



From the YSS Chair...

There is always a bit of lag time between when I write up my quarterly greeting to you all and the time we send out the newsletter. I know it sounds outdated when I read the published newsletter but it is “where I am at” when I sit at the keyboard and start typing away.

Right now, I am counting down just a week until Thanksgiving – one of my favorite holidays. The mouth-watering smells of my mother-in-law’s tasty dinner and treats, the Macy’s Parade, the annual viewing of *Miracle on 34th Street*, a reading of *It’s Thanksgiving* by Jack Prelutsky, board game laughs with family, what’s not to love about the holiday.

With the summer reading workshops now behind us, emails are popping up daily with requests to partner on performers, a good way to bring down the prices per program. I am having a harder time getting into summer reading this year. By now, we are usually getting price quotes on prizes and contacting performers here in Des Moines. However, a combination of a summer reading budget that is being cut in half and City budget cuts that will impact the library, make it hard to plan. Will our hours change, will the staff be the same, will we be able to do a full calendar of programs or have to cut back because of the other reductions? We should know by mid-December so by the time of the Performers Showcase I hope we will be “dreaming big” for a fun summer!

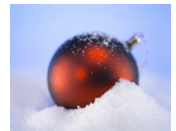
As always, the ILA conference was great! I can never get enough of attending the sessions, hearing the keynote speakers, and catching up with colleagues from around the state. It is reassuring as the chair of YSS to see our sponsored sessions **SO** well attended by all of you. Many of you even stay for our annual meeting. I always get looks of surprise from other subdivisions when I tell them how many YSS members attended the meeting. Most have smaller turn-outs. We all work very hard at what we do, we love sharing programming ideas, and feel strongly that we want the conference to reflect our interests, so we make an effort to attend. I thank all of you for your support, not only at the conferences, but in my two years as chair of this subdivision. It has been such a growth experience and the best way for a newbie to Iowa to learn about libraries, meet people and travel around some of the 99 counties that make up this beautiful state. I will continue to serve on the subdivision, as Awards Chair for 2012, and to help our incoming chair, Zach Stier and chair-elect, Arielle Loy. Zach and I have spent quite a few hours together over the last month, working out session proposals for the 2012 conference. I know that Zach and Arielle already have some ideas for moving YSS forward and will need your help! And it is never too early to start thinking about where you fit into the subdivision. Is there a session you would enjoy, is there a way you can help out? Think about it, continue to support YSS, encourage your YS cohorts to become members of the subdivision. Your time and dues benefit all of us.

Have a safe, healthy, and stress-free (mmmm...) holiday season!

Audrey Jones
YSS Chair
Des Moines Public Library

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2011 YSS Business Meeting Minutes

October 13, 2011

Call to order by Audrey Jones at 4:30 p.m.

Audrey—second year as chair; Zach will take over next year. Still needs a co-chair—takes about 20 hours per year, mostly online. Biggest thing is planning sessions for the next year's ILA conference.

Sign in sheet passed around to start mentoring program, which was a goal for the subdivision this year. Sign up if you want to mentor or be mentored.

Introduction

Intros around the room.

Motion to approve the agenda

Jeri Heid is added to the agenda to talk about goal ideas and ideas for next year's conference. Jeri presented on planning meeting in November in Urbandale. Next year's conference will be in Dubuque.

Terry Tesch from Paulina moved to approve the agenda. Danielle Day seconded.

Read and approve 2010 minutes

Anna Hartmann read the minutes. Motion to approve the minutes by Tracy Briseno from Ames. S
Seconded Sara Beth Beaver from Spencer.

Slate for 2012

Audrey Jones—Awards chair

Zach Stier—Chair

Ariel—Co-chair

Anna Hartmann—Secretary

Natalie Struecker—Newsletter

Approve slate

Motion to approve, Katie Dryer; Seconded by Jerri Heid.

Discussion was started by Katie Dryer on the value of participating as an officer on the committee, encouraging people to think about getting involved next year.

Presentation of 2011 YSS Awards—Audrey Jones

Danielle Day presented Quality Time Award to Dan Wardel.

The Kids First Award went to Jenna Ehler of West Des Moines. This was the first year for award. Jenna added that Kids First, awesome!

The Mr. Anderson Award was given to attend ILA and went to Katie Dreyer. She said it helped because it meant that she could go to additional conferences later in the year.

Report on YSS activities in 2011

Audrey reported on the booth in exhibitor's hall. In addition to YSS promotion with candy and Halloween pencils, the booth was also used to give out the Iowa International Center brochure for recent immigrants.

We didn't do T-shirts this year due to expense. The officers were nervous about whether or not the shirts would sell. We'll need to think about a good way to do this if we still want to do it. Tracy Briseno from Ames recommends buttons instead. Anna from Council Bluffs has a button maker and can make the buttons. Audrey reports that there would be money in the budget for button supplies.

YSS Goal Setting committees and Progress report

Goal 1: Rethink communication—good ways for more brainstorming time. Youth services librarians love to brainstorm, but can't do that at the annual meeting because of lack of time, so we need to think as a team about how to make the annual meeting really short so there's more time to brainstorm.

