

## **Report of the ASOR Awards and Honors Committee, October 25, 2013**

We had 4 main areas of focus in our action plan. Three of these we are well on our way to accomplishing; the fourth one is of utmost importance and will top our agenda for the current year.

### **1. Increase nominations:**

This year we were quite successful in increasing the nominations in **all** categories of ASOR awards, including a large number of nomination for the book awards (13 nominations for the G. Ernest Wright Award and 8 nominations for the Frank Moore Cross Award).

A scan of the past award recipient lists suggests that in the last few years there have not been nominations in all award categories and in particular there have been few if any Membership Service Awards recognized. There are many dedicated volunteers who serve in ASOR, but it has always been difficult to drum up nominations from the membership. One action that we undertook was to actively solicit nominations via email to all ASOR committee chairs requesting names of those who recently rotated or were rotating off committees. Another area where we can target active solicitation is ASOR member institutions.

In book awards, although our preference would be for nominations from the membership, these have typically been lacking. Therefore we emailed descriptions of the ASOR book award categories to publishers who advertise with ASOR and/or have booths at the conference. As an additional note, all publishers have been accommodating in providing (and shipping) copies of the nominated books to the committee members for review. We hope this has enabled a more objective book review process. An unexpected outcome was the volume of nominations for each award; one of the items before the committee will be some suggestions for better handling the volume.

### **2. Publicize winners: Increased publicity of awards leads to increased value of awards**

A second area that we hope to see in action following this year's honors and awards ceremony is better publicity of the award winners.

Efforts will be made to quickly send this information out to the various internet list servs (e.g. Jack Sasson's), posting it on ASOR's facebook page, via the ASOR twitter account, etc.

Additionally, in consultation with the ASOR office, "blue ribbons" have been purchased to be presented to the publishers of the award winning books for display at their booths (potentially the publishers could continue to display these "ASOR book award winner" ribbons at other conferences as well, e.g. SBL/AAR).

A further suggestion was to have a separate table in the book display highlighting all of the nominated and awarded books. The feasibility of this will be discussed further with the publishers and the ASOR office.

### **3. Award categories (new and old)**

At our November 2013 meeting, we will initiate a review of all award categories, editing and updating descriptions and adding new award categories—particularly in the realm of book, project and poster awards—so that the ASOR honors and awards will well reflect and be in-line with current ASOR sponsored research. We are close to recommending a poster award that will be awarded for ASOR 2014.

### **4. Establishment of Ethics Policy**

The need for an ethics policy was brought up during the ASOR 2012 meetings and discussion was initiated with Lynn Swartz Dodd as an advisor. This item will be a priority in this year's agenda.