

# **ICYPAA Forum 2023**

63rd ICYPAA – San Francisco, CA

## Opening

- Serenity Prayer
- Opening Remarks (Advisory Council Chair)
- Advisory Council Introductions

### **Reports** (included at end of document)

- Chair (Phillip) 5 minutes
- Treasurer (Mo) 5 minutes
- Co-Chair (MK) 2 minutes
- Secretary (Rachel) 2 minutes
- Archivist (David) 2 minutes
- 61st ICYPAA Chair (Josh) 2 minutes
- Hotel/AV Subcommittee Chair (Kelsey) 2 minutes
- Bid Development Subcommittee Chair (Tyler) 2 minutes
- Finance Chair (MK) 2 minutes
- General Service Subcommittee Chair (Katie E.) 2 minutes
- Tech (Chris) 2 minutes

### **Questions and Answers**

- Alternating Questions
  - o Timed questions from the floor (2 minutes)
  - o Questions from email/internet
  - o Ask-It-Basket Questions
- Timed answers (2 minutes)
- **Q:** Tradition 9 enables us to create AA service boards and AA committees, provided that they are directly responsible to those they serve. Who does ICYPAA serve and how is this responsibility exercised?
- A: Thank you. Great question. So ICYPAA serves the attendees to the conference, which includes all those bidding, volunteering, and attendees (in person or on site). We are responsible because we are tasked with selecting the host committee each year, for the following year. We are also available in ICYPAA Forums such as this. We are always available by email throughout the year and available to have one-on-ones to the bidders specifically. Many committees are assigned bid committee liaisons which work to answer specific questions for bidders. We also have one-on-ones for those committees towards the end of the bid year. Also throughout the year. Thanks.



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- Q: I am not trying to create more work for you guys. I know how hard it is to be an Advisory Council member. I had an experience a couple weeks ago at another convention that I know some of you are already aware of and as somebody who has gone to a million YPAA Conferences over the years it kind of took me by surprise at how unprepared I was to handle that stuff. I wanted to bring it up here because I feel like ICYPAA is the granddaddy of all YPAA conferences. I often see other YPAAs emulating things that ICYPAA does. I'd love to see ICYPAA lead here. To get more specific, myself and several other women at a YPAA conference were targeted by a predator. Somebody with 26 years sober was making us all feel uncomfortable and when confronted it turned into a screaming match, which got him kicked out of the conference. The thing that surprised me was how long it took me to mention it to anybody. I did not think about going to security until it was like "Oh this guy is violent". I think that part of my hesitation is that I know that HC grappled with reading the safety statement. So going to that security team didn't feel like it would be helpful because they thought it was an outside issue. It affected myself and these other people. My question is - I know that ICYPAA has an NDAH policy, I was a part of council when that came to be, do you feel that that is an effective tool? Is it enough? That is something that I don't see at other YPAAs. So if not, is there something else we can do to assist in helping people feel safe to report.
- A: I appreciate you sharing that with us. We did find out about that situation and we did have conversations about it on OC because we do take those things very seriously. I like the fact that we have an NDAH, I think it's a good starting point. I do think that given my experience with the NDAH and the various avenues we've explored with the NDAH, we've explored having an unbiased party (like an official professional team) to go through the investigation process because that might be beneficial. We are looking at ways in which to broaden the NDAH and provide more resources and to support people who do report. We do have various reporting options: via email, text, phone, etc. I think it's a great question and something for future council to think about and explore but yes, I love the NDAH and we are exploring.
- **Q:** Why is the ICYPAA Forum only listed on page 5 of the program, and not listed among the panels, workshops, bid committee information, or AA services? How are ICYPAA attendees supposed to find out about this session and learn of its significance when it is so hard to find in the program?
- A: Thanks for the question, I think that's a good question for the HC. I was however much more involved this year and it is featured prominently in the app, in the event info tab. There is a whole button devoted to the ICYPAA Forum and that specific tile has been clicked 20 times so people have seen said tile. ICYPAA



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Forum does appear in panels, workshops, etc in the app. So we are getting the word out there. I think another question is why is there lower attendance this year than other years and I think the easy rationale is that there are 9 other events overlapping the Forum this year so people are out there enjoying the conference and it's definitely something to think about next year.

