



# Yoked to You ~ News from YPM Executive Director

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## AREA COUNCIL NEWS

Sue Wiseman is still working on a template for AC bylaws. 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 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](mailto: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 WEB SITE is still in progress. We had a design problem which took some time to correct. Kathy Kolb continues to provide a staff to help us. There will be pages for each AC on which they will be able to make and change postings. Much progress has been made. We need to continue to be patient.

## YPM Annual Conference - Lewisburg

**Oct 12-13, Fri evening and Sat**

Our Friday evening banquet speaker will be Walter Everett. Walter's son was murdered in 1987 at the age of 24. For the first 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. Hear about the power of reconciliation.

Other plans are shaping up. Luis Rosa, a State Parole Officer trained to do "Motivational Interviewing" training will be offering a training in "Motivational Interviewing." Training will be limited to 20 persons and will require full six hours. This training includes materials and a CD and is a great tool in building a relationship for spiritual healing and change. Volunteers who are doing one-on-one mentoring will find this especially helpful—though it will prove helpful in group work as well.

The Theme will be along the lines of "Building Relationships for Spiritual Healing and Change." More will be coming shortly.

## **STEWARDSHIP**

There are a variety of tasks that an AC can perform to raise funds. We will look at more of these in future newsletters. Today we will look at some basic tools and attitudes that are critical to a good foundation to all fundraising. First of all it is absolutely important to be sold on what you are doing. I don't know of anyone that demonstrated this among us better than Wayne Benjamin. First, Wayne was sold on Jesus. Second, Wayne was sold on Yokefellowship. 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. 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.

-The use of our website that represents your area council, is simple, attractive and user friendly. (Area Council Pages are to be available on the Yokefellow WEB SITE 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.

(Carl Geissing, Special Projects Manager)

*(The strategy of the Central Office regarding funding is to assist Area Councils in developing their financial support. If you have not made a donation to your Area Council, 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 regional organizational structure, and getting to know our leadership have been my primary areas of focus. That has included bringing on board 3 Regional Directors and dividing one day a week of the previous 2-day/wk Executive Director's position with them. Much remains to be done—I have just begun. Thank you for your prayers and support.

Making sure our training is regular, consistent, and effective has been a constant priority and focus. I have been to many ACs with some rendition or evolution of that training and our support staff has been directly involved in developing a new format. That format uses a small group exercise modeling our signature program—a small group ministry. The topic of the exercise will be new annually to help keep the training consistent and fresh. Basic Training could be a beneficial recruiting tool offered twice a year. New volunteers need a screening interview and the training asap. Some advanced topics have emerged - in addition to what we do at the annual conference. 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 emerging as an effective way of staying in touch with ACs and their front line ministry while allowing a smaller, more efficient Board to handle decisions and actions that will keep this ministry growing. Indeed, I have seen that our meeting regularly has meant that we can be more effective at this level of what we do. The regions, called RACs (Southeast RAC, North Central RAC, and Southwest RAC), are functioning but still living into what that can do. Conference calls have been effective in our saving travel both on the Board level and the RAC level. Our experience both in the SE RAC and the NC RAC suggests face-to-face contact is useful—I urge us to think in terms of 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 twice a year might be a goal.

**Finally, a tip for our small group ministry.** Every difference, every issue presented by a group member, every conflict we might have with one another, every misunderstanding can be framed as an opportunity for growth—for all in the group. Almost all year, I have been talking about Heather Zempal's interview, "Community is Messy" and used that interview to develop an advanced training module used at the Lehigh Valley Council, the NC RAC Mini-Conference in Williamsport. It was requested as an option at our Annual Conference in Lewisburg. Sign up for that workshop at the Annual Conference October 12-13, or access her interview at: [www.smallgroupnetwork.com](http://www.smallgroupnetwork.com) (Click on Group Talk, October 4, 2011)

Contact your Regional Director