

Honorary Membership Committee

The Board may, from time to time, designate a person who has made an outstanding contribution to the Association or to library development in the Southeast as an honorary member. Nominations may be made to the board by any member of the Association for life.

Purpose: To nominate candidates to honorary membership for consideration by the Board.

Duties:

1. To receive and review nominations for honorary membership and recommend to the Board.
2. To be governed by the criteria listed below.

History: Louis Round Wilson was elected an honorary member in 1954. No more members were elected until 1972. The Board voted to limit honorary memberships to no more than five recipients in any biennium in June 1978. In March 1987 the Board voted to make recipients of the Rothrock Award recipients of honorary membership.

Criteria:

1. Honorary membership should be conferred for significant contributions to librarianship in the Southeast.
 - a. The honor may recognize those elected to leadership positions in the Association.
 - b. It may also recognize those who have made other major contributions to librarianship in the region.
 - c. The honor should be based upon regional rather than state or local contributions to the profession.
2. The designation should recognize the contribution of an individual per se, rather than an individual representing the accomplishments of many.
3. The person elected to honorary membership should be of such caliber as to reflect honor upon SELA by this designation.
4. Honorary membership should be conferred as a result of a contribution of more than passing importance and of more than local or limited achievement. It should not be conferred because of momentary enthusiasm.
5. The recipient may be a librarian or a person in a related membership.
6. Only a living person should be considered for honorary membership.
7. In order to make the award more meaningful, no more than five honorary memberships should be awarded in any biennium.
8. Membership entitles the recipient to a life membership in the Association with no further payment of dues.
9. Should no qualified individual be nominated or approved by the Committee during the biennium, no award will be made.