

Young People Round Table, March 3, 2018

TOPICS

1. Getting more young people involved in General Service work
2. How to Reach out and keep YP around and not “going back out”?
3. GSO & YPAA – how to get more unity between the two?
4. How do we let AA know that YPAA is not separate from one another. Informing them that YPAA is another convention or round up?
5. How important is it to communicate general service opportunities/needs/participation?
6. Cooperation of the “Elder-PAA”

1. Getting more young people involved in General Service work

What makes the rest of us excited. Go where they are. No one wants to feel separated. Make the first move in reaching out. Invite them to come with and they can make up their own mind.

Scott – Sober when he was 19 and raised his hand to be a GSR. Turns out there was no separation, “Young at Heart”. Trying to get young people involved with GS and be guardians of the Traditions. He wants young people to help with next PRAASA. Says young people need to be part of AA, not just show up for a recommendation letter. Need to be treated as a regular member and not differently.

Andre – Young People are in the business meeting now, I started putting out books just like everyone else. Willingness is there.

Jenica – ex-GSR in LA YPAA group. We have liaisons to cover all of LA. A lot of us went to ACYPAA, and some went to PRAASA too.

Dana – DCM, on corrections committee, GS and YPAA entirety of sobriety. Purpose statement defines young as “room to grow”.

Dan – 8 months sober, became GSR for WAC, moved to H & I inter-group. Wouldn't be a part of GS work in YPAA hadn't taught me about the Traditions, Concepts, and brought me full circle in AA as a whole. AA is inclusive.

Jared – Been involved by starting group, GSR, has been approached by Districts to bring YPAAs. Young People's committee in Nevada are approaching area assembly to see if a state conference is needed; wanting to give back.

2. How to Reach out and keep YP around and not “going back out”?

No difference between young people going out and any other age. Either not ready or not listening. Emphasize how they felt when they drank, not what they drank. Couldn't associate with “old timers”. It is how you felt and behaved when drinking.

Daniel – How do we get people to stay is the age old question. Other 12 step programs have much more success, why? I identify as an alcoholic and maybe not as long as much as the others. How do we identify? I break past the barrier of connecting, or even with an older sponsee? For older members on how to reach young people, young people connect through conference functions, go where they are. YP want to feel like they belong. How do I grow in understanding and effectiveness.

Becca – I went out due to resentments, preaching, not giving me a choice. It's progress not perfection, that I wasn't behaving like I should, etc. When being confronted, it's hard to express myself. I feel some old times believe in “scared straight” stance. I'm not afraid of dying, I am afraid of living. Wish young people wasn't ...(?) experiment. Not going to let judgment drive me out of the room.

Michael – spent my 22nd birthday in rehab, then went to meetings. Grateful for those who reached out, sponsors to help me live life, a home group to teach me how to find unity, perform secretarial duties. Invited to a potluck, celebrations, what am I doing to extend a hand?

Keith – I can't strike anyone sober, and can't strike anyone drunk. Having support and love for newcomer. No one is going to find the willingness to change unless their life is unacceptable to them. Willingness to make a change and AA will work for you. I've been working with Young People since 2003 and some get it and some don't.. We never know who we can help and who is going to be listening. I believe AA is safe with the YP coming up.

3. GS & YPAA – how to get more unity between the two? How does YPAA fit into the General Service Structure?

Dan – RENYPAA has a liaison position in Area 42. Liaison's give a voice rather than a vote. This assumes the committee members have a position in our respective home groups.

Eric – Decisions about young people should be made by delegate. Young People's voice should be carried by GSR and carried that way.

RJ (Erie?) – Sometime we have young people representation/liaison, sometimes we don't. I accept the fact they come and go, it works for them.

Joe – YP have turned it all around backwards. What do you need, bring it? Members bring their voices to General Service,, not the other way around.

Rick – I went and asked Young People for help. Just ask!

Keith – “Directly responsible to those they serve” ACVPAA is its own entity with their own mission. Keep Young People involved and interested.

Daniel – Tradition 9 group are not the same.

Andre – My DCM is the reason why I am here and part of POKYPAA.WACM, and I report information back, per their request.

4. How do we let AA know that YPAA is not separate from one another. Informing them that YPAA is another convention or round up?

Eric – Went to every single meeting and verbally announced information.

? – Literature at www.aa.org for what is suggested. Anonymity is a big key, keeping with traditions. Ask GSO in New York? Go and ask and not be afraid that my opinion is wrong. I have a problem with labels in general.

Becca – On social media – use a fictitious name? Key is love and tolerance. I care about the next person getting sober, no matter who.

Eli – Social media is a part of the next generation, I need to figure out how to communicate that way. How does older generation and younger?

Ruben – Tension between older and younger generation, battle against egos. Where is your peace and serenity?

RJ – General Service Conference theme is “AA: A Solution for all Generations” – an interactive generation sensitive media?

? – Every stereotype is fueled by fear. AA isn’t anonymous, it’s members are! Fear drives out knowledge.

5. How important is it to communicate general service opportunities / needs /participation?

James – When people are behind a computer, AAs may not be practicing the principles in all our affairs. Traditions go out the window pretty quick.

Dana – Wants to get involved with merging the world between young people and elderly.

Danielle – cooperation with elderly community – wanted to feel relevant, has been marginalized and felt dismissed.

Tophintina: Remember when young people used to separate, but invited old timers to speak and they stuck around and had fun. Then young people were invited to speak at their events. Unity was developed.

Beth – AA shows respect to the elderly, young people show enthusiasm, be the change you want to see.

Andre – Love and Tolerance. AA loved me when I came in whether it was young, old and in-between.