

# ESCYPAA Advisory Call | 7/23/18

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*Present: Billy, KC, Jenna, Dana, John M., Danielle, Chris, Kristin, Martial, Mercedes, Jamie, Jon J., Bobby, Andy, Lisa, Courtney, Sarah, Carolyn, Casey*

**Meeting called to order at 9:20pm**

## **I. Motion that we excuse Meg's absence on June 25 [Danielle, John M.].**

### **Discussion**

- KC: No reports were provided and prayer partners weren't updated for almost a whole month; Host / Advisory prayer partnerships were not updated in that time either, which as per our bylaws we are supposed to provide support to Host and that did not happen. Responsibilities go beyond getting on the calls.
- Jenna: Has it ever occurred that an Advisory member ever been removed from their position and then reached out to us and made an appeal to stay on? KC - yes, and she was still removed.
- Dana: I do feel that we should stick to the bylaws and not set a precedent for making things up as we go. We're people first, people in recovery, so I don't know and I'd like to hear what everyone has to say.
- John M.: We have had this occur a few times but pretty much everybody else had checked out - Martial: that's not true; Dan and Caroline both wanted to remain on, there was discussion of creating an ad hoc which was shot down - John M.: then I don't remember it like I thought.
- Danielle: I think I've said everything I wanted to say in my email. I remember, like John, that in prior situations the persons involved had not fulfilled their positions for a very long time. I wanted to make the motion so we could discuss this as a group.
- Chris: I think this is a good route, in that if we excuse an absence that's very different than changing the bylaws. Personally I would love to see Meg stay on.
- Kristin: Our bylaws and this one in particular have affected me greatly; I was voted in as an alternate and then as a voting member after Dan and Caroline had come off, both of whom were original members of the ad hoc. I took over one of their positions and became a full voting member. The next year I was bounced back to alternate, but became a full voting member again when Alicia was voted off. My understanding was that all those three wanted to remain on the committee, many of us were close to them, but we can't allow personal relationships to affect the convention.
- Martial: Dan and I were very good friends and I had to have that conversation with him and it sucked, and it affected our friendship, but that personal stuff should be set aside. It's not just being on the call; it's that prayer partners weren't updated for a whole month, other things haven't been done. We have alternates on this committee in order to fulfill these positions when people are not willing or able to fulfill them.
- Mercedes: I sent out an email response to this; for us to not adhere to our bylaws is to set the example to other committees that we don't take them seriously, so why should they? We are the guardians of this convention and we set the example.
- Jamie: I think it's important to adhere to its bylaws, and that this committee should take a look at all our practices to make sure we're adhering to all the bylaws. I would also like to know what our Chair and Co-Chair did to reach out to her to support her. Billy: I've been sending texts to anyone not on the calls to remind them, and have had a couple text exchanges with Meg over this month but did not have a chance to connect. I could have done more to reach out. KC: I

had not noticed that she was absent two times in a row, which was negligence on my behalf.

Martial: We need to all hold each other accountable, not just the Chair and Co-Chair.

- Jon J.: I think we have to adhere to the bylaws. As of her second missed call, she has not been on Advisory. The prayer partners thing is really important and has not been addressed. Sometimes my sponsor has to hold me accountable on things. It may be better to offer her an opportunity to work on what she needs to.
- Bobby: Nothing to add.
- Andy: I was involved with a Rochester treatment committee and there were groups that were just not showing up. We made a suspension rule (which is still in place) and an appeal process (which ended up in discord because some people wanted exceptions and some wanted to be accountable). I think we need to stay united however we vote.
- Lisa: This has been on my mind a lot and I've prayed about it; we are human but I also think that as a committee we have these bylaws for a reason and we've stuck to them in the past, which is where I've settled.
- Courtney: Last year I went through one of the hardest times in my sobriety and missed a few calls, and I reached out to members of Advisory as to whether I should stay on or not. I got a lot of support and that helped me through a very dark time. I don't know if I would come out to the other side the way I did if that hadn't happened, so thank you all for that and I hope we all remember that as we decide tonight. Mercedes: Did you miss two consecutive calls? Billy: As I recall, Courtney did let me know before the calls. KC: Point of order - at the end of the day, it's two calls in a row. Courtney: But that wasn't brought up in the motion.
- Sarah: Can you reread the motion? So we're discussing a call Meg missed when she was dealing with something that I would consider an excused absence.
- Casey: I agree with Sarah.

