

**YALSA Board of Directors Meeting  
ALA Midwinter Meeting, Atlanta  
January 20 - 24, 2017**

**Topic:** Bylaws Language Changes for Award Committees

**Background:** At Annual 2016, the Board directed the Organization & Bylaws Committee to develop a proposal that would change the bylaws so that all award committee positions would be appointed, instead of some appointed and some elected. The proposed changes would only affect: Edwards, Printz and Nonfiction as the other award committees (Alex, Morris, Odyssey) already have all their positions appointed. As chair of the Organization and Bylaws Committee, Melissa McBride, presents the following for the Board's consideration.

**Action Required:** Action

### **Proposal**

Make all 6 award committees appointed positions, instead of having some with a mix of appointed positions and elected positions. Since this would lead to a bylaws change, this proposal has to go before the membership for a vote.

### **Rationale**

- The current structure of having some appointed and some elected positions on half of the award committees is confusing to members, especially because the timelines for appointment are different from the election
- This change levels the playing field for members, as it creates just one path to the award committees. Each member will now go through the same appointments process at the same time
- Making the change so that all award committee positions are appointed, not elected, creates efficiencies for the President-Elect, members, and staff, because it eliminates the need to go through the entire process of developing a slate, vetting potential candidates, supporting candidates, etc. This change would eliminate the need for an Awards Nominating Committee as well as the second round of appointments that now happens after the election is over
- This change will cut down on eligibility issues, because oftentimes members put their name forward both through the nominating committee process and via the Committee Volunteer form. In the past, the nominating committee has not always known what other award committees the candidate may have signed up for

### **Proposed Bylaws Changes**

#### ***Current ARTICLE VIII Nominations and Elections Sec. 1***

Prior to the Midwinter Meeting, the President-Elect shall appoint two Nominating Committees of five. One committee will be responsible for preparing a slate of candidates who will run for

YALSA Board positions and the other committee will be responsible for preparing a slate of candidates who will run for YALSA Award Committee positions. One member of each committee will have served on a recent Nominating Committee. The Immediate Past President will be the only appointee on the governance committee who is a current member of the Board. Each committee will arrange for a list of nominated candidates to be submitted by August 31st. At the Midwinter Meeting the Nominating Committees will be announced to the Board. The Governance Nominating Committee shall present to the Board the names of at least one candidate for President-elect, at least one candidate for each expiring Board of directors-at-large position, and at least one candidate for each expiring Division Councilor, Fiscal Officer and Secretary position. The Award Nominating Committee shall present to the Board the names of at least three candidates for the Margaret A. Edwards Award Committee, at least four candidates for the Michael L. Printz Award Committee and at least four candidates for the Nonfiction Award Committee. -6- Between October and February each year the Nominating Committees shall report their nominations in an issue of YALSA’s e-newsletter, the YALSA website, and appropriate electronic lists.

***Proposed change to ARTICLE VIII Nominations and Elections Sec. 1***

(additions in *red italics* and eliminated text in ~~striketrough~~)

Prior to the Midwinter Meeting, the President-Elect shall appoint ~~two~~ *one* Nominating Committees ~~of five. One committee~~ *which* will be responsible for preparing a slate of candidates who will run for YALSA Board positions ~~and the other committee will be responsible for preparing a slate of candidates who will run for YALSA Award Committee positions.~~ One member of ~~each~~ the committee will have served on a recent Nominating Committee. The Immediate Past President will be the only appointee on the governance committee who is a current member of the Board. ~~Each~~ The committee will arrange for a list of nominated candidates to be submitted by August 31st. At the Midwinter Meeting the Nominating Committees will be announced to the Board. The Governance Nominating Committee shall present to the Board the names of at least one candidate for President-elect, at least one candidate for each expiring Board of directors-at-large position, and at least one candidate for each expiring Division Councilor, Fiscal Officer and Secretary position. ~~The Award Nominating Committee shall present to the Board the names of at least three candidates for the Margaret A. Edwards Award Committee, at least four candidates for the Michael L. Printz Award Committee and at least four candidates for the Nonfiction Award Committee.~~ -6- Between October and February each year the Nominating Committees shall report their nominations in an issue of YALSA’s e-newsletter, the YALSA website, and appropriate electronic lists.

***Current Article VIII, Sec. 11***

The three candidates nominated for the Margaret A. Edwards Author Award Committee who receive the highest number of votes shall be elected to a single term that commences the calendar year immediately following the election year.”

***Proposed change to Article VIII, Sec. 11: remove entirely***

~~The three candidates nominated for the Margaret A. Edwards Author Award Committee who receive the highest number of votes shall be elected to a single term that commences the calendar year immediately following the election year.~~

***Current Article VIII, Sec. 12***

The four candidates nominated for the Michael L. Printz Award Committee who receive the

highest number of votes shall be elected to a single term that commences the calendar year immediately following the election year.

***Proposed Article VIII, Sec. 12: remove entirely***

~~The four candidates nominated for the Michael L. Printz Award Committee who receive the highest number of votes shall be elected to a single term that commences the calendar year~~

***Current Article VII, Sec 14***

The four candidates nominated for the Excellence in Non-fiction Award Committee who receive the highest number of votes shall be elected to a single term that commences the calendar year immediately following the election year.”

***Proposed Article VII, Sec 14: remove entirely***

~~The four candidates nominated for the Excellence in Non-fiction Award Committee who receive the highest number of votes shall be elected to a single term that commences the calendar year immediately following the election year.~~

**Note:** since there are 17 sections in Article VII, the current sections 15, 16, and 17 would be renumbered accordingly, if the proposal passes a membership vote on the 2017 ballot.

**Financial Implications**

Minimal staff time for preparing the 2017 ballot to present this proposal to the membership for their consideration

**Measuring Impact**

- The degree to which the membership reports greater awareness of, as well as the ease of maneuvering through, the process for serving on awards committees
- The degree to which the amount of time that the President-Elect and staff spend on elections and appointments is reduced

**Proposed Board Action**

The Board agrees to the concept of standardizing all six award committees so that they are all appointed, and directs the Executive Director to work with staff to put the proposal on the 2017 ballot for the members’ consideration.

**Additional Resources**

- YALSA Bylaws, <http://ow.ly/WCfbR>