

On The Call:

Kara White (VA) Dawn Evans (MO), Cassandra Lokker (WI) Seneca Sharp (CA) , Whitney Harris (FL), Cindy Kirschman (SD), Cameron (SC), Rachel (SC), Nellie Placencia (NC), Donna Foster (OH), Matt Berwick (PA) and Brett (PA), Laura Spears (NC), Anthony La Cava (FL)

 **Opening Round:** Introductions sharing from 2015 YLF experience a success and a challenge.

- Dawn welcomed each member to the call. Introductions were done with each state sharing a YLF Success and a challenge. Lots of input and positive outcomes. Some future topics that peaked interests to explore from these introductions included North Carolina's ADA / IL project in the community, Delegate led service projects, addressing relationships, and speakers.

 **Announcements and Newsletter**

- Dawn asked if everyone had had a chance to complete the survey that was in an email sent on 8/19. The consensus was that not everyone saw the survey.
- Dawn will send the survey (survey monkey link) back out via email. Dawn is asking everyone to complete. Important to help determine future meeting dates and nominations for officers.
- Articles about each states' YLF are due to Dawn by **September 18** to be included in the Annual AYLF newsletter. 500 words or less with 2 pictures captioned.
- Kara stated no changes or announcements regarding the website at this time but will review and advice of any changes at the next meeting.
- Dawn asked to review the website and comment if any additions or changes needed.

 **Pre/Post Evaluation Update - Seneca**

- Seneca has received 60-70 electronic pre surveys and 40 electronic post surveys
There are also a number of paper survey results. There are enough surveys to draw results.
- Once the results are finalized, Seneca will share the data. Should have a report for our next month meeting and if not then for sure by October 16 so we can share at the APRIL conference.
- There will also be an Alumni Survey created that Seneca will share with the AYLF.
The first 150-200 participants will receive a gift card (mostly likely through their email).
This survey is much longer and only one time.
- Advertising through each state YLF's Facebook was suggested. May also send out via email addresses. Ohio asked if Seneca could share the emails written on the delegate post paper surveys she sent in.

It is the purpose of this Association to improve employment and independent living outcomes for youth with disabilities transitioning from high school by promoting leadership throughout the United States and its territories, the replication of the California Model Youth Leadership Forum for Students with Disabilities.

- Dawn suggested prefacing the survey with a note or call to the parents and/or alumni prior to administering so they know it is a legitimate survey.

Treasurer Report:

- Jen Randle, acting Treasurer, was not on the call today. Dawn stated that Jen sent an email out with the balance but couldn't remember balance. She stated that there was a little under \$4,000 in the AYLF account. Dues are being deferred and after meetings at the APRIL conference will readdress.

Focus Topic – Monthly YLF Reflections: Dawn suggested following up on topics that demonstrated interest in the introductions.

- Nellie discussed her YLF
 - It is planned by a youth committee. The YLF teaches delegates about independence, but they don't get to practice it. Their theme was "Celebrating ADA". On Wednesday they had someone come and educate the delegates on how to navigate the public transportation system. On Thursday, the delegates broke into 4 groups (20 delegates in total), each had a different Title from the ADA assigned to them. They were allowed to go out into the community for 5 hours in order to do an Awareness Presentation. Some groups completed accessibility surveys, others discussed employment. The groups went to places like a movie theater, police station and a mall. There were staff members that went with the groups, but they were instructed to let the delegates make all of the decisions, even if they were wrong. The delegates were given money that they had to budget. They used the money to buy everyone lunch and to use the public transit. The only rules were that the delegates had to take one form of public transportation and had to return with money left over. Dawn asked if the parents were aware of their kids going out into the community. Nellie said that they were aware of there being "a day in the community", but did not spell out the specifics.
- Student Led Service Projects
 - Dawn (MO) A 2014 alumni who led the first community project, mentored a delegate this year who coordinated and implemented a service project collecting donations and creating hospital care-kits for family staying at the Ronald McDonald House to take to the hospital while visiting loved ones. Staff and delegates collected items in their community and brought with them to the YLF. Approximately 300 care kits plus additional donations were donated.
 - Donna from Ohio felt like their community service project was a big success collecting School Supplies and distributing to the community.

Other Business:

- Dawn asked about other **topics to include on future calls**. Consensus of interest topics include:
 - How to Get Youth Involved in the Community
 - Relationships during YLF- Strategies and Best Practices
 - PostYLF Alumni involvement (National YLF conference)

It is the purpose of this Association to improve employment and independent living outcomes for youth with disabilities transitioning from high school by promoting leadership throughout the United States and its territories, the replication of the California Model Youth Leadership Forum for Students with Disabilities.

- **APRIL Conference October 16-17, 2015 in Virginia Beach, VA**
 - The Executive Committee for AYLF will be attending pending funding. Dawn and Whitney are confirmed.
 - The executive committee has approved registration fees will be paid for executive committee members.
 - AYLF executive committee also approved additional funding to cover airfare for Whitney as she is the Youth Representative and will participate in youth conference and present.
 - All AYLF members who want to attend APRIL can receive reduced registration fee of \$250. Just mark the early bird APRIL member and note on form AYLF member.
 - Matt Berwick (PA), is the chair of the youth conference at APRIL. He encouraged everyone to attending, stating that they were expecting a large turnout. The youth conference is for youth 13-30.
 - Missouri's SILC approved funding for 2 youth to go in 2015 and 2 youth to attend in 2016. VR may be another option for students still in high school to get funding.
 - AYLF asked anyone with questions or concerns relating to the APRIL youth conference events to speak with Matt Berwick. Matt shared his email address mberwick@TRCIL.ORG. Regarding how to register or other related questions contact Dawn and she can direct you to the appropriate contact person. The APRIL website has the conference information and registration forms posted. <http://www.april-rural.org/>
 - Youth Scholarships are available. Most of them cover registration, one covers the hotel room as well.
 - The executive committee will be holding a meeting during the APRIL conference, Saturday evening. APRIL has provided a meeting space for us at no charge. We will work on possibility of skyping or teleconference if any members not attending would like to join the discussion.

 Closing Remarks: Dawn thanked everyone for attending. **She will be sending out an additional email with the survey and APRIL information. Please check your emails.**

Call ended at 3:07 pm.
Minutes recorded by Whitney Harris

Next Meeting: Pending surveys – will send out next meeting date and time as soon as determined.

It is the purpose of this Association to improve employment and independent living outcomes for youth with disabilities transitioning from high school by promoting leadership throughout the United States and its territories, the replication of the California Model Youth Leadership Forum for Students with Disabilities.