



HOW TO START A YPAA

THIS GUIDE FROM THE ICYPAA ADVISORY COUNCIL CONTAINS COLLECTIVE EXPERIENCE AND BEST PRACTICES TO HELP YOU IN CREATING A YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE COMMITTEE IN YOUR AREA.

GETTING STARTED:

TALK TO OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE ABOUT YOUR DESIRE TO START A YPAA COMMITTEE.

- DO YOU HAVE ANY SUPPORT?
- THIS IS A DIFFICULT THING TO DO ALONE.
- CREATE THE FELLOWSHIP YOU CRAVE!

ASSESS WHETHER OR NOT YOUR AREA NEEDS A(NOTHER) YPAA COMMITTEE.

- ARE YOUNG PEOPLE GETTING SOBER IN YOUR AREA?
- ARE THERE ENOUGH FUN THINGS TO DO FOR YOUNG SOBER PEOPLE IN YOUR AREA?
- ARE YOUNG PEOPLE IN AA GETTING INVOLVED IN AA SERVICE AT ALL LEVELS?
- IF THESE THINGS ARE ALREADY HAPPENING, YOUR AREA MIGHT NOT NEED A YPAA COMMITTEE.
- CONSIDER HOLDING A SHARING SESSION TO HELP BUILD MOMENTUM AND GAUGE INTEREST

MORE INFO ABOUT HOLDING A SHARING SESSION IS AVAILABLE AT GSO'S WEBSITE WWW.AA.ORG/ASSETS/EN/LUS/AA-LITERATURE/SMF-III-HOW-TO-CONDUCT-A-SHARING-SESSION

GO TO THE LOCAL YOUNG PEOPLE'S AA GROUP AND MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT YOUR DESIRE TO START A YPAA COMMITTEE.

- IF THERE IS NO LOCAL YOUNG PEOPLE'S MEETING, CONSIDER STARTING ONE.
- IF YOUNG PEOPLE ARE ABLE TO GET SOBER WITHOUT A YOUNG PEOPLE'S MEETING, YOUR AREA MAY NOT NEED ONE.
- IF YOU DECIDE TO START A YOUNG PEOPLE'S MEETING, BE MINDFUL OF THE DATE AND TIME OF YOUR MEETING SO THAT YOU DON'T ADVERSELY AFFECT OTHER GROUPS.

REACH OUT TO OTHER YPAA COMMITTEES FOR INFORMATION AND HELP.

- MANY YPAA COMMITTEES HAVE WEBSITES AND/OR SECRET FACEBOOK GROUPS WHERE YOU CAN FIND CONTACTS AND ASK QUESTIONS.
- TRY ATTENDING ANOTHER COMMITTEE'S EVENTS OR VOLUNTEERING TO SEE HOW THEY'RE DONE, AND ASK FOR SUPPORT FOR YOUR EVENTS.
- CREATING UNITY AMONG YPAA GROUPS BY SUPPORTING EACH OTHER'S EVENTS IS A WONDERFUL PART OF YPAA SERVICE.

IF YOUR ANNOUNCEMENTS RESULT IN A HANDFUL OF PEOPLE OR MORE WHO ARE INTERESTED IN STARTING A YPAA COMMITTEE, THAT'S A GREAT START!



- NEXT, SET A DATE, TIME AND LOCATION FOR YOUR ELECTIONS.
- THE ELECTION MEETING SHOULD BE SET A FEW WEEKS OR MORE INTO THE FUTURE, SO THAT YOU CAN OUTREACH THE ELECTIONS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.
- MAKE ANNOUNCEMENTS AT AA MEETINGS ABOUT THE ELECTIONS, AND INVITE ALL AA MEMBERS TO ATTEND, PARTICIPATE, AND GET INVOLVED.
- CONSIDER MAKING A FEW FLYERS, BUSINESS CARDS, OR OTHER HANDOUTS TO HELP CARRY THE MESSAGE. DON'T OVERSPEND!

