Philly Bid Committee for ICYPAA Retreat
Sat. Jan. 21, 2017

1) Attendance
Betsy- Chair
Chelsea- Co-chair and Interim Treasurer
Lauren- Outreach Chair
Maria- Interim Secretary
Mike C.- Merchandise Chair
Caroline- Site Chair & Area 59 Liaison
Dave H.- Calendar Chair
Dianna- Fellowship Chair
Kelly F.- Events Chair
Carolyn R.- Prayer Chair
Members at Large:
Joe
Sunny
Steve
Kiera
Sonia
Chris
Brian

2) Opened with Declaration of Unity and reading of Bill W’s letter to YPAA- Carolyn R.

3) Icebreaker exercise- Dianna

4) Open positions announced- Betsy
   - Treasurer
   - Bid Book Chair
   - Graphics Chair
   - Podcast Chair – Dave stood and was elected
   - Archivist Chair – Kiera stood and was elected
   - Transportation Chair
   - Literature Chair
   - Also co-chairs

Concerns were raised about not being able to make Sunday meetings. Discussion took place about the possibility of exploring different meeting dates and setting up virtual attendance for meetings- Roma is looking into it. She will connect with Chris M. who is familiar with using Google Hangouts.

Dave asked if we should fill the open positions by doubling up on positions... answer is no, not necessary; group effort.

Dave also raised an idea for Podcast chair- idea is to come up with a collection of speaker recordings. Considerations include protecting anonymity and where to record speakers. This can be a service project.

5) Group Inventory based on past years’ IGR’s
What did we do well last year?
- Bid book
- Bid video
- Events
- Site
- Service
- Tax research
- Graphics/merch in bid book
- Bid table presence
- Stage presence
- Budget
- Secured presence at Share-a-day this year
- Relationship with the Marriott- Shane
- Longevity of bid committee- bidding history
- Relationships/communication with Advisory

Weaknesses
- Not fully engaging w/ webinars
- Not enough people on committee; incorporating more people from YP meetings on the committee
- Keeping young people who have expressed interest engaged
- Irregular meeting times/location
- Lack of outreach- outside of city of Philadelphia/outreach to surrounding.... Engage more with PENNSCYPAA bid committees

Opportunities for improvement
- More affection within committee- e.g., hold hands/hug on stage
- Higher attendance both at committee meetings/events and at ICYPAA
- More visual presence at other YPAA events
- Philly bid members should volunteer to speak on panels at this year’s ICYPAA; host marathon meetings
- Continue getting together for the webinars and showing up in #’s
- Define what membership on committee means- members at large are not actively engaged in regular meetings but will show up to host when we win 😊
- Reach out to James H. to ask about virtual meeting attendance as Florida bid committee did
- Outreach encouragement to attend ICYPAA in Chicago

Priorities for Improvement
- Our committee going to other YPAA events in area
- Non-YPAA outreach
- Solidify ICYPAA attendance earlier in year
- Getting more people interested in joining committee
- Committed Philly Bid members who are ready to do hard work
- More Philly Bid presence outside of the city of Philadelphia
- Better cohesive graphics/branding
- More enthusiasm among committee members about ICYPAA
- Solidify plan for virtual attendance at meetings
What is our purpose?
By ByLaw Definition: The Events Chair coordinates locations and arranges events deemed appropriate by the committee that promote awareness of the conference, unity, and recovery among young people in A.A. All events prior to the conference shall include an A.A. meeting. Has knowledge of A.A. Traditions and plans events in conformity with them.

My Take (Kel): The events that we host leading up to the conference during a bidding year serve three purposes:

1. To show the ICYPAA Advisory Council that as a bid committee we are actively engaged in serving and uniting the YPAA community through thoughtfully planned activities that focus on the three pillars of AA: unity, service, and recovery.
2. To execute our mission statement - specifically to attract others, including newcomers who are inspired to get involved in YPAA and service outside of the home group.
3. To demonstrate that there is interest, and excitement, in bringing a YPAA conference (i.e., ICYPAA) to the Greater Philadelphia region.