Goal 2: Mentoring program: We made a list!

Goal 3: Increase membership by 10% starting with registration for 2012. We have about 100—encourage 10 more! Have to be a member to get the newsletter so this could be incentive.

Report on finances and membership

\$3,057.03 in YSS account as of 6/30/11.

We needed 25 to break even on the pre-conference; only had 18-19, but this shouldn't cut too much into the balance. We will have some conference award expenses deducted as well.

State Library News—Merri Monks

Summer Library workshops start 10/25 and seats are still available. Jeri Heid and Val Donnell from Ames are presenting this year.

CSLP Update—Karen Day was the administrator before service areas were dissolved and has been hired to run CSLP with her husband out of an office in their home. This is a nationwide program—Texas has applied so it's now in all 50 states. Themes bubble up from grassroots, so let Merri know if you have ideas.

State Library Services reorganization is going really smoothly. Iowa has handled this in a great way. The level of service to individual libraries won't change much. There will be a shifting of which counties are in which districts, but each district has an office with a consultant and assistant. There is good youth services expertise at state level.

Merri also gave an update on the 2013 Kids First Conference. We can't put out bids for hotels until July 2012 and will have hotels and locations set after that. We are already looking at speakers; let Merri know if you have ideas for topics on breakout sessions or if you have an particular interest in authors.

Brianne suggests that we might have a YSS breakout session at Kids First to help meet the YSS goal for brainstorming.

We will have an opportunity to communicate with YSS librarians around the state through the roundtables and we are putting together newsletter from State Library specific to youth services.

Other announcements from members

None.

Door Prizes

Awesome prizes were given out.

Session Brainstorming for 2012

Branstad doesn't talk about libraries; this could be a goal or session. How can we be more involved?

Middle grade programming sessions; 8-12 year olds.

Grants: how to find them, how to write them.

Collaboration between school and public as a session.

Online tools for communication (goal).

Think of anything else? Email Audrey.

Motion to adjourn 2011 YSS Business meeting

Merri Monks motioned to adjourn. Danielle Day second.

Have a program or idea you'd like to share with other librarians around the state?

Send a short article (500 words or 1/2 page—or more) to Natalie to be included in the next newsletter!



The newsletter comes out four times a year.

Comments and questions can be sent to me too!

natalie.struecker@gmail.com

2011 YSS Awards

Each year the Youth Services Subdivision has given out special awards at the Iowa Library Association Conference.

This year we offer congratulations to Katie Dryer as the recipient of the Mr. Anderson Award. This is a \$200 Award given to help with the cost of the ILA Conference.

The recipient of the Quality Time Award is presented with a special engraved clock to show our appreciation of someone who has influenced, initiated and/or cooperated with persons and organizations in the planning or presentation of programs and services for young people that have benefited Iowa libraries. It is given to someone who has performed service to the library profession through active participation in a professional organization at the regional, state, or national levels and includes work in the education or training of others; publishing; children's and teen literature; child and family advocacy, etc.

It was my pleasure, as the awards chair, to present this award to Dan Wardell from IPTV at the awards banquet. Jerri Heid from Ames Public Library said it best in her nomination letter:

Dan Wardell's outstanding contribution hardly does justice to what Dan has accomplished through his Reading Road Trip and his television appearances. When children see Dan, they associate him with reading for fun and making a library a fun place to be, and their lives have been enriched by his advocacy. They will have memories for a lifetime, and are more likely pass on their positive associations to their children and others throughout their lives.

Dan is a tireless supporter of Iowa youth and libraries, and he richly deserves this award.

Dan's response was heartfelt and touching. He is a man who has a true heart for libraries.

Congratulations to both Katie and Dan.

Submitted by
Danielle Day
2011 YSS Awards Chair
Youth Services Manager
Carnegie-Stout Public Library, Dubuque



The end of the year means we'll be switching our officers around! We'd like to take a moment to thank Audrey Jones for chairing YSS for two years!

We'd also like to thank Danielle Day for all of her hard work for the Youth Services Subdivision. Both as secretary and as YSS Awards Chair, we appreciate everything you've done!



From the New YSS Chair...

Hello, my name is Zachary Stier and I am excited to be the new chair for the YSS subdivision. My goal is simple: to connect with other Youth Service Librarians across the state of Iowa to understand their role, their needs, and any ideas they have to enrich the lives of the families they serve. I have been a librarian for four years and I am currently the children's librarian at the Ericson Public Library in Boone.

Please feel free to contact me at zstier@boone.lib.ia.us if you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions.

Zachary Stier
2012 YSS Chair-Elect
Ericson Public Library

From the new Chair-Elect...

Greetings! I am excited to be serving as chair-elect this year. I have the privilege of working with Zach at Ericson Public Library in Boone as the Young Adult Librarian. Boone's teens know me as the "loud lady" that is always making a mess. Actually, that might be how my coworkers describe me also. I love books for children and teens and I love dreaming up fun things for kids to do at the library.

