

YALSA Board of Directors Meeting
ALA Midwinter Meeting, Boston
January 8 – 12, 2016

Topic: Confirmation of PPYA Policy Update

Background: With the creation of the Selection and Award Committees Oversight Committee, YALSA has the opportunity to provide more guidance and support to the work of the award and lists committees, and to better tie these resources to the needs of teens and to YALSA's strategic priorities, as identified in the futures report. The Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults Committee (PPYA) is charged with creating a wide reaching list, but the topics selected vary primarily based on chair and committee member interests, rather than teen needs or YALSA's strategic priorities. By making these lists connect to the needs of teens and YALSA priorities, PPYA and YALSA can provide stronger resources for teens and thereby better meet members' needs. Sarah Hill presented this proposal for the Board's consideration in Dec. On Dec. 30th the Board voted to approve it. Including it here ensures it enters YALSA's official record.

Action Required: Consent

Request

The following changes to be made to the PPYA Policies and Procedures in order to better serve teens and library staff who work with them.

Rationale

In some ways selection and award committees operate independently of YALSA's overall strategic direction. With the creation of the Selection and Award Committees Oversight Committee, YALSA has the opportunity to ensure that committees like PPYA develop resources that support a teens first approach and that further YALSA's strategic directions. Building the PPYA list around the needs of teens and YALSA strategic priorities will ultimately better serve library staff who work for and with teens.

Making this change now, before the organizational planning process is complete, will help ensure that in the short-term PPYA is operating as strategically as possible and is focused on supporting teens and YALSA, since any committee related changes that result from the plan will likely not be implemented until 2017.

Below is the relevant portion of the current PPYA policies and procedures in italics, with the suggested additions in bold, and suggested omissions indicated via strikethrough:

Committee Organization

*The first order of Committee business will be determining the number of lists it will produce and selecting the genres, topics or themes to be considered (no more than five). **Once the possible themes are created, the Chair will submit the topics to the Chair of the Selection and Award Oversight Committee for committee approval before reading begins.** The Committee may operate as a committee of the whole, collectively discussing as many as five topics and producing an equal number of lists, or, if it chooses to address more than one, it may wish to subdivide so that each of its subcommittees deals with only one genre, topic or theme (again, there may be no more than five subcommittees) and produces its own list of at least ten and no more than twenty-five recommended paperback titles.*

Selection Criteria

*7. Each committee will have the latitude to select its own **topics that meet the latest teen needs and interests, subject to prior approval by the Selection and Award Committees Oversight Committee** (this will ensure the inclusion of timely topics ~~currently fashionable subjects, and fads~~ **current trends and emerging teen audiences/populations**), but as a matter of course certain perennially popular genres, topics or themes should be considered. Some examples are adventure, autobiography/biography/diaries, ~~best-sellers~~, fantasy, ~~graphic novels~~, historical fiction, horror, humor, music, mystery, new voices, romance, science fiction, short stories, sports, suspense, and thrillers. **Another focus for themes that each committee should explore are titles aimed at a particular underserved or emerging teen audiences. Each committee should also seek out opportunities to tie their committee’s work to relevant YALSA initiatives, especially ones with annual themes that could be supported by PPYA, such as the YA Services Symposium and Teen Read Week™.***

Suggested Selection Procedures

- 1. After topics have been selected **and approved**, members will begin **identifying**, reading and evaluating titles.*
- 2. **The name of each list must be clear and easily understood. Clarity over cuteness or creativity is always a priority.***

Recommended Action

The Board vote to accept the proposed changes to the PPYA Policies and Procedures, which will go into effect with the committee that begins work Feb. 1, 2016, and also to direct 1) PPYA’s Board Liaison to inform the current and in-coming committee; 2) the Oversight Committee’s Board liaison to inform this group of the change and their role in it; and 3) the Executive Director to work with staff to update the PPYA language on the web site.

Additional Resources:

Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults Policies and Procedures

<http://www.ala.org/yalsa/booklistsawards/booklists/popularpaperback/popularpaperbackyoung>

The Future of Library Services for and with Teens: Project Report

<http://www.ala.org/yaforum/future-library-services-and-teens-project-report>