



Association for Youth Leadership Forums

Meeting Minutes

November 15, 2018

On The Call:

Donna Foster (OH), Carrie Greenwood (KS), Jen Randle (OK), Anthony La Cava (FL), Rachel Rackers (MO), Zak Ford (CA), Yvette Wingfield-Woodley (VA), Jami Davis (ID), Susan Nicaastro (MA), Elijah Fagan-Solis (NY)

- **Opening Round:** – Have you picked dates for next year’s YLF?
 - Donna- no dates yet
 - Zak- California July 15-19, 2019, staff on 14th
 - Carrie- Kansas July 8-13, 2019, staff only on the 8th
 - Anthony- Florida does not have dates yet
 - Jen- Oklahoma June 11-15, 2019, staff on June 9th
 - Rachel- Missouri July 16-20, 2019, staff on 15th
 - Yvette- Virginia is not having a YLF in 2019
 - Jami- Idaho July 28-August 2, 2019, staff on 27th
 - Susan- Massachusetts has not set dates yet

- **Minutes to be approved**
 - Donna- September minutes were sent out with the agenda. Motion- Carrie, Seconded- Anthony. Minutes approved with correction: Zak from CA spells his name “Zak” and Karl Ortega from CA was also on the call.

- **Treasurer Update**
 - \$5,545.77 in the bank account
 - Tax forms have been completed
 - No changes to report for November

- **Topics for the year**
 - Rachel- Ideas on how to keep connected with alumni
 - Zak- seconds Rachel’s idea
 - Susan- learn about the different combinations of funding
 - Rachel- Different subjects that are covered throughout the YLF week
 - Elijah- Exploring the different ways that everyone is recruiting new delegates and exploring different options for one day or two days shorter events
 - Rachel- Figuring out a way to bring independent living into YLF topics
 - Jen- Legislative policy involvement such as getting youth involved and for the YLFs to know what’s out there
 - Carrie- YLF philosophy: What are the philosophies of YLF? Which ones are more important? Are some states focusing on one than others? Has it changed over the years? Do we need it to change?

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- **Do we like using Zoom? Monthly or Bimonthly? Future meeting dates.**
 - Rachel, Anthony and Jen vote in favor of using Zoom
 - Monthly or bimonthly? Everyone who spoke up agreed in favor of monthly
 - Donna- December 20th for the next call at 2:00 p.m. EST

- **Discussion: YLF Agendas from last month and new topic recurring. Questions to consider: How have you tweaked the original California YLF model? What things have you kept the same as the model? What things have you added to enhance your program? What things (activities, speakers, etc.) have worked for you in the past? What things have not worked? How do you recruit delegates? What are your timelines for applications, etc.?**
 - Carrie- Kansas has stuck pretty closely to the CA model but try to tweak it as needed to issues that are important to their state and their youth. They have a BBQ for the recreational activities with wheelchair basketball and bocce ball. The Friday schedule has been altered a little bit by adding a segment on patience and including a panel of the alumni. They include a resource fair with real life applications that involves financial management. Kansas has a graduation ceremony. Their legislative day involves a tour of the Capitol, a mock session in the chambers and a photo with the Governor (if available). The mock session topic gets picked by the delegates and the day before they have the opportunity to practice their arguments and learn about debates. Every delegate and every staff have the opportunity to speak about what they learned (they sit in a semicircle). 20-25 delegates.
 - Donna- Ohio sticks to the CA model as well. They do small groups and large groups. Ohio brings in voting machines so that delegates can try them out hands on. They take a trip to the State House, but they don't do a debate. Usually legislators will come and speak to delegates. The DD council leads the legislative process session. They have an alumni panel session. They incorporate technology, sometimes in a panel or tech fairs. Their mentor's luncheon has changed a little as they do it in the evening and do more of a "speed mentoring" where they switch tables every 20 minutes or so. Each table has a different set of career topics. Ohio works with an organization that does recreational sports and they bring in different sporting equipment to allow delegates to try different sports. Last year instead of their talent show, they did a "YLF showcase" where the delegates did skits based off of activities that are educational based (ordering at a restaurant, going to an IEP meeting, job interview, etc.). They do an employment session with their Business Leadership Network.
 - Jen- Oklahoma has the first two days with staff that focuses on Life Course (lifecoursetools.com). They have tried to stay true to the CA model. They do a self-advocacy and leadership skills session. They do an alumni panel. They have a Responsible Choice session that covers sexuality education, sometimes they do everyone together or break it out by genders. They went downtown to explore the canal to learn firsthand about accessibility in a real life situation. They have 20-25 delegates.

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- Rachel- Missouri will look up the CA model to reference in the future though she is confident that they follow the CA model. Their delegates do a mock session at the Capitol which they are given pre-topics to vote on before they go. For their employment and career training they invite HR representatives to be on a panel, where they are asked certain questions, but then the delegates are able to ask their own questions. Students with disabilities from MU come and speak about disability services on campus. Employers also come in and speak about their offices and their accommodation options. They do reflections in their small groups.

- **Members of the Executive Team**
 - Currently looking for volunteers to fill Treasurer and Secretary positions. Anyone interested should reach out to Donna Foster.

- **Newsletter**
 - This will be discussed on the December call.

- **Closing**
 - The next call will be Thursday, December 20, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. EST

Meeting time: 2:00-3:06 p.m. EST

Minutes recorded by Whitney Harris, AYLFF Secretary

Next Meeting: December 20, 2018

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