

National Youth Rights Association
Board of Directors, Meeting Minutes 11/20/2005

Roll Call:

Present

Robert Reynolds	President
Alex Koroknay-Palicz	Executive Director
Katrina Moncure	Treasurer
Scott Davidson	Secretary
Jess Caralize	Director
Keith Mandell	Director

Absent

Pamela Tatz	Vice President
Chris Howell	Director
Jay Leff	Director

Officer Reports:

The Executive Director sent a report to the board via email. Koroknay-Palicz's report covered grant applications, an incident at a memorial for RFK, and several other things. There were no serious concerns regarding Alex's report. The President delivered his report to the board. He mentioned that he had begun calling potential donors, and had received a ten dollar pledge. He also suggested that NYRA do more to combat physical violence against young people. The Secretary delivered his report to the board. He mentioned that he had continued to do the things he usually does, and that he wrote some letters to politicians with regard to youth rights.

Agenda:

Chapter Policy

The chapter policy committee (Mandell, Koroknay-Palicz, Howell and Davidson) had a proposal for a possible chapter policy. In August, the board had asked the committee to form such a policy. Davidson presented the policy to the board, and stated that while he liked the proposal, he would vote against it because it did not require chapters to approve all NYRA positions. The policy was approved by a vote of 5-1. It will remain official NYRA policy until August, when the membership must vote either to approve or reject it. It is reprinted below.

1. A chapter of the National Youth Rights Association shall be defined as a local entity, that while not subject to the authority of the National office, is committed to implementing the goals of the National office, as defined by the Board of

- Directors. Chapters shall have the term "National Youth Rights Association" in their name.
2. NYRA Recognizes chapters that meet the following specifications:
 - A. Chapters must have five or more members who have met in person, and signed a chapter application that shall be filed with the National office.
 - B. Chapters must pay a charter fee of thirty dollars (\$30).
 - C. New chapters must be approved by the Executive Director. The board of directors may override decisions made by the E.D. regarding the approval of chapters.
 3. Chapter status shall be revoked for any of the following reasons:
 - A. If any chapter officials use violence on behalf of the organization.
 - B. If any chapter fails to adequately address an officer embezzling funds or committing any other serious illegal activity in their role as a NYRA Chapter officer.
 - C. If any chapter is known to discriminate based on age, race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, income, or disability.
 - D. If any chapter engages in any activity or makes any public statements contrary to any position adopted by the NYRA Membership.
 - E. If any chapter notifies the national office of its dissolution.
 4. Chapters are separate legal entities, and do not fall under the incorporation of the National office. Chapters may seek separate incorporation, or choose not to incorporate.
 5. New state chapters shall be formed under the following specifications:
 - A. Five or more chapters in a given state, with approval from their respective memberships, nominate officers to sign a document expressing their desire to form a state chapter.
 - B. The local chapters signing said document comprise more than 75% of the chapters in a given state.
 - C. The National Board of Directors votes to approve the formation of the state chapter.
 - D. The state chapter shall function as a statewide coordinating body. It shall not have authority over local chapters, but may work to manage, synchronize, and encourage activity taking place at the local level. The state chapter may appoint representatives for media purposes.
 - E. Local chapters formed under the state chapter shall still be subject to NYRA's national chapter bylaws.

Possible Anti-Spanking Campaign

Robert Reynolds mentioned that he had spoke to Jordan Riak of No Spank. He was shocked to learn that twenty two states still allowed corporal punishment in schools. Robert felt that NYRA should work more on this issue, and other agreed. Some members felt that many other groups were already working on this issue, and that it would divert our attention from the voting age. The board voted to send the matter to the Executive Committee.

Extension of the Executive Director's Contract

Alex Koroknay-Palicz noted that his contract was running out. While Alex had not met the fundraising requirement set by the board, he had done a lot of work, and was still waiting to hear back from some foundations. The board voted to extend his contract for one month on the condition that he complete at least two grant applications in that time.

