

**YALSA Board of Directors Meeting
ALA Midwinter Meeting, Boston
January 15-19, 2010**

Topic: Moving Forward with Foundation Concept

Background: At its 2009 Midwinter Meeting YALSA’s Board briefly discussed the concept of establishing a foundation to help advance specific YALSA programs, and instructed the Executive Director to gather additional information and provide a report for the Annual Conference. The Board ran out of time at Annual and the topic was not discussed. Some basic information about foundations is provided below. The Executive Committee discussed whether pursuing the idea is a priority at this time, and agreed to bring the issue to the Board for consideration.

Action Required: Discussion

What a Foundation is

A foundation is a separate legal entity formed for the purpose of supporting a particular cause that is of importance to the association. Its primary function is to secure financial and in-kind donations for programs, services, and/or mission-related projects. The foundation offers a wide range of donors a familiar and reliable vehicle for tax-deductible contributions in support of the foundation’s stated purpose. When individuals and corporations give to a foundation they know that their gifts will be used as intended. Gifts may be restricted, making the giving even more appealing. There are two kinds of foundations: a public charity and a private foundation.

Benefits of Foundations for Associations

A foundation can help an association advance its mission by providing a means for raising additional funds for programs.

By focusing on a particular cause, such as adolescent literacy, associations—through their foundation--are able to reach beyond their membership and raise funds from the general public and corporate world.

By establishing a foundation and a board of trustees to oversee it, the association creates a governing body whose primary focus is to raise funds to support the stated cause of the foundation. In contrast, an association’s board of directors has multiple responsibilities besides fiduciary ones.

A foundation can provide a public face and entry point to an association that is normally focused inwardly on its members.

A foundation can generate funds to support key programs and services of the association, such as book and media awards.

The foundation provides a long-term funding source for the association.

**YALSA Board of Directors – Midwinter 10
Moving Forward with Foundation Concept**

Direct participation in litigation dealing with freedom of speech and of the press.

The Freedom to Read Foundation is a separate corporation from the American Library Association, working in close liaison with the ALA, and has its own Board of Trustees, which are elected by the FTRF membership. The Board of Trustees' Secretariat is the Director for ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom. Membership to the Freedom to Read Foundation is separate from ALA membership. The initial reason for creating the foundation was to have a separate organization to focus specifically on first amendment issues, which are important to ALA, but not its sole focus. Additional information, including the FTRF bylaws, can be found at:

www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/affiliates/relatedgroups/freedomtoreadfoundation/index.cfm

toreadfosrresources: