

AYLF November Chat, November 15, 2012

We had a productive and lively chat today! Thanks to LaCandice (California), Carissa and Kathi (West Virginia), Dawn (Missouri) and Mike (Iowa) for attending. Many thanks to Ohio for being our call sponsor again.

Welcome back to West Virginia! They're in the process of bringing back the YLF to their state! WHOO HOO!!!

We started our meeting with introductions, finding out what everyone's favorite Thanksgiving food was.... We heard about mashed potatoes, jelly cranberry sauce (homemade), pecan pie and others! Then we moved onto discussing items on our agenda.

- **Newsletter:** Jen's checking on the progress of our 2nd newsletter.
- **Website:** Jen reminded everyone to send Donna or Jen your YLF updates for our website (www.aylf.net). Dawn mentioned the possibility of a redesign of our website, thinking it needed to be more alive. The group decided we would discuss website features next month and changes we'd like to see on our website, looking to have it help us with improving our purpose of improving employment and independent living outcomes for youth with disabilities transitioning from high school by promoting leadership throughout the U.S. and its territories, the replication of the California model Youth Leadership Forum for students with disabilities.
- **Treasurer:** Mike reported that the AYLF has \$5868.98 in its account as of October 31.
- **Conference:** Dawn went over the various conferences she'd researched for possibilities of AYLF "joining." She also mentioned really liking the Youth Symposium in Chicago. She's had contact with NSTTAC (Jennifer Coyle and Kathryn) and will speak to them further about what the AYLF joining may look like LaCandice and Jen will join the call with Dawn. Mike mentioned that the National ADA Symposium has always been good to AYLF and we could probably get have a session at this year's conference (in May).

- **Monthly Topics:** We decided to move our discussion around our monthly topics til next month, as we were so lively in our previous items and wanted to get to some ideas for recruiting delegates.
- **Recruitment & Outreach:**
 - We had a lot of discussion today! Ideas for reaching our audience were:
 - Encouraging alumni to spread the word!
 - Website
 - Using agencies with youth ties
 - Using Social media: Facebook, Twitter
 - Brochures
 - Postcards with dates, etc.
 - Attending conferences, transition fairs, etc.
 - Presenting at schools, etc.
 - YLF videos, youtube channel
 - Mailings to schools, libraries, legislators
 - Emailings
- With discussing our recruitment strategies, Dawn brought up the thought about using the words “for students with disabilities” on brochures and other items. Lots of thoughts were shared if this was or was not hurting efforts in getting youth interested in attending. Great discussion and definitely provides some “food for thought,” if you will.
- We also had a brief discussion regarding social media policies. Jen shared that a policy was created for Oklahoma and will email to everyone (check your email!).

We ended the meeting a little late – sorry to those who had prior commitments. We had a good, productive meeting! Next month’s meeting will be December 20, 2012 (Thursday), 2:00pm eastern.

Assignments for the month:

Since we’ll be discussing revitalizing our website (Joel, our website designer and YLF alumni, has said he will plan to attend), please take a little bit of time looking at websites. Make note of features that get you interested in the website, those that lose your interest, those that turn you off, those that are full of awesomeness, as well as accessibility features we should have!