

ISCYPAA Advisory Meeting

Date: November 7, 2023

Time: 7:00 PM

Zoom ID: 858 068 6515

Password: iscypaa

Attendance/Introductions:

James P - Chair

Savannah P - Secretary

James R - Treasurer

Tara - Hotels

Tim - Webmaster

Megan - Archives

Meg B - Trusted Servant

Brian M - Trusted Servant

Ryan M - Trusted Servant

Michelle D - Trusted Servant

Bill S - Trusted Servant

Guests:

Peyton S - Host Chair

Cindi B?

Prayer:

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

- To be posted by Michelle as soon as possible

Reports:

- Host Representative (Peyton S):
 - T-shirt design:



- - Hey y'all. My name is Peyton, and I'm an alcoholic. I'm also your friendly, neighborhood Host Committee Chair. This is what we've been up to since Advisory's last business meeting. We do not have a hotel contract. Therefore, we have no room nights sold. Our current balance is \$4,396.91. We have sold approximately 130 registrations. This is the most up to date figure that we have, since we have no Registration Chair currently. We need to scrub the spreadsheets. We will make every effort to have a more up to date figure at Advisory's next business meeting.
 - We have approximately 17 members on the Host Committee, pending our new Secretary scrubbing the rolls and updating the attendance records. She just recently took over and is playing catch up. We have the following positions open: Registration Chair, Out of State Outreach Chair, and Archives & Literature Chair.

- We held our Rap Battle event on 10/14. This one had very low attendance. We were supposed to have a Halloween party on 10/21. We decided to cancel the event due to low committee participation. Part of what has gotten us into trouble is trying to have two events per month. If you look in the Host Committee packet, under the suggested timeline, June/July, it mentions that 1 – 2 events per month should be held. In the past, we've been trying to do two per month, and it's been too much. Between the issues we've been having with morale and commitment and the fact that our territory is so wide, meaning that we have events all over the state, not including the ones we co-host with other bids, it's been taxing for sure. Going forward, we will only be having events if we can get 5 committee members to commit to being present and working that event. Also, we've scaled back our schedule dramatically. We are planning on participating in PRAIRYPAA's Friendsgiving event this upcoming Saturday. That's the only thing we're doing in November. We're co-hosting Shivering Denizens with Bid 62. That is a prom event on December 2nd. We are working on having a New Year's Eve event around the Christopher area. The reason we're still tentatively planning that one is because before we changed the way we're doing things, we had already started clearing the way for it to happen with one of our local districts (SIA 21, D 17). Other than that, at this time our only other event will be the Open.
- There has been a time in the recent past where morale has been really low overall. This in large part is related to us not having a hotel contract yet. Outreach is hard when you don't have dates. At the time, we didn't have merch either. That only compounded the problem. Not having a hotel contract also ties the hands of several of our other Subcommittee Chairs. We conducted part of our group inventory with Mike P. and Maria B. That revealed just what kind of shape we were in. I think a lot of us had an idea that we were struggling, but not that extent. This is also that part of the year where a lot of us get tired and burnt out.
- The reason I say that there has been a time in the recent past when things were like this, is because I've seen morale improve drastically in a short period of time. I'm not saying that our problems are completely fixed. I am saying that it's better than what it was, and I see it continuing to get better. There are a few things that have contributed to this improvement, in my opinion. Kelsey W. resigned as Out of State Outreach Chair and took Program Chair. She is also still our Events During Chair. Cory B. resigned as Registration Chair and took Traditions, Bylaws, Concepts, and Structure Chair in addition to remaining as our Prayer Chair. She's started a traditions study on Sunday night for anyone on the committee who wants to hop on. Bri B. took the Secretary position in addition to remaining as our Events Before Chair. We were really hurting and needing these roles filled. Thank you to these individuals for stepping up to the plate.
- Kelsey also suggested doing morning meditation together on Zoom as a committee. Every day, Monday through Friday, from 6:30 to 7:00 am, anyone who wants to can hop on Zoom for readings and discussion. Sometimes it's the Daily Reflections. Sometimes it's other readings. That's been pretty successful. I know that I've gotten a lot out of Zoom meditation with the committee, and I hope that other people on the committee have gotten something out of that as well.

