



International Conference of Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous
P.O. BOX 22987, DENVER, CO 80222 WWW.ICYPAA.ORG

ICYPAA Forum Report

Friday, September 4, 2015, 2:00-4:00 p.m.
57th ICYPAA – Miami

Introductions by Laura S., Advisory Council Chair
Timer: Stacy H.

REPORTS

Chair - Laura S.

I have spent this year communicating with the Host Committee Chair, Advisory Council members, Bidding Committees and the general public of ICYPAA Nation. I attended ICYPAA University's educational and Individual Bid Committee Webinars, kept informed of, and assisted where needed in the business of the Advisory Council subcommittees, and participated in the IGR phase of our Site Selection Process.

The following is a summary of actions since the 56th ICYPAA:

- Host Committee
 - Made myself available to answer any questions/concerns that came up throughout the year
 - Facilitated Host Committee Elections, attended site visits, set up their bank account, advised regarding budget approval, program, outreach strategy, events, graphics, website, Host Committee Guidelines and Procedures, and committee unity
 - The Florida Host Committee has done some great work and I look forward to seeing it all pay off this weekend
- Advisory Council
 - Met with the Operating Committee monthly
 - Appointed Committee chairs and members
 - Communicated with Ami B. and arranged payment for all Grapevine-related expenses from the 56th ICYPAA
 - Secured a Hospitality Suite for ICYPAA at the 2015 International Convention of A.A.
 - At the request of Eva S. at GSO, sent a list of suggested YPAA meeting names and a list of recommended YPAA panelists for the 2015 International Convention of A.A. (I do not take credit for the Young and Successful title, however)



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- o Formed an Ad Hoc International Participation and Communication Committee to examine the international service responsibilities and authorities held by ICYPAA and work to improve participation and communication between ICYPAA and other international YPAA organizations
- o Met with the Advisory Council quarterly
 - 16 motions were passed at these meetings:
 1. Changed the Advisory Council sobriety requirement to a strong suggestion by updating the ICYPAA Bylaws with the following phrase: "Candidates should have enough sobriety to be responsible and informed, generally 3 years or more"
 2. Approved the ICYPAA Advisory Council Operating Budget through December 2015
 3. Disbanded the Ad Hoc General Misconduct Committee
 4. Intended to facilitate a weekly Service Manual study group via GoToMeeting, which unfortunately never came to fruition
 5. Allocated \$5,000 for a contribution to the General Service Office in 2015
 6. Allocated \$5,000 toward the A.A. Grapevine at the 57th ICYPAA
 7. Updated the Host Committee Responsibilities
 8. Updated the ICYPAA Bylaws to include a section about Advisory Council reimbursement
 9. Clarified that the Host Committee should reimburse Advisory Council operating spend for the prior calendar year, as opposed to funding the following calendar year's operating spend
 10. Adjusted the Early Bid Review Deadline to 60 days out from Bid Presentations
 11. Clarified the ICYPAA Bylaws regarding Advisory Council term lengths
 12. Updated the ICYPAA Bylaws to include a policy and process document for spending surplus funds
 13. Amended the language under "Treasurer Responsibilities" in the Host Committee Responsibilities
 14. Updated the ICYPAA Facebook Group Guidelines
 15. Adopted the ICYPAA Facebook Group Administration Process
 16. Allocated \$65.00 toward one Advisory Council member's registration for the Technology in A.A. Workshop next month in St. Louis, MO
- o Received official Certificates for Federal Trademark for both "ICYPAA" and our logo



- o Published final reports for the 55th & 56th ICYPAAAs:
 - www.icypaa.org/55th-final-report
 - www.icypaa.org/56th-final-report
- o Organized this year's Past & Present Advisory Council Breakfast
- o Attended the 2015 International Convention of A.A. in Atlanta
- o Attended ISMYPAA
- o Worked with the Web and Operating Committees to implement interim changes to the ICYPAA Facebook Group Guidelines
- o Worked with the Operating Committee to assist the 57th ICYPAA Host Committee in organizing the Safety & Respect in A.A. panel

We continued to improve and maintain our financial record keeping this year, and accomplished various other tasks. Thank you to the Finance Committee for all their help.

