

**Notes from ACR Chapter Leaders Teleconference
November 2, 2006**

Agenda items for the call:

- I. Conflict Resolution Day Report
 - II. Annual Conference and Leadership Council Feedback
 - III. Sections Report
 - IV. D&E Reminder
 - V. Next Steps
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I. Conflict Resolution Day

Discussion: Many events were held this year by the Chapters. Georgia held a fun fair at Kennesaw State University, which was attended by approximately 40 people (although they had expected many more.) In order to get more involvement next year, Georgia will start announcing earlier and is considering freebies for people who want to see what mediation is all about. Overall, however, they consider the event a success. In DC ACR co-sponsored an event with the US Institute for Peace. This event included two panels (one of which was introduced by CEO David Hart and included ACR Publication Manager Emily Welty.) In addition to ADR professionals, the event was attended by a group from a high school and a middle school. These students asked many good questions. Though the event was not quite full (200 people had RSVPed, but fewer showed up) it was still a success. NY state had many good events going on. Other Chapters also held many exciting events, which were not discussed in detail at this time.

Reminder: Let Ashley (Chapters@ACRnet.org) know what your Chapter held so that it can be posted on the ACR website.

II. Annual Conference and Leadership Council

Discussion: Overall, the Annual Conference was considered a success. Suggestions for next year included having presenters indicate what level the session is aimed at (beginner, etc.) so that the target audience is aware; posting "See you Next Year In XYZ" posters to take home from the conference; and encouraging a greater youth presence. International Day had 10 participants from 16 countries.

Discussion: The Chapter Leaders who were in attendance considered the Leadership Council to be a positive experience. Leaders also found the updated Handbook (which can be found online) to be a helpful resource.

Discussion: Board Meeting highlights: there will be templates created to respond to Public and Intense Conflicts; there was support to create an International Network Membership, once the Board receives a detailed budget and business plan; the Public Education Committee had a table at the conference with a compilation of state-wide public-education initiatives and the Board plans to budget funds to create a workable plan for public education in the 2007 budget.

Discussion: Prospective Chapters include Indiana, Washington, New Mexico, Western New York, the Inter-Mountain Region and Puerto Rico.

III. Sections Report

Discussion: The Sections Working Group, which was temporary, has been disbanded. It produced a document that was a summary of interests and included potential/brainstormed options.

IV. D&E Reminder

Discussion: Ray will be appointing a D&E task force which will be partnering with groups outside of ACR. He is also considering a Communications Task Force (which will hopefully become a committee) to look at communications within and without the organization. Ray is additionally interested in forming a youth initiative and in figuring out a way to bring youth programs back in to the organization and to have a presence at the conference.

Action: Art will compare Chapter related D&E list with Ashley, and then will circulate for the Chapters to make updates.

V. Next Steps

Other topics to discuss in future calls: posting Chapter materials online (brochures, conference plans, etc.); discussing Chapter conferences; program planning; joint meeting with D&E Committee; youth initiatives; working with large geographic areas; and how to get members involved.

Calendar Reminder – The ACR Master Calendar can be found at www.ACRnet.org/webcalendar. To have items posted please send an e-mail to Ashley at Chapters@ACRnet.org with information on the event. Keep in mind, the more information you give to Ashley, the more successful this method of event advertisement will be.

There will be a special election to fill two positions on the ACR Board, including the position of Chapters Director. There is no time frame, yet, but those with questions should contact the Governance Committee or Jennifer Druliner (jdruliner@ACRnet.org).

Tara Fishler (tara@tarafishler.com) is always interested to learn what issues you'd like to talk about on future calls. Please send her your requests!

**Our next Chapter Leaders Conference Call will take place on
Thursday, December 7, 2006.**

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