- Q: (Statement) My name is Paul C. I want to respond to this specific issue that this woman brought up. I was a trustee with the service board, many years ago, and wrote a paper on child sexual abuse in AA and how AA could protect such people. I am wondering if ICYPAA AC saw that email/article because I did send it. I would love to send it to people because this presentation was made during an executive meeting but somebody leaked it so now it's public domain. My email is PEC2963@AOL.COM and I would be happy to send it to you.
- **Q**: According to the program, GSO is currently filming an anonymous video project. Has ICYPAA been asked to participate in this project? What, if any, involvement has ICYPAA had with the young people's video project? What, if any, actions has ICYPAA taken to support the young people's video project?
- A: Fantastic question. Happy to announce that the public information desk, Patrick C, directly reached out to us to mention that they had some new ideas, fresh ideas for the video project, and wondered if we could assist. So said, "Of course, we'd be happy to help." So this year we provided room, personally lining up 18 speakers with various backgrounds, a wide demographic with lots of different voices for young people in the rooms. So they're conducting those anonymity protected interviews in creatively inspired ways to present some of that information on camera. So again, that project is currently being shot here, right now. It's been really cool to coordinate directly with them and I'm looking forward to seeing what comes out. They had previously not been in a position to produce content in quite a while. They were very excited to be able to jump right into it when they got here. Stay tuned!
- **Q**: I can't remember whose report it was but someone said they updated the NDAH and I was wondering if you could talk about that? For those of us who haven't been able to see the updated version yet. Oh I'm sorry I misheard, it was the Conflict of Interest Policy.
- A: So I go through these documents all the time and I saw that in the history of the council a document was presented that had various things like "this is what we do", a Conflict of Interest document. One of those bullet points, the very last one, I can provide the exact wording, but it said that people couldn't use their job or resources to provide services to the council. Fast forward a little bit and



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that was then removed. So based on experience, I proposed we add that back in so that we're not in a position where we're mixing friends and business. Like I said I can get the exact wording for you later. So yes, there was something in it, then it got taken out, then we put it back in and it was specifically related to not using personal resources for council work.

- **Q**: How long is the term for the ICYPAA archivist and when is the next rotation?
- A: I am glad you asked me that! I am looking to rotate off and I should rotate off next year. I was elected at the Chicago conference so I have served in Baltimore, Boston, and then the long Covid years in Louisiana, and now SF. Next, wherever we go next, will be the last time I serve as Archivist. An Archivist is for anyone who has past council experience, have served on the AC and rotated off - they would be eligible to serve as Archivist.
  - We would like to take this moment to say that in every Archivist Report for the past few years David has been pushing hard to transition into digital archives and that is what it took to push us. So, thank you to our Archivist David for getting that done!
- **Q**: What is ICY Connect?
- A: Tyler ICY Connect, formally known as ICYPAA University, is an opportunity for us to put content together for bidders via Zoom. For example: hotels, finance, service requirements, and provides a space for bidders to ask questions and us to give answers to those questions. We changed it up a little bit a couple years ago but it's just providing educational content.
- **Q**: Just curious if you have seen any negative impact from the few years off because of Covid?
- A: Yeah, I think it definitely has affected bid committees. We have six this year and six last year when we're used to at least 10 or 12. We've definitely seen the impact on that but I'm hopeful in the coming years that we'll get back to that number. I know we have a handful of token bids this year. So it's about our responsibility to stay in touch with those bids and be able to advise them and help them out. It's incredibly important for the future of this conference so hopefully we'll get back to that number.
- **Q**: How did you guys guide ICYPAA through the last few years with no conference? Thank you for your service!
- A: From a financial perspective we tried to tighten the belt as tight as possible in the unprecedented times. There was so much uncertainty regarding hotel contracts. We had some unexpected costs come up during that time so Our



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current spends are far lower than what we budgeted but will still have a lot of operating costs. I know for us on Council, we tried to stay together and supportive and tried to lead by example in that way - if there was no business to conduct we gave people the space to be where they were and we really suggested that to our bid committees and to our attendees as well. We were pretty transparent about how uncertain things were, at least that's how I tried to guide the subcommittees that I was on, the people that I spoke to. In regards to the finances, I approached it the same way. We didn't really know what was going on here and let's just give each other a lot of grace and be open and vulnerable about that. Those were weird and wild times.