1. **ADVISORY BUDGET & CURRENT SPEND:** Below is a summary of our 2015 Budget vs. Actuals.

	2015 BUDGET	2015 ACTUALS	2015 VARIANCE
INCOME	\$20,072.00	\$24,014.70	\$3,942.70
EXPENSE	\$19,618.28	\$4,856.99	\$14,761.29
NET SURPLUS	\$453.72	\$19,157.71	\$18,703.99

TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS: \$134,753.37

Advisory Savings (...2596)	\$55,000.00
Host Checking #2 (...1379) - 2016 Seed \$	\$2,000.00
Host Checking #1 (...6955) - FL Host \$	\$26,504.20
Merchant Account (...3219) - FL Host \$	\$3,056.90



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Advisory Operating (...5965)	\$48,192.27
Outstanding reimbursements from AC	\$0.00
Outstanding checks	\$0.00
OPERATING FUNDS	\$48,192.27
TOTAL OPERATING & SURPLUS FUNDS:	\$48,192.27
2015 Estimated Operating Expenses	\$19,618.28
2015 Actual Spend to Date	\$4,856.99
2015 REMAINING PROJECTED SPEND:	\$14,761.29
TOTAL SURPLUS AVAIL. FOR DISBURSEMENT:	\$33,430.98
<i>Allocations Approved at 2/16/14 Meeting</i>	
YPAA Hospitality Suite - 2015 Convention	
<i>\$10,126 PAID IN JULY 2015</i>	
<i>Allocations Approved at 8/21/14 Meeting</i>	
Website Improvements	(\$10,000.00)
Website Improvements - already paid	\$5,000.00
Public Information Campaign	(\$1,000.00)
YPAA Video Project - 57th ICYPAA	(\$5,000.00)
	(\$11,000.00)
<i>Allocations Approved at 11/16/14 Meeting</i>	
Grapevine Project - 57th ICYPAA	(\$5,000.00)
2015 GSO Donation	(\$5,000.00)
	(\$10,000.00)
REMAINING DISBURSEMENT BALANCE:	\$12,430.98

And now let's look at the main accomplishments from the past year:

1. 56th ICYPAA: Texas held an amazing ICYPAA! The conference was self-supporting and ended up with a \$5,591.10 surplus after all expenses were paid and 20% service contributions were made.



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2. **BANKING:** All of our old accounts were closed, and five new accounts were set up so that they all show up under one company profile in the Chase banking system. Texas host members were removed and Florida host members were added to the host banking accounts. There are still some issues with which Council members have the authority to make bank account changes, which we hope to clear up when we do another round of signer changes in Florida.
3. **TAXES:** By the time this report is given, our 2014 taxes will have been filed with the IRS.
4. **QUICKBOOKS/ACCOUNTING:** Our QuickBooks account is in good shape, with all information from our Advisory Council checking and savings account recorded. This year we explored the idea of hiring a regular bookkeeper to maintain our records, but this was tabled until the new Treasurer is elected.
5. **MERCHANT ACCOUNT:** We decided to stop paying the \$15/month fee for use of credit card swipers if and until we determine if the swipers will be used going forward. Below is a summary of our merchant account fees so far this year:

2015 MERCHANT FEE SUMMARY	
Transaction Total	\$26,742.40
Power Pay Discount Fees	\$403.16
Power Pay Monthly Fees	\$340.38
Total-Apps Monthly & Transaction Fees	\$283.80
Other Fees	
Total Merchant Fees	\$1,027.34
MERCHANT FEE PERCENTAGE	3.84%

6. **BUDGET:** We submitted a motion at the February 15, 2015 business meeting to change our budget procedure back to the original process, e.g., having the current year Host Committee reimburse the Advisory Council for its operating spend (instead of funding the next year's spend, which is impossible to calculate due to the fact that the following year's hotel contract is not signed yet). This is our current budgeting procedure:

The Advisory Council operating budget cycle runs on a calendar year – from January 1 through December 31. The operating budget for the following calendar year should be drafted by the



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Treasurer after the current year's conference and after the next host committee's hotel contract has been signed. The budget should be submitted to Council for review and approval at the first quarterly business meeting following the conference. Once the operating budget is approved, the Advisory Treasurer should communicate the expected Advisory operating spent to the Host Committee Treasurer for inclusion in the Host Committee budget.

