

WACYPAA Advisory Council Annual Business Meeting Minutes

December 30, 2016

Sacramento, California – WACYPAA XX

A. Opened at **8:15AM** with Serenity Prayer

B. Roll Call:

Present: Jon G., Ryan S., Mike K., Marisa B., Alexander D., Dorian G., Kirk H., James W., Teresa B., Ann P., Leigh Ann A., Chet W., Neal F., Lindsay L., Kelli P., Tom D.

Absent: Melisa M.,

C. Review of weekend plan

D. Review & approval of minutes from October Conference Call Meeting

Motion seconded and unanimous acceptance.

E. Reports

- 1. Chair (Jon):** Been a wonderful year; worked with host and bid committees. Sad this is coming to an end for a few of us. Glad everyone could make it!
- 2. Co-Chair / Mailings Chair (Lindsay):** Super sad that she is rotating off. Will do a proper transition to new co-chair. Sent new advisory members their new advisory packets. She has all documents on her computer and will pass them along. Mailing chair goal was to get DB going; still collecting emails, but did get the DB up at least. Mailing chair duties will move under Outreach Chair. Can continue working after but needs help from advisory to get emails of their local entities for the DB.
- 3. Secretary (Kelli):** Read minutes; not much going communication with territories. PHX was rumbling for a bid. We shall see.
- 4. Treasurer (Tom):** Been an honor to serve on advisory council. 12 year commitment between bidding, hosting, and advisory council! (overachiever) Treasury is in a good place! Woot! We should be close to being self-supporting after this conference. \$12,873.83 in the bank. Insurance paid. \$2800 going out for travel reimbursements this weekend. Website needs money (\$131.88) for GoDaddy hosting. Will be a Native Liaison expense.
- 5. Co-Treasurer (Melisa):** Made it! Has a bag of chocolate and goodies from New Zealand to share. ☺
- 6. By-Laws Chair (Ryan):** Bylaws look good!
- 7. Non-Host Native American/First Nations Liaison (Dorian):** Helped coordinate Native American activities for the conference. Each morning will be a Native American prayer/meditation and there is a Native American panel on Saturday. WSCYPAA, Central Texas, and BACYPAA has contacted her for Native contacts in their area to begin the outreach!
- 8. Non-Host Mexican National Liaison (Neal):** Went to a couple district meetings in SoCal and help out with MEXYPAA; will be attending the conference. Reached out to Marytere. Worked with TX to get the some contacts in their area as well as WSCYPAA. Spoke to EDYPAA about reaching out to the French speaking community. Looking forward to get more contacts. Needs to find out the dates of Congresso and to seek out an alternate. Marytere will be here tomorrow and will meet with her to pick her brain.

9. **Outreach (Leigh Ann):** Teresa went on a trip and will be getting her reimbursed. Will work with Lindsay getting the DB up and running to get the email system going. Excited to take on a little more for this year.
10. **Webmaster (Alexander):** Going pretty hard with Lindsay on the website and is pretty much ready to go if we approve it as a council. Lots of past information for bid cities to take a look at! Will send out the staging URL (DO NOT DISTRIBUTE) for AC council to see. Colorado state bid for ICYPAA!
11. **James – Member at large:** Nothing new to report from the last conference call. Been giving input on contracts as they come in.
12. **Andrew – Member at large:** Resigned
13. **Mike – Member at large:** Nothing new to report from the last call.
14. **Marisa – Member at large:** Trying to plan a trip to Alaska, but need to know exactly how many people want to go to submit a budget. Looking into Airbnb and car rental. Alaska is HUGE and we may not be able to hit both Juneau and Anchorage. Working with a new group on Oahu and would like to put together a bid for next year. Met some people on Kauai and not sure if they will do a joint bid or do their own. Still working on So-Cal as well. No contact with Colorado right now.
15. **Archivist (Kirk):** Archives are here and arrangements made to get them back to Vegas. Would like to digitize the archives so we don't have to load a bunch of stuff. Looking into storing archive in Central Office in Vegas so people coming through can see them. Jon to send stuff from Montana host to give to Kirk. Need to catalogue everything that we have in inventory. Need a proper container to ship archives. Neal works for freight company and will get together with Kirk.
16. **Chet – Member at large:** Oregon, Kansa, Oklahoma, Yukon: Cannot get anyone in Yukon or Kansas. HACYPAA hasn't gotten Kansas either. Spoke to Brady from Denver about a bid for ICYPAA. If they don't get ICY, they should bid for WACY. Everything is good.
17. **Anne – Member at large:** Been helping out with LACYPAA especially regarding the safety stuff. Been staying local and helping PORCYPAA and it has been expanding since hosting. WSCYPAA has been in contact as well. No outreach to other territories.
18. **Teresa – Member at large:** Working with Cameron (SNAC) and talk regularly. Outreaching to the deaf community. Not much luck with Alaska but interested in outreach trip there. Oklahoma and Kansas and been in touch with Cameron B. (HACYPAA Advisory) with no luck getting them to bid quite yet. Casting a wide net via FB. Trip to North Dakota and Montana. Went to Standing Rock, and there were AA and Wellbriety meetings going on. Got WAC stuff on their page as well as Montana. Very successful outreach trip! Don't know if there was a committee in North Dakota, but was able to get in contact with South Dakota.
19. **Dave – Member at large: Hosting**
20. **Zak – Member at large: hosting**
21. **Merrilee – Member at large: hosting**