- **Q**: In my local area we are having trouble negotiating hotel contracts for YPAAs that are similar to successful contracts from years past. Are we alone in this? How has the business of YPAA changed since Covid? Do we have any new tech to help get good contracts for YPAAs?
- A: Our experience with Covid, things have gotten a little bit harder especially with negotiations. In the first year after Covid people were excited about things opening up and this year bidders had a harder time getting those contracts. I think this year is going to be the most difficult. Last year it was kind of like everyone was, "Let's do this!" and this year it's going to be tougher. We are doing our best to navigate that. I don't have any new tech for that unfortunately, I wish I did. Some of it though is us cutting costs and us having to pivot to make this conference as successful as possible. Thank you.
- **Q**: If an advisory council member and a host committee member are, ahem, having relations, would that constitute a conflict of interest? Would those individuals be required to disclose their relationship to the council? Has any such relationship been reported in recent years?
- A: I mean I definitely see where this is coming from, I get it. It doesn't constitute a conflict of interest because it's a personal relationship. To be honest, us on council, we're all in each other's business anyway so we kind of know if I'm being straight up honest. We don't ask people to disclose nor have I seen it be a problem or conflict of interest. We haven't seen it affect the council/host relationship.
- **Q**: (*Statement*) I just wanted to take this moment for your service to ICYPAA through this difficult time. What a great session. Thank you for answering all those questions. I appreciate your service.



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If time runs out, anyone remaining at the floor mic is encouraged to write down his/her question and put it in the Ask-It-Basket so it can be answered in the Final Report or email us at Advisory@ICYPAA.org and we will get back to you.

The Final Forum Report will include all individual reports as well as all questions & answers from the Forum. It will be posted on the ICYPAA web site and emailed out to the MailChimp list within 30 days of the conference.

Closing

• Serenity Prayer



## 2023 ICYPAA Forum Report

Committee/Position: Chairperson Meeting Date: 09/02/2023

Committee Chair: Committee Members:

### Report

### Summary of actions since the 2022 ABM:

- Host Committee
  - Made myself available to answer any questions/concerns that came up throughout the year
  - Worked with Host Committee Chair and AC Tech Chair Chris B. to proof Wix outreach blasts
  - Collected and communicated Advisory Council feedback on key Host items
  - Kept informed through reading Host Committee meeting minutes and maintaining consistent communication with the Host Committee Chairperson
- Bid Committees
  - Made myself available to answer any questions/concerns that came up throughout the year
  - Attended ICY-Connect Sessions as well as Bid Committee 1:1 sessions as available
- Advisory Council
  - Appointed Committee chairs and members where needed
  - Welcomed NOLA Members and Robert C. onto Council
  - Scheduled Quarterly Business Meetings
  - Worked with Colorado Registered Agent to change registered agent for ICYPAA, Inc.
  - Met with the Operating Committee as-needed
  - Sat in on Subcommittee meetings and strove to remain updated on any meetings for which I was not available



- Assisted with subcommittee-related tasks such as the AV RFP and App Rollout
- Served as one of the Admins for the ICYPAA Facebook Group, reviewing and removing posts as needed
- Met with the Advisory Council quarterly: three motions were passed at these meetings:
  - Adopt the proposed 2023 Council Operating Budget
  - To re-adopt Article VIII back into ICYPAA's Conflict of Interest Policy
  - Allow Grapevine access to all speaker recordings from past ICYPAA for use in Podcasts.

## Summary of actions since the May Quarterly Meeting:

- Host Committee
  - Communicated with Host Chair regularly about final Conference details
  - Merchandise ordered and arrived in San Francisco
  - Program finalized and loaded into App
  - Worked with Host Treasurer to complete all required State paperwork
  - Coordinated Zoom call with Deaf Attendees to talk through their concerns around the proposed ASL plan
  - Coordinated with Host and GSO Public Information (PI) Desk for the video recording of Young People's-related content at the 63rd ICYPAA
  - Coordinated with Host and Grapevine for the rollout of the new Grapevine App at the 63rd ICYPAA
  - 0
  - As of 08/19/22:
    - Registrations: 1626
    - Pre-Con Tix Sold: 206 of 300
    - 2152 Room Nights Booked / 2100 Contracted
    - Scholarship fund: 90 of 92 available Scholarships already requested
- Advisory Council
  - Sent Skeleton and App Program for Review
  - Assisted with AV RFP
  - Sat in on all IGRs with exception of Gen Svc due to schedule conflict
  - Created Conference Itinerary
  - Coordinated Past and Present Council Breakfast



- Sat in on subcommittee meetings and strove to remain up-to-date with those I couldn't attend
- Remained available to assist subcommittee chairs and AC members

In Love and Service, Phillip C.



