

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

Topic: **Establish a YA Literature Section**

Background: **YALSA is a member driven organization, and as such looks to advance the connections of members to other members and to the work of YALSA itself. One member interest is young adult literature, and members continually express interest in connecting with and discussing others who share their passion regarding young adult literature, yet not all of these members are able to serve on selection and award committees. Chris Shoemaker has presented a proposal below to offer a new path for members of similar interests to network with one another.**

Action Required: **Action**

Proposal:

- The YALSA Board should pilot a member section in order to meet member needs for more ways to connect with colleagues. The proposed pilot would be a Young Adult Literature Section expressly for individuals who are interested in discussing YA literature and sharing their passion for teen media with other members.
- In order to do this, a bylaws change for the consideration of the membership is needed to allow the establishment of a fee-assessed member community. To mirror other Divisions, the proposed dues for section membership would be \$5.

Membership in this community would have benefits that would be unique to those in the community. Such benefits of membership might include:

- A special online community where section members could connect and exchange news and information
- Access to a member directory of fellow section members
- Reserved seating for awards ceremonies at Alex, Morris, Printz, etc.
- Moderated webinar with selection list members to discuss processes and interpretation of selection criteria or with winning authors
- Eligibility to serve on committees, advisory boards, juries and other groups in that section
- Free access to any periodical publications developed by the section

The Board will evaluate the effectiveness and impact of the membership perks after the first year and make recommendations as needed.

Rationale:

- Young adult literature is highly important to YALSA members. 80% of respondents in the most recent member survey said that they are members of YALSA in order to stay up to date on young adult literature & media. The survey further indicated that the 3rd most important thing YALSA does is provide up to date information on YA literature via selected lists.
- Giving members an opportunity to connect with others who have similar passions and interests would help build YALSA’s reputation as the destination for information and resources on young adult literature and media.
- Adding sections within the association would facilitate member networking, which the recent member survey also indicated was key aspect of membership that they valued
- Sections can help YALSA work towards its capacity building goal by creating a new revenue stream and by possibly attracting new members
- The establishment of a YA Lit section in particular can provide a strong foundation for furthering awareness of YALSA lists and awards.
- As YALSA continues to build capacity for future endeavors and opportunities, it makes sense to build up those things the organization already does well.

Recommended Bylaws Language:

Current Language:

Article III, Membership and Dues

Section 1, Members of YALSA shall be those persons who have paid dues to both ALA and YALSA.

Section 2. YALSA may charge additional fees in accordance with the ALA Bylaws Article VI, Sec. 6(d), when approval of such fees has been given by the membership.

Proposed New Language (new text in bold & italics)

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Section 3. Personal members may also choose membership in Sections, whose fee is determined by a vote of the Board. Every personal member of a Section has the right to vote, to hold any office, and/or to serve on committees in that Section.

Article XIII - Fee Assessed Member Sections

Section 1. Authorization. The Board shall be authorized to establish fee assessed member communities that fall within the mission, goals and objectives of the Association in order to promote engagement opportunities for individuals with specific affinities. The names of such groups shall be as determined by the Board. The Board shall also be entitled to establish policies to govern the activities of the fee assessed member communities.

Section 2. Members. Membership in communities shall be open to personal members of YALSA who are interested in the purpose of the group(s). The Board shall create benefits of membership that complement the affinities of each community.

Section 3. Fees. The cost of membership in the community shall be determined by the YALSA Board of Directors.

Section 4. Discontinuance. A community may be dissolved by the Board of Directors at the request of the group. It may also be dissolved by a vote of the Board if the group is determined by the Board to be inactive or ineffective or if drops below a minimum membership size determined by the Board in consultation with the group.

Recommended Board Actions:

- The Board approves the pilot of a member section to begin Sept. 1, 2013, and to evaluate the success and impact of the section after it has been in existence for two years.
- The Board approves the bylaw changes presented in this document and will put the bylaws changes to a vote of the membership on the 2013 ballot.