- Having merch is one of the things that definitely has contributed to things improving on Host. I have attached pictures of our t-shirt. Thank you to Johnnie, Chair of KANKYPAA for being our model. I will go ahead and drop those pictures in the chat for anyone who hasn't seen them yet. We have also raised our registration price. \$15 for one registration. \$20 for just a t-shirt. \$25 for a Newcomer Bundle. \$30 for a t-shirt and a registration. \$35 for a newcomer bundle and a t-shirt. We will have them for sale at Friendsgiving, Soberfest, and KCYPAA. If you're not going to be at any of those events and would like a shirt, please reach out to me individually and we can make arrangements for you to get one. Our next business meeting is Sunday, November 12th in O'Fallon. For our Advisory members that live in the Metro East, I could possibly meet up with you after that meeting, since I'll be in the area.
- Host recently outreached INCYPAA on October 27 – 29th in Evansville, IN. Not only was it a great conference overall, we did well on merch and registration sales there as well. Out of the 21 shirts that people have bought and paid for so far, 9 of them were sold at INCYPAA. We sold 10 registrations during INCYPAA. Between merch sales and registration sales, we brought in approximately \$330 from INCYPAA. This has given our committee a much needed boost. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Johnnie, Kris, and Heather from KANKYPAA for helping us at the outreach table. Coming up, we have Soberfest, KCYPAA, and MCYPAA. We did not outreach OYPAA. This was a strategic decision due to not having dates and low committee participation, which I have previously outlined.
- We have yet to finish our inventory. We have had a lot of pressing items come up on the agenda. Part of the plan is for us to decide on Sunday when we want to complete it.
- Thank you for allowing me to continue to be of service. I'm grateful for the journey, and I'm grateful to be here.
- Chairperson (James P.)
 - I have been working vigorously helping with the hotel situation. Tara will have more with that in her report and new business.
 - In regards to the electronic payments for bid committees, Springfield has been able to solve the problem. Waiting for Bid 62 to figure it out. Then we will document the process to help in the future.
 - I will be attending Host's business meeting on Sunday. All are welcome.
- Co-Chairperson (Jeanette):
 - No Update.
- Secretary (Savannah):
 - No Report
- Treasurer (James R.):

- As of 10/3/23 - previous ending balance is \$41,291.04.
 - On 10/04/2023 - Contribution made to GSO in the amount of \$1,884.25 for Chicago Host Proceeds & Advisory 10% disbursement.
 - On 10/04/2023 - Contribution made to Area 19 in the amount of \$5,123.67 for Advisory 30% disbursement.
 - On 10/04/2023 - Contribution made to Area 20 in the amount of \$5,123.67 for Advisory 30% disbursement.
 - On 10/04/2023 - Contribution made to Area 21 in the amount of \$5,123.67 for Advisory 30% disbursement.
 - On 10/05/2023 - USPS postage for cashiers check to Area 19, 20 & 21 totaling \$10.74.
 - On 10/17/2023 - USPS postage to return checks/donations sent to ISCYPAA from non-AA affiliated organizations totaling \$6.02.
 - On 10/17/2023 - Office Depot expense for folder to organize ISCYPAA files totaling \$7.22.
 - On 10/25/2023 - ISCYPAA Logo Gift Card Winner; Zelle to James Pullen who paid out of personal account totalling \$50.00.
 - Transactions since the last business meeting totalled \$17,329.24.
 - As of 11/07/2023 - ending balance is \$23,961.80.
- James R. to hold a subcommittee meeting in November to discuss making bid seed money indefinite moving forward.
- *Questions for James:*
 - Tim: Returned checks' affiliations?
 - James: 2 organizations sent checks, can't remember who they were but mailed them back because they are not AA-affiliated.
- Hotel (Tara):
 - James and Brian have been spearheading hotel negotiations (thank you immensely for that!).
 - James has a contract in hand from the Regency for 3/29-3/31 2024 that was posted in the group chat for members to review.
 - Brian has been diligently trying to get a contract from the Four Points but the communication from the hotel has been challenging.
 - As of right now, we only have the Regency contract, but due to time constraints, I would like to bring that contract to a vote in New Business.
 - I have been in contact with FIELDYPAA and KNKYPAA assisting with their hotel proposals.
- Outreach (Tamara):
 -
- Archives (Megan):
 - Discussing Archives with Meg and how we're going to get them to the conference. Willing to help out Host with Archives as well (along with Meg).

