

Cardinal Cup Committee

Purpose: To promote reading about America's past; to encourage the quality writing of United States history, biography, and historical fiction for young people, and to recognize authors in these disciplines.

Objectives:

1. To select the best history, historical fiction, or biography for young people published in the prior year. One book will be declared the winner. The committee may also select up to two honor books and one series of note. All committee members must receive two titles from series for "a series of note" to be awarded. Committee will also cultivate an "overfloweth" list of titles worthy of note, not to exceed fifteen titles, from finalist books.
2. To approach every book with an open mind, recognizing that historical literature may explore themes that can be upsetting to children today, and with a commitment to not disqualifying historically accurate books on the basis of their potential to evoke discomfort or challenge prevailing perspectives.
3. For the incoming chair to cultivate an eight-person committee in the fall of each year that represents the state of Virginia. A call for six committee members will be placed through electronic communication to Association members. Members will have diverse perspectives and represent the six regions of the Virginia Library Association to the best of the chair's ability.
4. The committee will vote upon a consistent monthly meeting time and day for the first week of each month. Committee members will meet until all books have been discussed, usually 7-8 total meetings. Meetings will be held virtually, with the final meeting being held in person.
5. To ensure that the committee selects their winner from all relevant titles released in the year prior. The chair will make an effort to contact as many children's book publishers as possible with requests.
6. To share winners and books of note at the VLA Annual Conference and, ideally, at the Virginia Association of School Librarians (VAASL) Conference.

Officers and Membership:

- Chair:

- The chair is voted upon by the previous year's Cardinal Cup Committee. The chair must receive a majority vote. The chair is elected for a one-year term and becomes the co-chair after the VLA Annual Conference.
- The chair is a member of the VLA Executive Committee and should maintain contact with the VLA Council and Executive Director, including attending all possible VLA Council meetings and the annual business meeting. The chair will advocate on behalf of the committee within the VLA.
- The chair will administer the Cardinal Cup award at the annual conference and facilitate any conference sessions.
- The chair is a voting member of the committee. The chair must be a member of the Virginia Library Association.

- **Co-chair:**

- The co-chair will be the previous year's Cardinal Cup Committee chair. The co-chair will serve in an advisory role to the chair for a one-year term. The co-chair's duties end at the VLA Annual Conference.
- The co-chair is a voting member of the committee and will serve as presiding officer in the absence of the chair.
- The co-chair is responsible for passing along documentation from the prior year committee, including any applications received throughout the year for book submissions or committee members.
- The co-chair is responsible for taking minutes during the monthly meetings which will be submitted to the chair for approval and distribution to committee members.
- The co-chair must be a member of the Virginia Library Association.

- **Membership:**

- The committee will consist of six members, in addition to the chair and co-chair.
- There should be an attempt to cultivate a committee of diverse perspectives that include representatives of different VLA regions, backgrounds, occupations, and identities.
- Committee members must be a member of the Virginia Library Association.
- It is encouraged, but not required for the six regions to be fully represented from the pool of applicants.
- Members will offer constructive feedback about the books' content and educational value and will remain objective and respectful, particularly when encountering books that may contain themes about identity or depict sensitive aspects of the past.