



## **YALSA President's Report Kelly Czarnecki, President, 2021-2022**

**Mission:** Through networking, advocacy, and professional development, the Young Adult Library Services Association empowers all those involved in the profession to provide equitable, diverse and inclusive teen services.

**Vision:** Our vision is that all teens, from a variety of backgrounds including, but not limited to ability, class, gender-identity, sexual orientation, race, religion and power-differentiated groups, will have access to quality library programs and services – no matter where they occur – that are tailored to the community and that create new opportunities for all teens' to promote personal growth, academic success, and career development, while linking teens and staff to resources, connected learning opportunities, coaching, and mentoring.

YALSA is guided by a three year Organizational Plan (2022-2025) with focuses on the following areas; member engagement, financial stability, programs and resources, and advocacy initiatives.

### **Organizational Plan**

At virtual ALA Annual 2021, the YALSA Board approved the three year Organizational Plan and updated Mission statement. In August, the plan was rolled out to the Committee Chairs via a virtual presentation by Kelly Czarnecki, President, and former Executive Director, Tammy Dillard-Steels. At the end of August, the three Presidents (President-Elect; Franklin Escobedo, Past President; Amanda Barnhart and current; Kelly Czarnecki) were invited to add tactics to achieve objectives on the plan. In October the plan and the process was added to the YALSA web site which was available for anyone (members as well as non-members) to see.

While continuing to experience challenges in filling volunteer positions, possibly due to the pandemic, YALSA has also experienced a leadership change when the current Executive Director left the position. An Interim was appointed immediately and there was no gap in having that position filled.

### **Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion**

The Board spent the year reviewing and further breaking down the recommendations to put into action of the work of the four EDI Taskforces that began their work in 2019 and delivered a final report in 2021. The Board mainly focused on the suggestions from the *Promoting Professional Success for Underrepresented Groups* Taskforce as they had actionable items with which the Board could address. This work is ongoing and lends itself to supporting the Organizational Plan. There will be several Board Documents presented at Annual 2022 that address some of the issues the Board further studied.

YALSA has supported two Spectrum Scholars for this term; Cordiah Hayes, University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana and Vidhya Jagganathan, Florida State University. Cordiah shared about her experience here; *The Spectrum Scholars program has changed my academic life indefinitely. This*

*opportunity has opened several doors, mainly that I've been able to connect with other Spectrum Scholars and that I've been able to have the financial burdens taken off of me. When I receive my MLIS degree this Fall, I anticipate that I'll be able to become a Teen Librarian come 2023. I have no doubts about it. Vidhya's comment is; We cannot say "Libraries are for Everyone" without making an intentional effort to make our spaces, services, and programs equitable, diverse, accessible, and inclusive for all -- in person and online.*

The School/Public Library Joint Committee with AASL/ALSC/YALSA finished their charge that was given in 2021 of creating an Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Resource. It is anticipated to be posted on the YALSA blog and shared on the ALA Connect page of YALSA members.

The Evaluating Volunteer Resources Taskforce went through two Chairs that resigned before a third, Dora Ho, was appointed, and led the helm for the group to get their work done. They focused on rewriting the charge for the book selection committees and recommending standardized training, increasing recruitment efforts, and a more clearly defined Hub Manager job description. This will be in a Board document presented during Annual 2022.

### **Young Adult Services Symposium**

The 2021 Hybrid Symposium was held in person at The Row in Reno, NV as well as virtually. There were 446 total attendees. There were a reduced number of in-person programs to accommodate for the lower attendance. Everyone who registered for the 2021 Hybrid Symposium received access to all the sessions on the virtual platform.

### **Virtual Book Award Ceremonies**

YALSA honored their book award winners virtually;  
Non-Fiction Winner and Honors, Thursday, February 24  
Non-Fiction List  
Morris Award Finalists, Tuesday, February 8

### **Book Award Ceremonies in-person**

Printz, Friday, June 24  
Odyssey Award, Monday June 27

### **Teen Tober**

### **Member Grants, Awards, and Scholarships**