There is no specific bid requirement for events; however, the Advisory Committee did make several comments regarding events at the 2016 ICYPAA and in our 2016 IGR report, as summarized below:

**Wins/ Takeaways**
- Tiered pricing for newcomers (BR 3): Continue charging discounted rates for newcomers... consider also charging discounted rates for those with 20+ years of sobriety to encourage long timers to come out?
- YPAA-THON (BR 3): Continue! Received great feedback at event/ in IGR Report. Increase state YPAA bid/host committee participation
- Getting conference attendees out into the city - related to ICYPAA program (BR 9): Continue hosting “Philly centric” events

**Feedback to Implement**
- Address the six warranties per activity (BR 3): Solution- write summaries for all events
- 2 of 4 events took financial losses (BR 3): Solutions- aim to host events with more committees to offset costs, suggested donations at all events

**Additional Goals**
- At each event keep better records of attendance - especially newcomer attendance - to include in Bid Book
- Provide sign-up lists for anyone interested in supporting Philly Bid committee for ICYPAA at all Philly Bid events - send to web chair to reach out
- Increase number of events held in 2016-2017 bid year (4 in 2015-2016 bid year)
- Host a virtual event
- Capture Philly Bid attendance and support for other PA/ tri-state bid committees

**In 2016 we hosted the following events:**
1. NYE Dance - January (profit)
2. Dave and Buster’s Event -April (profit)
3. YPAA-THON - May
4. Beach Event - July
2017 Proposed Events:
1. Sober NYE Rager (completed) - 322 attendees. Great job everyone!!
2. Dave and Busters - Philly Bid, South Jersey, Keystone Bid (March 4)
3. The Younger Games - Philly Bid, DELYPAA, Maryland Bid for ICYPAA (May)
4. YPAA-THON (May/June)
5. Unity in Service - Intergroup Share-A-Day – Chester County Bid (June)
6. Virtual event - NYC, Boston (July)

(Bringing our total up to 6 events - and our outreach to 5 states, 12-13 different YPAA Committees, multiple counties and various cities)

Proposed Budgeting
1. Dave & Buster’s with Philly Bid, S. Jersey and Keystone Bid (possibly Bethlehem?); Date is Sat. March 4: Deposit is $275.00; then $275.00 at end of event for (minimum of) 50 power cards at $20/each- $11 goes to D&B and $9 goes to us. Usually profitable for us. Discussed options of splitting cost with other committees. (Kelly gave 3 options) The other committees prefer to get their own power cards which they would pre-sell. Will there be a problem selling our power cards if other committees are selling them too? We will be the only ones selling onsite so no problems anticipated. Voted on and approved.
2. Younger Games with Delaware YPAA, MD Bid for ICYPAA to be held in DE on church grounds. Proposed date is sometime in May… planning meeting is Jan. 28. Food will be minimal- hot dogs. We will move forward with planning and vote on after details are nailed down. Note: steer clear of May 13 and 20.
3. YPAATHON with (lots of committees- Harrisburg, Bethlehem, Lancaster, etc.). Date is likely sometime in June. Still researching options for location; Pequea only has dates open in May.
4. Virtual Scavenger Hunt with NYC YPAA and Boston Bid. Location is anywhere! In each city, participants capture items specific to their city and AA (e.g., find club house, fire station, building with exactly 12 steps). Take pictures and mark with certain hashtag. Alex joined to talk more about virtual meetings as he is involved with hosting the Fifth Dimension virtual meeting. Ease of signing on remotely, even on mobile devices. Could have people posted at certain locations to keep watch over participants. Invite only room- not open to public. Date sometime late June/early July.
5. Unity in Service with Chester Co. Bid for PENNSCYPAA- sometime in late July in Chester County. Workshop where we focus on how to get involved in YPAA and service education; how to get involved in general service. Steve suggested keeping in contact with the Alternate Delegate/YPAA Liaison (Melanie).

