



**ICYPAA**  
ADVISORY COUNCIL

# HOW TO START A YPAA

## PART 3

### HANDLE COMMITTEE MONEY APPROPRIATELY

- MAKE SURE YOUR BANK ACCOUNTS HAVE APPROPRIATE CHECKS AND BALANCES.
- KEEP YOUR TREASURER AND LEADERSHIP ACCOUNTABLE BY REQUIRING MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS THAT INCLUDE SCREEN SHOTS OF BANK STATEMENTS.
- PLAN YOUR EVENTS PRUDENTLY: BUDGET TO BREAK EVEN OR AVOID EXPERIENCING A LOSS.
- THE GOAL IN AA IS NOT TO MAKE A LOT OF MONEY, EVEN IF YOU ARE TRYING TO HOST A CONFERENCE.
- RESIST THE URGE TO FUNDRAISE. SOME COMMITTEES BECOME AFRAID ABOUT THE EXPENSES OF THEIR CONFERENCE AND BEGIN FUNDRAISING TO OFFSET COSTS. MOST OF THE INCOME FOR YOUR CONFERENCE WILL COME FROM REGISTRATIONS. IF YOU ARE ACTIVE IN LOCAL AA SERVICE, THE LOCAL AA'S WILL SUPPORT YOUR ACTIVITIES.

### GET THE OUTSIDE HELP YOU NEED

- IF YOUR COMMITTEE IS SUCCESSFUL AND YOUR EVENTS ARE LARGE, YOUR COMMITTEE MAY NEED TO FILE PAPERWORK WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE, FILE TAXES AND EVEN HIRE A LAWYER.
- THESE THINGS CAN BE SCARY AT FIRST, BUT AREN'T THAT BIG OF A DEAL IF YOU TAKE IT ONE STEP AT A TIME.

### WHAT IF MY LOCAL AA COMMUNITY HATES YPAA OR THINKS THAT YPAA ISN'T AA?

- THIS WEBPAGE HAS SOME RESOURCES YOU CAN USE TO HELP DISPEL THIS MISUNDERSTANDING:  
[HTTP://WWW.ICYPAA.ORG/COUNCIL/ABOUT-ICYPAA](http://www.icypaa.org/council/about-icypaa).
- MOST PEOPLE WHO HATE YPAA ARE SIMPLY AFRAID THAT OUR CONFERENCES DRAIN VITAL ENERGY OUT OF AA AND INTO SOMETHING THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND.
- IT IS CRITICALLY IMPORTANT TO BUILD SOLID CONNECTIONS TO YOUR LOCAL AA GROUPS AND SERVICE STRUCTURE, EVEN IF THEY DISAGREE WITH YOU.
- YOUR DEDICATED SERVICE TO AA WILL EVENTUALLY WIN THEIR CONFIDENCE AND SUPPORT.
- DO NOT FIGHT WITH THEM, SIMPLY GO ABOUT YOUR AA SERVICE WORK AND CONVINCE THEM THROUGH YOUR PRINCIPLED ACTION.
- CONSIDER SENDING SMALL AA CONTRIBUTION CHECKS TO GSQ, YOUR LOCAL INTERGROUP, DISTRICTS AND DELEGATE AREA.
- SINCE ONLY AA ENTITIES CAN MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS TO OTHER AA ENTITIES, ANY AA ORGANIZATION THAT CASHES YOUR CHECK IS AGREEING THAT YOU ARE, INDEED, AN AA GROUP OR COMMITTEE.

### NO, SERIOUSLY, MY LOCAL AA COMMUNITY HATES YPAA AND WON'T LET US BE A PART OF AA

- YOU ARE NOT ALONE.
- "ANY TWO OR THREE ALCOHOLICS GATHERED TOGETHER FOR SOBRIETY MAY CALL THEMSELVES AN A.A. GROUP, PROVIDED THAT, AS A GROUP, THEY HAVE NO OTHER AFFILIATION." - FROM TRADITION THREE, THE TWELVE TRADITIONS OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, LONG FORM.
- REGARDLESS OF WHAT YOUR LOCAL AA SAYS, YOU CAN START A YOUNG PEOPLE'S GROUP. IF YOU ARE REACHING THE HAND OF AA OUT TO SUFFERING ALCOHOLICS AND CARRYING AN EFFECTIVE MESSAGE, PEOPLE WILL GET AND STAY SOBER AND YOUR GROUP WILL GROW.
- UNDER TRADITIONS 4 AND 9, AA MEMBERS CAN CREATE SERVICE COMMITTEES TO ACCOMPLISH TASKS LARGER THAN AN AA GROUP CAN MANAGE.
- NO ONE CAN STOP YOU FROM CREATING YOUR YPAA COMMITTEE, HOWEVER, IT'S UP TO YOU TO FOLLOW AA TRADITION IN THE MANNER YOU DO THIS. CONSULT WITH OTHER GROUPS. DON'T ACT ALONE OR OUT OF PRIDE OR FEAR.
- MAKE SURE YOUR COMMITTEE IS "DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE TO THOSE IT SERVES." TAKE MINUTES, RECORD FINANCIAL DATA, MAKE REPORTS, ROTATE YOUR LEADERSHIP, ETC. STUDY THE AA TRADITIONS AND CONCEPTS.

### OMG, I'M BURNED OUT ON YPAA!!

- DON'T DO TOO MUCH.
- DON'T BE A MARTYR.
- TAKE ONE YPAA SERVICE COMMITMENT AND ONE REGULAR AA COMMITMENT AT A TIME.

THERE IS NO RUSH.

YOU WILL HAVE PLENTY OF TIME  
TO TRY ALL THE POSITIONS IF YOU  
PACE YOURSELF AND STAY SOBER.

### "I'M TOO OLD FOR YPAA, BLEH."

- DON'T BE SILLY.
- THERE ARE NO AGE REQUIREMENTS IN YPAA. YPAA IS FOR THE YOUNG, YOUNG AT HEART, AND FOR THOSE WITH ROOM TO GROW.
- IT'S EASIER TO SIT ON THE SIDE OR IN THE BACK AND CRITICIZE THAN IT IS TO RIGHTLY RELATE OURSELVES TO THE COMMITTEE. GET INVOLVED!
- AN ACTIVE MENTOR AND EXPERIENCED VOICE IS A HUGE ASSET TO A YPAA COMMITTEE. YES, IT WILL SOMETIMES BE PAINFUL AND YOU WILL WANT TO PULL YOUR HAIR OUT. THAT FEELING IS ALSO A SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE.