) section works to keep its members up to date and abreast of the latest trends and issues in youth librarianship. It also serves as the platform for nominating literary works that are deemed excellent reads for youth in North Dakota. Furthermore, SLAYS is a driving force behind finding continuing education opportunities for its members.

Based on the minutes from the previous meeting in October, two major challenges were identified for the SLAYS section. One challenge was the lack of nominations for the two awards that SLAYS sponsors, the School Library Benefactor of the Year Award and the Youth Excellence Program of the Year Award. Another challenge was related to the Flicker Tale award and the nominations and committee structure.

The lack of nominations was a challenge that continued for this year, despite multiple requests to both the SLAYS and NDLA listservs in the Spring. No nominations were received for the Benefactor Award few were received for the Youth Excellence Program of the Year Award. I think discussion should be had at the SLAYS meeting about continuing with only one award.

The second challenge related to the Flicker Tale award committee was partially resolved at last year's SLAYS meeting when a motion was made to change to only two categories: picture book and chapter book. This will go into effect in 2024. The current co-chairs have been ready to step down for a while, but there has been a lack of interest for replacements for them. How this award is structured and managed going forward is a discussion for the SLAYS section at the October meeting.

Other notable events in the area of SLAYS the past year was the continued implementation of new state library standards for K-12, which led to some opportunities for collaboration and a course offered through Mayville State for librarians looking to dig deeper into those new standards. Aside from those events, this past year included mostly passing on information and keeping the SLAYS group up to date on PD opportunities and activities.

Going forward, the SLAYS section will determine how to continue with the awards currently overseen by this section. This could include only providing one NDLA award and then continuing the Flicker Tale under the management of the SLAYS Chair and previous chair. These will be the two primary agenda items at the SLAYS section meeting at the conference.