

secure time off or funding. Invitations to participate are turned down due to the same complications, resulting in the same members rotating through YALSA committee positions. YALSA presidents replace, on average, 5 committee members each year for these reasons. Both rural librarians and school librarians face difficult scheduling issues - rural libraries due to scheduling issues, and school librarians due to testing schedules and school breaks. Many members suffer from a lack of funding, and must pay out of pocket to attend and participate, further limiting member engagement. This limited member engagement show - over the past three years, 503 members have rotated through the 843 process and selection committee slots, indicated quite a few repeat members. YALSA has received fewer volunteer applications, which reflects shrinking opportunities for member engagement.

A virtual committee would allow for a broader range of members to participate by lowering the cost threshold of engagement considerably, including a new spectrum of members into the work of YALSA, and furthering YALSA's position as a leading division within ALA. Additionally, a greater number of members not usually able to attend due to school schedules will be able to participate, giving greater voice to all members of YALSA.

Proposal

Both the 2013 Margaret A Edwards Award committee and the 2013 Popular Paperback for Young Adults will transition to virtual discussion meetings instead of physically meeting at Midwinter and Annual. These committees would meet throughout the course of their term using technology such as conference calls, video chats, ALA Connect, and Adobe Connect. The work would remain the same, but no face to face meetings would be required. The committee chairs will be able to set mandatory virtual meetings for both discussion and final selection choices. This is to ensure all members must be present and to ensure that members engage in discussion and produce the high quality lists for which YALSA is known.

While several committees were reviewed for the virtual pilot project, Margaret A Edwards and Popular Paperbacks were selected due to the amount of work the two committees already accomplish virtually, and the ease with which the fully virtual component can be integrated into the committee's work. Past chairs of both committees provided feedback to the Ad-Hoc committee, and commented that their current virtual discussions and work allowed them more time to consider works, to evaluate and provide in-de

Evaluation

At the end of the first year, the committee chairs would submit reports evaluating virtual member participation, and would include accomplishments and challenges encountered in the virtual discussion process. YALSA Board members would review how well the virtual committee enhanced the strategic plan goals on increased member engagement and participation. In addition, event attendance and ticket revenue will be reviewed to see what, if any, impact the virtual committee pilot project has had. The board will then make recommendations as to continuing or expanding the pilot program. The two pilot committees would continue to meet virtually until the Board moves otherwise.

Proposed Action

The Board approve this proposal and direct the president, president-elect and YALSA staff to:

1. appoint and work with the chairs of the virtual selection committees to help them plan for the virtual work ahead
2. appoint a taskforce to develop a virtual selection committee manual that will be ready for u