# 2023 ICYPAA Forum Report

Committee/Position: Co-Chair Meeting Date: 09/02/2023

#### Report

#### Summary of actions since the 2022 ABM:

- Attended all Operating Committee Meetings
- Remained available to assist AC Chair as needed & provide input as requested
- Stayed current on bid, host, and AC subcommittee activities via minutes
- Made myself available to/assisted Host Committee as needed
- Chaired the Finance Subco for a portion of the time since the 63<sup>rd</sup> ICYPAA
- Served as a member of the Hotel & A/VStructure Subcommittee
- Attended/participated in ICYConnects and bid committee 1:1s
- Provided feedback during early bid review and IGR for hotel/AV and finance related requirements



# **Forum Report**

Position: Secretary

#### Report

- Created, updated, archived and posted all minutes, documents and forms related to the 62nd in Louisiana.
- Compiled 2022 Forum Report and sent report out via our email distribution list.
- Contacted all bids and token bids at the beginning of the 2022-2023 bid year.
- Provided new AC members with documentation relevant to their positions.
- Took minutes on various calls.
- Communicated with our attorney regarding NDAH, Crisis Management Plan, and various other topics as needed.
- Drafted motions, discussion points and worked on ICYPAA documents as necessary
- Served as ICYPAA FB Admin: approving or deleting posts according to our FB group policies
- Updated website documentation, fixed issues with formatting, and various other items regarding the transition to Wix.
- Prepared documents for the 2023 Annual Meeting of the ICYPAA Advisory Council
- Responded to emails received via <u>advisory@icypaa.org</u> provided information, answered questions, thanked them for their feedback or forwarded the email to the appropriate subcommittee to respond.
- Organized and paired down sections of the ICYPAA Google Drive
- Made/Updated the Secretary Manual
- Compiled bid books, IGR templates, etc to be sent out for the IGR process.
- Compiled all feedback from subcommittees into bid committee specific IGR forms.
- Participated in the Bid Dev, and Tech subcommittee meetings.

Thank you for letting me be of service - it has truly been an honor and I will forever be grateful for this opportunity!

IL&S. Rachel B



#### Hotel/AV Subcommittee

Committee Chair: Kelsey B.

Committee Members: Mary Kate R., Shannon C., Katie R., Josh C., Grant W., Phillip C – Ex officio

- Underwent site selection for the 63rd ICYPAA, visiting and negotiating with 3 properties in the NorCal area
- Selected the Marriott Marquis San Francisco as the site for the 63rd ICYPAA
- Transitioned the facility relationship to host and stayed up to date with all Host
- Assigned various Subcommittee members to specific Bid Committees as Hotel/AV Liaisons, tasked with communicating frequently with Bid Committee Facilities Chairs
- Conducted an RFP process for A/V vendors for the 63rdd ICYPAA
- Selected Encore as the A/V Provider for the 63rd ICYPAA
- Completed IGR for Bid Requirements 11 and 12 for 6 Bid Committees



# 2023 ICYPAA Forum Report

Committee/Position: Bid Development Meeting Date: September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023

Committee Chair: Tyler

Committee Members: Rachel, Mo, Tamara, Katie B., Leila, Courtney, Phillip as ex-officio

### Report

- Hosted ICY connects for bidders throughout the year on typical topics.
- Received and reviewed early bid review from four bid committees.
- Conducted our IGR review for requirements 5 & 9 on August 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Once again, we assigned liaisons from the subcommittee for each bid.
- Current Bid Committees:
  - Austin
  - Big Apple
  - Detroit
  - Memphis
  - Florida
  - Twin Cities
- Current Token Bids
  - Wisconsin

In service,

Tyler S., Chair, Bid Development Subcommittee



# 2023 ICYPAA Forum Report

Committee/Position: Meeting Date:

Committee Chair: Katie E.

Committee Members: Shannon C., Tamara S., Veronica O., Leila M., Chad E., Glen W., and Phillip C., ex officio.

### Report

- Met monthly to the best of the committees ability
- Supported both the Chair and Service Chair of the 63rd Host Committee with service program and relevant experience by having them attend monthly meetings.
- Brought discussion point to November quarterly business meeting regarding Grapevines request for access to ICYPAAs library of speaker recordings
- Made motion at May Quarterly business meeting to finalize details of allowing Grapevine to utilize speaker recordings.
- Reviewed & submitted feedback for early submissions for requirements 3,4 & 6
- Reviewed bid requirements 3,4 & 6 for 6 bid committees and completed IGR on august 15th.



# Forum Report

Committee/Position: Finance Subcommittee Meeting Date: 9/2/2023

Committee Chair: Mary Kate Committee Members: Chris, Mo, Kelsey, Tyler, Robert, Josh, Phillip - ex officio.

