

2021 May Publicity-Website-Evaluations Report

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- Our speaking proposal site opened the first week in April. I am collecting information for an in-person conference, but have also added questions to determine speaker preferences should we have a virtual conference again. We will be ready to select sessions and offer contracts as soon as ATA decides.
- Over 80 proposals have been submitted so far. Only 4 of those have indicated that they no longer wish to present if the 2022 event is virtual.
- Please remind colleagues in your school division to submit a speaking proposal if they have something to present. We had far less local speaker submissions for 2021 than in previous years. Hopefully that improves this year as everyone is more familiar with the online format.
- Deadline to submit a speaking proposal is June 30, 2021. We will accept special circumstances after that but the online proposal is closed and speakers need to email for permission to submit.
- As I had so many requests, I did end up sending evaluation results to all the speakers. According to ATA we are not required to do this. The speakers however were very appreciative of receiving their evaluation results.
- I had quite a few requests from speakers who wanted to have their recorded Zoom video. These were no longer available on the Zoom website after 30 days, as our ATA accounts expired. I had downloaded them to my Microsoft One Drive and was able to send them a download link. Some speakers for non-profits were using the videos to support grant applications.
- In closing, while I do think an in-person event has much to offer, one more virtual convention would help us practise all we have learned. If we do have an in-person event, I think there may still be value in having some pre-recorded sessions and some live streamed Zoom sessions if possible.