

**ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE YALSA PRESIDENT  
2004-2005**

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**“The Little Division That Could”**

This has been an exciting, transitional year for YALSA, in several different areas, some new and some continuous. The title of my report refers first and foremost to the following: YALSA is the fastest growing division within ALA, and we have completed our first year as a non-subsidized division. Membership in YALSA has more than doubled over the past ten years, and the membership figure at the end of April 2005 totaled 4,541 (which is up over 8% from the same time last year)! And our financial health picture is bright. The Division’s Business Plan for FY05-FY08, adopted last year, allows us to sufficiently increase our revenue stream to support operations free of the ALA subsidy.

The following accomplishments, challenges, and opportunities are taken from the monthly board management reports (except for May & June 2005) of Executive Director Julie Walker, followed by Executive Director Beth Yoke. They have been my mentors, colleagues, and trusted leaders throughout my presidential year. I am also very grateful to Program Officer Nichole Gilbert and Administrative Assistant Esther Murphy for their invaluable guidance, knowledge, and expertise.

**July 2004**

- YALSA attempted as smooth a transition as possible after Deputy Director Cindy Welch’s departure on July 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Executive Director Julie Walker spent many hours filling requests for reports from ALA Executive Director Keith Fields on division contributions to *ALAction 2005*.
- YALSA was invited to submit a concept paper to Met Life Foundation for administration of a teen health project, and a positive acknowledgement followed.
- Fiscal Officer C. Allen Nichols agreed to chair an “ad hoc” planning group for the Midwinter Serving the Underserved IV training.

## **August 2004**

- Plans were begun for offering Serving the Underserved (SUS) training during the week immediately preceding the 2005 Midwinter Meeting.
- The manual for the Graphic Novel Institute was completed; so YALSA now had two institutes available for license.
- For the first time this year, teens would be voting on the theme for Teen Read Week.
- Candidates for YALSA's first full-time Executive Director were selected by the Search Committee; with interviews planned for Chicago on September 20<sup>th</sup>.

## **September and October 2004**

- Executive Director Julie Walker and President David Mowery participated in the ALA Ahead to 2010 Strategic Planning Retreat, September 17-19<sup>th</sup>, in Skokie, Illinois.
- Executive Director Julie Walker and President David Mowery participated on the interview panel for executive director candidates on September 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Beth Yoke, School Library Media Program Coordinator/Librarian at Fairmont State University was chosen as the new YALSA Executive Director.
- Total registration for Teen Read Week, with the theme of "It's Alive @ your library", totaled 1,300. Over 2,000 votes were cast for the Teens' Top Ten, and over 1,100 votes were cast for the 2005 theme, which is "Get Real! @ your library".
- The YALSA Executive Committee met at the Fall Executive Board Meeting and Division Leadership Meeting in Chicago, during the third week in October. Highlights included selecting the 40 Serving the Underserved participants from over 60 applicants, and continuing work on YALSA's Action Plan, the sister document to the new Strategic Plan.
- Candidates for the 2005 election were notified, and YALSA, for the first time, used the web site ballot form to gather the necessary information.

## **November 2004**

- Over 100 members signed up to be involved in YALSA's new mentoring program (40 to be mentors, 60 to be mentees).
- Additional information was added to the YALSA web site to encourage member participation. The document entitled "How to Participate in YALSA", housed in the Join Us and About YALSA portions of the site, offers 14 different ways to get involved. From the Publications page, members and interested persons could easily access the online form called "YALSA Publication Proposal" and also the YALSA Publications Manual.

- *Outstanding Books for the College Bound* manuscript was submitted on time (scheduled for publication in summer 2005).

### **December 2004**

- All of the necessary information for the ballot was received.
- The first round of the committee appointment process was completed.
- All applications for the YALSA grants were processed.
- The *YALS* winter issue was prepared for publication, and scheduled to be mailed out just before Midwinter
- In preparation for Midwinter, the SUS Manual was updated, and Board documents were prepared.
- The YALSA Executive Committee selected the Hardee Senior High School Library in Wauchula, Florida as the winner of the Great Book Giveaway IX.