F. Elections (3rd Legacy)

- **Chair** Marissa=2, Mike=10, Kelli=3

- **Elected Mike!**
- **Co-Chair-** Leigh Ann=10, Kelli=4, Marissa=1
Elected Leigh Ann!
- **Treasurer** Kelli=0, Ryan=12, Marissa=3
Elected Ryan!
- **Outreach** Chet=12, No Chet=2
Elected Chet!
- **By-Laws** Ryan=3, Marissa=12
Elected Marissa!
- **Native American Liaison** Teresa=12, No Teresa=2
Elected Teresa!
- **Spanish Speaking Liaison**
Elected open
- **Non-Host Native American / First Nations Liaison Alternate** Coyotee=15
Elected Coyotee!

G. Old Business:

1. Adopt Code of Conduct Policies (anti-harassment)

Code of Conduct Policies

“Western Area Conference of Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous (WACYPAA) adheres to the spiritual principles of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), its 12 steps, Traditions, and Concepts. WACYPAA is committed to an environment that is free from discrimination and harassment. All individuals affiliated with WACYPAA in any way should be personally aware of how their opinions and behaviors can affect people and, in some instances, create a harassing and hostile experience for others. Moreover, all individuals affiliated with WACYPAA are expected to treat each other with dignity and respect. To this end, WACYPAA requires that all Advisory Council members, Host Committee members, Bid Committee members, and general WACYPAA attendees adhere to the policies and guidelines set forth herein, below.

Anti-Harassment

Harassment is defined as unwelcome or unwanted conduct, whether verbal, physical or visual, toward an individual because of their age, race, color, religion, sex, national origin, creed, disability, veteran’s status, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, when the conduct creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment.

Code of Conduct Enforcement Guidelines

Harassment and sexual harassment are unacceptable at WACYPAA and all related events including, but not limited to, the WACYPAA Facebook page. This behavior violates

WACYPAA policies even when it does not constitute a violation of law. If, at any time, an attendee or volunteer believes they have been a victim of or witness to a crime or a violation of this policy, they should report the incident to the WACYPAA Advisory Council, WACYPAA Host Committee, police or hotel staff immediately.

Reporting

Everyone can help ensure that WACYPAA and all related events are free from harassment. Our hope is that any person who finds another's conduct unwelcome will inform that individual directly. We understand this might not always be possible. Therefore, all are encouraged to report conduct they feel is in violation of these policies directly to any member of the WACYPAA Advisory Council or Host Committee. Moreover, any WACYPAA Advisory Council or Host Committee member who is aware of or who receives a report of conduct inconsistent with these guidelines is to report immediately to the WACYPAA Advisory Council or the Host Committee. These guidelines do not require reporting harassment to, or confronting, any person responsible for the harassment. If an incident occurs that is in violation of the law, the police will be notified directly.

Discussion:

- Sentiment is good. What is our real power though? We don't want to be the police of people's conduct.
- Asking people to come to advisory as a policing group which is what we are not.
- GSO has no opinion on matters that are not violation of the law.
- Should be on an individual basis and for the privacy of someone, to have them come up what they want to do about it. But want people to know that we are available if they want us to be involved.
- Having a straight reporting policy is treading on dangerous ground. We don't want to be in a position of authority.
- Things do happen at YPAA events, but we can't say that we are the police of these activities, then we may alienate others. Blanket statements are scary to adapt.
- Good with code of conduct and anti-harassment policy is good, but the reporting is a no go. These kinds of things happen in regular AA as well. We rely heavily on sponsorship. May be legal implications with the idea of reporting.
- We need to be careful that we don't become liable by policing. Not comfortable with putting the WACYPAA name on a statement like this.
- By stating that we are a place to report the behavior that it may put us in a legal responsibility that we don't have the business to be in. Believe that as a person in AA it's more of a personal responsibility rather than a committee responsibility.
- The language is general and it is important that we say something to this affect. All it says is to come to us if they need to, but to go to the person first if possible. It does also say that if the law is broken that we would contact the proper authorities.

