

Hi. We're the Bay Area. Remember us? We are the northern part of California. Right! The hippies. Peace man. This is our third year bidding as a region and our second year as a committee. Three years ago members of this committee attended the first Wacypaa and were shocked to see separate bids from Bay Area committees that lived 20 mins. apart. We decided to work at changing the situation in California. Years ago people from different areas of the bay hardly knew each other. We were fragmented and our area's unity suffered as a result. People rarely left the areas they lived for meetings twenty minutes away. Thankfully this has all changed as a result of hard work and an intense love for Alcoholics Anonymous. We of course haven't been alone in this unity movement, in fact in many ways we have just taken what we learned from other committees and applied it to ours. Groups like the East Bay young people in AA, Sacramento young people in AA, Marin county young people and many more in the northern and southern California area have been inspirational and essential in our struggle for unity. Today the situation in California is hardly recognizable compared to the past. It seems like we all know each other and are friends, helping one another stay sober one day at a time from San Diego, all the way to the Portland.

(To our Portland friends on the advisory council, peace kind rainbow brothers and sisters. We are California, we love the earth mother too. We invented Birkenstocks. In fact if you give us the conference we can take you to the Birkenstock factory in Marin. OK back to the need statement, peace and love my sweet moon dancers)

The kind of unity apparent in California is evidenced by the huge amount of bids going to our beloved state conference, ACYPAA. Or by the fact that we as a committee had a business that rotated around the major areas in the bay area with two-hour differences between some members and our meetings. So what's my point? Hmmm good question. What are we doing here? Oh yes the conference. Listen, now that unity is at its strongest our need for a conference is at its strongest as well. There hasn't been a young people's conference in northern California since SF Acypaa and one of our oldest running young people conferences CCYPAA is no more. The people in our area are hungry for service and newcomers want to know what the buzz is about. We as a committee have seen people get sober and stay sober in part due to their efforts on this committee. We do need this conference. We need to harness this unity and energy into an explosion of service, love, and good old-fashioned AA.

Our theme this year is "We are people who would normally not mix." We chose this because it reflects our committee as well as our community. As a committee we have and plan to continue outreaching many diverse communities such as the Native American, Latino, and Deaf communities. Our committee reflects the diversity of our community. At our meetings are people of all different races, faiths, sexual preferences, backgrounds and amount of body peircings. Alcoholism sees no barriers. It effects all, young or old, rich or poor. At the same time our precious program of recovery sees none either. It just works. Any alcoholic who follows the plan of action outlined in the book gets the results promised. And we know what binds us together is that a common solution and a loving creator who loves us all the same.

The fire of AA is in our hearts. And the only way to kindle that fire is to be able to spread it to others, to be able to spread it to newcomers who didn't even know young people in AA existed. These conferences gave us hope when we were newly sober. They gave us a little glimpse of the energy of the true fellowship in Alcoholics Anonymous. It gave us an understanding that we didn't have to be alone because Bpeople just like us were getting sober all over. Now it's our turn to show people that fire, that energy, that love.

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR IN CALI!!!