

**Notes from ACR Chapter Leaders Teleconference
February 1, 2007**

Agenda items for the call:

- I. Board Update
 - II. Conference Proposals
 - III. Youth Activities and Involvement
 - IV. D&E
 - V. Annual Reports
 - VI. Next Steps – Topics for Future Calls
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Participants:

- Lou Gieszl – ACR Chapters Director
 - Ruth Lusby – Arizona
 - Phil Cattone – Greater Delaware Valley
 - Frances Mossman – Hawaii
 - Cheryl - LA
 - Ashley Parker – ACR Membership and Chapters Associate
 - Craig Brieske – Maryland
 - Pat Shanahan – N.Ca
 - Tazewell Hubbard – Virginia
 - Chris Watler – Greater New York
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II. Conference Proposals

Discussion: Some people are frustrated that the ACR Conference Proposals are due earlier than for other organizations' conferences (although it is later than prior years for ACR.) However, there is still time to add/change presenters. Lou Gieszl, Tara Fishler, Ashley Parker and Nicky Davenport have put in a proposal regarding how to make a thriving Chapter. If anyone is interested in joining in, please contact Lou.

III. Youth Activities and Involvement

Discussion: Arizona has (with their predecessor organization) a conference for high school students who do peer mediation. The program started out as a sort of pep rally and is now a half-day conference. The program separates students so that they are not with members of their own school and so that they can meet new youth. They provide lunch and a DJ as well as workshops and breakout sessions. There are also breakout sessions for the adult coordinators, so that they may network and share. There is no charge for this: the leaders of the sessions volunteer their time, some of the costs are underwritten, some of the items are donated. Arizona would like to integrate this program into the ACR Annual Conference, which will take place in Phoenix this year. They are considering looking for sponsorship as they work out the logistics. Additionally they are interested in having other Chapters send youth to this conference. There is a lot of positive interest for having a strong youth component to the ACR Annual Conference. Ruth is a member of the ACR Conference Committee and will be bringing many of these topics to the meeting in February.

Discussion: GNY has had mixed results with Youth programs. They partnered to present a program for youth which was very positive. They would like to create an event in June which includes an award and scholarships to reward the youth and show that there is a

future in the field. The direct service route is harder, so GNY likes to use partnerships. New York is considering having a youth Board member.

Discussion: The state of Hawaii has a strong peer mediation program. Hawaii is considering a youth category of membership. They also sponsor 10 youth to attend a peer mediation conference.

Discussion: Northern California had a video contest, which was not a youth program necessarily, although it was largely participated in by youth. They approached schools to participate. Maryland had an art contest on Conflict Resolution day. The first year they worked with schools and the second year they did it through press releases and email (and had a better turnout.) More than 300 submissions were displayed in the Court of Appeals for two months. Cash prizes were given in each grade category (elementary, middle school and high school) and were passed out by the chief judge at an award ceremony. Hawaii has a similar program in which they used US Savings Bonds as the prizes. This year's winning posters are being made into placards which will be displayed in the city buses.

IV. D&E

Discussion: Many Chapters have identified diversity as a key effort this year. Chapters are interested in finding ways to tap into groups that they have not yet reached out to. Arizona's next meeting will focus on Indian nations and will have a dialogue regarding differences in styles of peacemaking. Some Chapters feel that they are not as good at outreach as they would like to be and are interested in finding out how to reach out to different groups or populations. Chapters also want to know what kinds of issues the field should be focusing on regarding diversity. Craig mentioned that he is working on disability issues as part of the Maryland Chapter's diversity work, and that in this area people think that going to court is the only option, and so how do the Chapters address or respond to this? There are many different styles, approaches and models in different communities based on cultural differences and Chapters would like to address this. Chapters want to know not only how we identify these groups, but how we incorporate them, and how we can learn from them. Lou recommended that Chapters search within their membership to see who has connections to various groups (community, university, faith-based, etc.)

IV. Annual Reports

Reminder: Annual Reports are due to ACR by February 15. These include the Annual Report form, the Activity Plan Report, a copy of your Membership Application and a copy of your membership list (in Excel.) **All materials should be emailed to Chapters@ACRnet.org.** Any questions should go to Ashley.

VI. Next Steps

Topics for future calls include: a Conference Committee update, continued discussion on the Annual Conference, program planning, dealing with a large geographic area, increasing membership, continued discussion on youth activities and an Annual Report update.

**Our next Chapter Leaders Conference Call will take place on
Thursday, March 1, 2007.**

Please save the date for a call on the first Thursday of each month.