7) Site Report- Caroline
   • Hershey Lodge
     o Dates: Sept. 13-16, 2018
     o Group rate is $189- (from $159 in last year’s contract)
     o Concessions: Good news is that we would have more space in this year’s contract- all meeting spaces in property; Bad news is that they will not accept our food and beverage proposals and they will not add our noise clause- restriction is in sleeping room areas (between 10 pm – 7 am)
     o Feedback from Advisory: they typically haven’t signed contracts with F & B minimums that high and their recent signed contracts all contain a noise clause; the structure of the F & B clause adds a lot of risk to the contract and they would not recommend signing it. They reached a similar stalemate with the Loews in South Beach and even though they
loved it, they had to eventually admit it wasn’t a good fit; maybe knowing they (Hershey) would be out of the running may spark some enthusiasm to change a few things. If/when the conference is awarded there, the hotel may be more in line with our wishes at that point, or at least know what we expect.

- Marriott
  - No dates or prices yet- Shane is strategic about when to go to management
  - We are fairly certain that we can get the following concessions: extend Starbucks to 24 hours; extend pool hours to 24 hours; get discounted parking rates; noise clause
  - Pushing to get the Franklin Ballroom level which would give us a lot of additional space
- Caroline will get a set of dates from each property for us to do a site visit and make it a fellowship event. Hershey has offered us complimentary rooms for overnight stay. Dave suggested going on Feb. 11-12 to coincide with Valentine’s Dance in Harrisburg (Cumberland Valley bid committee). For Marriott, we’ll look at Wednesday nights for site visit.
- Chelsea suggested including the list of options explored in previous years in the bid book again.

8) Outreach Report- Lauren
- Improvements made over last year: getting other counties involved; pop-up meeting attempted at Villanova but was not necessarily successful, we have formed stronger relationships with Chester Co. and Bethlehem Host Committee and some of our committee members have been going to their events; Lauren has been announcing going to ICYPAA in Chicago- should have laptops at our events to register people for the conference, look into group transportation by buses, build up member-at-large roster. Feedback that Lauren has heard- Sunday afternoons are bad for a lot of young people to make the committee meetings, high interest in NYE dance and Younger Games. Important to get fliers distributed.
- Discussion:
  - Steve suggested including the link to ICYPAA.org at the bottom of our emails.
  - Sonia suggested having liaisons for different counties in the area.
  - Better utilize Philly Bid Facebook groups; make sure to invite people who are interested in joining our committee.
  - Utilize outreach email list serve for email blasts (started in first bid year- has about 300 members). Kelly also has a list from YPAATHON that needs to be included in the list serve.
  - Resume taking email addresses from attendees at D & B.
  - Resume sending fliers by email blast; must be sent by bcc. Lauren will connect with Roma.

9) Breakout Groups- talk about action plan for next 6 months; 3 top priorities; assigned sub-committees/ ownership of tasks
- Merchandise
  - Top 3 Priorities: getting a graphics chair, theme for year, merch to be ordered and when
  - Theme ideas:
    - A New World Came into View- big book pg. 12
    - This is the How and Why of It... Quit Playing God- pg. 63
    - Easy Does It
    - Share Our AA Way of Life- from a Vicious Cycle
    - Daily Opportunity to Help- from a Vicious Cycle
    - Never Had I Had to Walk Alone- from a Vicious Cycle
    - Fresh Courage to Flagging Spirits- We Agnostics/Fresh Prince graphic idea (Dave)/Neon colors/90’s themed
    - Life will take on new meaning- pg. 89/Extending hand to still suffering alcoholic as in My Name is Bill W.
o Ordering new merch- order more tanks than tees; look at cadet style caps with logo on flip-side; higher quality tees  
  o Giveaway ideas- buttons, sunglasses, Philly pretzel magnets, bottles of water with customized labels, mini Rocky statues, stress balls, neon slap bracelets!