### **January 2005**

- YALSA's ballot was finalized and submitted to ALA's elections department.
- At the Youth Media Awards Press Conference, bright and early on Monday morning, January 17<sup>th</sup>, I had the privilege of announcing two YALSA awards. Meg Rosoff won the Michael J. Printz Award with *how i live now* and Francesca Lia Block won the Margaret A. Edwards Award.
- Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, and the Printz Award marked its 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary!
- YALSA's new Strategic Plan was unanimously adopted by the Board of Directors at Midwinter.
- 40 participants took part in the SUS IV Training in Boston just prior to Midwinter.
- The web site was updated with the new award winners and booklists. Information was also updated to indicate the new selection committees and SUS trainers.
- The winter issue of *YALS* was mailed out at the end of January, and work on the spring issue continued.

### **February 2005**

- In under two weeks, Audra Caplan, Michael Cart, Betty Carter, Pam Spencer Holley, and Deborah Taylor created an annotated list of titles for NEH's We the People Bookshelf Project.
- The edited manuscript for the latest edition of *Outstanding Books for the College Bound* was submitted to ALA Publications.

- Kat Kan continued her work on a new edition of *Sizzling Summer Reading Programs for YAs*, and Amy Alessio started on a new publication, *With Teens, for Teens: Youth Participation in Action*.
- Nominated titles for the Teens' Top Ten and Best Books were posted on the web at the end of the month.
- The Board and Committee web page was updated in order to make it easier for members to learn about committees and the process of becoming a committee member.
- YALSA staff worked with ALA's Membership Marketing Manager on several projects for recruiting new members.

### **March 2005**

- On March 25<sup>th</sup>, YALSA turned in a proposal for the World Book Award Grant, asking for \$9,995 to develop and disseminate Teen Literacy Kits, tied to Teen Read Week 2006.
- YALSA had its annual Budget Review for the proposed FY06 budget on March 7<sup>th</sup>, and the meeting was positive.
- Ten applications for *YALS* Editor were received and reviewed by the search committee (David Mowery, Audra Caplan, Pam Spencer Holley, and Beth Yoke).
- YALSA announced that it was seeking an editor for the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of *Best Books for Young Adults* and in addition was considering an update of *Bare Bones Young Adult Services* (a joint publication with PLA).

### **April 2005**

- YALSA announced two new sponsors for Teen Read Week: Lerner Publishing and Orca Book Publishers. A returning sponsor is the loyal Pam Spencer Holley.
- The Teen Read Week Web Site was launched soon after April 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Phone interviews with the top five candidates for *YALS* Editor were conducted April 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Linda Johns was announced as the new editor for *YALS*. She will begin with the fall 2005 issue and conclude after the summer 2008 issue.
- The Awards Issue of *YALS* (spring 2005) was mailed out the third week of April
- The YALSA Executive Committee held its spring conference call on April 15<sup>th</sup>, focusing on such issues/concerns as YALSA's online discussion list policy, the post-Midwinter committee chair reports, the proposed slate of programs for Annual 2006, and generating new revenue for the division.
- YALSA began sending all new members a welcome email containing important information about YALSA's programs, services and products, and encouraging their active participation in the association.

## May 2005

- YALSA Legislation Committee Chair Laurel Sandor stepped up to the plate and very competently represented YALSA at Library Legislation Day in Washington, D.C. She joined ALSC President Gretchen Wronka and AASL President-Elect Linda Williams in meetings with key people. It was important for YALSA to have a voice at this event, and her willingness to take on that role is much appreciated.
- In support of the First Lady's commitment to helping at-risk teens, YALSA staff is compiling information on library teen programs that focus on serving at-risk youth, which was passed along to ALA's Washington Office.
- On May 20<sup>th</sup>, YALSA announced that for the seventh year, Scholastic, Inc. will donate two new books to librarians who are YALSA members, and who are planning to celebrate Teen Read Week, October 16-22, 2005.

I am looking forward to YALSA's exciting and informative programs planned for the 2005 Annual Conference in Chicago, including the Best of the Best Preconference, the Margaret A. Edwards Award Luncheon, the Michael L. Printz Award Program and Reception, and, of course, the YALSA President's Program & Membership Meeting: "Teen Literacy is a Four Letter Word: **R**eading, **E**quity of Access, **A**dvocacy, **D**iversity." Authors Joan Bauer and Jon Scieska, along with "best practices" speakers representing Mayor Daley's Book Club and Chicago Public Library's Money Sense, will offer a dynamic discussion of the challenges of 21<sup>st</sup> century literacy and exciting new directions for librarians.

In closing, I would like to thank YALSA's members for their support and participation in making YALSA a dynamic, rapidly growing, and sustainable association.