

ISCYPAA Advisory Meeting

Date: December 5, 2023

Time: 7:00 PM

Zoom ID: 858 068 6515

Password: iscypaa

Attendance/Introductions:

James P - Chair

Meg B - Trusted servant

Tim H - Webmaster

Jeanette R - Co-chair

Rian B - Trusted servant

Tara - Hotel

Megan - Archives

Michelle D - Trusted servant

Savannah P - Secretary

Brian M - Trusted servant

Bill S - Trusted servant

James R - Treasurer

Guests:

Prayer:

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

- Michelle-September & October Minutes
 - Motioned, seconded by Megan - minutes approved
- Savannah- November Minutes
 - Motioned, seconded by Brian - minutes approved

Reports:

- Host Representative:
 - Hey y'all! My name is Peyton, and I'm an alcoholic. I'm also your friendly, neighborhood Host Committee Chair. Here's what we've been up to since Advisory's last business meeting. As of Friday, December 1st, we have 31 room nights booked. As of today, we have a current balance of \$4,604.01. We have a total of approximately 170 registrations sold at this time. This is approximately 143 regular registrations and 27 scholarships purchased. This is as close to accurate as we are able to get at the moment. We now have a Registration Chair. So, going forward, we should have an easier time getting accurate numbers.
 - There are currently 17 members of the Host Committee. We have the following positions open: Out of State Outreach Chair, Security Chair, and Unity Chair. Since Advisory's last business meeting, we also created the position of Al-Anon Liaison. This required a change to the bylaws. The Al-Anon Liaison is a non-voting committee

member whose role is to help coordinate any Al-Anon participation we have at the conference and to spread the word within the Al-Anon fellowship. I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome Courtney K. and thank her for joining us. Why someone who is not a drunk wants to put up with a bunch of drunks, willingly, is beyond me. It takes a special kind of person to do that. That number of 17 does include our Al-Anon Liaison.

- This past Saturday, December 2nd, we co-hosted Shivering Denizens, a prom event, with Bid 62. I have received reports from those in attendance that the event was successful. We are still working with Bid 62 on the final numbers from the event. As far as upcoming events are concerned, there aren't many. We are almost done with events before for the year. We are tentatively planning something for New Years' Eve. More will be revealed on that one. The only other event we plan on having before the conference is the Open, which will be on February 10th.
- We participated in Friendsgiving on November 11th, hosted by PRAIRYPAA with participation from all five bids. My hats off to PRAIRYPAA for throwing such a large, well attended, warm, and welcoming event. Murphy R. from Host was invited to speak at Friendsgiving, and per usual, he did a phenomenal job. I could just feel the unity oozing out of the place. It was truly something special. If you weren't there, you missed out. Words just don't do it justice. I'm not sure which was more full when I left: my heart or my belly. PRAIRYPAA, in consultation with the other bids, graciously decided to give all of the proceeds from Friendsgiving to Host, to the tune of \$462.00. Thank you is insufficient, but it's all that we've got to offer.
- This past Sunday, December 3rd, we finished our group inventory on Zoom. The committee opted to finish the inventory outside of our regular business meetings so as to not clog up the agenda. Thank you to Mike P. from St. Louis for logging on and facilitating for us. There were several instances of answers to some of the questions changing from the first part of the inventory. These changes were for the better. I personally think that this is because not only have our circumstances changed, but we have changed as well. The atmosphere was lighter this time around. Overall, it feels good to see us on a continued upward trajectory. With God's help, we are moving in the right direction, morale is improving, and we are really starting to come together as a team. Thank you to Tamara for the suggestion of asking Mike to facilitate.
- As far as merch is concerned, we still have shirts for sale. Sizes are now limited due to what we have already sold. Again, if a member of Advisory would like one that doesn't already have one, please reach out to me individually, and we can make arrangements for you to get one. We have beanies coming soon! As most of you probably saw on the Facebook page, we have ornaments for sale! I have attached those pictures to my report and will drop them in the chat here momentarily. We are selling them for \$5 a piece. This is another item that can potentially be shipped if any Advisory member reaches out to me to make those arrangements. Thank you to our Co-Chair, Cindi B., for spearheading the ornament effort. The biggest debate on Host right now is whether we get hoodies or zip up jackets. I actually laughed out loud during this "fight" at the business meeting. The fact that this is our biggest conflict right now is just spiritually, so

refreshing, considering the place we just came from as a committee. If any members of Advisory would like to weigh in on this one, please either text me individually, or send Host an email at host@iscypaa.org.