- Service (high level idea is to fill existing needs)
  o Bridgeway School meetings: continue to take commitments and get more committee members to go to meetings- Justin and Sonia will facilitate  
  o SEPIA Prison Committee meetings: consistently attend these committee meetings as well as other SEPIA Committee meetings such as CPC, etc.; Proposal for Dave to send reminder emails a week before the committee meetings- Justin and Dave will facilitate  
  o Podcasts: establishing a Q & A podcast about ICYPAA; record speakers specifically focused on service experience- Dave to explores podcast ideas

- Governance
  o Importance of our bid committee and moreover host committee by-laws; what are we agreeing to in BR’s 4 & 5?  
  o Will go through with a fine toothed comb what is in our host committee by-laws and take on administration and preparation of BR 4 & 5 through monthly conference calls.

10) Bid Book Review

- Timeline (Please note: the bid book timeline due dates are estimates only, as Advisory has not released their actual timeline yet.)
  o Overall deadline to submit drafts for feedback to advisory is June 20  
  o Advisory’s deadline to reply with feedback is June 29  
  o Bid book pdf deadline is on or about August 6; shoot for composing book on July 22 or 29  
  o Bid package to be presented on Sat. August 19

- BR1- Roster of committee members (Secretary- MN), Due date: June 1 to submit to Advisory; July 15 to Committee
- BR2- Provide detailed financial records from all committee activities (Treasurer- CC), Due date: June 5 to submit to Advisory; July 15 to Committee
- BR3- Detail committee’s efforts to engage in AA’s legacies of recover, unity, and service (Service Chair- Justin, Dave, & Lauren), Due date: May 22 to submit to Advisory; July 15 to Committee
- BR4- Supply documentation that shows the committee has read, understands, and agrees to comply with the Host Committee responsibilities (Brian, Dianna, Chelsea), Due date: May 15 to Advisory; July 15 to Committee
- BR5- Produce a copy of the committee’s proposed host committee guidelines, operating procedures, and/or structure (Brian, Dianna, Chelsea), Due date: May 15 to Advisory; July 15 to Committee
- BR6- Present a list of large-scale AA and non-AA activities scheduled to take place in your bidding region near the proposed conference dates (Dave and Sonia), Due date: May 22 to Advisory; July 15 to Committee
- BR7- Produce a concise summary of applicable federal, state, provincial, and local tax/business laws (Chelsea), Due date: May 1 to Advisory; July 15 to Committee
- BR8- Develop proposed conference theme and graphics for conference outreach material (Graphics Chair TBD to work with Mike, Kelly), Due date: May 18 to Advisory; July 15 to Committee
- BR9- Create a tentative outline of the conference program for each proposed facility (Program sub-committee; Kelly with Caroline’s help), Due date: May 12 to Advisory; July 15 to Committee
- BR10- Present detailed proposed conference budgets that take into account variations in facility and AV costs (Chelsea), Due date: June 19 to Advisory
• BR11- Obtain commitments from two or more distinct facilities able to accommodate the entire conference, both in sleeping rooms and meeting space (Caroline), Due date: May 1 to Advisory
• BR12- Obtain two quotes for audio-visual equipment and services for each proposed facility (Dianna); Due date: June 11 to Advisory; July 15 to Committee
• Request private webinar with Advisory on or about July 9; alternately June 25

11) Theme ideas for bid year
   • A new world came into view
   • This is the how and why of it
   • Easy does it
   • Share our AA way of life
   • Daily opportunity to help
   • God as we understand him
   • Never have I had to walk alone
   • **Fresh courage for flagging spirits- WINNER!**
   • Life will take on new meaning
   • (we) had arrived

12) Boundary breaking exercise to end evening- Dianna