7. HOST: I helped review the Host budget this year, submitted credit information to the Florida hotel, and purchased GL insurance for the conference.
8. MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES: I filed our "periodic report" with the Colorado Secretary of State to maintain our non-profit status, and paid our Directors & Officers insurance bill for the year, I updated our Dun & Bradstreet profile with accurate information and we explored the option of adding credit building services, but determined it was cost prohibitive.

Please let me know if you have any questions. It's been an honor to serve as your Treasurer the past two years.

Co-Chair - Lauren W.

Moved to disband the Ad Hoc General Misconduct Committee as business of the committee had been completed in the previous conference year

Supported the Operating Committee in its actions throughout the year

Secretary - Daniel S.

After serving for two years as Secretary for the ICYPAA Advisory Council, I definitely have a new respect for the position. The amount of correspondence that comes in and needs to be responded to can be overwhelming.

We received several emails throughout the year from people looking for help for themselves or family members, and we were able to get them pointed in the right direction thanks to the awesome network of ICYPAA attendees who are willing to do AA service when called upon.

The minutes aren't too bad to record, it's the compiling of the reports and addendums that can make the task daunting at times. Luckily we've had a great chair over the last two years who's been really good at motivating Council members to get them in on time.



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It's been a fun ride but I'll be happy to pass the torch to the next Secretary in the coming days. Thanks for letting me serve.

Archivist - Kirk W.

Here is my archivist report for this service year. I didn't accomplish a lot of the brainstorms that I wanted to and will work on getting more accomplished this year.

- Most importantly: I want to invite everyone to help preserve and collect ICYPAA stories and memories. If you meet a long-timer who went to ICYPAA, please do get their contact information so that we figure out how to get their stories - perhaps recorded as an audio file, video file or written story. How about that for a bid committee project?
- Please come visit the Archives room located in the Oak Room of Bobby Jones Villa.

The following year, I will be focusing on:

- Preserving and collecting historical ICYPAA memories and stories from long-timers
- Adding to our online archives at icypaa.org
- Collaborating with current and past advisory council members on archives
- Safeguarding the ICYPAA archives
- Presenting the archives at the next conference in an exciting and memorable manner
- Connecting to my local young peoples group for assistance.

56th ICYPAA Chair – Joel S.

Total Registrations:

- 2550 (budgeted for 2,300)
- 1251 attendees were from Texas
- 1748 pre-registrations and scholarships, 1,010 at the door

Final Room Pick-ups:

-1,723 room nights (contracted for 1,500)

Total facilities costs for the host year:

\$9,033.51 (includes event space rentals, meeting space rentals, extra security, parking etc)



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AV Contract: \$20,300.00

A/V services provided by Miller Pro Audio were outstanding and with the exception of the loss of the recording of the Saturday night main speaker and the first few minutes of the Friday night speaker everything went off without a hitch.

The members of the 56th ICYPAA Host Committee unanimously agreed to have their contact info shared with the members of the 57th ICYPAA Host Committee. They all agreed to answer emails and phone calls from the current Host Committee and to share their experience with being on an ICYPAA Host Committee.

During the conference we sold out of conference t-shirts and made a rush order, which we almost sold out again by conference close on Sunday. Registration bought materials for 3,500 attendees on a budget of 2,300 attendees and we hit just over 2500 registrations making the 56th ICYPAA a financially successful conference.

For a more detailed report of all things 56th ICYPAA, visit <http://www.icypaa.org/56th-final-report>

Total profit: \$6,937.34

The Host Committee elected to distribute 20% of the overage (as outlined in the Host Committee Responsibilities) as follows:

Funds were split evenly and distributed to all of the active intergroups across the state of Texas

Other items of note:

- Several instances of minor theft occurred during the Friday night dance. Police were notified and announcements were made throughout the rest of the weekend reminding attendees to maintain security of all personal items as ICYPAA could not be responsible for the loss of those items.

- Approximately the first 10 minutes of the Friday main speaker and the entirety of the Saturday main speaker were lost and were not made available to ICYPAA Nation. We have apologized for this and have taken steps for that situation to not happen again.