**Vote: yes - 5 // no - 7 // abstain - 2**

#### **Minority opinion:**

Dana: I'm reading Meg's email where she describes what led to her missing the call. I think we have to consider that and that her absence should be considered excused. I know I'm new to this and missed the Dan, Caroline, etc. experiences but this feels like a bad decision.

Danielle: I feel that the content of Meg's email should be considered.

#### **Motion reopened for discussion:**

KC: Nothing to add.

Jenna: Even more conflicted than I was before. I feel like sending a report could have avoided this whole discussion.

Dana: Nothing to add, I've said everything I want to say.

John M.: There is a difference between this and "I don't feel like getting on the call.". I think this should count as an excused absence.

Danielle: Nothing else to add.

Chris: I want to clarify for everyone that this motion is to excuse an absence, not change the bylaws.

Kristin: Nothing to add.

Martial: This all went down about a month ago and should have happened on the next call, not a month later after you find out what the consequences are. I feel bad but this is still a \$30,000 - \$50,000 per year convention. We have alternates that are here to fulfill these commitments if other people are not able to.

Mercedes: Nothing new to add.

Jamie: Nothing to add.

Jon J.: The minority opinion put a lot of emotional leverage in there, but as Martial said we have a huge financial commitment. It seems like we're putting our hands in and not letting Meg get the help she needs. The motion is being made to create a loophole in the bylaws.

Bobby: Nothing to add.

Andy: When I was talking about that appeal process, the group that appealed was my homegroup. I had to interrupt arguments and it was then removed and it was much more clear cut after that. It's a tough thing and emotions are in it and I feel for Meg, but part of me is more that we should adhere to the policy.

Lisa: Nothing to add.

Courtney: I think point blank if all the other stuff was put aside and the motion was that she had a medical reason for missing the call, it would be a different tune that what's being discussed right now. We're focusing so much on the bylaws and are going way off topic from the original motion.

Sarah: I agree with Courtney; the motion is very simple and concerns an excused absence.

Casey: I don't think her single absence on that day affects the overall functioning of the committee and I agree with Sarah and Courtney.

**Revote: yes - 7 // no - 7. Motion fails.**

#### **Other business related to the motion:**

- Due to the application process for the 501(c)(3), Maya has submitted a resignation as an active voting member of Advisory. In new business we will discuss allowing her to remain on as a non-voting member (in the position of last alternate). This will not need a motion unless someone makes it specifically.
- Andy will fill out his term on Advisory as an active member. He can extend his term to fill out Meg's term, if both he and the committee are amenable to that.
- If / when Andy rotates off, the next Alternate member will rotate in to fill out Meg's term.
- Lisa will serve as an active Advisory member through ESCYPAA V and fill out Maya's term, then will rotate back to her alternate position.
- Danielle: so do we need a motion to allow Maya to stay on as an alternate? Billy: Specifically, no because she is only relinquishing her right to vote, not her position on the committee. Danielle: But she's doing this because she doesn't want to provide her information for 501(c)(3) status? Billy: Yes. Danielle: I would be opposed to that based on the entire conversation we just had. Billy: Then in new business I would be happy to hear a motion on that, and I will try to connect with her in the meantime.

## **II. CHAIR REPORTS**

### **Chair [Billy]:**

- Since the last meeting, Jenna and I spoke with Crystal and Rob regarding the budgets and Crystal got us updated numbers which were sent out.
- Attended Host meeting last night with KC, about 15 in attendance not counting KC and me. Meeting went well and Jessica is asking for help in realizing the program needs. Had a great discussion about their current state. We talked about creating a "bare bones" budget so they can see what is needed and what is wanted. Rob is challenging each individual to bring back 5 registrations before their next meeting in two weeks. They have also been tasked with cutting their respective subcommittee budgets by their next meeting and updating their estimates to match a more current and realistic total.

- I have \$395.75 to deposit into our account from the Midyear event.
- I have fielded a few conversations regarding respect on our committee. I impress upon everyone to remember that we are here to serve our primary purpose and to express a group conscience guided by a loving God. Please try to set personal judgments aside and treat each member of this committee, and those you are working with outside of Advisory, with love and tolerance. We are here to serve ESCYPAA and have been trusted with its safety as its guardians. This does not need to conflict with our program of spiritual recovery as outlined in the book, The Twelve Steps of AA, The Twelve Traditions of AA, or The Twelve Concepts for World Service.

### **Co-Chair [KC]:**

#### **HOST: Budgets**

- Spoke to Rob about the budgets
- There are several areas that need adjustments IE: outreach - postage, program expenses, events
- Each subcommittee is working to narrow these down and get a more accurate idea of costs
- Will have updated budgets completed by BD Bonfire

Billy, Jenna (through FaceTime) and I attended the Host meeting on 7/22

- Billy explained to them the urgency in which they need to start generating income
- Seemed to light a fire
- Great conversation on where their focus should be - pre regs, outreach/inreach
- Program subcommittee will be meeting every opposite Sunday - asked for help with participation
- Events - looking to host 2-3 more events: One will be a unity event for the committee on speaker selections

Update on Area 50 Relations

- Area 50 Steering Committee voted to not allow them to cohost the Assembly in August
- Assembly will be held at meeting place of Host
- Host will be present to help in any way possible

**STCYPAA:** Spoke with Jeff about the updated wording in our Hotel Requirement

- Had questions about how large the ballroom space needed to be
- Was curious if they could use a hotel that is located closer to Syracuse since SYRYPAA is not bidding
  - I suggested that they leave that hotel alone and allow SYRYPAA the opportunity to build relations
- Spoke about unity and involvement by some members of the committee
- Spoke about upcoming Campout IE: preregs, costs, Host involvement
  - Host members have a Spiritual Retreat that same weekend that many of the members attend annually
  - Spoke with Rob and he said it was their mistake when approving to cohost that they didn't look at their calendars
  - Host is looking to help financially through preregs and donations

#### **BID CITY LIAISON CALL**

- I had to postpone the call due to personal reasons
- Rather than add a call, I am thinking we will cover 4 requirements on next call
- Next call will be TUESDAY, AUGUST 21ST!!!
- Please feel free to jump on the call!!!
- Bid City Liaisons - please mark this date down - participation is expected

#### **DROPBOX**

- Not sure how many of you have navigated through the Dropbox
- Has been such an AMAZING resource for me as I have been talking with Host and others about finances, events, archives, etc.!
- Super organized/easy to maneuver
- Thank you Dana for your hard work with this!!!

**Treasurer [Jenna]:**

<b>7/23/18</b>	CB Host 1 Account 8083	ESCYPAA 4	\$1,842.10
	CB Host 2 Account 7990	ESCYPAA 5	\$6,350.95
	CB Main Account 8075	Advisory	\$6,108.24
	<b>CB Total</b>		<b>\$14,301.29</b>

- Host paid 50% of the master bill today, which is \$2,025.00 because we are 90 days out from the conference.
- NENYPAA is going to be cashing their disbursement check this week, I still need to talk to Bobby about an address for District 2.
- I have not received any questions for Crystal in regards to the budget, unless people are reaching out on their own.
- I made an error in my report in regards to the Midyear: our expenses were \$343.26; revenue was \$232, so we had a loss of \$111.26.
- **Motion to accept the Treasurer’s report [Dana, John M.]. All in favor.**

