

YALSA Board of Directors Meeting  
ALA Annual Conference, San Francisco  
June 26 – 30, 2015

**Topic:** Virtual Selection Committee Recommendation

**Background:** At their 2015 Midwinter Meeting the Board voted to move forward with expanding the pilot program for virtual selection and award committees. Chris Shoemaker was tasked with seeking staff and member leader feedback about which committee(s) would be best to include in the pilot program. He has provided a report for the Board below.

**Action Required:** Information

---

Based on feedback from member leaders and staff, Amazing Audiobooks will be piloted as a virtual committee beginning with the group that begins work Feb. 1, 2016. Sarah Hill will make sure that this information is shared immediately with those on the committee who are carrying over another year and with potential committee members when the volunteer form opens up for this round of appointments. Staff will ensure that information about the committee that appears on the web site will be updated to include mention of the virtual pilot.

The rationale for the decision includes:

- The audiobook format lends itself well to a virtual environment
- When compared with other selection and award committees, the size of the committee and its workload is manageable in a virtual environment
- For some of the Audies Award categories the vetting and judging is handled virtually, so some potential committee members may already have experience in doing this type of work in a virtual environment
- While the Board approved piloting up to two additional committees as virtual, the feedback gathered indicated there were questions about YALSA's capacity to successfully handle two major committee transitions simultaneously at this particular time. So, the decision is to just pilot one committee for this latest round of selection and award committees.

**Additional Resources:**

- Amazing Audiobooks [www.ala.org/yalsa/amazing-audiobooks](http://www.ala.org/yalsa/amazing-audiobooks)
- Virtual Pilot Recommendation (2015 Midwinter Board Document) <http://ow.ly/OpJFU>