This summer the committee began the process of selecting an author for the youth luncheon at the NMLA conference in Albuquerque. When the three winners for 2016 all refused the invitation, NMLA liaison Serenity O’Brien contacted Bookworks in Albuquerque who gave her a list of local authors. Most authors require a speaker’s fee, but the committee is not in a financial position to do so, which makes finding an author a little more complicated. Serenity was finally able to negotiate arrangements for Cynthia Grady, who is excited to speak with us.

Webmistress Terri Gaussoin completed our new website which we will be introducing at the Conference. The new website highlights the four reading lists, each aimed at a different age group from K-12. We were very lucky to have a professional artist on our committee for a few years. Before leaving the committee this spring so that she could pursue her Master’s, Jessie Dodington left us with beautiful new logos for the committee and for each of the four new reading lists: Roadrunner, Coyote, Lizard, & Black Bear. The new website will also save us the monthly fee we are paying for our current website, though it will take us a bit to complete the transition. The new site can be found at https://loebookaward.wordpress.com/

The committee met in October to select the lists for 2017-2018. At that meeting we voted on establishing term limits for the chair and vice-chair positions. By unanimous agreement, the chair will now serve a two year term. During the second year of the term, there will be a vice-chair, who will train with the chair during that year, and then replace the chair the next. This change will make the total commitment only three years, but will also ensure continuity as the chairs change. Heather Christensen, current Co-Chair, will serve in the position of chair, and Rose Flores will serve as the Vice Chair. Other positions that were filled include publicity co-chairs Deanne Dekle (Social Media/Twitter & Facebook) and Terri Gaussoin (Website); NMIRA Liaisons Mary Fugate & Carol Blackshear; NMLA Liaison Serenity O’Brien. The rest of the meeting was devoted to the selection of the 2017-2018 reading lists which will be announced during the LOE Booktalk presentation at NMLA.

Finally, in October, Heather Christensen submitted an article to the New Mexico Journal of Reading highlighting the LOE 2017-2018 reading lists.

Respectfully Submitted,
Heather Christensen
LOE Committee
November 2, 2016