

**YALSA Board of Directors Meeting
ALA Annual Conference, Chicago
June 28 – July 2, 2013**

Topic: RBA: Morris Committee

Background: Joy Kim and Dorcas Wong have submitted a Request for Board Action relating to the timing of the announcement of the award's shortlist.

Action Required: Action

Request

Move the Morris shortlist announcement date back one week, to the third Monday of December.

Rationale

The current Morris Award policies and procedures require the committee to work under the following schedule. Nominations may be accepted from the committee and the field prior to December 1. Over the next few days, the committee deliberates and selects its shortlist in time for the official shortlist announcement on the second Monday of December. The committee must turn in its shortlist several days before the scheduled announcement to give the YALSA office time to complete necessary administrative work. The eligibility period for books is January 1 to December 31.

This compressed schedule effectively gives the committee less than a week to deliberate over its shortlist decisions during certain calendar years. In 2012, the Morris Committee's deadline for submitting their shortlist to the YALSA office was December 5. A later shortlist announcement date, such as the third Monday in December, where the committee submits the list to YALSA office 5 days before, would give the committee more time to re-read and discuss titles and to make these important decisions. At first glance, it might appear that having an earlier deadline for nominations would provide that necessary time. However, an earlier deadline for nominations would create an additional problem, as it would be much harder to give eligible December titles due consideration. It is already a struggle to receive and read December titles before the current nominations deadline of December 1.

How the request benefits YALSA and its members

Morris committee members will have more time to evaluate eligible titles: they will not have to rush their decision, and they will be able to select a stronger shortlist. A stronger shortlist promotes the prestige of the award and the YALSA brand, and this supports Capacity Building and Organizational Development. The improved committee work experience supports Member Recruitment and Engagement.

Additional Resources

Morris Committee Policies & Procedures:

www.ala.org/yalsa/booklistsawards/bookawards/morris/morrispolicy