

On The Call:

Donna Foster (OH), Carrie Greenwood (KS), Daniel Gounder (CA), Alexis Nichols (VA), Kara White (VA) Cameron Thaller (SC), Anthony LaCava (FL), Carl (CA), Judy Grainger (MO) Beth Pinkham (RI) Jenny

☞ **Opening Round:** Each person introduced themselves by sharing their New Year's Resolution (FYI – many people didn't make one ☺)

☞ **Minutes October and November, Directory**

- Donna sent out December minutes before this call.
- No changes were mentioned.
- Minutes were approved.

☞ **Treasurer Report:** Jen was not on the call, so Donna gave balance update. The financial statement from December reflected a balance of \$2,931.77.

☞ **Discussion: What makes your YLF unique or what is a unique activity you do at your YLF? What is a reoccurring problem or difficult issue that you have every year?**

- Beth (RI) Rhode Island has not had a YLF since 2012. Since RI is a very small state, the YLF is typically a small group. Congressman James Langevin (the first quadriplegic to serve in Congress) is the honorary YLF chair. Rhode Island also teaches conflict resolution skills to the students.
- Donna (OH) Last year, Ohio had an adaptive sports night. Adaptive Sports Ohio visited with a few Paralympians and facilitated adaptive activities, including: sit down volleyball, wheel-chair basketball, and goal ball.
- Carrie (KS) Kansas offers the Real Life Affair. This is a resource fair that simulates a real world. Different areas of life, i.e.: school, financial aid, transportation, living situations, etc. all have booths and the delegates receive a monthly allowance that is similar to a typical salary in their chosen career field. Then the students complete a worksheet to simulate expenses, decision making, etc. The Kansas Youth Empowerment Academy is in the middle to simulate and show that they are always available as a resource in real life.
- VA and KS spoke regarding the difficulty with recruiting and limited applications for delegates every year. Suggestions included making sure the state's vocational rehabilitation agency and the schools know about YLF.
- RI stated that they have difficulty with some alumni understanding their role as staff and making the switch from delegate to staff. They asked how states picked their staff/alumni to return. States responded by explaining that documentation of leadership activities and

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community service are required (blue cards) and staff may be chosen by a team or by who looks the most promising. One state does phone interviews for staff positions.

✍️ **Website update**

- Anthony LaCava stated that as of now he cannot make changes to the website himself. He is just the liaison to the web master.
 - The group discussed possibly having a pass-word protected member only space on the website, where we could access resources, what other states were doing, etc. Anthony will look into how this could be done and if he can develop a folder system.

✍️ **AYLF short video**

- Whitney was not on the phone call so this will be tabled for the next call's agenda. Members wanted to know the purpose of the video.

✍️ **Online training for staff and possible scholarships for youth to attend conference(s) next year**

- Members suggested that a pre-recorded training on important topics like independent living or other YLF tenants could be used for staff. It would add to the seriousness of being chosen as staff and give a consistent message to YLF's. It was suggested that a survey monkey be developed regarding this topic and the topic of offering a small scholarship to an alumni to attend a conference. Donna will work on questions.

✍️ **Closing**

- Next month's topic will be the philosophy and tenants of YLF.

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

Minutes recorded by Donna Foster, AYLF Chair

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 16, 2017 at 2 pm Eastern Time

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