- The Grand Hyatt Staff expressed their gratitude as to how the ICYPAA crowd handled themselves throughout the conference and would welcome us back any time.



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Hotel Committee Chair - Kevin N.

The ICYPAA Advisory Council Hotel & AV Committee is currently comprised of five (5) Advisory Council members. After the 57th ICYPAA Site Selection process, Joel S. joined the committee. We have met numerous times via conference call during the year, as well as in person for site visits in September 2014.

During the final site selection process, the 57th ICYPAA was represented on the Hotel Committee by James H. and Katie L. We ultimately ended up with 4 viable properties that expressed interest in hosting our conference, the Hyatt Regency, the Intercontinental, and the Trump Doral in Miami, and the Westin in Ft. Lauderdale. The committee decided unanimously to go with the Doral, as we felt it was the best fit and the best deal for the conference.

We helped the 2015 IC Committee by reviewing and selecting their AV provider for the entertainment in the Hospitality Suite for the International Convention of AA in Atlanta this year, hosted a webinar for requirements 11 and 12, re-drafted our sample RFP for bid committees, and selected the AV provider for the 57th ICYPAA here in Miami. We have responded (not always promptly) to several emails from bid committees, and helped the Host Committee with minor hotel issues as they came up.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at hotels@icypaa.org.

Bid Development Committee Chair – Lindsay S.

The Bid Development Committee consists of Lindsay S., Talbot G., Trey V., Lauren A-V., Chris P., Mike P. with the participation of Lauren W. and Laura S.

This year the Bid Development Committee has focused on creating webinars that encourage participation and interaction as well as content that is geared towards the new bid requirements.

In each session we incorporated a Bidder Forum where we propose 3 questions to Bidders and allow them to choose one to share on. We have also implemented an Advisory Council Testimonial in which a Council member shares their experience as a Bidder, Host Member or AC member for 5 minutes.

The 2015 ICYPAA U Schedule included 8 sessions:



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[Session #1](#) - New Bid Requirements: Review & Rationale

[Session #2](#) - Round Table and Navigating the Website

[Session #3](#) - Bid Requirements 1 & 7

[Session #4](#) - Bid Requirements 2 & 10: Financial Records & Budgets

[Session #5](#) - Bid Requirements 11 & 12: Hotels & AV

[Session #6](#) - Bid Requirements 3 & 4: The Three Legacies & Host Committee Responsibilities

[Session #7](#) - Bid Requirement 8 (Theme & Graphics) & 9 (Program)

[Session #8](#) – Bid Committee Summit

The committee continued the custom of offering to host a 1-hour individual webinar with the Bid Committees who requested these sessions. This year we hosted 5 individual webinars with Bid Committees from Boston, Washington, Tennessee, Chicago and Philadelphia.

Attendance numbers for live ICYPAA U calls fluctuated between a high of 60 attendees and a low of 12 attendees. There were a couple of dates where conflicts such as Mother's Day and local YPAA conferences probably impacted live attendance.

The committee also developed a spreadsheet that all Council members are encouraged to use to track feedback delivered to bidders on their bid requirements. This year, the spreadsheet was not used, yet we find the concept to be of value and hope that someday, somehow, we will figure out how to track feedback to bidders.

The committee discussed a solution to the early bid review dilemma that Council discussed on the November quarterly call. We proposed a motion with rationale in New Business during our Advisory Council Quarterly call in February. We also drafted a memo, sent out by Laura, in order to help clarify what the early bid review is for in order to help set clear expectations for bidders as early on as possible.

The Committee received several Bid Requirement submissions at the deadline for early review. We compiled detailed and specific feedback for each Bid Requirement and returned our notes to the Bid Committees in a timely manner.

We experienced some struggles while attempting to convert and edit the recorded ICYPAA University sessions and thus not all 2015 sessions were available on the ICYPAA website in a timely manner. We discussed the need to continue to record our sessions for the sake of our Bidders looking to review information as well as for archival and tribal knowledge purposes.



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General Service Committee Chair – Daniel S.

The General Service Subcommittee consists of Daniel S., Darren F., Trey V. and Ryan F. with participation from Jay & Felicia from the 57th ICYPAA Host Committee.

The majority of our subcommittee's time and energy this past year was devoted to working with the Host Committee on ideas for service programming at the 57th ICYPAA.

