



Yoked to You ~ News from YPM Executive Director

Larry Coleman, Exec Director

info@yokefellowship.org

717 512-2718

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AREA COUNCIL NEWS

Sue Wiseman is still working on the AC bylaws template. Feedback continues to be sought. Don't forget - **quarterly reports** are due by the end of July. Reports have been coming in. If your Reg Dir or the Exec Dir has not been in touch with you and/or you don't have the report form, contact your Reg Dir. We have reports from Harrisburg, Upper Susq., and Sun AC and word from the NE AC that we're back in Wayne County.

If you have successes or ideas to share, please send them to info@yokefellowship.org. By the way, the Franklin County AC has developed a Spanish version of the YPM "**Disciplines**" cards. YPM Discipline cards provide inmates with a tool of covenanting to become a "Yokefellow."

YPM WEBSITE

Our new website is online! We had a design problem which took some time to correct. Kathy Kolb, a YPM volunteer and owner of Kolb Net Works, Inc., a web development company, donated this awesome service. Each AC has 2 pages, one for public info and the other password protected. Email the contact info for the person who will be responsible for your AC's pages along with site corrections and comments to suewiseman@comcast.net.

YPM Annual Conference - Lewisburg

Oct 12-13, Friday evening and Saturday

The proposed theme of the conference is: "Building Relationships for Spiritual Healing and Positive Change."

Our Friday evening banquet speaker will be Walter Everett whose son was murdered in 1987 at the age of 24. For a year after the murder Walter went down the road of rage and depression. A series of events led to Walter choosing a less traveled path which eventually led to forgiveness and healing.

Other plans are shaping up. Luis Rosa, a State Parole Officer and "Motivational Interviewing" trainer will be providing us the full training for 20 to 30 persons, a 6 hour, intensive, much sought after training worked into the conference schedule including materials and a CD. An "evidence based" approach being utilized by parole officers, this is a great tool in building a relationship for spiritual healing and changes. Volunteers who are doing one-on-one mentoring will find this especially helpful—though it will prove helpful in group work as well. It is anticipated that some may attend this conference just to get this training—sign up early.

STEWARDSHIP

There are a variety of tasks an AC can perform to raise funds. First, it is essential be sold on what you are doing. I don't know of anyone that demonstrated this among us better than Wayne Benjamin. Wayne was sold on Jesus and sold on YPM. He is convinced that this ministry has an important role in God's plan of reaching those in prison and he loves to talk about it. If you are going to convince anyone else of the importance of this ministry you must be convinced yourself.

Next, here are some basic tools that will be a critical foundation piece to all other fundraising:

-Quality brochures which are attractive and up-to-date with concise accurate information.

-An open budget where there is good financial accountability demonstrating a responsible, frugal approach to ministry.

-Sharp communicators with a sincere heart for all matters of God and faith, a heart for prison ministry and a vision for the potential of Yokefellowship Prison Ministry.

-Use your AC page on the YPM website keeping information simple, attractive, and up to date. (Coaching on how to update your page will be available soon.)

Giving should always be as easy as possible. Include to whom the check should be made payable and mailing address on most communications. If it is reasonable for your circumstances you might consider online giving.

(by Carl Geissing, Special Projects Manager)

(The strategy of the Central Office regarding funding is to assist ACs in developing their financial support. If you have not made a donation to your AC, consider doing so. No amount is too small. God uses the widow's mite mightily.)

LARRY'S CORNER:

This year has gone quickly. Training, living into our new regional organizational structure, and getting to know our leadership have been my primary focus. Our previous 2-day/wk Exec Dir staffing is now divided between myself 1 day/wk and our support staff the remaining day/wk. Much remains to be done in just 1 day/week - I appreciate any and all prayers.

As I conducted training at AC's, I've been upgrading our basic training and our regional staff has been directly involved in developing that training format. That format uses a small group exercise modeling our signature program - a small group ministry. A new exercise will be substituted keeping the training consistent yet also fresh. Basic Training could be a beneficial recruiting tool offered twice a year. New volunteers need a screening interview and the training a.s.a.p. Some advanced topics have emerged - in addition to our annual conference offering. It is envisioned that the 2-year renewal process could/should include the option of an advanced training experience or assisting with a basic training experience.

Our regional structure is helping us keep in touch with ACs and their frontline ministry while allowing a smaller, more efficient Board to handle decisions and actions. A regular monthly board meeting has definitely been helpful. The regions, called RACs, (Southeast RAC, North Central RAC, and Southwest RAC), are functioning but still living into what that can be. Conference call meetings have been effective in saving travel both on the Board and RAC level. The SE and NC RAC experience has shown face-to-face contact to be useful—I urge us to think in terms of face-to-face RAC meetings at the mini-conference and then a second time during the year. The RACs replace many of the functions of networking and sharing that was accomplished by our larger board which met twice a year. Hence, I am thinking face-to-face meetings twice a year might be a goal.

Finally, a tip for our small group ministry. When a new volunteer is trained, they should be assigned an active, experienced volunteer to serve as "coach." It is assumed—recommended—that they be working with an experienced volunteer and should be worked into regular co-leadership and taking the lead in rotation as soon as possible. The person assigned as coach gives them someone who is not working with them directly to process how it is going. The "coach" calls after the group session and asks four questions: 1) What was the best thing that happened in your group session? 2) What was the worst thing that happened? 3) What are you going to do next? 4) How may I pray with you? This works.

Contact your Regional Director for needs and questions:

SW Alma Maldonado-Colon

colonalmacoln@aol.com

NC Danesta Whaley

smileyneessie@yahoo.com

SW Ron Calabro

revcal@comcast.net