- November really has been the month of get in the car for us. We attended two YPAA conferences as well as Sober Fest. We had three members of Host attend KCYPAA in Louisville, KY on November 17th – 19th. We had two members of Host attend MCYPAA in Detroit, MI on November 24th – 26th. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Kris S. from KANKYPAA and Rich R. from Bid 62 for helping Host at the outreach table in Michigan. We had one member of Host at Sober Fest on November 17th – 19th. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Bid 62 for running the ISCYPAA Pool Party at Sober Fest and to thank Nicki, Haley, Caleb, and Josh from PRIARYPAA for helping Host with the outreach table at Sober Fest. We truly do appreciate all of the help we receive from the bids, and we can't do this without them. Thank you to the members of Advisory who are also a part of Sober Fest for working to elevate ISCYPAA by doing things like helping provide for a young people's panel, making sure we were able to get an outreach table, and bringing us in on events. I know that historically, ISCYPAA being involved in Sober Fest on this level is a pretty new thing and that in the past, ISCYPAA wasn't welcome to participate in this manner. Hopefully this kind of integration and participation will continue long after my time on Host.
- In the month of December, we anticipate most of our outreach efforts being more localized. We have two Area Assemblies coming up to attend: Northern Illinois Area 20 in Elburn, IL this upcoming Saturday, December 9th and Southern Illinois Area 21 in Decatur, IL this upcoming Sunday, December 10th. Two districts in our territory, Southern Illinois Area 21 Districts 14 and 17 are having Alcathons or holiday activities of some sort. We are attempting to coordinate with both districts on an ongoing basis. At this time, it is unclear what our role will be in these activities. At a bare minimum, we plan to just show up and be of service. We also will continue to hit district meetings in our local area. We have four of them coming up in the month of December. We also plan on having meeting raids coming up. We have outreach subcommittee meetings this upcoming Thursday, December 7th and not this upcoming Sunday, but next Sunday, December 17th where we will plan out our meetings raids in more detail.
- This concludes my report. Thank you for allowing me to continue to be of service.





- Chairperson (James P.)
 - I attended the Friendsgiving event. It was great to see all the bids together. Great event.
 - Still need to document the electronic payment procedure. Bid 62 decided to go a different route than the way our account advised.
 - I was unable to attend the host meeting in November, but will do my best to attend the second meeting in December.

- Co-Chairperson (Jeanette):
 - No report

- Secretary (Savannah):
 - No report

- Treasurer (James R.):
 - No transactions since the last Advisory Business Meeting.

- As of 12/05//2023 - ending balance is \$23,961.80.
- James was unable to host a sub-committee on making bid seed money indefinite moving forward - will work to coordinate Dec meeting.
- Hotel (Tara):
 - Have spoken to Springfield and KNKYPAA regarding developments in hotel contract negotiations. Will be reaching out to bids that I have not heard from to urge them to begin contacting hotels if they have not already started.
- Outreach (Tamara):
 - Next outreach call Jan 7 at noon
 - Need to schedule next Iscy info
 - Soberfest was a big hit. The panel was packed and many people gained an interest in coming to conference or joining a committee.
 - In talks with WANS (We Are Not Saints) about a table for host (they may need help as it's also wicypaa).
- Archives (Megan):
 - Has name of Host archives chair
- Webmaster (Tim):
 - No report.
- Trusted Servants (Bill, Brian, Meg, Rian, Ryan, and Michelle):
 - No reports from any trusted servants
- Bid & Host updates/contacts:
 -

Old Business

- Seed Money permanent? - *Wanting on sub-co*
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- 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 October 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 October BUSINESS MEETING DUE TO NOT ENOUGH MEMBERS PRESENT TO VOTE.*

New Business

- **Host is having trouble with the registration spreadsheet. (James)**
 - Need someone to help resolve the problem
 - Tim: Host wants to be able to update the spreadsheet directly. Based off of understanding of prior votes, we want to have the information and do not want inadvertent removal of information from someone on Host. Webmaster would prefer to give the spreadsheet to Host since it would be easier.
 - Michelle - Why are we gatekeeping the registration spreadsheet? Why wouldn't Host have access to this? I am totally for giving them the authority to control the spreadsheet.
 - James - Went back to minutes and read through. There was no formal vote to protect the spreadsheet, just a suggestion. We just want the data. No opinions on how we should do this, just want Host to be able to use the system effectively and us to have access to the data at the end.
 - Jeannette - Context was to help whoever won the conference to be able to start using the registration form right away. I don't see any reason to prevent Host from using the spreadsheet from this point on.
 - Bill - Question: Does somebody have a read-only version vs. someone with edit permissions? Just want clarification on how it works now.
 - Tim: The spreadsheet is under our advisory account. We have editing rights but can also give editing rights to Host.
 - Meg - Questions: Host is asking for access to the google forms?
 - Tim: That form goes into a google spreadsheet and Host wants to be able to edit the google spreadsheet.
 - Meg - Is this new?
 - Yes?

- Meg - I have access to a lot of historical documents and was elected as a trusted servant and need to be able to use that data and copy-paste. Would like to give Host access to the spreadsheet. I feel like transparency is best - if we do not allow Host access it is like no allowing them autonomy.
 - James - We have no data related to this. At the end of the year, we would copy the spreadsheet and put it in archives. Because there was no official vote in the minutes, Tim, you have the right of decision. Consensus seems to be to just let them have access to the spreadsheet. If you can fix the access issue, we can just move on.
 - Tim - Motion to allow the Host Committee editing access to the registration data.
 - Seconded by Brian
 - Michelle - Why are we going through the formality of the motion if it was never voted on in the first place?
 - James - We are autonomous unless otherwise voted. Tim went forward with a prior understanding and set a precedent and would like to set a different precedent.
 - Votes: motion passes unanimously
 - Meg - Out of curiosity, what is the worst someone can do if they have editing capability?
 - They could delete everything and we would have to result to the honor system
 - Savannah - Can we turn on change history so if that happened, we could see that it happened?
 - Yes
- **Tara is unable to attend the conference in March (James)**
 - Bylaw reads, "Missing the conference shall be considered a resignation. Should there be a medical or family emergency, the Council shall add the agenda at the first 12 meeting following the conference to reinstate the Council member at their request and their presence if their term is not complete."
 - James - In my opinion, we have 3 options
 - 1 - Tara takes resignation and we refill the position with an alternate.
 - 2 - Tara stays on and does not attend the conference. (vote and put attendance bylaw to the side)
 - 3 - Tara steps down temporarily on Friday of the conference and comes back on the following Monday after the conference; an alternate is called up immediately (tonight); alternate goes back to their alternate position the Monday after the conference
 - 4 - Tara has a proxy voter through an alternate.
 - Other options?
 - Michelle - Can she not attend at all?
 - Tara - I have to work and can only attend on Friday night. I can make the cheat sheet for our discussions.

- Michelle - What about Saturday night for the actual voting?
 - Tara - I would not be available until after 4:30PM and I feel like we make the decision on Saturday afternoon
- Michelle - What if we make an adjustment to our meeting schedule to allow for Tara to participate?
 - James - We can do deliberations whenever we want as long as they are before the main speaker. But it is important for her to see the bid skits in order to meaningfully participate in deliberations.
 - Tara - I would not feel comfortable in participating in deliberations without seeing the bid skits.
- Jeannette - Is it an option to consider our bylaws and how we present missing this conference and circumstances for which someone would have to miss it, taking contributions throughout the year into considerations?
 - James - We as a committee can take any bylaw and set it aside at any time as long as we have substantial unanimity. One of the options is that Tara just stays on and misses the conference.
- Tim - Option: Have Advisory have somebody cover for Tara (outside of electing someone and bringing Tara back on)
 - James - We can pull the person up right away, go to the conference, and Tara steps back on after the conference
 - Tim - Talking with Tamara about attending ICYPAA if she couldn't make it, someone could be alternate and vote by proxy but they do not take on the full position
- Discussing the enumerated options:
 - Jeanette: Having someone serve without any previous advisory experience does not make sense to me.
 - Meg: This is a simple program for complicated alcoholics. I think we are way over-complicating this subject. It is a very important subject... tradition, bylaw, etc. COVID changed a lot of things. Do we start making accommodations ever year? Absolutely not. What does Tara want to do? If so, she has put in a lot of work for Hotels and has been a pivotal member and cannot be here for that one weekend. I think it should just be if she can't be there, are we ok with her not being there? And ask Tara what she wants to do.
 - Tim: Principals over personalities is one of our traditions. One of the reasons why we have alternates is so that the more people with differing opinions there are, the more likely we are to get to god's will than our will. It's not just somebody that we pulled off of the street, but even for me, I don't know everything that's been said. Tara might know everything about the different hotel contracts. The fact that we would be asking somebody to come up that hasn't been around wouldn't be much different from where we've been in previous years. Having alternates from previous host committees is important to...