- Webmaster (Tim):
 - James P reached out to the logo contest winner. Thank you, James!
 - I have uploaded the logo on the website.
 - I have updated the Google Calendar with the latest event that was emailed to me from Host. Haven't gotten much aside from that.
- Trusted Servants (Bill, Brian, Meg, Rian, Ryan, and Michelle):
 -
- Bid & Host updates/contacts:
 -

Old Business

- Seed Money permanent? - *Wanting on sub-co*
 -
- Discuss Hotel Contracts (Tara)
 - Vote on New Contract
- Retire Banner (James P.) - *Wanting on logo*
 - Megan to bring pricing and design to the committee
- Regarding Bid Requirement #2 which states, "Bidders must have a commitment from at least one hotel. This commitment must include the dates of availability for the banquet and meeting rooms and proof that the hotel will not require a minimum number of attendees,"
 - Michelle motions that bid requirement #2 be changed to "Bidders must have a contract from at least one hotel. This contract must include the dates of availability for the banquet and meeting rooms and proof that the hotel will not require a minimum number of attendees." This change to take effect for the bidding year of ISCYPAA 42.
 - We believe we have been misinterpreting this bid requirement. The term commitment should imply that we are getting signable contracts from hotels, not proposals. We would like to make it known to all the bids this year that they should be submitting signable contracts and will be more seriously considered with signable contracts. If anyone has a concern with this interpretation, we can discuss it more in new business.
 - *AT THE LAST BUSINESS MEETING, WE WERE UNABLE TO VOTE ON THIS MOTION DUE TO NOT HAVING ENOUGH MEMBERS PRESENT.*

- Getting Host to share Google Doc of Financials (Tim)
 - *TABLED FROM LAST BUSINESS MEETING DUE TO NOT ENOUGH MEMBERS PRESENT TO VOTE.*

New Business

- NDAH policy review and edits (Steph & Michelle)
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- Having 2 sub-accounts, 1 for odd, the other for even years so overlap doesn't occur (Tim)
 - *Should the Host be required to use Sub-Account?*
- 2024 Hotel Contract - Regency O'Fallon 3/29-3/31 (Tara)
 - Key Data Points:

The Regency O'Fallon	
DATE	3/29/24-3/31/24 (EASTER WEEKEND)
ROOM BLOCK	80 ROOMS/NIGHT (+10 ROOM COURTESY BLOCK FOR OPEN)
OVERFLOW?	10 ROOMS PER NIGHT
ROOM RATE	\$124/NIGHT
CUT OFF DATE <small>(when rooms are released to general public)</small>	MARCH 1ST, 2024 OVERFLOW: MARCH 7TH, 2024
MEETING SPACE	BALLROOM FOR 700 4 STAND ALONE BREAKOUT ROOMS BALLROOM CAN BE DIVIDED
MEETING SPACE RENTAL FEE	100% ROOMS (160 NIGHTS): \$2500 90% ROOMS (144 NIGHTS): \$4000 80% ROOMS (128 NIGHTS): \$5500
FOOD AND BEVERAGE MINIMUM	\$1200
SERVICE CHARGE	22%
ADDITIONAL CONCESSIONS	PROVIDE OWN SECURITY, 24 HOUR ACCESS, BANNER HANGING, OUTREACH TABLES, HOSPITALITY ROOM WITH OWN FOOD, POOL 10AM-12AM, \$36/GALLON COFFEE
BEST CASE/WORST CASE	\$4514/\$8,174

- James P: Stressing to Host about 24-hour security. James had to explain that to the hotel contact in order to secure the hotel contract.
- Questions regarding the Contract:
 - Michelle: Do we as a committee vote as to whether or not we are ok with the contract and then give it to Host to handle the actual contract?

