

**YALSA Board of Directors Meeting
ALA Annual Conference, Las Vegas
June 27 – July 1, 2014**

Topic: Broadening Committee Participation

Background: At this time, only the Best Fiction for Young Adults and Quick Picks for Reluctant Readers Committees, out of YALSA's 12 award and selection committees, have a policy in place that addresses repeat participation. This policy mandates that after a committee member has completed her/his term, she/he cannot be reappointed to the same committee for five years. YALSA leaders may want to consider creating a uniform policy for all selection and award committees. In May the YALSA Board, via its space in ALA Connect, discussed the recommendation and voted to approve it. Including the item as a part of this meeting simply ensures it will be entered into the official record of the association.

Action Required: Consent

Proposal

Institute a uniform policy across all of YALSA's award and selection committees that requires a waiting period before members may serve on the same committee again.

Rationale

- Creating a policy would open up the committees for broader participation from the YALSA membership
- YALSA is fortunate to have many enthusiastic members, yet they do not always fully realize the time commitment needed to successfully serve on awards and selection committees. This can lead to over-commitment and burn-out. Instituting a policy across all selection and award committees can help members better manage their time and have more successful committee experiences.
- Such a policy would help ensure fairness and consistency between and among all of YALSA's award and selection committees.
- Broader participation in selection and award committees can help ensure the integrity of the lists and awards because a wider representation of experts provides the opportunity for more diverse perspectives, which improves the quality of the work
- Mandating time off from a particular committee may encourage members to explore other ways to get engaged in the organization, such as blogging, strategic committee work, presenting a webinar, and so on.

- Creating such a policy would assist the YALSA President-Elect when appointing members to committees, because he/she would have an easy mechanism in place to determine the eligibility of individuals.

Suggested Wording for Selection Committees

Add the following to the Policies and Procedures of all selection committees. “Members who have served two consecutive years as a member and/or administrative assistant may not be appointed to the same committee for three years from the conclusion of their last term. This guideline will not apply to the Chair. In extreme circumstances, and at the President’s discretion, an exception may be made if a committee member resigns suddenly. The President, after discussion with the Committee Chair, may determine that the best course of action is to fill the vacancy with an experienced committee member, and appoint a member in good standing who successfully served on the committee in question during the previous three years.”

Suggested Wording for Award Committees

Members who have completed one term on an award committee may not be appointed to the same committee for three years from the conclusion of their last term. This guideline will not apply to the Chair. In extreme circumstances, and at the President’s discretion, an exception may be made if a committee member resigns suddenly. The President, after discussion with the Award Committee Chair, may determine that the best course of action is to fill the vacancy with an experienced committee members, and appoints a member in good standing who successfully served on the committee in question during the previous three years.

Considerations

- Because the appointments for the 2015 award and selection committees have been made, the policy would go into effect with the 2016 committees who begin work on Feb. 1, 2015.
- This change in policy would be evaluated by the O&B Committee after two years’ worth of implementation

Recommended Action

The board adopt the proposal as presented in this document and directs the Executive Director to work with staff to update the policy language in all policy documents and inform members of the change. The board also directs the President-Elect to incorporate mention of the policy change into upcoming selection and award committee training.

Additional Resources

- Current BFYA policy: www.ala.org/yalsa/bfya/policies
- Current Quick Picks policy: www.ala.org/yalsa/booklistsawards/booklists/quickpicks/quickpicksreluctantyoungadult
- ALSC has a policy that is uniform across all awards committees as well as their notable books committee which mandates that once an individual serves on an ALSC award

committee, they must wait four years before they're eligible to serve on any other ALSC award committee:

- Frequency of Service on Award or Notable Children's Books Committees: No individual may serve on the Batchelder Award, Caldecott Award, Geisel Award, Newbery Award, Sibert Award, Wilder Award, or Notable Children's Books Committees more often than once every four years. The four-year period shall begin from the last year of the term of service regardless of length of term. This guideline will not apply to the appointment for Chair. This guideline will not apply to other ALSC committees