

On the call:

Katie Carroll (MD)

Kara White (VA)

Donna Foster (OH)

Whitney Harris (FL)

Anthony LaCava (FL)

Dawn Evans (MO)

Melissa Santora (AZ)

Cassandra Lokker (WI)

Minutes recorded by Donna Foster (OH)

Roll call (Introductions)

Financials: Remain the same from last month. \$4,025.17 in budget currently. Executive Committee had meeting the previous day. Bylaws will be reviewed. EC would like to reinstate dues with a reduction this year. Will be due in October. Dues could fund many things: scholarships, money for youth projects, 25th anniversary of YLF, etc.

State's YLF update:

Wisconsin – May 11 is application deadline.

Missouri – received 40 applications. First time in history that the deadline was not extended.

Thirty have been accepted and represent a diverse demographic group.

Florida – January 31 was deadline. 54 applications received. Will probably accept everyone except 4 because they are outside of the age bracket (15 – 19 years old).

Ohio – March 31 is the deadline. Have received approximately 15 applications so far. Ohio will extend the deadline if the number is low. Would like to have about 40.

Maryland – 20 applications received so far. Deadline has been extended, would like to receive 30 applications. More than ½ of applicants are diagnosed with autism, but have received some applications from counties that have not been active in the past.

Arizona – Still accepting applications. Last year was the first YLF for Arizona and it was put together from start to finish in less than 3 months. This year, Arizona started the process earlier and do not have the application numbers that they want; would like to have 25 applicants.

Virginia – not having YLF this year.

Missouri added that their Department of Voc Rehab has been very supportive this year and will fund students if still in high school even if they are not a VR client. They also are using the Independent Living centers and Alumni Association for recruiting this year.

Monthly Topic: Are we meeting the needs of all students?

Missouri led the conversation with a question on using sign language interpreters for Deaf delegates. This is their first year and they have discovered that the cost for two interpreters for the length of the forum has eaten their full accommodations budget.

Recommendations included:

Finding someone fluent in sign to be on staff full time

Having interpreters in different colored t-shirts so they are easily spotted.

Watch that the Deaf students do not become isolated because of their mode of communication

Show music videos using sign language

Have signs incorporated into the cheers.

Have a sign of the day

Session on using interpreters, deaf culture, crash course in sign language.

Contacting interpreting programs at local colleges for donation of interpreting services

Using skype to conduct interviews if there is someone fluent in sign.

Use the relay service for the interview if not fluent in sign.

Ask someone at the Deaf School to arrange for communication or if they can be on staff.

Ohio explained that last year they used visual description during a movie they showed, so everyone was exposed to this accommodation. In the past, a medical equipment company donated the use of a hospital bed.

Recommendations included contacted the local CILS for lending of durable medical equipment or assistive technologies.

Missouri has discussed implementing that all delegates will be responsible for waking up themselves to help with independent living skills. Some states commented that it is a priviledge to be on the wake up crew.

California explained the idea behind their "spirit crew." Five or 6 alumni are responsible to lead cheers and break the ice for new delegates.