

YALSA Board of Directors – MidWinter Meeting 2020
Updates to YALSA Board Member Agreement
Item #21

YALSA Board of Directors ALA
MidWinter Meeting, Philadelphia, PA
January 24 – 26, 2020

Topic: Update to YALSA Board Member Contract

Background: The Board approved the current YALSA Board Member Agreement on January 16, 2010. Since then, the Board’s work has evolved to include more year-round governance discussions and decision-making by board members. The following information was approved at the Annual Meeting in June 2019, then later reviewed and edited by ALA’s legal counsel, Executive Director and YALSA’s Executive Director.

Action Required: Action

Action: The board action is to adopt the Board Member Agreement as outlined in this document and directs the Executive Director to work with staff to update the current board member contract no later than XXX and to incorporate the document into Board Member training beginning XXX.

Board Member Agreement

Young Adult Library Services Association Board Member Agreement

I, _____, understand that as a member of the Board of Directors of YALSA, I have a legal, fiscal, ethical and fiduciary (Duty of care, loyalty and obedience) responsibility to ensure that the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA or the organization) does the best work possible in pursuit of its vision, mission and goals. I believe in the purpose and the mission of the organization, and I will act responsibly and prudently as its steward. As part of my responsibilities as a board member, I agree to the following:

1. Serve my full term on the board, understanding that Directors-at-Large serves three-year (36 months) terms on the board. Board Fellows and Ex-Officio members serve one-year (12 months) terms.
2. I will represent the organization's work and values to the community, act as a spokesperson when guided and role model.
3. In turn, I will clarify members' needs and values to the organization, speak out for their interests, and on their behalf, guiding the organization's mission and vision.
4. I will attend 100% of Midwinter and Annual board meetings, at least 75% of Board conference calls, and at least 50% of e-chats. I will also attend at least 75% of special events held at Midwinter and Annual (Such as, but not limited to Midwinter Joint Membership Reception and the Printz, Edwards, Morris, and Nonfiction Award events.)

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5. When not at Midwinter and Annual, I will actively promote YALSA by participating in awareness and recruitment activities such as but not limited to holding a local meet-up or staffing a YALSA booth at a state or regional conference.
6. As a voluntary visible show of support, I will make an annual personal contribution to actively support and promote the Friends of YALSA at a level that is comfortable and meaningful to me.
7. I will excuse myself from discussions and votes where I have a conflict of interest.
8. I will stay informed about what's going on in the organization. I will ask questions and request additional information if needed. I take responsibility for participating in making decisions on issues, policies, and other matters.
9. I will participate in leadership development opportunities (which may include in-person workshops or webinars) to increase understanding of association governance.
10. I will work in good faith with staff and other board members as partners toward the achievement of YALSA's mission, vision and goals.
11. If I can no longer fulfill my Board agreement responsibilities to the organization, I will contact the board president to discuss my concerns and options.

YALSA is responsible to the board members for:

In turn, the organization will be responsible to me in the following ways:

1. I will be sent, without having to request them, a quarterly management report that allows me to meet the "prudent person" standards of the law. (The "prudent person rule," applied in many legal settings in slightly differing language, states that an individual must act with the same judgment and care as, in like circumstances, a prudent person would act.)
2. Opportunities will be offered to me to discuss with the executive director and the board president the organization's programs, goals, activities, and status; additionally, I can request such opportunities.
3. The organization will help me perform my duties by keeping me informed about issues in the industry and field in which we are working and by offering me opportunities for professional development as a board member.
4. Board members and staff will respond promptly to assist with my responsibilities to carry out my legal, fiscal, ethical and fiduciary (Duty of care, loyalty and obedience) responsibilities.
5. If the organization does not fulfill its commitments to me, I will contact the board president and executive director to discuss my concerns.

Signed by _____, Board Member Date _____

and by _____, Chair of the Board of Directors

Date _____

-Adapted from: <http://www.blueavocado.org/content/board-member-contract>

-Adopted by the YALSA Board of Directors January 16, 2010

-Update by the YALSA Board of Directors XXXX XX, XXXX

Rationale

These changes will better align the Board Agreement with the year-round nature of the work now required of YALSA Board members and will better reflect the time commitment involved in serving as a YALSA Board member.

Financial Implications

Staff time for updating the current Board Member Contract to reflect changes and to put the contract online.

Measuring Impact

Board member participation in Board duties.

Additional Information

Current Board Member Contract:

<http://www.ala.org/yalsa/sites/ala.org.yalsa/files/content/aboutyalsa/yalsahandbook/boardcontract.pdf>

Duties and Responsibilities of Board Members:

<http://www.ala.org/yalsa/aboutyalsa/yalsahandbook/boardduties>