TO PREPARE FOR THE ELECTIONS:

- ASK A COUPLE OF EXPERIENCED AA MEMBERS TO HELP RUN THE ELECTION MEETING.
- REACH OUT TO YOUR LOCAL DCM OR AREA OFFICERS, OR ASK YOUR SPONSOR OR SOME OTHER OLD-TIMERS WHO MAY HAVE GOTTEN SOBER YOUNG. YOU ARE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE COMFORTABLE RUNNING A 3RD LEGACY ELECTION.
- DECIDE WHICH POSITIONS WILL BE ELECTED, AND IN WHAT ORDER.
- AT THE FIRST ELECTION MEETING, YOU WILL WANT TO ELECT YOUR OFFICERS, GENERALLY, CHAIR, CO-CHAIR, TREASURER AND SECRETARY.
- OTHER POSITIONS MAY INCLUDE EVENTS, OUTREACH, IN-REACH, WEBSITE, GRAPHICS, COMMUNICATIONS, SERVICE, AND PRAYER/UNITY.

THINGS TO BRING TO AN ELECTION MEETING:

- LARGE WHITE BOARD WITH ERASABLE INK MARKERS
- PAPER AND SCISSORS FOR MAKING BALLOTS
- PENS AND PENCILS
- HATS OR BASKETS FOR COLLECTING VOTES
- GARBAGE BAGS, FOR THROWING AWAY YOUR TRASH
- SNACKS/BEVERAGES, TO KEEP YOUR GROUP REFRESHED. DON'T OVERSPEND!
- SUPPLIES FOR TAKING MINUTES OF THE ELECTION



ESTABLISH A REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE THAT WILL WORK FOR YOUR COMMITTEE.

- FOR EXAMPLE, MANY COMMITTEES MEET ON 1ST AND 3RD SUNDAY AFTERNOONS.
- TWICE PER MONTH IS A GOOD SCHEDULE THAT WILL KEEP YOUR COMMITTEE ENGAGED WITHOUT OVERWHELMING THEM.
- SOME COMMITTEES PREFER ONCE A WEEK OR ONCE A MONTH SCHEDULES.

DRAFT A STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

- WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR COMMITTEE?
- WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH AND HOW WILL YOU DO IT?
- DON'T SKIP THIS!

BID COMMITTEE OR STANDING COMMITTEE?

STANDING COMMITTEES ARE GENERALLY FOCUSED ON PROVIDING AA SERVICES FOR YOUNG ALCOHOLICS, INCLUDING THROWING FUN EVENTS, HOSTING SERVICE WORKSHOPS, PROVIDING 12TH STEP CALLS, PARTICIPATING IN DISTRICT AND AREA LEVEL SERVICE AND BIDDING FOR YPAA CONVENTIONS AT THE STATE, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL LEVEL.

BIDDING COMMITTEES ARE GENERALLY FOCUSED AROUND BIDDING FOR A SPECIFIC YPAA CONFERENCE AND ORGANIZE THEIR EVENTS AROUND BRINGING ATTENTION TO THE CONVENTION AND THEIR ATTEMPT TO BE AWARDED THE BID.

STANDING COMMITTEES ARE USUALLY ESTABLISHED TO CREATE A PERMANENT PRESENCE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN AA, ROTATING NEW MEMBERS INTO POSITIONS EACH YEAR WHILE BUILDING ONGOING RELATIONSHIPS WITH INTERGROUP, DISTRICT AND AREA SERVICE ENTITIES.

BID COMMITTEES ARE USUALLY ESTABLISHED WITH A SINGLE GOAL IN MIND

- BE AWARDED A BID TO A SPECIFIC CONFERENCE. - WHEN THIS TASK IS ACCOMPLISHED, BID COMMITTEES DISBAND.

YOUR COMMITTEE CAN BE A STANDING COMMITTEE THAT ALSO BIDS FOR CONFERENCES; YOU DON'T HAVE TO PICK ONE OR THE OTHER. MAKE AN INFORMED DECISION THAT MAKES SENSE FOR THE SITUATION IN YOUR LOCAL AREA.

MORE HOW TO START A YPAA CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO!