

ESCYPAA Advisory | 12/4/2017

In Attendance: KC, Dana, Kristen, Meg, Maya, Billy, Jon J., Martial, Mercedes, Jamie, Casey, Bobby, Carolyn, Lisa, Andy, John M., Chris, Jenna, Courtney

Absent: Sarah, Braden, Danielle

Meeting opened at 9:15pm with the Serenity Prayer.

Billy: I spoke with the Chair and Co-Chair of host, and they indicated that they were not interested in further discussing this matter and that the disbursement breakdown is up to Advisory. The other members of the host committee will be invited to participate in further discussion. This call tonight is for clarification, to decide what Advisory would like to recommend as a committee.

Reading from the Illustrated 12 Traditions [2nd Tradition & final paragraph from the 2nd Tradition]

[First round of discussion]

KC: After prayer and meditation, I understand the decision to not reimburse the laptop. It was not properly guarded; its loss does not impede Bill's ability to work; it is not our responsibility.

This is a statewide convention, and I feel that all four Areas should be donated to equally. There should not be a precedent set that the Area hosting the convention receives more money than the other three.

Jenna: I agree that the four Areas should be distributed to equally. I am struggling with allowing host to give us an idea of the disbursements and us not trusting their recommendations.

Dana: I agree with KC, this is a statewide convention so all four Areas should receive equal disbursements. As for the Districts those closest to Albany are more active and many of our members and panelists and attendees came from those Districts. I think distributing to all 18 Districts would do a disservice to the area, and that we should trust our trusted servants who know this region.

John M.: I believe we should leave the laptop out of this. Members of host spoke to Bill and he does not want reimbursement for it; he was just saddened by its loss.

I believe we should even out the disbursements to the four Areas. For ESCYPAA I and II, it was an even distribution to all four Areas. As for Districts, ESCYPAA I gave to the Hudson Valley region; ESCYPAA II gave to the Rochester Intergroup and the area that was served by the convention. My understanding is that ESCYPAA III disbursed funds in a similar way. Therefore ESCYPAA IV would not be setting a precedent by only giving money to the Districts around them, so I don't think anything there needs to be adjusted. The only change I would make would be to give 25% to each of the Areas.

Chris: I'd like to see it be split equal among all four Areas, but wouldn't lose sleep if it didn't.

Kristin: Nothing to add.

Meg: I was not part of the Host discussion due to surgery and was not on the Advisory call but I have looked this over. I do feel it should be distributed evenly. I think when we pick and choose where the money should go, we are playing God. We need to keep it equal.

As for the laptop, I don't believe it's our responsibility to pay him for that and I think the money should go back to AA.

Maya: I do not have an opinion.

Martial: Nothing to add.

Mercedes: I heard a point made that we should trust those who serve within their respective Districts to make decisions that they feel is fair, but I disagree – they may be trusted servants but they do not govern. I feel as though this kind of sharing a wavering opinion of where they think the money would be used is more playing God.

Jamie: My opinion hasn't changed about the laptop. I don't support any reimbursement for it.

I am inclined to trust the group conscience of the host committee with their proposed disbursements; we have trusted the host committee with lots of financial decisions this year. That Area did support the convention more than others, and I think over the long term this will even itself out as the convention moves around the state.

Jon: All set on talking about the laptop.

I'm troubled by the Chair and the Co-Chair saying they don't feel it's necessary for the host committee to come back to talk to form a group conscience. I'd like to make sure the whole host committee was involved in this decision. I would like to facilitate an opportunity for all host committee members to weigh in on if they want to discuss this again. As Advisory, it's our responsibility to help the host committee.

As for disbursements, we don't get to decide where money best goes. It's AA's money; we don't know if 40-something dollars would buy big books that could help save someone's life. It's a New York State young peoples' convention; we serve all of the state. Maybe a few years from now, that disbursement check will motivate a District to get more involved. If I were in a District that didn't receive a check, I would wonder why we weren't enough.

Bobby: As for the laptop, it should be handled in the same way the charger situation was handled last year. We're not responsible for anyone's personal property.

As for Area disbursements, I agree and would like to see it evened out. I also think we should trust the host committee to know their region and how the Districts work.

Andy: I agree with pretty much everything that has been said. Question: does Area 47 accept donations from ESCYPAA? They didn't accept our check when Rochester hosted.

Billy: Point of information: it took Area 47 seven months to decide to accept the check from ESCYPAA II and they have since changed their bylaws to accept future disbursements from ESCYPAA.

Lisa: I would like to trust the host committee; they know their service structure more than I do. I think the suggestion that it's a state convention with regard to Area disbursements; for Districts, I would defer to the host committee, as several of their members are very active in District service.

Courtney: Nothing new to add.

Casey: I agree that we are not responsible to pay for the laptop. I'm torn and don't have a strong opinion on disbursements.

Carolyn: Agree with everyone regarding the laptop.

As for disbursements, I'd like to trust the host committee; we spent a lot of time talking about it and it was thought through. I do see the other side of this conversation so I'm also kind of torn. We do understand our Districts, but what if some small amount of money made a difference somewhere?

End of first round of discussion.

Billy: Thanks everyone! Depending on how the rest of the discussion goes, we can certainly invite the host committee to participate in further discussion regardless of what has been stated.

General consensus seems to be:

- No reimbursement for the laptop.
- Slight majority to tweak Area disbursements, with several members saying to trust the host committee entirely.
- Some in favor of splitting the disbursements evenly among all 18 Districts, with several members saying to trust the committee.

Motion to send recommendation back to Host committee to adjust the disbursements as follows: leave else everything as is, but change the Area disbursements to an even 25% per Area.

[Bobby, seconded by KC]

[Second round of discussion]

KC: Nothing to add

Jenna: Nothing to add, never mind, I got it, I'm fine, goodbye!

Dana: Nothing to add

John M.: Nothing to add

Chris: Totally agree, but maybe included something to the effect that if host does not want to meet again we will go ahead and make the suggested change.

Kristen: Nothing to add

Meg: Nothing to add

Maya: Nothing to add

Martial: Nothing to add

Mercedes: Nothing to add

Jamie: Nothing to add

Jon J: Nothing to add. I miss Lisa.

Bobby: Nothing to add

Andy: Nothing to add

Lisa: Nothing to add. I miss you too Jon.

Courtney: Nothing to add

Casey: Nothing to add

Carolyn: Nothing to add

Vote: 11 in favor; 1 against; 1 abstention. No minority opinion; motion carries.

Billy: I will get the official minutes from Dana and reach out to Elise to email the entire host committee explaining our discussion and recommendation to disburse the money evenly to all four Areas.

Bobby: The entire host committee was not informed about the possibility of another discussion about disbursements. Anything Tori and Andy said were just their personal opinions. No one else on the committee has been contacted about this whatsoever.

KC: Are any of the Districts in your Area dark?

John M.: No, they are all active.

KC: There was concern expressed last meeting about donating to a dark District; as a member of a dark District, if money is sent to one it just sits there. It's better to donate to active Districts.

Closing Prayer; meeting adjourned at 9:57pm.