Council allotted \$5,000 towards a video project at the 57th ICYPAA. We explored several potential options. A video booth was one option and a crowd-sourced anonymity-protected video project was another. We researched the feasibility of the projects and the 57th ICYPAA Service Subcommittee presented the ideas to the Host Committee, but neither was able to draw enough support to be implemented this year.

One of the things that we were able to get off the ground was developing a network of creatives in AA that can be utilized for future projects. We created a Facebook group aptly named, "Creatives in AA." If you have the skills and the desire to participate, email service@icypaa.org for an invite to the group.

Lastly, we've been in discussion with the Trustees Committee on Public Information about collaborating on a project aimed at increasing AA's understanding of how its members are using social media to do service and carry the message. There will be more to come on that in the coming year.

Finance Committee Chair - Ian S.

The Finance Subcommittee consists of Melissa M., Talbot G., David W., Matthew D., and me, as well as ex officio members Lauren A.V. and Laura S.

Over the conference year, the Finance Subcommittee had ten (10) conference calls (not including calls for IGR), communicated periodically by email, and took the following actions:

1. We continued to monitor ICYPAA's financial condition;
2. We continued to keep up with and track ICYPAA's fixed assets;
3. We continued to review charges associated with the ICYPAA merchant account, toward making recommendations as to same;



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4. We continued discussing ways to build ICYPAA's business credit, including the possibility of obtaining a credit card account for ICYPAA, which we ultimately tabled, indefinitely, primarily due to concerns related to possible impact upon holder's personal credit;
5. We accessed and updated ICYPAA's Dun & Bradstreet profile and explored the possibility of using D&B-related services that purport to help build business credit, which we ultimately decided against, due to the \$1,099.00 annual fee;
6. We discussed ICYPAA's policies and practices related to reimbursement of Council at ICYPAA and during site selection, and proposed a motion at one of the Advisory Council's quarterly business meetings for the amendment of our Bylaws to memorialize the same – Council passed this motion;
7. We re-visited how we look at budgeting for the next conference year, and decided to switch back to how we had been doing it (before we decided to change last year), with the host committee reimbursing for their host year, rather than funding the next year - really, just a matter of semantics;
8. We researched and discussed whether ICYPAA should hire a bookkeeper to do the tax return preparation work currently done by our tax preparer, as well as regular bookkeeper duties throughout the year. We decided to recommend to the Operating Committee that they move forward to hire such a bookkeeper, at a reasonable, real-world professional rate;
9. We discussed the use of the host committee budget template and what could be done to improve our ability to provide good post-conference data, and allow us to provide a good apples-to-apples comparison from conference to conference. In connection with this, we decided to ask the Bid Development Subcommittee to start disseminating guidance to bid committees about using the standardized format for budgets, both as a bid committee, and for later as a host committee, as soon as possible. We also decided to bring a motion to the Advisory Council's annual meeting, held at this year's conference, to amend language under the "Treasurer Responsibilities" heading in the Host Committee Responsibilities document – Council passed this motion;
10. We discussed the use of allocated surplus funds by ICYPAA committees, and developed a "process document" to guide the spending of these funds, to require regular reporting of such spending, and to assist Council in holding its members responsible for spending the money, once allocated. We decided to bring a motion to the annual meeting to amend our Bylaws to adopt the use of this process document – Council passed this motion.

We also fielded questions and requests for feedback related to Bid Requirements 2, 7, and 10 from bid committees, reviewed and responded to early bid submissions on those requirements from several bid committees, and completed the IGR process.



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Thanks for letting me be of service. If you have any questions you can contact me at ian@icypaa.org.

Web Committee Chair - Melissa M.

