

ISCYPAA Advisory Meeting

Date: March 5, 2024

Time: 7:00 PM

Zoom ID: 858 068 6515

Password: iscypaa

Attendance/Introductions:

James P - chair

Savannah P - secretary

Tim - webmaster

Bill S - outreach

Brian M - trusted servant

Meg B - trusted servant

Mike D, SWISCYPAA - trusted servant (first meeting)

Jeanette R - co-chair

Tara - hotel chair

Megan G - archives

Michelle D - trusted servant

Rian B - trusted servant

Guests:

Anniversary & Birthdays

Prayer

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

-

Reports:

- Host Representative:
 - Hey Y'all! My name is Peyton and I'm an alcoholic, and for the last time this year, I am reporting as your friendly, neighborhood Host Committee Chair. We have 17 days until the conference! As of 3/12/24, your Host Committee has a balance of \$8,615.13. As of 3/12/24, we currently have 345 regular registrations, 38 scholarships purchased (not including the ones given to us by the previous Host Committee), and 50 scholarships given to us by the previous Host Committee, for a total of 433 registrations on the books. As of 3/8/24, we have 156 room nights booked at the main hotel, leaving 4 room nights remaining in the block. The final count for the overflow hotel is 50 room nights sold. As of yesterday, 3/11, the room block in the overflow hotel is closed. The block at the main hotel closes on Wednesday, 3/27/24.
 - There are currently 18 members of the Host Committee. At this time, all members of the Host Committee are voting members. The AI-Anon Liaison position is vacant. Currently, the position of Hospitality Chair is vacant. Our continuity plan is for our Hospitality Co-Chair, Kendall M., to cover down on Hospitality this week and we will vote on a new

Hospitality Chair at our business meeting this upcoming Sunday, 3/17. Additionally, we could ALWAYS use more Trusted Servants!

- Our last event before the conference was the All Illinois Young People's Open, which was held at the The Regency in O'Fallon on Saturday, February 10th. I'm not going to go into too much detail here, as much of the Advisory Council was in attendance. After it was all said and done, we brought in approximately \$1,000.00 from the Open. We have received positive feedback from a lot of the people that were in attendance. Overall, it was a pretty good time.
- We attended our last out of state conference for the year, which was TCYPAA on February 23rd - 25th in Jackson, TN. We sold a few pieces of merch and a few registrations. The real value in this conference for us was in making connections with other committees. We attended the Five Corners Round-Up on February 16 - 17 in Miner (Sikeston), MO. Five Corners is a smaller event in comparison to a YPAA. It is popular in our local area because it is a free event. We attended the Southern Illinois Area 21 Assembly in Fairfield, IL this past Sunday, March 10th. I think one of the highlights of this Assembly was that I personally was able to get our Delegate, Tom H., to register and sign up to work a shift in Archives on Saturday. I'm looking forward to seeing several people in our general service structure show up for ISCYPAA this year.
- Our newest pieces of merch are coffee mugs (picture attached). We used the splat logo that Advisory is using. We also have several different color options to choose from. We are selling them for \$15 a piece. We currently have a limited quantity, and we are expecting them to go quickly. We should be discussing whether or not we want to order more to have for the conference at our next business meeting, this upcoming Sunday.
- Our donation drive is continuing to yield fruit. Groups, Districts, and individual AA members from all over Southern Illinois Area 21 have come out of the woodwork to support us, which is something we remain incredibly grateful for.
- Host's remaining business meeting schedule is as follows: Sunday, 3/17 at the O'Fallon Trailer and Sunday, 3/24 at the O'Fallon Trailer. These are 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm. Our final business meeting before the conference will be held on Thursday, 3/28 at the Hampton Inn in the Riviera Room from 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm. These will all be hybrid.
- I have no worries about our unity headed into this conference. Seeing all of us come together over the course of the year has been nothing short of miraculous! We've had our ups and downs, just like any Host Committee. But my experience this year has been that the Traditions are the path to unity. One of the things I think we've done really well at this year is keeping focus on the Traditions and Concepts. We don't always do things "right," whatever that means. We've been an unconventional committee all year long. But we do our best to keep God as we respectively understand God right in the middle of it all. One of the things I've told this committee all year long has been: "Keep praying and

moving your feet, and shit'll buff." And that has been what has happened. God has made the way every time. From the money, to the facilities, to the food - God has his hand in it all. Watching people on the committee grow has really been the bright spot for me all year long. No matter what happens, I have no regrets. Being the Chair of this ISCYPAA Host Committee has been the highlight of my time in AA... so far. Thank you for allowing me this opportunity of a lifetime.

In Service,
Peyton S.
ISCYPAA XLI Host Committee Chair



- Chairperson (James P.)
 - I have reached out to Springfield, PrairiePAA and Bid 62 to remind them that bid packets are due March 22nd at 10pm. I have also advised them that they may send in for feedback the following item: Hotel contracts to hotels@iscypaa.org, Budgets to treasure@iscypaa.org, and bid packets to chair@iscypaa.org. If I receive any bid packets, do I have any volunteers to review for feedback?
 - The order of Alternates were a little unsure for MesYPAA. After this conference, I am assuming Megan goes to #1, Amy will be #2. If there are no objections to this or if anyone wants to, we can discuss this in new business.
 - In regards to Ben, there was some confusion whether he was an alternate so I reached out to see if he was even interested. He stated he was not. So that solves that debate.
 - SIB Alternate steps down- reason unknown at this point - Margot removed from Alt List
 - I added a link to the "Structure for Site Selection" Let me know if you have any questions. Last year there were a few minor tweaks, but for the most part we followed and it seemed to work very well.
 - A reminder that Friday night of the conference there is the *"Assumption: That every Council member has read the bid books to the best of their ability. Note: If you haven't done your work, you won't have any questions."*
 - This year we implemented that the Hotel Chair will be creating a "Hotel Cheat Sheet" that will summarize the main points of the hotel contracts.
 - For the conference, we are meeting:
 - Friday
 - Immediately after the speaker
 - Saturday

- 9am-12:30pm Bid Presentations
 - 2pm-4pm Bid Deliberations
 - After Main Speaker- Meet with Host, Bids, & Tokens
 - Sunday
 - 12pm Host Wrap up meeting (tentatively)
- This is our last meeting before the conference. If we have anything that is time sensitive, we may bring it up Friday night of the conference before we start the site selection process. We have a lot to go through today so I will do my best to keep us on track and be efficient.
- Co-Chairperson (Jeanette):
 - Reached out to Rockford bid re: bid packets - no response back
 - Host reached out about a column in the registration spreadsheet and they were doing it manually, but the issue is now resolved
- Secretary (Savannah):
 - No report
 - Motion to approve minutes as-is from last business meeting
 - Seconded (Brian, Megan)
 - Motion passes
 - James: Please get with Michelle to update the Bid Packets for next year
- Treasurer (James R.) - not present
 - Updates provided by James P:
 - Liability insurance was purchased and deducted from our funds
 - Kankakee Bid is mailing a check for their remaining funds to us
 - As of 02/10/2024 - beginning balance is \$23,961.80.
 - On Feb 14 - online deduction for Zoom subscription for \$159.90
 - On Mar 08 - online deduction for liability insurance for \$777.00
 - As of 03/12/2024 - ending balance is \$23,024.90.
- Hotel (Tara):
 - I have received hotel proposals to review from Prairypaa and Springfield. I reached out to both Bid 62 and Rockford, but did not receive any proposals to review. Bid 62 said they had at least one. I did not receive a response from Rockford.
 - I created a one page document to propose to be added to the bid committee contracts as a guide for obtaining hotel contracts. I created the document mostly using information directly from the PowerPoint presentation created for hotel information. It can be found [here](#) and I will bring this item up in new business.
- Outreach (Bill):
 - Introduced self to bid committees and offered to help

- All Chicago Open has requested a presence from ISCYPAA, waiting to learn what that entails
- Archives (Megan):
 - Getting the banner ordered this week
- Webmaster (Tim):
 - Made a couple small changes to the website, including 2023 page for registrations to let people know that it is the old page (don't use it)
- Trusted Servants (Brian, Mike, Meg, Rian, Ryan, and Michelle):
 -

New Positions:

