



Guidelines for the UHLS William Meredith Advocate of the Year Award

*The William Meredith Advocate of the Year Award was named in honor of a man who worked hard to obtain legislative funding for **all** of the libraries in Albany County. Therefore, this award was created to recognize an individual who has made an extraordinary contribution to advocacy at the regional, state or national level on behalf of public libraries.*

ELIGIBILITY

In order to be considered, the nominee must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- *Must have had a significant influence on the attitudes of the community, public officials, and others who are in positions to support public libraries, and this influence should be documented in the nomination narrative.*
- *Must have made an extraordinary contribution to advocacy at the regional, state or national level on behalf of public libraries.*

EXAMPLES OF POTENTIAL AWARD WINNERS

- *An individual who took every opportunity to express to patrons, friend, neighbors and local politicians that libraries are important to communities. She attended lobbying sessions at both the county and state levels to advocate for libraries. She procured grants, raised money, wrote articles and helped find programming that would generate an interest in the library.*
- *An individual who was active at the state level, serving as a Trustee for the New York State Association of Library Boards. Her contributions included advocating for increased library funding and planning the annual Trustee Institute.*
- *An individual who demonstrated exemplary leadership qualities in her successful campaign for the rechartering of the Library. Through a combination of public meetings, and articles in the Library's newsletter, she advocated so persuasively that the charter vote passed by a wide margin, and the Library's annual financial support nearly doubled. As a result of her experience with this process, she wrote articles and made presentations on rechartering and became involved in professional library activities statewide.*

NOMINATION PROCEDURE

- *Each member library may submit one nomination, therefore we suggest that Board Presidents and Directors confer on nominees. A description of the individual being nominated should be submitted on your library's letterhead and be accompanied by supporting materials. Please be sure that the letter is signed by the nominator.*
- *The UHLS Administration Committee will review the nominations and select the award recipient. This Award is not necessarily presented every year, only when there is an exceptional nominee.*
- **DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS: March 18, 2011**

NOMINATION REVIEW CRITERIA

- **Quality of the nomination**
 - a. *Clear, concise description of the nominee's qualifications and how they relate to the eligibility criteria*
 - b. *Effective supporting materials*

- **Influence**
 - a. *Had a clearly documented significant influence on the attitudes of a community*
 - b. *Had a clearly documented significant influence on the attitudes of public officials and others in positions to support public libraries*

- **Contribution to Advocacy for public libraries**
 - a. *Made an extraordinary contribution to advocacy at the regional level*
 - b. *Made an extraordinary contribution to advocacy at the state level*
 - c. *Made an extraordinary contribution to advocacy at the national level*

ANNOUNCEMENT OF AWARD

- *The award winner will be announced at the May UHLS Board meeting and the award will be presented at the UHLS Annual Meeting in June.*
- *The award will consist of a framed certificate honoring the recipient's achievements.*
- *In the event that a recipient is not present at the Annual Meeting, the certificate will be mailed to him/her with a letter of congratulations from the UHLS Executive Director.*