Name the committee. Colorado Children’s Book Award

Chair. Marcie Haloin

State the committee’s purpose as it is written in the handbook. To encourage love of reading by conducting an annual contest in which the children of Colorado vote for their favorite picture book and their favorite junior novel (book)

Highlight accomplishments of the committee:

**Winning authors**, W. Bruce Cameron and Bridget Heos attended the conference and the luncheon and award presentation was well received. The location where **banners** were hung seemed to be very effective. The weather did make getting banners back to schools a little trickier and more expensive so that has been taken into consideration as we have requested that banners be mailed earlier so the hotel will hang and take them down. BookBar has asked to have the banners after the conference to display and publicize voting from the conference until March 1st vote deadline. Since we will be mailing them back this should be possible, and may increase votes.

The committee met to count votes on March 3rd at Bryan Webster Elementary, **34,048** students from **138** schools and libraries voted in 2018. This year the number of students voting declined by almost 3,000 students, with 10 fewer schools and libraries participating. We will continue to encourage participation by public libraries and home school students by making sure they know that they can submit their votes online.

Winning authors Kate Beaton for *The Princess and The Pony* and Raina Telgemeier *Ghosts* were not invited to come to the conference this year. Each year the conference chair will be notified of winners on the vote count day.

**Follett** continues to donate a set of the books to travel to local councils. This year, thanks to Tammy Langeberg, **Scholastic** has also donated a set so we will have two and thus can distribute to more schools and councils. Publishers have also been more generous in donating copies of their nominated books, so I have a few to give away.

Both Follett and Mackin do make posters available to schools and libraries throughout the state.

Postcards were sent to all schools and libraries.

The committee has decided to release the names and addresses of committee members so this year publishers have submitted books to them directly, saving us shipping money which we can use to ship banners.

State a goal or two for this year.

Continue to attempt to get votes from children through their homeschool associations and public libraries and continue to work with schools and other organizations to promote the award.

Share a challenge your committee faces, if applicable.

As there are more online awards (eg. Children’s Choice Book Awards in May) that children can vote for children do have more opportunities to make their choices heard than when the award was established in 1976. However, we continue to get letters from students and teachers that they very much appreciate having an award specific to Colorado.