- This is a business, not AA, and so we need to have a policy like this. We are not implying group action, but that we have autonomy in the situation to handle the situation. There can actually be more action in this with a safety committee.
- Have had the experience of harassment, but went to sponsor. Really conflicted and see both sides of the situation. Feel strongly about people feeling safe in AA. We are here for a similar reason and majority of people want to be well.
- Don't think the reporting policy is needed. These are cultural issues and it shouldn't be on the shoulders of the victim. It's important that we say this behavior is not acceptable and if you break the law, then you will be reported to the police.
- Very passionate about this kind of policy. This is a stopgap and is important because withholding information is also liability. GSO will take forever to make the changes but this stuff is being adopted by other groups already.
- These kinds of things happen at all kinds of events and the members speak to the people participating in these behaviors. Not on board to jump on a policy just because another group has done. People in other conferences are being banned for things that are possibly just hearsay and have not been convicted of any crimes.
- What is happening to people is happening to both men and women. People are being banned within two minutes of the report without being convicted of any crime. Down to help someone who needs the help, but we are not a policing group.
- Ok with reporting stuff to be changed/removed, but the stance is important. WACYPAA does do a good job of being a more message driven conference with. It is not the intention of council to ban anyone. This is not what this statement is saying.
- Also passionate about this topic and it's been swept under the rug for too long. Agree with the committee on the reporting portion, but if you participate in this kind of behavior, you're going to hear about it. There is individual responsibility to quash this kind of behavior if it's being seen. By not stepping in individually, you are perpetuating aggression. I'd like to see it go through without the reporting.
- Taking a stand is one thing, but when we say come to us, what are we exactly going to do? That portion of the enforcement should be removed.
- We need to adopt a statement today, even if we do it w/o reporting section. This is important and it's a problem and others have made their statements.
- Amendment proposal: *Change code of conduct enforcement to read: Harassment and sexual harassment are unacceptable at WACYPAA and all related events including, but not limited to, the WACYPAA Facebook page. If an incident occurs that is in violation of the law, the police will be notified directly.*
 - Amendment accepted
- There are plenty of people on this committee who are comfortable doing the research and willing to do the work to help those who are reporting issues.
- We need to be careful about passionate causes and need to be rational. We as individuals have that responsibility, but the council being the judge and jury is dangerous.

- Totally on board with the amendment because it lets people know that Advisory is going to report things in violation of law and so then we would also be willing to hear things that aren't necessarily reportable to the law.
- Change the word "Require" to "Encouraged". Change the verbiage to "encourage the victim to report the action to the police".
- Not in favor of this motion right now. We DO need to have something like this, but we need to get outside council on how to word this in the way that removes liability from council.
- Motion is removed for further research.
- Ad Hoc committee to be formed to help reach out and find the right policy for us: Kelli, Neal, Chet, Leigh Ann, Ann, Alexander, Mike, Ryan, Marissa (leads the ad hoc), Kirk.

2. Bylaw Submission:

The 6.7 Travel reimbursement

Discussion of travel reimbursement for Advisory Council will be held after the annual budget review session, and funds will be distributed contingent on the current financial status and by approval of the Advisory Council. *See also Section 7.1.*

Report out from ad-hoc (Kelli, Mike & James)

Created a spreadsheet to see different ways to do disbursements. Came up with two different ways to do the disbursements. Both involve set a budget amount in total to be spent. Percent proposal moves the percent until it matches the budget. Both require bringing receipts to show for money spent. Did not set booking guidance, just did bigger picture structure. Second proposal is the max out of pocket structure. Everyone has the same max out of pocket, whoever spends more than out of pocket. Say out of pocket is set at \$600, anyone who spends over \$600 would get the difference reimbursed. Those who spend less get no reimbursement.

H. New Business

- 1. Bid Committee Hotel Proposal Cover Sheet (Lindsay) Tabled**
 - 2. Discussion re: Midyear Attendance Requirements (Ryan) Tabled**
 - 3. Website Reveal (Alexander / Lindsay) LOOKS GREAT! LOVE IT!!!**
 - 4.**
- I. 4:05p.m. - Close with the Responsibility Statement and adjourn to the Bid City Q&A.**

I am Responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that: I am responsible.