

**YALSA Board of Directors  
Virtual Winter Board Meeting  
January 14-16, 2022**

**Topic:** Virtual Option for YALSA Award Committees

**Background:** At the Annual 2021 Virtual Conference, the YALSA Board implemented a change to the attendance policy for the Award Committees, making the annual meeting a virtual meeting. YALSA President-Elect Franklin Escobedo and Director Dawn Kirkpatrick are proposing to make the winter conference attendance optional for committee members.

**Action Required:** Action

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**Overview:**

After the 2021 Annual Conference, the YALSA Board agreed to remove the requirement for attending the Annual Conference mandatory for committee members serving on the Alex, Printz, Edwards, and Non-fiction Award Committees, thus, allowing members to participate on the committee virtually. Under the current language members of the committees are still required to attend the Winter Meeting, formerly known as the Midwinter Conference.

Moving these four award committees to full virtual participation would also allow the committees to be composed of a broader pool of our members who have been unable to attend conferences due to restrictions placed on them by their institutions or due to financial constraints. This would help bring the composition of the award committees into better alignment with our EDI plan.

Over the past several years the number of volunteers applying to serve on the award committees has dwindled. When speaking with potential volunteers one of the main barriers to volunteering has been conference attendance. YALSA Presidents have discussed challenges and solutions and monitored their volunteer efforts for the past four President cycles and how volunteer interest continues to diminish, largely due to these inequities. This has become more evident as the COVID pandemic has impacted libraries across the nation which have placed more restrictions on travel and economic hardship on members.

**Proposal:**

To remove the requirement for members who serve on the Alex, Printz, Morris, and Non-fiction awards committees to attend any in-person conferences. To make attendance at the Youth Media Awards an option for any member who wants to attend in person.

### **Fiscal Impacts:**

Allowing members to participate virtually would be an incentive for past members to renew their membership.

There would be cost savings for YALSA now that the Winter Meeting is no longer being handled the same way that the Midwinter conference had been. There is a larger cost burden on the associations for booking meeting rooms for committees.

### **Proposed Board Action:**

The YALSA Board directs the YALSA Staff to update the Policies, Procedures, and/or Committee Calendars for each of the four award to strike the in-person attendance for the Midwinter Meeting, allowing the attendance at the Youth Media Awards to be optional for committee members.

The YALSA Board directs the YALSA President to inform the membership of the adopted change for current and future committee members.

### **Additional Resources:**

Award Committee Attendance Requirements Annual 2021

<https://www.ala.org/yalsa/sites/ala.org.yalsa/files/content/Award%20Committee%20Attendance%20Requirements.pdf>

Administrative Assistants Serving on YALSA Book Award Committees Annual 2021

<https://www.ala.org/yalsa/sites/ala.org.yalsa/files/content/Administrative%20Assistants%20Board%20Document-converted.pdf>

Broadening Committee Participation Annual 2014

[https://www.ala.org/yalsa/sites/ala.org.yalsa/files/content/BroadeningParticipation\\_AN14.pdf](https://www.ala.org/yalsa/sites/ala.org.yalsa/files/content/BroadeningParticipation_AN14.pdf)

Addressing Member Capacity Midwinter 2015

[https://www.ala.org/yalsa/sites/ala.org.yalsa/files/content/MemberCapacity\\_MW15.pdf](https://www.ala.org/yalsa/sites/ala.org.yalsa/files/content/MemberCapacity_MW15.pdf)

Selection & Award Committee Participation Policy Annual 2015

[https://www.ala.org/yalsa/sites/ala.org.yalsa/files/content/SelectionCmtePolicy\\_AN15.pdf](https://www.ala.org/yalsa/sites/ala.org.yalsa/files/content/SelectionCmtePolicy_AN15.pdf)

Printz Award Policies and Procedures

<http://www.ala.org/yalsa/booklistsawards/bookawards/printzaward/aboutprintz/criteria>

Nonfiction Award Policies and Procedures

<http://www.ala.org/yalsa/nonfiction-award>

YALSA EDI Plan

[http://www.ala.org/yalsa/sites/ala.org.yalsa/files/content/2018\\_YALSA\\_EDI%20Plan.pdf](http://www.ala.org/yalsa/sites/ala.org.yalsa/files/content/2018_YALSA_EDI%20Plan.pdf)

YALSA Statement on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

<http://www.ala.org/yalsa/statement-equity-diversity-inclusion>

YALSA Strategic Plan

<http://www.ala.org/yalsa/aboutyalsa/strategicplan>