

YALSA Board of Directors Meeting
ALA Midwinter Meeting , Dallas
January 20 – 24, 2012

Topic: Mega Issue Discussion

Background: Mega issues are issues of strategic importance, which represent choices YALSA needs to make in defining the ultimate direction of its long-range plan. These issues represent potential impediments to achievement of YALSA's Envisioned Future, and form a basis for dialogue about the choices facing YALSA. The Board can use these questions to create regular opportunities for strategic dialogue about issues facing the association and/or profession YALSA serves. In order to ensure that topics of strategic importance get addressed by the Board, the Board agreed to place one of them on the agenda for each meeting.

Action Required: Exploration

Mega Issue:

Can YALSA strengthen its network and advance its mission by working with state library associations, especially around the advocacy portion of its strategic plan?

Rationale:

- x State associations, especially young adult round tables and sections, have the same or similar goals and values as YALSA
- x YALSA could exponentially increase its impact by working with state associations to strengthen YA librarianship at the state and local levels. Instead of 5,300 YALSA members working toward an envisioned future where every library has at least one full time young adult services on staff, there could be tens of thousands more
- x Channels of communication can be established with this group by leveraging existing channels, or by creating an email list for internal use
- x Working more closely with state associations would build YALSA's capacity and increase efficiency as it would avoid duplication of effort and increase resource sharing
- x Such an effort fits with YALSA's strategic plan in multiple places, including
 - o Objective 1e: Increase YALSA's reach and impact.
 - f Strategy: Establish and maintain strategic partnerships with targeted organizations whose mission and goals are similar to YALSA's.
 - o Objective 2d: YALSA establishes the future direction of teen and young adult services.
 - f Strategy: Lead a national discussion with key stakeholders about the current state of teen and young adult services that yields information regarding potential directions the field needs to take to meet the needs of teens and young adults.