- **None**

New Business

- 1. Nondiscrimination And Harassment (NDAH) policy review and edits (Steph & Michelle)
 - Subcommittee on February 6th:
 - https://drive.google.com/file/d/1V42_BljGLQgaTdx5nOEaHZBEqj5b5Rqa/view?usp=drive_link
 - **Michelle:** Motion to accept this document with the changes as they have been shared with the committee
 - Seconded (Savannah)
 - Discussion:
 - Michelle - we need this policy
 - Votes: 9 in favor, 2 abstained - motion does not carry
 - Minority opinion (votes in favor):
 - Savannah - stated that the changes we made to the policy included updating contact information, adding clarifying language, and removed redundant language
 - Bill - abstained because I feel the changes made were a little too politically correct for his tastes
 - Michelle - this policy was implemented as a corrective action, not preventative
 - Meg B - Background: this was a discussion we'd been having the last 2 years. Members from NIB were researching this policy, there was a need, and evidence, that harassment has occurred at our conference and it is a matter of legality that we have the policy in place to protect the conference.
 - Tim - The current policy has contact info for Nicki C; instead of having an individual's email inbox (who is no longer on our committee) we updated it to NDAH@gmail.com. And the clarifying language is not a matter of political correctness, it is meant to be more inclusive of everyone.

- Michelle D - To reiterate, no can of worms about pronouns, this document reads like it was written by a lawyer because it needs to. It needs to cover all bases, to protect the conference, to protect all attendees to the best of its ability. I would ask everyone to consider how important it is to have protective documents in place not just for ourselves but for ISCYPAA as a liability and all of the conference attendees. When I think about ISCYPAA, I think about my 16 yr old daughter and the possibility of something happening. I don't think the right protective measures are in place with the existing policy.
- Votes changed? 1 yes, 1 no
 - Open, general discussion:
 - Jeanette: Concerns in reading the policy, how much involvement we're putting in about our involvement but those steps are not spelled out.
 - Michelle: This document was voted in after a harassment incident had occurred (corrective measure). Any time that a conversation can resolve an issue related to harassment is within our realm as Advisory, but if there has been a report of an incident where laws have been broken, our involvement would be limited to working with the police. During the previous incident, the police asked for the entire list of attendees at a conference, which was reduced to the attendees involved in the incident. Active investigations would generally be limited to the police.
 - Brian: The onus of the investigatory requirements in the revised policy was placed less on Advisory and more with the police.
 - Call to vote:
 - 10 in favor (Bill dropped); the motion carries

Old Business

- 2. Seed Money permanent (James R.)-
 - This will be discussed on the day of the conference
- 3. Retire Banner (Megan G) -

Proposed banner design - the below design was voted on



- Megan - are we doing just one banner?
 - James P - yes
- Megan - Motion for \$300 to do a new banner.
 - Seconded (Tim)
 - Discussion:
 - Michelle: I think we should have banners for people to steal and she should make a 'decoy' banner so we're not upset if somebody steals our brand new banner
 - Tim: I think we really need this. We discussed different options.
 - James P: The banners that always get stolen are the ones that have years on them. We NEVER want our official banner to get stolen.
 - Votes: motion passes unanimously

New Business

- 4. Host packet suggests 2 events a month, this is too much. (Host)
 - James P (chair) suggests removing the suggestion
 - Motion (Tim): Remove the wording from the host packet that we have 2 events per month.
 - Seconded (Brian)
 - Discussion:
 - Tim - it seems unreasonable to have 2 events per month for most host committees
 - James P - clarification: Events Before (1-2) events per month should be held.
 - Amended motion: Change wording to "It is suggested that at least 1 event be held per month" in Host Packet
 - Seconded (Brian)
 - Cannot vote, Megan dropped
 - Bill rejoined call, able to vote now
 - Votes: Motion passes unanimously
- 5. Alternates having mandatory attendance (Michelle)
 - What it would look like:
 - Minimum quarterly attendance (at least 4 meetings a year)
 - No voting rights
 - Can participate in discussion; facilitator to exercise discretion to avoid repetitive opinions and to avoid meetings running longer than usual.
 - This would ensure that alternates are informed beyond reading minutes. Meeting minutes are accurate, however some of the most valuable information rests in the discussion; often only the outcome is included in the minutes.

