Currently, there are 120 YALS members. During the last year, YALS met 5 times. Our regular meetings include business items but we also always discuss new books and program ideas. Everyone is invited to participate. Meetings usually have between 12 and 28 people.

Each year, YALS awards the Flume Award Readers Choice Award for high school readers. Nominations are provided by teen readers. In 2015, teen votes were due on October 23, 2015. The winning title “We Were Liars” by E. Lockhart was announced at the NELA Conference in Manchester October 25-27, 2015.

During the past year, the new list of teen nominations were reviewed by librarians who met virtually to discuss and create the short list of 10 titles. We also use a wiki to collect librarian views and input. Teen votes due on October 28, 2016 and we will announce the 2016 winner at the NHLA business meeting on November 3, 2016.

We will start calling for teen nominations for next year’s awards in soon. The deadline for nominations will be Friday, January 29, 2017. Books must be published in the last 2 years.

Our annual conference was held on September 22, 2016. Our featured speaker was Ellen Oh, the founder and CEO of We Need Diverse Books. We also had three panels on programming ideas for teens. During the business meeting at this conference, our Vice-President Susanne Cortez became our new President and Gail Zachariah became Past President.

We elected our new officers:

Treasure: Donna Hynes,
Secretary: Liz Gotauco,
President: Tanya Ricker.

We also appointed Barb Ballou as our webmaster.

Since the election, Liz Gotauco resigned her position as Secretary. Besides the secretary position, we have the following open liaison and committee chair positions:

Flume Teen Readers’ Choice Award Committee, Programming Committee, New England Round Table of Teen and Children’s Librarians (NERTCL), New Hampshire Educational Media Association (NHEMA), Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA).

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Zachariah, YALS Past President