

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

---

**Agenda items for the call:**

- I. Board Update
  - II. Conference Committee Meeting Report
  - III. Annual Conference Thoughts
  - IV. Youth Activities and Involvement
  - V. Program Planning
  - VI. How to Increase Membership
  - VII. Dealing with Large Geographic Area
  - VIII. Annual Reports Update
  - IX. Next Steps – Topics for Future Calls
- 

**Participants:**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| • Lou Gieszl – ACR Chapters<br>Director | • Ashley Parker – ACR<br>Membership and Chapters<br>Associate |
| • Michelle Ledo – North Carolina        | • Donald Fisher – Central<br>California                       |
| • Art Benson – Minnesota                | • Maureen Denihan – Maryland                                  |
| • Ruth Lusby – Arizona                  | • Tazewell Hubbard – Virginia                                 |
| • Bob Berlin – Georgia                  | • Craig Brieski – Maryland                                    |
| • Frances Mossman – Hawaii              | • Christina Franco – Georgia                                  |
| • Pat Shanahan – Northern<br>California |   |
- 

**I. Board Update**

**Discussion:** There was a Board conference call on Sunday, February 25. Ray has asked the Board members to join one of three working groups. The next Board Meeting will be March 30-April 1, at the ACR offices in Washington, DC.

---

**II. Conference Committee Meeting Report**

**Discussion:** Ruth, a member of the ACR conference committee, reported on the meeting which took place in Silver Spring, MD on February 16 and 17. There are no theme and keynote speaker for the 2007 conference yet. A few themes were tossed around, but none were nailed down (although it is possible that the conference tri-chairs have since decided.) There are 5 sub-committees, one of which is youth. Since we discussed youth involvement at the conference on the last call, that was a particularly relevant issue. The conference committee hopes to use this year as a jumping off point to increase the youth involvement in future conferences. There is tentatively planned a 6-hour training workshop for high school students. There will be a lunch where these students can interact with adult practitioners. Arizona has a strong youth conference each year, so this is a good time to integrate a youth program into the Annual Conference (since the conference will take place in Phoenix this year.) There are plans to have part of the costs for this program underwritten. Additionally, the Boskey grant should cover a portion. The thought is to limit the number of students, in order to give each one a rich, full experience. Also, the hope is that the success of this year's program will facilitate the inclusion of a youth program in each conference from here on. The committee has not yet determined how to integrate the

students into the conference as a whole (as opposed to as just the youth program.) Chaperoning, for students under 18, is also a consideration. The hope is to have the cost cover the youth portion of the conference, the lunch and a shirt. Another hope is to have the Chapters each sponsor one or two students to assist with airfare and hotel costs. Ruth anticipates that the costs (not covered by grants) would be \$400-\$500 per person. There is an understanding within the conference committee that this will not be a money-maker, but a break-even situation. One participant on this call mentioned that perhaps setting up a donation box to Sponsor-a-Student at the Chapter events and conferences might bring in funds. The plan for this year is to record the advanced trainings and put them on DVD so that the teachers and students can take these back to their schools to help others. The program is aimed at high school Seniors, who have several years of peer mediation experience (with the limited space available as well as with the advanced level of training, it is anticipated that this will be appropriate.) Another thought that was brought up on the call is that people might want to send a Junior and a Senior, so that there is a continuity of training within each school's program. A possible topic of discussion is that of what people can do beyond high school—in their communities, at college, at post-graduate programs. Marsha Blakeway, of the Education Section, suggests that Chapters not only reach out to youth for membership, but to educators (the youth will eventually age out of the program, but the teachers/educators can continue to stir interest.)

---

#### **IV. Youth Activities and Involvement**

**Discussion:** see "Conference Committee Meeting Report."

**Discussion:** The month of March is Virginia Mediation Month. The Virginia Chapter recruits college, law school and high school students to go to elementary schools (this year there are 17 elementary schools) and perform "The Three Little Pigs Go To Mediation."

---

#### **V. Program Planning**

**Announcement:** Minnesota has an education conference planned, which is being postponed until April 27 due to inclement weather.

**Discussion:** Maryland has "clusters" instead of "sections" because of their low number of members.

---

#### **VI. How To Increase Membership**

**Discussion:** Northern California was able to use its conference and the members-discount to increase membership. They have also increased their members-only benefits which has been successful.

**Discussion:** Arizona holds its meetings at local colleges, and they encourage students to come out to the meetings. This allows the students to network with each other and to network with advanced members of the field. Arizona has student membership which is half of the cost of the general membership.

**Discussion:** ACR currently lists all members in an online directory that is available to all members. Advanced Practitioners are listed on a referral database that is open to the public. Advanced Practitioner status is only available to members of the Family and Workplace Sections. There is conversation about opening up the Advanced Practitioner status to others, as well as about putting the full ACR membership roster on the public part of the website. Chapter members are not concerned with competition, by being placed on

ACR's site, because of location. Minnesota has a portion on its website to include bios, and actually has trouble getting the members to contribute these. Georgia has the list of practitioners, and members can add a bio or a website (this lets the members "advertise" their services.) Georgia finds that many people join just to get their names out to the public. Maryland is set up to do it, but has not gotten into the process yet.

**Action:** Ashley will respond to Chapters that participated in ACR's MMM mailing (from ACR to Chapter members) to let them know the success rate.

---

### **VIII. Annual Reports**

**Reminder: Annual Reports were due to ACR on 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](mailto:Chapters@ACRnet.org).** Any questions should go to Ashley. She will begin following up with Chapters that still have submissions due.

---

### **IX. Next Steps**

Topics for future calls include: Board Update; ACR Annual Conference Youth plans; Program Planning; Dealing with a Large Geographic Area; and How to Increase Membership.

---

**Our next Chapter Leaders Conference Call will take place on  
Thursday, April 5, 2007.**

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