

**YALSA Board of Directors Meeting
ALA Annual Conference, Chicago
July 9-15, 2009**

Topic: RBA: Readers' Choice List

Background: At the 2009 Midwinter Meeting Board members were charged with exploring three issues surrounding YALSA's current portfolio of selected lists, including: 1) Are YALSA's lists, as they are now, meeting the needs of our members? 2) Is the current level of member engagement in the development of the lists adequate and appropriate? 3) Is the current system of disseminating the finalized lists adequate? Based on Board feedback, YALSA's Executive Committee has developed the following general proposal to partially address these concerns. Additional details will be provided on-site.

Action Required: Action

YALSA Best Books for Teens – People's Choice

Rationale

The establishment of a readers' choice list would address many concerns and needs in YALSA, including:

- The 2008 Member Survey indicated that members wanted more ways to be involved virtually in YALSA. This list would provide as many YALSA members as possible with opportunities to participate virtually in the selection of materials for YALSA lists.
- Selection committee members have repeatedly raised concerns about the adequacy and the efficiency of the selection process, including workload issues around the increased number of titles being published in YA literature. Creating a list that opens up participation to a wider audience, results in replacing the burden of reading many titles from a small member group to a large diverse membership base.
- The Board has been concerned that the way lists are developed and delivered are no longer meeting members' collection development and readers' advisory needs in today's 24/7 world. Members have indicated that annual lists are not timely enough. A list that utilizes technology to quickly share and disseminate information would address this concern.

Overview

This proposal outlines a process to provide all YALSA members with the opportunity to participate in selection of the best books for teens published during a 12-month-period. Through sponsorship of this list, YALSA aims to provide more members with the chance to get involved in development of the tools teens and adults use to select reading titles. The

Timeline