

Y'ALL (Young Appalachian Leaders & Learners) Report to the ASA Steering Committee
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Y'ALL Mission Statement

Young Appalachian Leaders and Learners (Y'ALL) is a committee of the Appalachian Studies Association that seeks to facilitate connections and relationships between young people in Appalachia, provide opportunities for professional advancement and training, as well as encourage lifelong scholarship and activism in the region. We strive to foster an inclusive environment that breaks down walls between institutions and encourages engagement, leadership, and collegiality.

2015 ASA conference events hosted by Y'ALL

- **Y'ALL chalkboard & Y'ALL space** at the 2015 Conference
- The first annual **Y'ALL Professional Development Workshops Series**--session 7.09- about "The Art of Conferencing: Proposing, Presenting, and Politicking." This workshop/panel was designed to teach students and young professionals new to the field how to go about submitting, presenting, and operating at a conference. We looked at a paper submitted by Adam Sheffield, "The Silver Racer in Frank X. Walker's 'Isaac Murphy: I Dedicate This Ride,'" to give him some feedback and learn from his research. We also talked about abstracts, proposals, and mentors. We hope to have several more workshops like this in the future, and actively seek volunteers and feedback.
- Thanks to the Education Committee & Awards Committee, especially Emily Satterwhite and Barry Whittemore for making this happen
- **Y'ALL Comm. Meet.** event (Y'ALL Committee Meeting) on **Saturday evening at 5:30 in "The Cave" at ETSU**. 50+ people in attendance. This was our first organizational meeting as a group. We provided a Giant Spud Bar (baked potato buffet) sponsored by the Center for Appalachian Studies at Appalachian State University and an anonymous donor who wishes to support this conversation.
- **Y'ALL Mixer** at **approximately 10 pm, Saturday in the bar at Wellington's**, located in the Carnegie Hotel right across from ETSU, was successful in facilitating discussions and informal conversations between different groups within Y'ALL.

Ideas for Y'ALL Events for 2016 Conference

~Y'ALL "Space"

~Designated hashtag

~ Professional Development Panel: Academic and Alt-ac Career talks (Barbara Ellen, Appalshop, Fisher)

~Host Committee Meeting

~Mixer-Friday or Saturday night. Free Food is needed.

~Multimedia—live streaming of plenaries and keynote available on web

~Environmental outreach/awareness

-local food options prioritized at ASA Conference gatherings

-increased awareness of Conference waste and environmental impact

-encourage sustainable “swag” (reusable bags, cups, etc. rather than paper and plastic products.

~T shirts, Stickers

~Gender neutral restrooms

Notes from the first “Y’ALL Comm. Meet”

What Can Y’ALL Be/Do? 3/28/15

- Directory of young people, arts organizations, activist organizations (call it ALL Y’ALL)
- Activist education—resistance
- Fundraiser concert (or Small Fest?) --- does IG2BYITM do this?
- Development trainings
 - Possible facilitators:
- Pop culture/ graphic novel inclusion
- Connecting youth organizations
 - Perhaps a space on Y’ALL’s webpage to present a brief statement about affiliated Organizations and links?
- Non-student participation
- Intergenerational connections
 - See mentors?
- Civil disobedience trainings:
 - Possible facilitators:
- Journal/blog
 - Perhaps a regularly and widely distributed newsletter.
 - Add a person to do this? (A few have volunteered).
- Mentors
 - build upon already established intergenerational projects. (Steve Fisher)
- Education about the region for those who are new to App Studies
- Leadership training
- K-12 involvement (Appalachian Teaching Program?)
- Multimedia—live streaming of plenaries and keynote available on web
- Speakers/Plenary
 - Keep existing structures accountable to inclusion?
- Pre-Conference (could include high schoolers)
- Environmental outreach
 - -local food options prioritized at ASA Conference gatherings
 - -increased awareness of Conference waste and environmental impact
 - -encourage sustainable “swag” (reusable bags, cups, etc. rather than paper and plastic products.
- Lead workshops in memoir and personal narrative
- Summer camp workshops? Retreat thing
- Social media training
- Appalachian professional ad campaign

Survey

After the Conference Y'ALL created and distributed a survey to the Appalachian Studies community. This survey resulted in over 35 results which are reported separately. Please see: Initial Assessment of ASAs Climate for Young Appalachian Leaders and Learners (to be distributed at the retreat).

Ongoing Projects and Initiatives

Collabo/Recruitment with (It's Good To Be Young In The Mountains) IG2BYITM, STAY, and others.

Creation and distribution of a semi-regular newsletter.

Working to get Y'ALL representation on other committees

Website updates

Seeking feedback, setting up mailing list, forming committee

Using Dropbox

Creation of an interactive Y'ALL directory (ALL Y'ALL)

Bylaws Changes

We support the proposed bylaws changes establishing Y'ALL as a standing committee of the ASA.

Proposed wording:

Article X Section 19/Article XI, Section 1, b.

At-large Student Steering Committee Members will also serve as Y'ALL Committee co-chairs.

Article XI Section 13: Young Appalachian Leaders and Learners (Y'ALL) Committee

- a. **Membership:** The committee shall consist of the two co-chairpersons (elected) and a minimum of four members interested in upholding the mission of Y'ALL. (We would like to clarify what is needed for membership inclusion per ASA/ solicit feedback for bylaws wording.)
- b. **Duties:** Y'ALL committee members work to facilitate connections and relationships between young people in Appalachia, provide opportunities for professional advancement and training, as well as encourage lifelong scholarship and activism in the region. We strive to foster an inclusive environment that breaks down walls between institutions and encourages engagement, leadership, and collegiality.