



Yoked to You ~ News from YPM Executive Director

Larry Coleman, Exec Director

info@yokefellowship.org

717 512-2718

March 2012



BOARD NEWS

The YPM Board is currently meeting bi-weekly via conference call and currently consists of: David Manos, Chair, Jay Flanagan, Vice Chair, Mary Clouser, Secretary, Sue Wiseman, Treasurer & SW Region Chair, Keith Groves, SE Region Chair, Eleanor Derr, NC Region Chair, Paul Ilyes, Director at Large, Wes King, Director at Large.

RAC NEWS

Regional Advisory Councils are called RACs (pronounced 'racks') to avoid confusion with Area Councils.

The next RAC meetings are tentatively set as follows:

- SE, March 31, 10 AM, at Fellowship Church, Shillington;
- SW, March 31, New Stanton Assembly of God
- NC, April 14, 10 AM, 1200 Almond St., Williamsport.

Two reps from each AC is to serve on the RAC with the exception of previous YPM Board members. All board members were to serve on their respective RAC until natural attrition reduced number to two. RAC members are listed on the YPM Organizational Chart.

RAC Goals - The initial RAC goals are to help ACs develop a list of strengths and weaknesses which will be used collectively to develop a strategic plan for the region and to hold a regional event to promote ministry growth and strengthen networking. Regional Directors will work with the RACs in attaining these goals.

AREA COUNCIL NEWS

By-Law Template - Sue Wiseman is working on a template of By-Laws for Area Councils. Though most of our ACs have been operating without local by-laws, this document can be extremely helpful, especially at times of transitioning leadership as to which some of our ACs will attest. The template will allow ACs to define the roles of their leadership, terms of office, election process, meeting frequency, membership requirements, etc. as well as define the requirements necessary to maintain our federal tax-exempt status. By-laws are a way of allowing "all things [to] be done decently and in order." 1 Cor. 14:40. Sue is looking for individuals from ACs to review the template and provide input. suewiseman@comcast.net

Training Module –

- Our staff have developed a training module. Experience with what David Sawtelle developed and was used by John Rush and those trained, significant input from Carl Geissinger, and review by our Regional Directors have been put together in a training module that can make for meaningful, enjoyable training and updates on a regular basis.
- The Model was adapted for use at Berks County Area Council with 22 people on February 19th.
- Three Hours are needed to provide adequate coverage of the training for new volunteers who will also qualify

for renewal of certification. Additional training is great, but is in addition to this training.

- Training will be provided by the Executive Director, Regional Directors and or trained trainers. Persons already certified will be enlisted to assist with the training.
- Certification through training is one essential step of ensuring that all volunteers are able to provide a quality Yokefellowship Ministry in and out of Prison. Consistent, quality training is critical to our success.

YPM WEBSITE

Each AC will have a dedicated page on the website where they can enter AC specific information through user-friendly web interface software. WordPress is a personal publishing platform that allows users to put up Web content quickly and easily. Users do not need to have technical skills or HTML coding experience. We will need a person from each Area Council to update their Area Council Page. Kathy Kolb, a longtime YPM volunteer and president of Kolb Net Works, Inc. is donating this service to YPM. Please refer her company to others who are looking to purchase website development service.

We would like to include a page of Frequently Asked Questions on the Website and are asking everyone to submit some questions you have been asked about YPM (and responses if you please.)

VOLUNTEER TRAININGS

The YPM Volunteer Handbook has been revised. Hard copies are available and it will appear on the website.

The following volunteer trainings will be held:

AC	Location	Dates
Lehigh	Bethany Church	10,24 April 14, 21, May 5, 19
NE AC	Bethany Wesleyan Church	April 15, 1-5
Schuylkill	Hoss's, Cressona	March 19, 6-9
Three Rivers	New Stanton Assembly of God	April 21

Volunteers from other ACs are welcomed. Call Larry.

REMINDER: Hold the dates of Oct 12-13, Fri Night and Sat for the YPM Annual Conference in Lewisburg.

LARRY'S CORNER:

When we get tangled up in our problems, be still. God wants us to be still so He can untangle the knot.

As of January 1, 2012, the New Person Center, now New Person Ministries (NPM) is its own 501c3, separate from Yokefellowship. Our very best wishes to NPM and John Rush!

Making ourselves available is more important than any other resource we use besides the Bible coupled with prayer. Perhaps the next important thing is asking the right questions for sharing. Designing good questions is a new part of our training. Look for it at your next training.