Research and Education

NYRA's Research and Education Director, Svend La Rose, asked the board how he might go about finding five to seven people for his staff. The board said that it would be difficult to get that many people and that even the office of chapter formation did not have seven staff members. The board suggested that he work on things that require a smaller staff.

House Parties

Keith Mandell suggested that people hold house parties to raise money for NYRA. He mentioned that he would be having one on December 17th, and that others should do the same. No one else at the meeting could make that commitment, but Alex said he would try. The idea was advertised on the forums.

Forums Upgrade

Jim Pleger has recently joined NYRA's staff, helping with the website and other technical things. Jim has been doing a great job, and everyone is grateful for his help. Jim mentioned that he would be upgrading the forums, and that they would be down for about half an hour.

Resolutions:

05-06 Resolution 14

The board hereby resolves to approve the following addition to the bylaws, to be approved by the membership during the annual election.

1. A chapter of the National Youth Rights Association shall be defined as a local entity, that while not subject to the authority of the National office, is committed to implementing the goals of the National office, as defined by the Board of Directors. Chapters shall have the term "National Youth Rights Association" in their name.
2. NYRA Recognizes chapters that meet the following specifications:
 - D. Chapters must have five or more members who have met in person, and signed a chapter application that shall be filed with the National office.
 - E. Chapters must pay a charter fee of thirty dollars (\$30).
 - F. New chapters must be approved by the Executive Director. The board of directors may override decisions made by the E.D. regarding the approval of chapters.
3. Chapter status shall be revoked for any of the following reasons:

- A. If any chapter officials use violence on behalf of the organization.
 - B. If any chapter fails to adequately address an officer embezzling funds or committing any other serious illegal activity in their role as a NYRA Chapter officer.
 - C. If any chapter is known to discriminate based on age, race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, income, or disability.
 - D. If any chapter engages in any activity or makes any public statements contrary to any position adopted by the NYRA Membership.
 - E. If any chapter notifies the national office of its dissolution.
4. Chapters are separate legal entities, and do not fall under the incorporation of the National office. Chapters may seek separate incorporation, or choose not to incorporate.
5. New state chapters shall be formed under the following specifications:
- A. Five or more chapters in a given state, with approval from their respective memberships, nominate officers to sign a document expressing their desire to form a state chapter.
 - B. The local chapters signing said document comprise more than 75% of the chapters in a given state.
 - C. The National Board of Directors votes to approve the formation of the state chapter.
 - D. The state chapter shall function as a statewide coordinating body. It shall not have authority over local chapters, but may work to manage, synchronize, and encourage activity taking place at the local level. The state chapter may appoint representatives for media purposes.
 - E. Local chapters formed under the state chapter shall still be subject to NYRA's national chapter bylaws

Votes For.

Robert Reynolds	President
Alex Koroknay-Palicz	Executive Director
Katrina Moncure	Treasurer
Jess Caralize	Director
Keith Mandell	Director

Votes Against

Scott Davidson	Secretary
----------------	-----------

05-06 Resolution 15

The board hereby requests that the Executive Committee investigate ways in which NYRA can fight against corporal punishment in schools.

Votes For.

Robert Reynolds	President
-----------------	-----------

Alex Koroknay-Palicz	Executive Director
Katrina Moncure	Treasurer
Scott Davidson	Secretary
Jess Caralize	Director

Votes Against

None.

(Note: Keith Mandell was not present at the time of this vote.)

05-06 Resolution 16

The board hereby resolves to extend the contract of Alex Koroknay-Palicz for one month, on the condition that he complete two grant applications during that time.

Votes For

Robert Reynolds	President
Katrina Moncure	Treasurer
Scott Davidson	Secretary
Jess Caralize	Director
Keith Mandell	Director

Votes Against

None.

(Note: Alex Koroknay-Palicz removed himself from this vote.)