

YALSA Board of Directors Meeting  
ALA Midwinter Meeting, Seattle  
January 25 – 29, 2013

**Topic:** Awards and Selection Committee Policy Update

**Background:** In March 2012 the YALSA Board voted to make changes to the policies and procedures of the Morris Award Committee, per a request from the out-going chair. The board motion that was approved stated that after one year the board would evaluate the changes and determine if any further action was necessary. The O&B Committee worked with the current chair and together came up with one recommended policy change. In addition, the same recommended policy change also came from Sharon Grover and the Printz Committee. In an effort to be efficient and consistent, the recommendation is to implement the policy change simultaneously for all book awards and selection committees that focus on the most recent year's publications.

**Action Required:** Action

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**Proposal:** To approve a change in wording of the BFYA, Alex, Morris, Printz and Nonfiction Awards policies and procedures to better support the work of the committees and publishing and current distribution methods.

*In the eligibility section of the committees' Policies & Procedures the current wording is:*  
Titles that are self-published, published only in eBook format, and/or published from a publisher outside of the US will not be considered eligible until the first year the book is available in print through a US publishing house.

*The revised wording would read:*  
Titles that are self-published, published only in eBook format, and/or published from a publisher outside of the US will not be considered eligible until the first year the book is available in print or distributed through a US publishing house.

**Rationale:**

- Last year the Board approved a revision to the policies & procedures of the Morris Awards Committee to include conditions related to United States publication of titles. In evaluation of the success of the changes to the policies and procedures, the current chair of the Committee noted that some titles are not published by a U.S. publishing house but are distributed by a U.S. publishing house. (This is particularly true of titles published in Canada and distributed in the U.S.) By clarifying the wording, titles that should be considered for the Morris Award because of publishing country can still be considered.

**Areas of the Strategic Plan the proposal directly supports:**

Member recruitment & Engagement

**Recommended Board Action:** The Board accept the proposed changes to the awards and BFYA Committees' Policies and Procedures as presented above and, 1) direct the Executive Director to see that the policies are updated on the YALSA web site, and 2) direct the Board Liaisons to the stated committees to inform both the outgoing and incoming chairs of the change.

**Additional Resources:**

- February 2012 Board Document #2 “Morris Committee Request for Board Action,” <http://ow.ly/gyt7c> (.pdf)
- Morris Committee Policies and Procedures, [www.ala.org/yalsa/booklistsawards/bookawards/morris/morrispolicy](http://www.ala.org/yalsa/booklistsawards/bookawards/morris/morrispolicy)