

On The Call:

Donna Foster (OH), Carrie Greenwood (KS), Daniel and ?? (CA), Alexis Nichols (VA), Cameron Thaller (SC), Jamie ?? (ID), Sierra Royster (APRIL)

☞ **Opening Round:** Each person introduced themselves by sharing their favorite holiday food!

☞ Minutes October and November, Directory

- Donna sent out October and November minutes before this call.
- Daniel in California had some name changes for CA, he will email changes to Whitney.
- No other changes were mentioned.
- Whitney sent out the AYLF Directory for everyone to update. If updates or changes are needed, please email Whitney.

☞ **Treasurer Report:** Jen was not on the call, so no update was provided.

☞ Online Training for YLF Volunteer Staff

- The group was reminded about a discussion that began on our last call about AYLF possibly providing some YLF volunteer staff training over the phone or through webinars. This type of training would be available to all YLF state volunteer staff and would be a supplement to the staff orientations/trainings that are provided in each state.
- The group thought that this type of training might be helpful.
- Some mentioned that they have a lot of volunteer staff who are alumni and this kind of training could be helpful for them. Could also be helpful for those states who don't have as many resources to conduct full staff trainings.
- Topics that some states currently cover in their staff trainings: disability awareness and etiquette, confidentiality, policies on picture taking, independent living philosophy, emergency and medical procedures, diversity training
- Possible topics for AYLF-led trainings: understanding all disabilities, YLF history and philosophy, group dynamics, best practices, safety
- Most coordinators would prefer a webinar, possibly even one that is pre-recorded, that way, volunteer staff could access it at any time.
- If doing something live, April or May might be best.

☞ Policies and Procedures

- CELL PHONE USAGE

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- VA: Last year, allowed delegates to use cell phones during the YLF week. Caused some problems with parents constantly calling and people posting videos of YLF on the internet.
 - CA: Not allowed to use cell phones. There is one central phone number that parents are allowed to use if they need to get ahold of a delegate, seems to work well, if staff absolutely need to use phone, they are encouraged to go to a hidden area away from delegates, these procedures are outlined in delegate paperwork
 - SC: Can only use phones during free time, has only had to give a few reminders over the years
 - AZ: Can only use during free time, informed of policies in delegate paperwork, they clearly outline the exact times that cell phones can be used, also have a “No Phone Zone” box if the delegates or staff don’t feel that they can resist using their phone, make exceptions for and educate about assistive technology
- RELATIONSHIPS
 - NC: Have a policy that staff and delegates cannot form romantic relationships during YLF or within one year post-YLF, this protects NCYLF from anything that might happen afterwards
 - OH: Staff and delegates cannot form romantic relationships during YLF. Posed the question about, what if two volunteer staff who are in a relationship both apply and serve as volunteers in the same year?
 - AZ: Addressed Donna’s question by saying that, in AZ, they emphasize to staff already in relationships that they are not there to focus on building current relationships.
 - VA: Current relationships have not been a big issue in the past.
 - KS: Agreed with AZ that they emphasize not to focus on current relationships, but focus on the youth. This has caused a bit of drama in the past though.
 - BACKGROUND CHECKS
 - AZ: Volunteer staff have fingerprint scanning background checks. Volunteers pay for their own and it is a requirement to be a volunteer.
 - NC: SILC pays for background checks.
 - CA: Has done the fingerprint scanning in the past. This is done differently in every state- generally through Dept. of Justice.
 - KS: Wants to know what kind of offenses each state YLF considers deal breakers and does it matter how long ago it happened...
 - NC: Wants to know how states deal with the fact that some offenses might have happened due to a disability or misunderstanding of disability...
 - Carrie will send out an email to the AYLIF group posing these questions.

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✍️ **Possible scholarships for youth to attend conference(s) next year**

- Tabled due to time constraints, will be put on next call agenda.

✍️ **Website Updates**

- Tabled due to time constraints, will be put on next call agenda.

✍️ **Other Announcements**

- Sierra shared that APRIL would be having their first youth advocacy call today. This group is for any youth with a disability across the nation that wants to learn about the issues effecting the disability community and how they can speak up and make effective change. YLF alumni might be interested in these calls.

✍️ **Closing**

- Next month's topic will be focused on sharing about individual YLF programs: applications, agendas, etc.

Meeting time: 2:00-3:05 p.m. EST

Minutes recorded by Carrie Greenwood, AYL Vice-Chair

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 19, 2017 at 2 pm Eastern Time

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