- Could move alternates to feel more involved instead of "just an alternate" which was my mindset for some time.
- Definitely would be an asset in sharing ESP since Advisory (as an entity) has become more involved and not just a "man behind the curtain."
- More people to help outreach, attend events and functions, etc.
- Attendance tracking would be a responsibility of Advisory Secretary
- Discussion:
 - Bill: I agree with you, Michelle. Questions: If we have, say 4 alts, and 1&3 attend a lot and 2&4 do not, would their attendance be accounted for if they need to roll on to Advisory?
 - Michelle: No
 - Bill: What does this achieve if there is no incentive for specific alternates to attend more than others.
 - Michelle: I don't think it is a matter of incentive. I think it is a way to keep the alternates accountable to advisory in the event that they are needed and to be knowledgeable of what has been going on with Advisory
 - Tim: Requirements without a consequence are not a requirement in my opinion. I think the language should be that it is "highly suggested" that alternates attend and contribute. Having mandatory attendance with no consequence for non-attendance does not make sense - instead we could request that they join us and possibly have the Chair reach out to them would be more helpful.
 - James P: Michelle, when you say a minimum of quarterly attendance/at least 4 meetings a year, are you saying that is a requirement or a suggestion?
 - Michelle: My meaning is that if you, as an alt, do not attend quarterly, you lose your alt status
 - Tim: We are already running out of alternates, so I think putting more rules around being an alternate will make things more difficult.
 - Michelle: I see your point but I think by having a standard in place, it would give an alternate more 'skin in the game' - this would help alternates be engaged immediately and be accountable with Advisory and help avoid people on the alt list from falling off
 - Mike: I think regardless of changing the policy, we wouldn't be able to put it into effect until 2025. Me personally being asked as an alt, knowing that I still have to attend meetings without a voice would change my thoughts on being willing to agree to be an alternate
 - Meg: I think we could promote people to alternates and make it more of an invitation, but not being able to have a vote or having a requirement for attendance, idk. I think there could be another way, or possibly invite alternates but not have so many restraints.
 - Rian: Question - If this were to be implemented, how would that affect the previous alternates (would this apply to them as well or would they be grandfathered in)?
 - Michelle: I do not know. I would hope that they could join, but my response is it is not a secret - our meetings are open to everyone already.

- Bill: I would suggest we table this because my concern is that some of these people rotate off after the end of this year, I think we have a lot of pot holes that would be caused. I love this as an agenda item for the next bidding year.
- Michelle: In response to Mike, I really wanted this to come up in our last meeting right before elections. I don't want to sweep this under the rug - if you guys have other ideas to make this better, I hope we can come together and agree on this.

Old Business

- 6. 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.
 - Seconded (Tim)
 - 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.
 - Discussion:
 - James P: Just for context, this came up with SIB's (Host's) hotel contracts. I investigated other conferences, including ICYPAA, and they have the same wording, "commitment" but the terminology is interpreted as having a signable contract. My thought was to change this to be very clear that we want a contract from bidding committees. My standard of considering something to be "signable" is a contract that would not bankrupt the conference.
 - Tim: This helps to set a clear expectation of bidders for hotel-related information in their bid proposals
 - Votes: motion passes unanimously

New Business

- 8. Advisory Alternate List (Tim)
 - Proposed Motion, "*When someone resigns or is removed from the council for any reason other than an ethical reason, then they will be moved to the bottom of the alternate list from the conference that they were elected from.*"
 - This is to ensure that we don't lose the ability to call up qualified people who were elected from the conference at which they served. Although it is important that we move on from someone because they are unwilling/unable to serve, and thus

offer someone else an opportunity, it doesn't override their committee's decision that they should be able to represent their committee.

- Tabled for next year's agenda.
- 9. Voting on the hotel contract should be $\frac{2}{3}$ of the entire committee, not present quorum. (James)
- 10. Getting Host to share Google Doc of Financials (Tim)
 - Have this added to the Host Committee packet would allow us to look at the finances whenever we need to (as opposed to asking the Treasurer of Host to share the document with us).
 - Item to be added to agenda for next year.
- 11. Having 2 sub-accounts for finances, 1 for odd, the other for even years so overlap doesn't occur (Tim)
 - Should the Host be required to use Sub-Account?
 - Treasurer has the right of decision to open up a sub-account if the need arises
- 12. Adding a hotel contract negotiation guide to the bid packets (Tara)
 - Tara: Made this document based off the powerpoint presentation used to tell bids about hotels. It would be helpful to have this information added to the bid packet that is readily accessible (outside of attending information sessions)
 - James: There was some confusion with Host (SIB) on how much space there should be and what the guidelines are. It should be based off of attendance and we all need to be on the same page with the suggestions as a whole.
 - We will have until the day of conference to review the guide.

Announcements

- Michelle - I would like Meg to be our snack master for the Conference and have everyone bring \$10ish or so to ensure we have snacks.
 - Meg accepts
- Brian celebrated 7 years sober

Next meeting: March 29th immediately after the main speaker.

Meeting closing time: 9:06PM