

**YALSA Board of Directors Meeting  
ALA Midwinter Meeting, Seattle, WA  
January 19-24, 2007**

**Topic:** Acting on Conference Survey Results

**Background:** In July 2006 YALSA released two online surveys at Judy Nelson’s request. Both surveys sought to gather information that would help YALSA improve its offerings at the ALA Annual Conference. One survey was for members who did attend the 2006 Annual Conference, and the other was for those who did not. The survey was advertised via an email blast to the membership that went out in early August. 146 attendees completed the survey and 137 non-attendees completed the other survey. The Board may want to review the results and make recommendations to the Program Clearinghouse Committee and/or others for the 2008 Annual Conference.

**Action Required:** Action

---

**To view complete survey results, go here:**

- Survey results for Non-Attendees of the '06 Annual Conference:  
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/Report.asp?U=241264684820>
- Survey results for Attendees of the '06 Annual Conference:  
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/Report.asp?U=240393267527>

**2006 Annual Conference Survey Results Highlights**

- **When asked about suggestions for speakers, some common requests emerged:**
  - More authors
  - Invite speakers from outside the library and/or publishing world who work with/for young adults
  - Invite speakers from inside the YA library world, but those who are “new” voices, and not seasoned people who have presented many times already
  - More speakers on technology and/or information literacy
- **When asked what YALSA should *not* change for future conferences, these were some common remarks:**
  - Keep the new YALSA 101 program
  - Keep the big events, like Edwards Luncheon and Printz Reception
  - BBYA sessions (especially teen one) and try to hold in the convention center
  - All Committee as an interactive, working session w/ a free breakfast
  - Mail out the flyer listing all YALSA programs and events (but send out earlier)

- **When asked what YALSA *should* change for future conferences, respondents said:**
  - Do more with other relevant divisions, such as PLA, AASL and ASLC including joint programs and cross promotion of programs of interest.
  - Make YALSA Member Booth more visible and keep staffed at all times. Do more at the Member Booth: raffles, silent auction for charity, a map where members can put a pin next to their home town, etc.
  - Ensure speakers are well prepared. Consider developing & distributing a tip sheet about public speaking, moderating, managing time, presenting, etc.
  - Try to get book selection committees to meet centrally rather than spread out so members can easily sit in on discussion.
  - Do more online before and after the conference:
    - Make presentations, handouts, etc. available after the conference (consider podcasts, DVDs, wiki)
    - Get a YALSA flickr account and ask members to create a shared photostream.
    - Have someone blog what happens at programs
    - Send more pre-conference emails
  
- **When asked what programs or activities attendees would like to see at future conferences, some particular topics and ideas bubbled up:**
  - More for school librarians
  - Workshops on technology (using it to reach teens, programming ideas, demos of the latest, etc.)
  - Reaching different teen audiences: urban, multicultural, special needs, ESL
  - Reference service to teens
  - Programming for teens
  - Graphic novels, manga, anime
  - Gaming
  - Teen volunteers, training them
  - Make sessions interactive and not mostly a lecture format
  - Provide more opportunities for informal networking and mingling with fellow YALSA members in the evenings or during mealtimes. Possibly a reception following the membership meeting.
  - Offer programs targeted to people at a specific level of expertise. For example: gaming in libraries for beginners or building YA collections for seasoned professionals. Consider labeling programs as beginning, intermediate and advanced, so attendees know what to expect content-wise.
  - Consider a poster session, fair, etc.

**Proposed Action from YALSA’s Executive Committee:**

- Charge the Program Clearinghouse Committee with:
  - Developing a handout of speaker tips
  - Using the above list of program ideas to prioritize what programs will be offered in 08
  - Communicating with all committees the request for more speakers from outside the library world and/or new voices and/or technology and information literacy experts
  - Communicating with all committees the request for more collaboration with other ALA divisions and units
  - Communicating with all committees the request for sessions to be more interactive and less of a lecture format
- Charge the Division & Membership Promotion Committee with:
  - Continuing to plan an annual YALSA 101
  - Incorporating at least one of the suggestions for the member booth:
    - Raffles, silent auction for charity, a map where members can put a pin next to their home town, a scrapbook or display highlighting YALSA’s 50 years
  - Developing a tip sheet for volunteers who will staff the booth
- Charge YALSA’s Executive Director to work with staff on the following:
  - Mailing out the flyer listing all YALSA programs and events earlier
  - Trying to get book selection committees to meet centrally rather than spread out so members can easily sit in on discussion.
  - Doing more online before and after the conference
  - Providing more opportunities for informal networking
  - Weighing the pros and cons of labeling programs as beginning, intermediate and advanced, so attendees know what to expect content-wise.