- James P: We are in uncharted territory. What we are going to do first is to vote on the contract. Assumption afterward is to give it to Host to implement.
- Tamara: That is not what I thought was happening. Thought Advisory would take over hotel negotiations and sign the hotel contract. Not vote on the contract, go back to Host for edits/acceptance, etc.
- James P: Corrected self. Do they get to vote on it?
- Tamara: No.
- Tamara: When Advisory decides that they have a hotel contract, they will sign it and it will go into effect.
 - Tim: Seconded
 - Arguments:
 - Tamara: I thought this was the intent; the hotel contract was not happening and we needed to get it done. My concern is that if it doesn't get signed, even if we agree with it and we go back, it will just put us back more time.
 - Tamara's original motion from August 2023 minutes:
 - "Tamara motions If by September 1, 2023 there is not a signable hotel contract, Advisory will take the lead in all hotel negotiations; Tim 2nd; motion passes."
 - Clarification: This motion is regarding whatever contract we decide on.
 - James: Host has an emergency meeting scheduled for Thursday to discuss the contract.
 - Tim: If Host then decides they don't want to sign the contract, then what.
 - Bill: Agree with Tamara's motion because people from other states keep asking when ISCYPAA is and I have to keep telling them that I don't know. This vote is about more than just the Host Committee, it is about the legacy and integrity of ISCYPAA. We need to get this done and not let it keep hanging in the balance.
 - Tamara: Willing to make an amendment, the contract will be signed by Host within 3 days of Advisory approving the contract. Host can review the contract, but if they disagree with it, we are signing it anyway.
 - James: Our stop date for the contract is 11/14. Our bylaws require both groups to sign the contract unless we vote to override the bylaws by $\frac{2}{3}$.
 - AMENDED MOTION: When Advisory agrees on a signable contract, it will signed within 3 days. That may mean the

bylaws get changed so that Advisory is the only signature on the contract.

- Tim: Good with amendment.

- Jeanette: Keep in mind, Southern IL has not had ISCYPAA before ever, but please give some grace with this. Don't want to burn anyone; I get the formality and I get that this is about the future of ISCYPAA, but getting the 2024 conference going is also massively important.
- Tim: The only other thing that I'd be okay with is if we did not pass the motion if then Advisory was going to meet on Friday if the contract does NOT go through.
- Last Argument - Tamara: I'm fine with that. The decision we make today would probably be the same decision we make on Friday. I understand unity and grace, that is not what the principles of AA are about. This is about the future of ISCYPAA.

- Votes:

- In favor: 8
- Against: 5
- Motion does not pass. Would need $\frac{2}{3}$ because it changes the bylaws.
 - Minority opinion (in favor)
 - Bill: The more time that goes by, the fewer people are going to attend. A vote against this, is a vote to hamper the conference.
 - Meg: This issue has been going on for quite some time. There has been a lot of time and effort from both Host and Advisory to get this contract. Advisory has come really far in giving the autonomy and support to Host, changing the tune. I know for me, I also know/think it is humility that we were asked for help. We did not railroad Host on this - we tried to be in the back as much as we could. This has to be a responsible business decision.. Not to avoid hurting anyone's feelings. At some point, someone has to take some action. If we continue this back and forth, we will not be having a conference in Q1. Bite the bullet.
 - Ryan M: We have ONE contract that is signable. We have until the 14th to make a decision, 7 days from today. This could potentially be a no contract situation very

shortly. I get the autonomy and everything, but ISCYPAA needs a hotel contract right now, and we need a good hotel contract. It would be good for ISCYPAA as a whole to move forward with this.