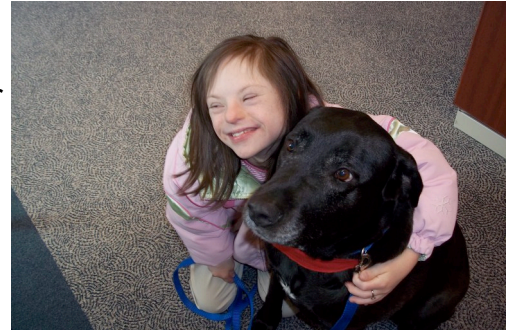
Before working at Ericson Public Library I was a Part-Time Children's Librarian in West Des Moines. My husband, Adam, and I were married in May and live in Ames with our cats, Jack and Guster. I am working on my MLIS with an emphasis in Youth Services from Drexel University Online.

I look forward to getting to know you all and hope you're having a wonderful Holiday Season!

Arielle Loy
Young Adult Librarian
Ericson Public Library

Therapy Dog program at Newton Public

The Newton Public Library has had a therapy dog program for two years, and it has been a great program. We call our program "Read with Raven" since our therapy dog is Raven, a 9 year old black lab, certified with Therapy Dogs International. Her handler is a former occupational therapist, and wonderful with the kids. It is a drop in program, the kids just take turns reading to her, we have no formal registration. Her handler, Carol Meador, is a snow bird, and in the winter she does the program in North Carolina. She said there they have the kids register for time slots to read, and she prefers the open format we have here, because at the North Carolina library the kids register and then sometimes don't show up. We hold our program on Wednesdays at 2:30 pm when Newton schools let out one hour early, and we get 2 to 10 kids each week. Carol does a great job letting them each have a turn reading, so that everyone gets some reading time. We do our program in an open area of the library with comfortable bean bag chairs, rather than in our meeting room. Although it would be nice to do the program in a closed area because there would be less distractions, I felt it was important to be in the public area since Carol is the only adult with the kids at times. Parents sometimes go to look for books to check out, and I am available to answer reference questions, but I don't necessarily sit in on the program.



Before we started the program, we checked with our city attorney, and we have a copy of a signed veterinarian letter which states Raven is in good health and all immunizations are up to date. Raven wears a leash at all times, and has a kerchief with the "Therapy Dogs International" logo on it. Therapy Dogs International's website is www.tdi-dog.org I know there are other organizations which have similar certifications. Carol actually approached me about having the program at our library, so it fell into my lap. I already knew Carol personally, and knew she would be a great person for the program, if I had someone I didn't know doing the program, I would recommend getting references from others, since the person would be working closely with children in the library.



One time this year, a mom came up to me at the children's desk and said "How long has that dog been coming to the library?...my son has been reading to her for 20 minutes, he has been diagnosed with autism and we can NEVER get him to read aloud, let alone for 20 minutes!" Now Carol is working with this young reader and his family to get a rescue Labrador retriever as a pet, because he has responded so well to Raven. He stays after the program is over to fill Raven's water dish and to walk Raven to Carol's car.

This has been a great program, and I would recommend that other libraries give it a try! I am so glad we are able to offer it to our community; it really meets the needs of some of our young readers!

Phyllis Peter
Youth Services Librarian
Newton Public Library

From the State Library

Greetings from Iowa Library Services/State Library of Iowa! It's been a productive and exciting year, as the former Library Services Areas and the State Library merged to become Iowa Library Services. We are in the process of organizing district-wide youth services roundtables; some areas in Iowa have had youth services roundtables for many years (such as the Borrowers in North Central), others are just starting up. We had a good start in Northeast on December 9, at the Carnegie-Stout Library in Dubuque, hosted by Danielle Day.

A state-wide online youth services roundtable will be conducted on Wednesday, February 22, from 9:30—11:30 a.m., so mark your calendars! More information is forthcoming.

The second annual Teen Video Challenge is open. Please encourage your teens, aged 13-18 who are legal U.S. residents, to participate. Information and registration forms are available on the Iowa Library Services/State Library website, at <http://www.statelibraryofiowa.org/ld/t-z/youthservices/teen-video-challenge-2012>.

Teen Tech Week will be here soon, and if you're planning to be involved, you may want to check out the YALSA Teen Tech Week Ning page, at <http://teentechweek.ning.com/>. It's a place to exchange ideas about Teen Tech Week.

We had a successful set of Summer Library Program workshops and are working on those for next year. Our presenters will be Angie Pilkington and Samantha Helmick from the Burlington Public Library. Angie is a children's librarian and Manager of Youth Services, and Samantha is the Public Services Manager, who is in charge of teen outreach, teen collection development, and teen programming.

As I write this, our offices are a little quieter than usual, as it's the day after the Winter Solstice and three days before Christmas. The long nights are filled with the holiday lights, and I hope that 2012 is filled with light and good cheer for all of you.

Merri M. Monks
Youth Services Consultant
Iowa Library Services/State Library of IA