ESCYPAA ADVISORY/HOST FORUM AT EACYPAA

2-19-2016

AGENDA

Introductions

Mike: It’s become pretty clear that we need to find a way to communicate as two committees working for the same purpose. At the host meeting on 2-15-16 a few topics were brought up

Communication specific communication with only certain members of advisory to host

Courtney: Someone was wondering if advisory could address the entire host committee vs one or two members

Kelly: Jenna said that things were brought up to her that didn’t make it to the entire host committee until much later in regards to an issue with things being posted on facebook

KC: I was the one who reached out to Jenna and it was really part of another conversation, it wasn’t an official opinion of advisory. I think we need to work on things in terms of unity

Mike : So it sounds like what I’m hearing is during a personal conversation, things can get misconstrued as one person’s opinion is the same of advisory as a whole.

Jenna: Can we be more general in what we are discussing rather than talking about specific people

Caitlin: I don’t see any issue with any advisory member going to one specific member then brought back to the group, why wouldn’t someone reach out specifically to me about graphics?

Courtney: So

Rachel: I think the problem is that it turns into a game of telephone. As drunks we can expect the worst of other people. I think we need to step back and think about our opinions before we share them

Matt: Advisory awarded us the convention, we are an autonomous group, advisory is there to guide us and share experience, not police us. I think

Nick: In terms of advisory opinion, I had to ask Billy what we were even talking about. This is really a non-issue. We are talking about an individual facebook post. In my experience whenever something this small is turned into something so huge, it is the symptom of a larger underlying problem. It seems like there is a disunity between these committees. From my perspective it seems like there are some personality conflicts on both sides. If ego is getting in the way, throw it out the window. We are all here to try to throw an awesome convention and ultimately keep God first.

Martial: Explanation of what advisory is

We are comprised mostly of past host committee members, we are the custodians of the convention, we hold the bank accounts but yes, you are autonomous

Jon: I sort of relate this to sobriety. We are talking about a facebook post. Next time it will be over a scuffed shoe or a dirty look. This is not the issue. There is obviously some underlying resentment, fear, or ego involved. We need to figure out where that is. Yes host is autonomous But as soon as someone has to start talking about the fact that these committees are autonomous from one another, there is a much larger issue at hand. We are all alcoholics. I sat in jail detoxing off of heroin just a few years ago. We are all here for the same reason. We are here to be of service to other alcoholics and we are sitting here talking about a facebook post. We need to address that and have better communication

Fernando: I really think this is a host committee problem. When someone is bringing up all these things about other individuals and rumors etc, we are putting personalities before principles.

CaitlinL I agree the problem is communication. For the prayer partners, I got assigned people that I didn’t have the phone numbers for. Can we all exchange numbers or create a list? Maybe we can have a call together once a month.

Mike: its not that obvious, but if you scroll over on the prayer partners spreadsheet, all the contact information is there

Multiple requests to restart the prayer partners

 host behavior towards advisory when they came about the bank account issue

Jenna: I think that host really needs to think and reflect on how we treated them when they came down.

Nechama: That was my first host committee meeting, and I wasn’t really sure what was going on. It seemed to me at first it was like we were attacking advisory, but by the end it seemed like advisory was able to put forward their position, explain that they are there for the success of the committee, and explain what advisory does. I felt they handled themselves really well and I came away learning something new about the relationship

Kyle

Kristin: Having been the LICYPAA liaison and working with you guys so much in the previous year. I was hurt because I felt like we had to spend so much time defending ourselves. Part of that comes from the relationships I’ve developed with host members, I guess I was expecting to be backed up by some of them

Martial: Yeah that was not a fun night. It was hard for me to see Kristin and John so upset. I serve with them. As the chair I don’t get a vote or an opinion in the committee meetings. That being said, I am 100% behind any decision my committee makes. I can’t say I wasn’t hurt personally by the way that meeting went. I was proud of the way Kristin and John held their ground

Sam: There were different solutions to the communication issues that we came up with, I think It could be helpful to spend some time discussing those together. I wasn’t at that meeting, but I heard very differently how the meeting went. I was told that advisory came down, didn’t want to ask any questions and were like “We have to do this” I can see where this can create an air of authoritarianism

Bobby: I’m really new at this. If I had my father come down to this and he heard that we were arguing over a facebook post he would ask what are we really talking about here.