The following is a summary of the actions of the Web Committee since the 56th ICYPAA:

- Committee met monthly
- Updated council committee's email distribution lists
- Created @icypaa.org email accounts for new council members and alternates
- Responded to all website committee related emails
- Made updates to the website has needed/requested
- Reviewed and updated website to ensure all information is complete and up to date
- Updated Host info on Twitter account; Started researching how to use an ICYPAA Twitter account while maintaining anonymity but decided to postpone moving forward until after Miami
- Applied and was approved for an online search campaign to reach people who are looking to stop drinking
- Submitted requests to our programmers to make updates to the website improving the function of the registration process and other general features; All features should be done by ICYPAA this year
- Added scripting to the Host Committee website so traffic can be gathered in Google Analytics
- Gave the Treasurer a line item list of the Web Committee's annual expenses
- Conducted a Constant Contact training with the Host Committee
- Discussed possible idea for our own social media platform
- Reached out to multiple committees nationally and internationally to see if they would like to participate in our blog
- Worked with the Finance Committee to determine a Host Committee budget template that is compatible with the website
- Worked with the Treasurer to confirm billing authorization emails
- Verified our information for our domain name through ICANN
- Renewed domain names icypaa.org, icypaa.net, and icypaa.com
- Added Pre-Con Event and Merchandise to the ICYPAA store
- Administer the Secret Facebook group; Worked with the Operating Committee to implement interim changes to the ICYPAA Facebook Group Guidelines
- Presented for ICYPAA U on topics related to the Web Committee
- Working with the IPCC committee to create a Secret Facebook group and page on ICYPAA.ORG for ISMYPAA



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- Will meet with the new Host Committee to review the registration system

Ad Hoc International Convention Program Committee Chair - Kevin N.

The Ad Hoc 2015 International Convention Program Committee consisted of six (6) Advisory Council members. The purpose of this committee was to determine a program of events for the space allotted ICYPAA by the 2015 International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous in Atlanta, GA.

Overall, the hospitality suite was quite successful, we estimated around 800 people at the height of the dance Saturday.

We had great participation from the International conferences, and good attendance for the meet and greets that were hosted as well.

There was also a huge turn out for the live Hungry, Hungry Hippos/Game Night orchestrated by the 57th ICYPAA Host Committee, which also turned into an impromptu dance party (thanks to some local attendee's speakers.)

We had some noise complaints on Friday night, but ultimately ended up with little to no issues throughout the weekend.

We exceeded our original quote for AV, which pushed us over budget overall by \$126. We found it necessary to "beef up" the speakers after assessing the set up vs. the size of the ballroom. We spent a total of \$6085 on AV, \$366 on insurance for the event, DJ's cost \$2,200 (\$200/hour for 11 hours), and power supply to ballroom cost us \$975, for a total of \$10,126.

It was a pleasure to serve the International Convention and ICYPAA on this committee.

Ad Hoc International Participation and Communication Committee Chair – Darren F.

The IPCC was formed in January, 2015 for the following purposes:

1. To examine the international service responsibilities and authorities held by ICYPAA, and
2. To improve participation and communication between ICYPAA and other international YPAA organizations.



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The IPCC discussed the subject of international bids at length and concluded the following:

1. ICYPAA does have a responsibility to encourage and mentor international bids
2. There are no restrictions to where ICYPAA can be hosted
3. In order for an international bid to succeed, the following issues must be addressed:
 - international banking
 - international taxation
 - international insurance
 - international travel
 - large-scale language translation
 - legal considerations for attendees
4. The IPCC considers the initiative on these matters to be with the international bid committees, but will work with international bids to resolve these issues as requested

As the result of questions asked at the ICYPAA Forum at the 56th ICYPAA in San Antonio, the IPCC decided to host an online international summit of YPAA committees, modeled after GSO's World Service Meetings. This event became known as ISMYPAA, the International Service Meeting for Young People in A.A. and took place on Saturday, August 1st, 2015.

The 1st ISMYPAA had 43 participants from 10 committees on 5 continents. Participating committees included: the 57th ICYPAA host committee, ACTYPAA, AZYPAA, BALYPAA, EDYPAA, EURYPAA, IREYPAA, KIWYPAA, MEXCYPAA, SCANCYPAA, and TOYPAA. The theme for the event was "Relationships between A.A. and YPAA." A timed sharing session format was used to ensure that all of the attendees had the opportunity to participate.

ISMYPAA was organized to be a collaboration between YPAA committees around the world. As a result of this event, a new secret Facebook page has been established in order to facilitate further communication and collaboration between the international YPAAs. We hope to help organize the 2nd ISMYPAA in 2016.



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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

We're trying to get low room rates, and low registration fees. What's the most creative thing that you've seen done to get these lower?