- Michelle - James are you allowed to vote on this. No. Is there some special reason why we have to have 15 votes.
 - James - Ties on simple majority. Normally on a 15 person committee we have 14 votes throughout the year. Right now, we're working with 14 people, which would be 13 votes (9 out of 13 votes would be majority).
 - Michelle - **Motion to set the attendance stipulation bylaw aside for this year so that Tara does not have to attend the conference and still be a member of advisory.**
 - Seconded by Jeanette/Megan
 - Michelle, first argument: I just know that Tara no doubt has done due diligence to this council in years past and this year especially. Has been active in ISCYPAA for as long as I have known her. Her dedication to ISCYPAA and actions speak louder than words. I don't believe bringing in a temp replacement or member by proxy is a solution especially with all the kind of adversity the committee has been through this year. Seems like there has been a lot of chatter about what advisory has and has not been doing. I stand behind the general conscience of the committee as it is now. Tara a is a dedicated member and I don't think she should be penalized for not being able to attend the conference.
 - Bill - I agree Tara has done a nice job, however, removing this bylaw would deprive alternates the opportunity to serve.
 - Michelle - call to vote
 - Votes: motion does not pass
 - Minority opinion goes to the yeas
 - Megan: I was put on as an alternate-alternate from someone else's committee. Having a short amount of time and not knowing what was going on, I do not know how much of a help I was that close to the conference. I was not even that confident in my own decision because I had not been a part of it for the whole year. I agree with what Jeanette said and am speaking from personal experience.
 - Meg: I also was an alternate brought on mid-year when I joined and had no idea what was going on, like what MEGan said. Yes, we allow god to speak through us and whatever. Maybe I am wrong and everyone

who did not agree is right, but I don't personally feel that having one less vote is detrimental to how the conference would go. I feel that bringing one person on for one weekend to make a very important decision could be more problematic. I would rather be down one vote than have a liability.

- Michelle: I think that people are talking about bringing someone on and taking someone off. I feel like in a way, that could be considered trying to fix, manage, and control the situation. I feel like the situation is already in front of us. I think bending and changing people around us feels like this was meant to happen. Having Tara work with an alternate also sounds like self-will being pushed. If Tara is going to influence this alternate, why don't we just let her vote. If we have to force all of these moving parts, it could just be a simple solution. It is unfortunate that she cannot be there. The proxy member and alternates is putting a lot of self-will into this. I had another thought but forgot what it was.
- Nobody changes their vote. Motion does not carry.
- James: With bylaw changes, we need the votes of the entire committee. We need at least 10 votes in favor for a bylaw change.
 - Michelle: It feels like we are spiritually split.
 - James: I was trying to steer the options and then you put in a motion out of nowhere.
- Bill: Given that this motion was voted down, I think the best compromise for all of us to have a replacement but respect Tara's contribution would be option 4, where Tara has a vote by proxy.
- Jeanette: I was confused about voting by proxy vs. having the alternate just vote. If Tara is not seeing the skits, how would she give the proxy her voting requirements. This doesn't seem to be helpful. Another option: If we wanted to bring somebody else on, could they just stay on after the conference? If I am sacrificing my whole weekend at the conference, I would want to have a service commitment afterwards.

- Tim: Tara would be guiding the proxy in, 'this is what I've seen so far' - it is not like the proxy would not be given a choice. From messaging with Tamara, this is not how ICYPAA is run. The alternates are at all the meetings from the beginning.
- Tamara: ICYPAA alternates are not necessarily at all the meetings but they are on all of the correspondence. I just don't understand why we are having this conversation. Tradition 12 tells us principals over personalities. We don't change things because the person we want can't be there. That is not how AA works. I am confused that we are spiraling about this. The traditions are very clear about this. We don't change things because of one person. We would change the bylaws based on our experience of something is showing that it doesn't work.
- James: The option of doing nothing is already one of those options.
- Meg: This is getting over complicated. I stick by what I said. If Tara can't be there, she can't be there. Do I think she should have to resign, no. I would like to hear from Brian on why you said no so that I can make a more informed vote.
- Bill: Ultimately, we have to make the decision for ISCPAA as a whole. It is nothing personal and this is a personal sacrifice that everyone makes. The moment we start making special rules for individuals, we cease to be a unified organization.
- Michelle: Apologize for outburst and letting my feelings and emotions take a front seat. I remembered the second thing I wanted to say. In our concepts, at the beginning of every bid election, an advisory member goes there and reads, "if you do not intend to stay on the committee, please do not vote". Asking someone to come up and vote for Tara feels like it violates our concepts.
- Brian: I voted no on the motion because it is a poor motion. It removes the attendance policy for all members of advisory. Without a substantial majority for this council, we cannot vote for another host committee. Voting on another host committee is one of the most important things we do next to maintaining the efficacy of the conference. I feel it is best to have as many people there as possible. The alternates were voted on by the same members of their

host committee. Being a previous member of a host committee enables me to have an informed opinion.

