

# National Youth Rights Association Meeting Minutes 12/10/06

## Roll Call

### Present

Scott Davidson	(President)
Zach Hobesh	(Treasurer)
Alex Hull-Richter	(Director)
Rich Jahn	(Secretary)
Adam King	(Vice President)
Alex Koroknay-Palicz	(Executive Director)
Keith Mandell	(Director)
Katrina Moncure	(Director)

### Absent

Jessica Campbell	(Director)
Pamela Tatz	(Director)

## Agenda

1. Bylaw amendments
2. Jessica Campbell
3. Approving budget
4. Strategic Plan

## Reports

Alex Koroknay-Palicz reported NYRA had received an \$8000 check from the Babson Foundation. The process from the initial application to finally receiving the check had taken 10 months. The budget committee adopted a budget ideally estimating \$70,000 in income, and also focusing on lowering the voting age as a specific project. Alex also reported several advertisers on the forums had failed to make their payments, and so their advertisements were promptly removed. NYRA's current balance was \$10,493.02, and current member count 87. Alex finished the annual report for the previous year. Also, new membership cards were sent out. The membership card was redesigned by Kris Sosa, and the new cards were also printed on business cards instead of paper. Alex had looked at two locations for office space, and would be looking at a third close to Capitol Hill. Alex was eager to get an office as soon as possible, to begin hiring interns as soon as possible. Alex reported the high turnover and low productivity of the chapter formation committee had compelled him to follow Chris Batchelor's suggestion of moving to a less structured system where anyone on the committee could assist in chapter formation, rather than limiting staff to particular regions. This would allow individuals to pick up the slack for others. Alex reported a 2-3 hour interview for a BBC World Service program called Generation Next, but so far he had not seen the interview included in the program and worried he had been cut.

Adam King reported he would have to step down as co-editor of "NYRA Freedom"<sup>1</sup> due to time constraints. Adam also recommended to Keith Mandell that Katrina Moncure and Adam Zarnowski be added to the chapter formation committee. Adam also reported his school's teachers had chosen him as the top leader in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade, and so he would be participating in Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership

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<sup>1</sup> NYRA's monthly newsletter

conference at the prestigious North Carolina State University in June 2007. Adam also reported he had received his \$200 stipend from Adam Fletcher for reviewing and editing his curriculum guide manuscript. He discussed the organization Our Education with Adam Fletcher, and discovered they felt NYRA's positions were too radical. Adam Fletcher also thought Our Education was unlikely to expand to other issues. Adam also reported his blog about student issues had been featured in the local newspaper, and a staff columnist dubbed him as youngest and one of the more prolific bloggers." Adam had also spent time updating the youth rights network, including the biographies section.

Scott Davidson reported he sent a letter to Our Education expressing interest in NYRA being involved in their conference. Also, Scott sent a letter to the Babson Foundation thanking them for the grant, and he intended to also call them to thank them.

## **Business**

### **Bylaw amendments**

Rich Jahn reported the bylaw amendments would need to be postponed to the next meeting in order to completely draft all the language for them.

### **Jessica Campbell**

It was noted that Jessica Campbell had missed four consecutive board meetings, and according to the bylaws her seat was vacated due to violating the attendance policy. Alex Hull-Richter and Keith Mandell wanted to hear from Jessica Campbell before the nominations committee met. Scott Davidson informed that the nominations committee would have to meet and either nominate Jessica Campbell again or someone else. Since Pamela Tatz was the chair of the nominations committee, and was absent from the meeting, she could not update the board on the progress of the committee.

### **Approving budget**

Scott Davidson reported the budget committee had approved the budget. The board was asked to review it.

Rich Jahn asked about the \$6000 item for rent. Alex Koroknay-Palicz replied that was the cap, which would be \$500 per month. Scott Davidson said NYRA would be renting somewhere in the DC metropolitan area. Rich also asked about PC's, and Alex replied he was hoping they would be donated, which was the reason for the \$1500 in-kind under income.

Adam King asked what the Outreach Director would do. Alex Koroknay-Palicz replied he or she would work full-time on chapter formation.

Alex Hull-Richter asked about lobbying expenses in Washington, and Alex Koroknay-Palicz replied that according to the strategic plan lobbying would primarily be done by NYRA chapters. NYRA itself could not lobby due to 501©3 tax status.

The board voted to adopt the budget.

### **Strategic Plan**

Alex Koroknay-Palicz said he wanted to ensure all board directors had read the strategic plan and Babson Foundation application, and were familiar with them, since they were to be guiding documents for NYRA. In summary, the Babson Foundation application calls for educating the public about youth rights, empowering youth to work on their own behalf, and taking direct steps to lessen the burden of ageism. The application details the national organization providing strategic assistance and support to local chapters for campaigns. The strategic plan details the specific goals of introducing bills to lower local and

state voting ages. The strategic plan also calls for outreach to youth and the media, as well as continuing to develop resources to mobilize youth.

## Other Discussion

Zach Hobesh mentioned some ideas he posted on the sandbox,<sup>2</sup> including a NYRA volunteer of the month. Scott Davidson said he was a little concerned someone who did a lot of work, but not the most work, being upset about not getting any recognition. Scott also mentioned he had a similar idea for monthly awards, but for external people, for example politicians. Alex Hull-Richter mentioned his Democratic Club sends out “American Hero” awards to representatives, and gets a lot of letters of support back.

Zach Hobesh also volunteered to help write “NYRA Freedom.” Zach suggested including “how to” articles, for example “How to Speak at Voting Age Debates.”

Alex Hull-Richter said the California Teachers Association believed student rights hurt teachers. They have an interest in keeping students in school because schools receive \$50 per student per day, and so they mounted an opposition to the anti-compulsory education resolution put forward by Alex Hull-Richter. Alex Koroknay-Palicz said he believed the compulsory education issue would alienate most teachers and most of the country, and so it was much more prudent to focus on issues such as first amendment protection and due process. Alex Hull-Richter said he believed the connection between money and attendance needed to end. Alex Koroknay-Palicz said he believed the opposite, that it could be a useful tool, since it would add financial leverage to threatening walk-outs. Rich Jahn expressed doubt that the money connection to attendance would be that useful in practice, since walking out of school was illegal anyway. Alex Hull-Richter noted that republicans were generally supportive of opposing compulsory education, and also noted the opposition to compulsory preschool in California. Alex Hull-Richter noted many abuses carried out by schools have been done on the grounds of compulsory attendance, while Alex Koroknay-Palicz contended those specific abuses should be condemned and opposed individually.

Alex Hull-Richter stated he wanted a democratic candidate to run against Nancy Pelosi in 2008 because of her poor youth rights record including support of the strip-searching bill and internet bill. Alex was also hopeful lowering the voting age would gain more prominence with Dennis Kucinich supporting it and running for president in 2008.

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<sup>2</sup> An internal NYRA wiki accessible to board and staff

# Resolutions

## 06-07 Res. 15 – Approved 2007 Budget

### Votes For

Scott Davidson	(President)
Zach Hobesh	(Treasurer)
Alex Hull-Richter	(Director)
Adam King	(Vice President)
Alex Koroknay-Palicz	(Executive Director)
Keith Mandell	(Director)
Katrina Moncure	(Director)

### Votes Against

None

### Absent

Jessica Campbell	(Director)
Pamela Tatz	(Director)