**Secretary [Dana]:**

- Not part of my report, but I have the NENYPAA check and will be giving it to a trusted servant of that committee to deposit into their account. There was some difficulty finding a way to do this as there is only one person on the account who is frequently out of town, but it has been resolved.
- **Motion to approve the Advisory minutes from July 9, 2018 [Dana, John M.]. All in favor.**

**Hotel [John M.]:**

- Host: I realized that I forgot to include the room pickup (as of the 5th of July) in my last report, that was: Friday 10/19/18 - 18 rooms // Saturday 10/20/18 - 19 rooms. Please all book your rooms, and Bid City Liaisons please reach out to your cities and ask them to book their rooms.  
I will be getting another update in the next week or so.
- STYCYPAA: Logan got the initial proposal from the Radisson in Corning (attached). It is definitely a workable negotiation, as their first offer includes:
  - No food and beverage minimum
  - Complimentary Hospitality Suite 4pm Friday - 1pm Sunday
  - Complimentary Room night for every 40 paid room nights
  - Complimentary Coffee 7am - 10:00 pm (Additional urns of coffee available at 50% discount \$30 per urn + 18% service charge)
  - Complimentary Wi Fi in the guest rooms
 The room block is (possibly) a little high at 150/night, but I have reached out to Logan to see if he can get that to 100/night without a big jump in price (it is currently at \$109/night). The one issue with this hotel is it does not have a ballroom that is large enough to hold us (500 is the maximum for their largest conference area in theater style seating), however, the high school (less than a mile down the road) is eager and willing to work with us and let us use their facility. They can hold 1000+ with ease. Logan is working with them to get a proposal for the cost for using their space Friday and

Saturday nights. He is working on a campout proposal and waiting for the initial proposal from the Holiday Inn in Binghamton.

- ROCYPAA: Ethan got the initial proposal from the Rochester Riverside (attached), and it looks pretty good. 200 total room nights @ \$109/night. Some of the details:
  - \$1000.00 Food and Bev Minimum.
  - One complimentary room night for every (40) paid room nights
  - Discounted parking of \$4.00/day for overnight guests and local attendees
  - Complimentary wi-fi in all guestrooms and meeting space
  - Complimentary shuttle to and from the airport and train station
  - Upgrade to one (1) Executive Suite over the convention dates at the group rate of \$109
  - Discounted meeting space of \$3,900.00 (plus service charge and tax) for the space.
  - The group may request coffee during their events. Coffee will be provided to group at a discounted rate of \$25.00/gallon (plus service charge and tax).
- HVYPAA: Jason has been in contact with both hotels recently and he is expecting updated versions in the near future. Just to include AV stuff for Villa Roma and coffee for Honors Haven.

#### **Outreach [Danielle H.]:**

- Next Outreach call: July 25 at 9pm
- I added Allie, the new ROCYPAA Outreach Chair to the group chat.
- I heard there's a new SYRYPAA Outreach Chair but he was given my contact info instead of me getting his so I reached out to Kelsey to get that.

#### **Archives [Chris]:**

- I haven't purchased the large case yet... I'm having second thoughts as to whether it will fit our needs, it's hard to tell by an online pic. Since I'm getting it on Amazon, I can actually just buy it and return it if it's not right! I'll probably get it in the next couple of days.
- I spoke with Rob M. [host chair] regarding times the Archives room will be open. Waiting to hear back from him, then I'll send the signup sheet to Advisory for review for launching it to all prior host and Advisory members. Timeline is to send it to Advisory by the end of this month and launch it to prior host members by August 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Website [Kristin]:**

- I forwarded you the question about someone looking one of a past ESCYPAA speaker, which was answered quickly - thank you!
- Having some technical difficulties getting into our website, which should be fixed shortly.