- Jeanette: I not agree that the bylaw is cut and dry that a committee member is going to be removed if they cannot attend the conference without taking the circumstances into consideration. If there is a legitimate enough reason, we should consider it. I appreciate Brian for sharing that because bringing that alternate on, there could be some value added. Options 3 and 4 would still have Tara returning afterwards, right? The whole idea of us ignoring the bylaw was so that Tara could come back.
- James: I brought this into new business. Maybe it is personalities. Then something Josh reminded me a long time ago - it's not always the words, it's the spirit behind the words. What is the spirit behind the words? Megan is in this situation this year - she is an alternate and will go back to it after this year. We called everyone up during COVID because we did not have enough votes. This is an unprecedented year because we had to evaluate when we would host the conference - we were not planning on having this conference over Easter and I am assuming this is why Tara cannot attend the conference. I do believe the spirit behind this bylaw is commitment and I do believe that Tara has commitment.
- Michelle: I am confused by the comment that Brian said. The motion that I made was specific to Tara's attendance, not the rest of the council.
 - Brian: The language that was stated removes the attendance. I would have still voted against the motion if it was an exception only to Tara.
- Rian: I would like Tara to be able to stay on the committee but I also would, if we were to bring somebody up, listening to everybody with how Megan came up and is going back down, I don't really, if there's a way to, like, keep them on, instead of just doing it for the weekend, like, I would be for that, just because like, that's like really hard. I know from my experience, I was pulled up a little before the conference and I had a couple meetings under my belt and like I do have to say that like that experience um came at the exact right time and like nothing happens in gods world by mistake. It is exactly what I needed. I guess what I am trying to say is if we pull somebody up, I don't like the whole proxy thing. I would like somebody to vote just by themselves and if somebody comes up I would like them to

stay up. I don't know if we can have 16 people. Here, spend this entire weekend and then that's it... that's all I have.

- Tamara: I plan on having a motion at the next meeting about alternates and how they serve the committee for future years. This is the only council that does that. Just so you know, be forewarned that that's coming. Clarification: What are we doing right now? I love you guys, but I am ready for bed and I can't just keep spinning on this. Why are we deciding this in December? Can we all read the bylaws and come back in January and have a conversation about it? Why does this have to happen today?
- James: It doesn't have to happen today. It was on the docket for new business and it is inevitable. We know Tara cannot attend. If we didn't want to set the bylaw aside, I wanted to bring the alternate up to speed as soon as possible. I was trying to make this as simple and as easy as possible and not go down a rabbit hole. We can table this or modify Michelle's motion to only include Tara. Or we move on and Tara loses her position
- Meg: Appreciate everyone's opinions and views. This is why I love being on committees and can open my mind to other perspectives. I feel like overall consensus, we don't want Tara to go anywhere, but there are procedural things we have to follow. There has been a new mention of making an educated decision about reading the bylaws before making a vote. I need to do some prayer and do some research because I do want to make the right decision. We've got a lot of things that we may need to adjust.
- Bill: Motion to ask the alternate to be called up and be expected to attend the January meeting to have a chance to learn but not vote, and then we table this.
- Tim: Regarding James splitting up the decision, it completely matters putting the whole thing together. My decision would change voting on one thing. I ran for council because I was willing to serve however I was needed. Maybe somebody that would come up needs to be of service for that weekend and that is god's plan...
- Michelle: All this talk of calling an alternate and asking them to attend our meetings. Our meetings are open for anyone to attend. I don't know how everyone else feels but I do not trust the way that my mind is functioning now to

make decisions. If I made a motion to close this meeting, would discussion close?

- James: I will not recognize a motion to close.
- Michelle: I motion to table all discussions regarding this item of business and anything else in new business. We move to announcements and close the meetings.
 - Jame: I will not recognize this motion either.
- Michelle: I **motion to table this item.**
 - **Seconded**
 - **Motion passes**

- 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?**

Announcements

- If you have an idea on how to proceed on this matter (Tara), please reach out to me.

Motion to Close:

- Tara motions
- Seconded
- Passed

Next meeting: January 2, 2023 at 7pm

Meeting closing time: 9:06PM