- Michelle: If there's a time limit to us accepting the contract/voting yes for it, beyond having this contract fold, I would hate to think that everybody's work and contribution that went into getting this contract together would be for naught. It has been a very long, emotional road to get here and I think we have discussed that enough. The Host committee had an opportunity and they missed the mark for whatever reason. I don't think Easter weekend has much to do with it. People don't book their hotel rooms until last minute as it is - I would hate to prolong the situation with the hotel contract. Having a contract will afford Host the ability to push registrations and hotel rooms and not focus on who gets to execute the hotel contract.
- Does anyone change their vote - Tim now votes in favor
- New arguments?
 - Rian B: I would like to pause for a moment and ask, "where is god in this?" For me, I feel like pushing this forward and not giving Host an option is the committee's will, I don't feel like god is in this decision. If we let this motion go through, we are saying that we don't trust Host to make the decision that needs to be made, we don't trust them to say, "Yes, we accept this contract". I urge you to pray and ask yourself, "where is god in this?" because by saying that this gets signed by this date, nothing changes. It is degrading and also it is taking away the autonomy and not putting trust in god or the committee. All this work has been done. I think that the committee would make the right decision and I think we should allow them to have that decision.

- Ryan M: Given that our committee has already decided to amend the bylaws for future years to be the only signature on future contract, to me it just looks like a personalities over principles thing. There's really only one decision that needs to be made and it's not like god is not involved in this. God is in the traditions of AA. There's autonomy in this council and there is autonomy when Advisory needs to move to help ISCYPAA as a whole. I don't think we should drag our feet.
- Tamara: We are voted in to be the stewards of this conference and to honor the integrity of this conference. That integrity is no longer there - some of the people who go to our conferences are really questioning what is going on with ISCYPAA, and to me, that is harmful to ISCYPAA as a whole. I stood for this role to keep ISCYPAA moving for the next 5 years.
- James R: I'm usually the person to say "let's keep this moving" but right now I feel like there is an us vs. them dynamic between Advisory and Host. A lot of the morale issues from the Host share sounded like it was from not having a contract. I don't know that us signing the contract will make that worse and I am hesitant.
- Bill: For everybody's consideration, we were picked to be the voice of accountability, not to try to be favorable to a host committee.
- Tim: I have gone back and forth in my mind non-stop on this. That being said, principles over personalities is also the fact that we said they would sign the contract and going through with that would be a focus on principles. Just because we have scheduled meetings, doesn't meet that we as a committee cannot meet before then.
- Brian: I am aware of how important it is to have a contract signed. My view of stewardship is of being a servant and saying 'how can I help you' - I am not the

one implementing this contract and if someone came to me and said 'hey you're doing this contract' I would probably tell them what they can do to themselves. I am a servant to the people I serve.

- Tamara: I did not hear the info that this needs to be signed by the 14th or we lose it. If this motion does not pass, I will move to have an emergency meeting on Friday.
- Revote: 5 no, motion does not carry

- Tamara: Motion: If Advisory agrees on a hotel contract tonight and it does not get agreed on by Host, we will have an emergency Advisory Business meeting before next Tuesday.
 - Tim: seconded
 - Discussion:
 - Michelle: What about Brian's contract?
 - Tamara: The motion does not mention the specific contract, I left it out intentionally.
 - Brian: I asked last week if I can get an ETA on the contract and the response was, "Sure." I immediately responded via email, called, left voicemails. Even if I got a contract at this time, it would likely take them 2 months to even get a signable contract.
 - Tim: Even if we don't agree on the contract, it is an emergency and we have an emergency meeting.
 - Bill: We have a responsibility...
 - Votes: Motion passes unanimously

Tim: Motion: I make a motion that we vote to sign this hotel contract (The Regency O'Fallon) and the courtesy room block contract.

- Megan: Seconded
- James: Our current balance is \$23K, Host has a balance of \$4K and some change
- Votes: Motion passes unanimously.
 - James: The contract has been sent over to Host. They will meet on Thursday. We will find out more on Thursday.

Announcements

- Soberfest is Next Weekend and ISCYPAA has a panel from 11-12:30. ISCYPAA is also hosting the Friday night dance.
- MICYPAA is Thanksgiving. This conference is closer to us than chicagoland.
- WICYPAA is Jan 12-14th
- We Are Not Saints is also the same week, so maybe we can divide and conquer on conference attendance.

- James will host a subco for seed money in the next week.
- Tamara - outreach call for bids and host committee in-state outreach chair is in 2 weeks

Savannah: Motion to close

- Brian: Seconded
- Motion passes

Next meeting: December 5, 2023 at 7pm

Meeting closing time: 8:49PM