## Report

Since the annual business meeting last year, the finance subcommittee has:

- Identified goals for the year
- Prepared and presented a budget for operating expenses to the Advisory Council for approval through the process brought forth from the previous Finance Subcommittee, including outreach directly to each subcommittee to review PY budget and make required updates
- Held (mostly) monthly subcommittee meetings
- Prepared the presentation and led the discussion for the finance-related ICYConnect
- Responded to bid committees on finance related queries
- Participated in 1:1s
- Conducted early bid review for committees that submitted finance-related requirements
- Conducted IGR on Requirements 2, 7, and 10 for all 6 bids.
- Reviewed host committee budget and actuals
- Began holding biweekly check-ins with host committee to provide feedback and answer any budget-related questions as the conference approached

Beep Beep, Mary Kate



# 2023 ICYPAA Forum Report

Committee/Position: Tech Subcommittee Meeting Date: September 1, 2023

Committee Chair: Chris B.

Committee Members: Rachel, Katie E, Grant W, Chris N, David N, Phillip C - Ex officio

### Report

The Tech Subcommittee has been active since the 62nd ICYPAA, with a focus on improving various aspects of the Conference's digital presence. Throughout the 2022-2023 cycle, the committee:

- Met on a regular basis throughout the 2022-2023 cycle
- Redesigned and launched the new ICYPAA website on the Wix platform, collaborating closely with the website vendor to facilitate a seamless transition to the new site
- Refreshed content on icypaa.org, which included updating Advisory Council documents and Relevant Business Data.
- Began the process of digitizing the ICYPAA archives
- Transitioned to the Wix email platform, which provides a material cost savings and improved efficiency vs. Mailchimp; supported the host committee outreach efforts by assisting with email campaigns
- Reworked how we issue scholarships, ensuring that all scholarships are allocated and made available on the website. Thanks to those who have supported the scholarship fund!
- Explored and implemented a new solution for the 63<sup>rd</sup> ICYPAA program app, adopting the Fliplet platform as a cost-effective alternative (projected savings of over \$3000)
- Collaborated with the host committee, offering guidance on attendee check-in processes and payment procedures, setting up merchandise and the pre-conference event, and general
- Provide guidance to bid committees via Early Bid Review and provided IGR feedback on Bid Requirements 1 and 8
- Provided general assistance on a variety of tech-related matters for the Advisory Council and Host Committee
- Responded to relevant inquiries from the broader ICYPAA community



# 2023 ICYPAA Forum Report

Committee/Position: Archives / Archivist Meeting Date: September 1, 2023

Committee Chair: David Newton Committee Members: David Newton

#### Report

Hello ICYPAA Nation;

It continues to be my honor to serve as your trusted servant. I am maintaining the physical repository comprised mostly of past ICYPAA memorabilia and T-shirts. This physical repository remains intact with no significant degradation. Additionally, Advisory Counsil continues to maintain the historical collections of bid books, advisory council minutes. And programs are maintained through the Advisory Counsil's digital Google doc files.

This past year has brought new and exciting activity to the archives. Due to the tireless work of the current Advisory Council and the tech subcommittee, I am thrilled to announce the launch of ICYPAA's digital archives. Advisory's investment of time and energy has created an infrastructure in which a digital image or document can be saved to the ICYPAA website for viewing. Every ICYPAA year dating back to the first ICYPAA in Niagara Falls NY in 1958 to the current year has a landing page allowing digital information about that conference to be saved. This enhancement allows for everyone to view archival memorabilia and images connected to past ICYPAAs. However, this beautiful gift does lead to a challenge. As your sole archivist, I am beginning the marathon task of digitizing and uploading the entire archival repository. Therefore, if you are looking for a specific past ICYPAA year and it has limited content; please be patient. This will be an ongoing project for myself and future archivists to undertake.

Furthermore, this digital archival repository has additional benefits. Posting a digital image allows archival information to be shared without the need to possess or have ownership of the original document of memorabilia. Specifically, there may be individuals in your local area who have historical ICYPAA archival information that they wish to retain for their personal use. Should they wish, a digital image can be scanned of that item and sent to me to be added to the digital archives. This allows the original physical item to remain with the individual owner, while also allowing that unique item to be displayed within the digital archival repository.

This is extremely exciting news! Now your ICYPAA archives can now come out of the closet, come out of everyone's closet; and be out and proud for all to see.

Finally, I again want to express my gratitude to the entire Advisory Counsil, Advisory's Steering Committee, Phillip our chair, and specifically Chris, the chair of the technology sub-committee. He has painstakingly walked me through each step on how to navigate the younger generations'



digital universe that I am not proficient. Chirs, your patience and understanding with me is truly grace in motion. Thank you.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service.

David N. Atlanta, GA