Not sure. I've seen things in contracts that offset rates (rebates, etc.). San Francisco got a \$25k F&B credit. Begging might work. Communications with the hotel salesperson are key.

Has Council given any type of thought to making a bylaw change for firm guidelines to ensure diversity? Every year we start this again, and every year it's reinventing the wheel.

We have an ad hoc committee right now (IPCC) where we're looking at these things. We've listened to the feedback we've heard and have tried to come up with some actionable items.

We've been told that some Advisory Council members consider us a first year bid [BIDYPAA]. Many of us have been participating in the ICYPAA bid process on various committees for several years. I don't feel like this is in line with our Tradition of anonymity. Can you provide us with insight?

Ask each Advisory Council member the same question and you're likely to get different answers from each one. The committee from San Diego bid for ICYPAA for many years but that committee is not bidding this year. While BIDYPAA may consist of some of the San Diego bid's former members, the BIDYPAA committee is new to us.

If ICYPAA isn't a possibility moving to other countries, what are we doing to help getting them to us? What is the possibility in investing in translation devices?

We have a committee that's dedicated to exploring those ideas. Now that we have notes on this idea, the Ad Hoc will take that up. It's definitely an option. Communication is key. We'll continue to encourage our host committees to outreach internationally.

Is ICYPAA considering developing an app for finding meetings? Are we willing to go to GSO and ask them to create an app if we don't have the funds?



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ICYPAA is not currently considering developing an app for finding meetings. If you think that it's a good idea, bring it up at your District or Area and request that GSO consider it.

GSO said that they would not be doing Facebook. There is some confusion as a result of this. Are we doing something wrong? Should these secret Facebook groups be around?

There are a lot of people who misapply what the Board decided to do (and not do) with regards to Facebook. The General Service Board considered everything and decided that Facebook wasn't right for AAWS to use at this time. This was mostly due to the Facebook's guidelines. We want people to get to our website who need help. There is no directive about secret/closed groups. A secret group seems to comply with most of the suggestions for anonymity at the level of the Internet.

You're doing great work on the committees. Have you considered adding people outside of Council for special service positions?

This Council has not considered yet. A few ICYPAA Council members have experimented with this on another Advisory Council in the past and it led to disaster. We're looking at the possibility of engaging in more collaborations. The first step in this is ISMYPAA.

There seems to be a lot less attendance at the programs panels/workshops in recent years. Is there anything Council can do?

It's shockingly hard for Council to impress Host Committees to adjust their program.

Diversity – we have a hard time locally engaging with Spanish-speaking alcoholics. How do we utilize the resources and reach of ICYPAA to help slowly start to affect some of those changes?

The ISMYPAA experience has given us hope that at the very least we can provide an infrastructure for people who have had success to share that experience with people who are still having issues.

Hotel & Hotel negotiations – at what point did the extra incidental fees become known to Advisory? Was that Host Committee or Advisory Council's fault? What can we do to prevent this from happening again?

The contract was vague on the topic of guest deposit on check-in. We had talks about that but it was one of the smaller parts of the negotiations. We were aware that there



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would be incidental fees but didn't realize the extent of this hotel's policy. As soon as we found out, we had to negotiate with the hotel very close to the conference to get it corrected. Ultimately this is the Advisory Council's responsibility to try and prevent in the future.

Has Council discussed an entirely different venue options - College campuses, state parks, etc.?

We don't care where it's at (what type of facility). I understand your concerns though. One of the biggest things we need to do is to make it affordable. At the end of the day we're throwing an AA convention. Venues like the one we're at right now help remind us how far we've come.

What basis is the conference awarded on? The criteria are not a part of the Bylaws.

The Bid Requirements are their own document (not part of the Bylaws). They have been updated a couple of times over the last five years. We removed one bid requirement and adjusted the language in the remaining requirements in order to leave more freedom for bid committees to execute. The Bylaws require significant procedures to change. The site selection process is another document. They're all separate documents.

How many times has the International Convention been held outside North America? How many employees does GSO have focused on this convention?

None, and at least one to our knowledge.

Does the Advisory Council see a long-term stability problem with YPAA conferences in general? I have a fear that because ICYPAA is so popular that the kids at home aren't doing service in their own Areas. Are we reinforcing this?