Dan: I’m uncomfortable. I take responsibility for what is being said, but without ego. I felt incredibly special when I was pulled aside at ESCYPAA II by an advisory member for information to share with the committee. I’ve kind of drifted away as a member. I’ve been a little complacent. I don’t think apologizing is wrong but I don’t wanna be the center of attention here. I’ve spent time with a lot of people in this community, and I’ve held a lot of opinion but I don’t share that if it could hurt someone. We are all very capable of having better communication. I’ve watched us all hand in hand blossom and grow. I never thought I’d hold the level of maturity that I have here today to talk about how we can run a convention. .

Casey: I think this specific issue is also a unity problem. I know a handful of you guys and I come to you for things. I know you made the decision for the best of the convention. I think the people who don’t know you don’t see that.

Kristin: That experience needs to be shared with the new members so they know as well. We can all teach each other these things.

Matt: I admit, during that meeting, Mike’s my best friend, I was super emotionally charged. In the moment, I didn’t think I was being aggressive but I;m sure I was. And I’m sorry for that. In terms of the communication and the game of telephone. I know I’ve been a part of gossip, character assassination, and the spreading of rumors. We don’t need to be doing that here. The way this conversation is going shows that. We need emotional sobriety in committee meetings. Especially in committee meetings.

Alicia: I understand the perception of advisory, I saw two of them at our elections, and didn’t see any of them for the rest of the year so I can understand that perception of advisory of this big scary group of authority, but that’s not the case. Were all alcoholics too. We are all here to carry the message. We need to leave our egos at the door. No matter what happens in the business meeting we can leave as friends. This has been one of the best experiences of my life, along with getting married and going to the world series. This is really about that person who shows up to the convention with one day sober. It is such an unbelievable feeling. I’ve experienced it, I’ve seen Rochester experience it and I know you will too

Billy: It’s been awesome getting to know a lot of you. Last year as a host committee and getting to work with you, co-hosting events, and then seeing you win the bid and knowing what you guys were about to experience, I had tears of joy for you. I keep going back to what Bobby was saying about what are we really doing here at this meeting and it’s sad because I don’t really know. I do know that YPAA has changed my life and my sobriety in such an amazing way. If there is any way I can help you feel that please ask. I don’t care about the messy shit. You’re going to fight about dumb stuff but we can’t forget the reason that we do this. I’ve learned in general service

The disunity, I know I can do better. I can call more of you more often. There’s some of you that I call because Ive known you for years. Some of you I don’t know at all, but I still love you. I can’t wait to see you experience what it’s like to sit in that main meeting when you actually host your convention, I can’t give that to you.

NICK: I was all stonefaced, sitting here thinking what are we doing here> I don’t think any of this happens by mistake. We are sitting here talking about disunity character defects and it hit me. I had to spend the past two weeks calling

Mercedes: I’m very grateful to hear everything that’s been said. This is my first convention. Escypaa is my first host committee. I got involved with licypaa a few years ago and didn’t want to. I’ve learned it’s all about finding where I can be useful. I feel like this is us hitting our bottom. It’s similar to what licypaa was going through when I first joined. It’s time for us to take our own inventories so we can be of best service to one another. I feel completely comfortable going to advisory and asking for help and bringing it back to the committee. I feel like we are becoming more unified that

KYLE: At that meeting I felt like I was stuck between a rock and a hard place, I had developed these relationships with advisory members but I’m still a host committee member and didn’t know where to stand.

Courtney: I just wanted to say that I don’t have any fear of talking to advisory. My only experience is of you guys being helpful. Maybe at our next business meeting we can talk about more solutions on increasing communication. I know that at the meeting regarding the bank account, I was aggressive and I reached out to martial to apologize but I would like to apologize to all of you for that.

Martial: Bottom line is we need to work on more unity

Host meeting drama- My experience is that you don’t make friends in business meetings. I’m going to call every member of the host committee. I did the same thing with last year’s host committee. I have friends across the state because of it. Help teach your chair where he is going astray. That’s how I learned.

If people don’t feel comfortable bringing newcomers to our meetings/convention, we are failing.

If you guys want to get to know advisory, do outreach. Come to the events across the state. We are going to them working with the bid committees.

What do you guys need from us to make this work?

Rich: I was hoping we could have periodic conference meetings

Rich and Casey will be working that out

Jon: If you want to see all of advisory in one place, come to our mid-year event April 30th in Buffalo, NY