#### **Prayer / Unity [Meg]:**

- I will be posting and e-mailing new prayer partners tonight.
- I have been talking to the chair of SYRYPAA, Kasey. She has expressed that their committee has been experiencing some disunity. I went over their bylaws with her and talked about her role in the matter. I also offered to come to Syracuse to facilitate a Unity Day with the group. She loved the idea and is getting back to me with dates.
- I would like to have bi-weekly "check-in" calls with you guys, especially since the convention is coming so soon. The first two would be Monday, 8/6, and Monday 8/20 at 9PM. Same number we call for our business meetings.

- I am planning on reaching out to Rob about any unity issues host has been having. I have not had the best luck with communicating with their Prayer / Unity chair. I want to make sure we are communicating with prayer partners and also want to offer to do a Unity Day before they host!
- **Billy:** Do we have anyone will to be the interim Prayer / Unity chair, or should we vote it out third legacy style at the HVYPAA bonfire? *No response.*

#### **HVYPAA Liaison [Sarah]:**

- The bonfire is coming up! The committee has been getting all their ducks in a row for that and figuring out who will do what, etc. That's been their main focus for now.
- MSCYPAA is this weekend and people from HVYPAA are going to that and will try to get pre-regs.
- HVYPAA members were at the Boat Cruise and got lots of pre-regs there.
- They're sending around volunteer sign up sheets for the Bonfire.
- I think it will be great, and that's coming from me - who doesn't like camping at all!

#### **STCYPAA Liaison [Braden]:**

- *Resigned, no report*
- KC will act as interim STCYPAA Liaison until the HVYPAA Bonfire.

#### **ROCYPAA Liaison [Bobby]:**

- John M. covered the hotel stuff in his report.
- I will reach out to Stephen and Matt in the next couple of days to see if I can be helpful.
- They've started doing inreach meeting bombs, which we had discussed at the midyear event.
- Campout flier has been released: September 28 - 30 at Camp Cutler in Naples, NY. Pre-reg \$25 (\$30 day of) which includes the tent.

#### **NYCYPAA Liaison [Carolyn]:**

- Unity Day and Boat Cruise went well! Advisory was well represented, there was a big turnout. Host had a panel and a strong presence. 600 people on the boat, sold out yet again.
- I tried to talk to members in person before the Boat Cruise and asked how the committee was doing and it looks like they may disband, based on the sentiment I felt from each person I spoke to.

#### **SYRYPAA Liaison [Andy]:**

- I attended their event this past weekend; it went well as an event, but attendance was low (about 15 - 20 people) and no one from host. Only one STCYPAA member.
- The committee is doing well, unity is going better, they are gaining new members who are jumping in with both feet.

#### **WORCYPAA Liaison [Jon]:**

- They're doing good. I'm on their Google Drive. Got their minutes from yesterday. Talk to a member nearly everyday. Talk to Jessica almost everyday. If anyone actually wants the details, ask me.

### **III. OLD BUSINESS**

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### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

- I would like to suggest that we wait to discuss budgets until Host gets a chance to discuss them and make some changes.

- I would also like to suggest waiting to talk about Maya until I have a chance to talk to her directly.
- **Business Research:** The lawyer had more questions and we sent her more answers (in addition to the ones we sent two weeks ago). That was several days ago and we haven't heard anything else, besides that she works with ASL interpreters in Buffalo, which I will send to Rob.
- **Group Inventory ad hoc [John M.]:** I'm going to schedule a call for Wednesday, August 1 at 9:15pm for the discussion. I'll send out a reminder email that day or the day before.

*Prayed it out @ 10:40pm*

**Upcoming Stuff:**

Outreach Call: Wednesday, July 25 @ 9pm

Hotels 101 Update Call: Sunday, July 29 @ 9:15pm

Group Inventory Ad Hoc Call: Wednesday, August 1 @ 9:15pm

HVYPAA Bonfire: August 3 - 5 ALL. DAMN. DAY.

Next Advisory Call: Monday, August 13 @ 9:15pm

Bid City Liaison Call: Tuesday, August 21 @ 9:15pm

ROCYPAA Campout: September 28 - 30 @ Camp Cutler