We encourage participation in everyone's General Service areas. We invite GSO to ICYPAA. We work with the Host Committees to help encourage service. We award the conference to committees that are strong on service.

The way that you rate the bids is quantitative but presented as qualitative. How do you do that? Getting better is above pretty good – why?



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Pretty Good should be above getting better. It's impossible to make the process completely objective. We try to do our best. Our IGR reporting can always be improved.

What happened to the ICYPAA Blog?

The ICYPAA Blog is there but nothing has been posted in a while. We've reached out across the board for content but it's been hard to get. We want it to be a way for people to share experience. We want to know about your events, and what's going on in your area. We want there to be more activity.

What strides has Council made to really tap into the Spanish-speaking community and to encourage Host Committees to do the same?

We've taken no specific actions to reach out to the Spanish community. We suggest that Host Committees bear this in mind. The efforts we have taken are much more general.

Has there been any consideration to bringing BCRs back? If not in some capacity, why not in the position where they can provide a vote for who should be on Council?

Great question. The answer right now is no. There was a lot of thought and deliberation on why we no longer needed bid committee representatives. We went through an extensive debate and came to a consensus a number of years ago.

Can you please explain why Council accepted a \$10,000 grant from a non-AA entity? How does this align with ICYPAA's purpose?

There seems to be a misunderstanding due to the name of the online advertising program for non-profits, which ICYPAA enrolled in. The name of the program is Google Ad Grants, but Council is not collecting a \$10,000 grant from Google. The program is available to all federally tax-exempt non-profits and it allows for up to the equivalent of \$10,000 per month in online advertising exposure (similarly to how radio & television stations broadcast PSAs for non-profits).

Can a bunch of YPAA young folk come to Marathon, FL to reach out to our young folk?

Yes. We will get someone in touch with you.

Can we invest in translation devices or make more accommodation for people from other countries that don't speak English?



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Yes that's a good idea. We'll look into it.

Have any of you moved to follow ICYPAA?

None of the current Advisory Council has moved to be part of an ICYPAA Host Committee.

I know you guys are always saying that you are available to us. The real question is could we from Canada have a point person assigned to us in order to make a wicked bid?

We assigned members of the Bid Development committee to token and new bids this past year. The consensus is that this is a good idea.

I heard that the current merchandise system is difficult to use. Is this something that you've heard, and if so are there any plans to implement changes?

The website and registration/merchandise system are in a continual state of improvement. Each year after ICYPAA the outgoing host committee members who have used the system the most make suggestions for improvement that get considered and implemented the following year. If Miami makes suggestions following this ICYPAA you can bet that there will be action taken for next year.

What platform do you think is best for multi-YPAA, cross state communication?

Someone has brought up creating our own platform but it's very complex. Facebook has been a great way to network.

If attendees/host committees/bid committees feel that advisory gains too much authority, are there checks and balances in place to shift that authority?

Interesting question. This ICYPAA Forum is an attempt at that. We're trying to be more responsible to our attendees. The questions and concerns that are aired here end up as discussions on our committees throughout the year. ICYPAA's organization is different than state and regional conventions. It's a scale difference. Exercise this forum to keep us in line. Please question us.

What actions did the 55th ICYPAA Host Committee take to make their attendance numbers so high?



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More than half of our attendees came from Phoenix and Arizona. We focused on outreaching locally in addition to all the regional and national outreach. We also had a large amount of treatment centers/halfway houses.

Realistically, will ICYPAA ever really be international again?

Super realistically, it would be easier for us to go to Canada or Mexico in the near term. We need a situation where the best bid originates overseas. We will work with you if you're interested in working towards those goals.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

International – we're in Miami now, I haven't seen many Spanish speakers attending. I don't see diversity in program, panels, speaker, and attendees here this weekend.

Times are posted on the Bid Committee room but no one is in there. There should be a time for the bid committee room. The attendees no longer get to go to the bid committee room (which is not a good thing).

There's an expectation on Council to do things (make things happen). The Council's only job is to pick the conference. As much as we want to make it a bigger job, I'm not sure we can.

Diversity, not just for Spanish but for all non-English concerns – put these in the by-laws so that future ICYPAA's know how in the future.