

**YALSA Board of Directors Meeting  
ALA Annual Conference, Anaheim  
June 22 – 26, 2012**

**Topic:** Mission Moment: National Library Legislative Day

**Background:** Each year the ALA Washington Office Sponsors National Library Legislative Day. For the past five years YALSA's President and Executive Director have attended and participated in order to ensure that teen services issues are adequately addressed. YALSA also promotes virtual participate in the day via the Tweet Your Senator map at <http://tinyurl.com/NLLDmap>. In past member surveys, members have indicated that advocacy for library services to teens is the most important function of YALSA. Sarah Flowers has provided a summary of her participation in National Library Legislative Day as YALSA's representative.

**Action Required:** Discussion

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Executive Director Beth Yoke and I, along with several hundred other library supporters, attended National Library Legislative Days on April 23-25. Beth and I had eight separate meetings over two days.

We met with:

- Chris Gaston, Legislative Director, and Thomas Seay, Communications Director, from Congressman Rush Holt's (D-NJ) office. Congressman Holt is a big supporter of libraries and in fact, received ALTAFF's 2012 Public Service Award at a reception during NLLD. The biggest takeaway from our discussion with Gaston & Seay was when we mentioned encouraging libraries to invite their elected representatives to all of their events (Summer Reading Club wrap-up, etc.). Gaston enthusiastically agreed and stated, "We can't come if we don't know about it."
- Lynn Hommeyer, Einstein Education Fellow, office of Congressman Mike Honda (D-CA). We discussed the Congressman's STEM bill and encouraged Hommeyer to be sure that libraries were included in the language. Hommeyer told us that the Congressman had just started an anti-bullying caucus, and after I returned home, I sent her a copy of an article from YALS about anti-bullying resources, which included booklists of fiction and nonfiction for adults and for teens.
- Erika Hunter, Senior Legislative Assistant, from Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey's (D-CA) office. Congresswoman Woolsey, a major library supporter, is retiring after the current term.
- Terri Duggan Schwartzbeck, Senior Policy Associate, Alliance for Excellent Education. The Alliance is interested in "expanded learning," that is, learning that occurs outside of school hours. They are the sponsors of [Digital Learning Day](#), which YALSA was a

partner for last year. Next year's will occur on February 6, 2011. We discussed ways we could participate.

- Mary Chute, Robert Horton, Laurie Brooks, and Kevin Cherry, from IMLS. We had a good discussion about ideas for possible future grants.
- Richard Long, Director of Government Relations, International Reading Association. We talked about a possible article swap between YALS and Reading Today.
- Erik Peterson, Policy Director, Afterschool Alliance. We discussed our common concerns, the possibility of guest blogging for one another, and how we could cross promote Teen Read Week and the Alliance's "[Lights On After School](#)" event, which will occur this year on October 18 (during TRW).
- We had an appointment with Tamera Luzzatto, Managing Director of Government Relations for the Pew Charitable Trust, but she was unavailable, so we met with another staff member. We shared information about what YALSA does, and about our interests, particularly in regard to research, including giving them a copy of our Research Agenda.

**Additional Resources:**

- ALA legislative day site: [www.ala.org/nlld](http://www.ala.org/nlld)
- Tweet Your Senator Map: <http://tinyurl.com/NLLDmap>
- YALSA legislative day page: [http://wikis.ala.org/yalsa/index.php/National\\_Library\\_Legislative\\_Day](http://wikis.ala.org/yalsa/index.php/National_Library_Legislative_Day)