

**YALSA Board of Directors Meeting
ALA Midwinter Meeting, Seattle
January 25 – 29, 2013**

Topic: Pre-Meeting Division Councilor Report

Background: According to the YALSA bylaws the YALSA Division Councilor, “...shall attend all meetings of the ALA Council; shall report to YALSA about Council agenda before Council meets to request YALSA voting position on any agenda items; shall vote as directed by the YALSA Board on designated Council agenda items; shall represent YALSA positions before Council through necessary presentations and resolutions....” At Council meetings resolutions are typically put forward and other issues are discussed that may be of importance to YALSA. YALSA’s Councilor, Nick Buron, has provided an update below. The Board will want to give feedback on how to cast YALSA’s vote on upcoming resolutions and/or determining the desirability of YALSA’s Board submitting a resolution.

Action Required: Action

Council Activities

Conversations on the listserv include:

- ALA Dues Adjustment Proposal which has been approved by the ALA Membership Committee and the ALA Executive Board and will be presented to Council at ALA Midwinter
- Key points:
 - Recommends using the national average Consumer Price Index (CPI) <http://www.bls.gov/cpi/> to make future adjustments to ALA personal member dues amounts
 - If the CPI goes up, member dues go up by the same percent
 - If there is no change or a decrease in the CPI, dues remain the same
 - Under this approach, it is predicted that dues could go up between \$1.00 and \$4.00 annually depending on membership type
 - Would have to be approved by Council and then be approved by the membership
 - ALA Membership Committee is charged to assess needs and make recommendations concerning membership dues and will be responsible for monitoring the use of the CPI to adjust dues
- Council listserv discussion:
 - The discussion pertained to ALA budget concerns, not divisions or roundtables
 - ALA expenses are outgrowing revenues

**YALSA Board of Directors – Midwinter 2013
Pre-Meeting Division Councilor Report**

- Changes need to take into account the balance between possibly raising dues and losing members
 - Reliance on CPI would presumably keep dues increases small
 - CPI has risen modestly over the last two decades but historically there have been years with large increases
 - May not be a good time to raise dues especially since few members have had raises lately
 - Proposal included good justification for a dues raise
 - ALA has been conscious of increasing dues at a nominal rate while balancing the association's revenue and costs against the benefits of membership
 - Wariness to rely on yearly dues increases to keep ALA in the black
 - ALA has developed some new revenue streams and needs to address this further
 - The three major revenue streams are: membership, publishing, and conferences
 - Some support for a salary-based dues structure instead of the current structure
 - Problems with salary-based include: some may not be honest about their salaries, those in related fields who earn more may not continue their memberships, and it would contribute to a "stratification" of the membership
 - The percentage of our budget derived from dues is low in relation to other major national Associations and our dues are lower than most other comparable Associations
 - One suggestion to look at eliminating some offices or functions of ALA
 - ALA has reduced staffing by 27 position since 2008 with minimal impact on member services
 - At this point, cutting may be cutting our commitment to intellectual freedom, diversity, service to the disabled, access to government information, advocacy for state and federal funding for libraries, improving our web site, or helping young librarians find work
 - Some commented that they are amazed that ALA does as much as it does with scarce resources
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- Some discussion on the resolution of the HathiTrust lawsuit. See this link for more information
<http://blogs.library.duke.edu/scholcomm/2012/10/11/a-big-win-for-fair-use-and-libraries/>
 - On the listserv, ALA Digital Literacy Task Force released a preliminary copy of their report, "Digital Literacy, Libraries, and Public Policy" for comments until October 19
 - Conversations about the LJ editorial titled "Too Many eBook Cooks: Ineffectual Committees Aren't Fast Enough to Ensure Robust Access."

YALSA Division Councilor Activities

**YALSA Board of Directors – Midwinter 2013
Pre-Meeting Division Councilor Report**

- I will be coming to the YALSA Board for input on any actions needed, including ALA Executive Board elections.

Meetings

As of 1/9/13, an agenda for Council's meeting at Midwinter has not yet been distributed. The dues proposal will be on the agenda, but it's not clear at this time what else will be.

2012 ALA Midwinter Council and Other Meetings (which are open to all)

Saturday, January 26, 2012

- ALA Council Orientation, 8:00 – 10:30 AM
- ALA Council/Executive Board/Membership Information Session, 3:00 – 4:30 PM
- ALA Presidential/Treasurer Candidates Forum, 4:30 – 5:30 PM

Sunday, January 27, 2012

- ALA Council I, 8:30 – 11:00 AM
- ALA-APA Council, 11:00 – 11:30 AM
- Youth Council Caucus, 1:00 – 2:30
- ALA President's Program, 3:30 – 5:30 PM

Monday, January 28, 2012

- Youth Media Awards, 7:45 – 9:00 AM
- ALA Council II, 10:00 – 12:15 PM
- ALA Executive Board Candidates Forum, 12:30 – 1:30 PM or immediately following the adjournment of Council II

Tuesday, January 29, 2012

- ALA Council III, 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM

--respectfully submitted, Vicki Emery, YALSA Division Councilor

Additional Resources:

- Council meeting agendas are posted at www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/governance/council/council_agendas/index.cfm
- Guidelines for Preparation of ALA Resolutions: www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/governance/council/resolution_guidelines/index.cfm