

Would You Consider Serving on the PNBA Book Awards Committee?

The PNBA Board of Directors appoints the members of our Book Awards Committee, using suggestions from current and previous members, and by soliciting letters of interest from current PNBA members. The primary factor that the Board considers is that candidates need to represent a current bookstore voting member of the Association, which includes all employees of current member bookstores. The Awards Committee includes nine bookseller members. Committee members are appointed for one three-year term, so that the Board usually appoints three new members each year.

The Board solicits interested potential Committee candidates during December each year, and appoints all new Committee members at the Board's annual Retreat in late January. In general, the Board looks for candidates who will provide the Committee with the widest possible diversity of membership, for instance, by trying to make sure that the Committee includes a good mix of male vs. female members; general-interest vs. specialty store members; members from as wide a geographic distribution as possible; members from small stores as well as large; and booksellers who specialize in children's books, poetry, or non-fiction, as well as those who love "good literature." In any particular year, attempting to maintain or restore balance may be a factor in the Board's selecting one candidate over another. Because of such changes, a candidate who is not selected one year, may be an ideal selection the next year.

Service on PNBA Committees is unpaid, but all expenses incurred to attend any and all Committee meetings, including the meeting at the fall show, are fully reimbursed by the PNBA, if the executive director receives a properly completed reimbursement request form (provided by PNBA), including any appropriate original cash register receipts, by the announced deadline. Typically, the Awards Committee meets during the spring and summer via teleconferences, which are produced and paid for by PNBA. The Committee also meets in person at the fall show, to narrow the list of eligible titles, and to plan the meeting(s) at which they will decide the Short List and the ultimate winners.

The Awards Committee's primary responsibilities are stated in the Mission Statement and the Committee Guidelines, which are posted on the Awards page of the PNBA website. The Awards Committee works closely with the executive director, who acts as staff for the Committee, and who informs the Committee of all deadlines, specific needs and Board requirements for the Committee to complete its work. The typical PNBA Awards Committee member spends about 20 hours each year on PNBA conferences and correspondence, and an enormous amount of time reviewing the 300+ books that might be nominated.

If you would like to be considered for a position on the PNBA Book Awards Committee, please send an email to the executive director, subject "Awards Committee Candidate," providing a brief history of your book industry work, a brief statement of your interests and the reasons why your service might be valuable to PNBA, and a brief assurance of your willingness to commit the time and energy to serve on the Committee.