



Meeting Minutes

July 21, 2002

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Roll Call

Present

| | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Alex Koroknay-Palicz | (President) |
| Christopher Coes | (Vice president) |
| Chris Manley | (Treasurer) |
| Rich Jahn | (Secretary) |
| Dan Hill | (Director) |

Absent

| | |
|-----------------------|------------|
| Christen Walker-James | (Director) |
|-----------------------|------------|

Officer Reports

President¹ –

- Donald, the CFR National Coordinator has left his position citing time constraints. The CFR now only has the Chairperson, Christopher Coes, and the Western Regional Representative, Alex Levin.
- On Tuesday, July 9 the President and Vice President Christopher Coes attended an event for the Young Democrats at the DNC HQ. The President felt it went well. They talked to several Democrat interns and supporters, spread the NYRA message around, and sparked some interest.
- On Wednesday, July 17 the President and Vice President Christopher Coes went to the Youth Vote Coalition meeting. The Vice President got a chance to meet some people the President had been working with for the past few months. They also saw a presentation on dnet.org, a fantastic resource for candidate information. This website allows users to suggest issues for candidates to take a stance on. The President suggests Youth Rights issues be posed to candidates.
- On Thursday, July 18 the President participated in a protest against the recent Supreme Court ruling on drug testing in schools. It was organized by SSDP and other pro-legalization groups. The protest was timed to occur just as people attending a conference for the drug testing industry was getting out of the Hyatt. Univision covered the event. NYRA had its name on the press release that was sent out, but didn't receive any calls. The President reported there was some fun street theater as kids poured cups of "pee" on the Constitution.
- The President reported he had been working to extract candidate statements from everyone, but so far it had been difficult. The only statements received were from Secretary Rich Jahn, Vice President Christopher Coes, Publicity Committee Chair Brad White, and NYRA member Avi Hein. The President reported many people have expressed some interest in running, but if they don't get their statements in, they will be unable to run. The President reported he was

¹ Available: NYRA-BOD Message Archive. Message #462. Subject: President's Report 7-21-02. Date: 7/21/2002.

concerned about being put in the embarrassing situation of having fewer candidates than seats available. The President suggested the Board may wish to contract the number of spots again.

- The Webmaster is working on setting up the voting system for the election. He is trying to figure it out, but he doesn't have much time left.
- The President reported he was shocked to learn how incredibly low the traffic on www.youthrights.org is. A hits counter had been recently set up on the page, and the site had averaged around 5 hits a day, which the President felt was ridiculous. The President said for such a prominent organization as NYRA, its webpage is a ghost town. The President argued he is aware of personal homepages that get far more regular traffic than the page for the nation's foremost Youth Rights organization. The President has instructed Publicity Committee Chair Brad White to make website promotion his top priority, but due to the very unfortunate death of his friend, he hasn't been able to get to it yet. The President said he felt this situation was a crisis, and NYRA should be getting closer to 500 a day, not 5.
 - Director Dan Hill said he had been referring the website to his friend to try to increase traffic.²
 - Secretary Rich Jahn asked if the website had issue-centered keywords for search engines. President Alex Koroknay-Palicz reported he had updated the meta tags for the website.³
- The President reported he has started collecting pledge money, and he has sent Treasurer Chris Manley an envelope with around \$250 in it. He is working on collecting the rest of the money pledged, and should have it soon.

Vice President –

The Vice President had nothing to report.⁴

Treasurer⁵ –

- The Treasurer reported he currently had just over 500 dollars. He needed 500 dollars to open the NYRA business account and another 500 dollars for the IRS filing fee for 501(c)3 status. The bank charges a monthly fee of 7 dollars for having a balance less than 500 dollars on any one given day during the month. However, once 501(c)3 status is obtained, the bank would charge no fee regardless of the balance.⁶
 - President Alex Koroknay-Palicz suggested Treasurer Chris Manley file for 501(c)3 status first, in order to avoid the fee, but Chris Manley reported the account would have to be opened first, because all checks had been made payable to “NYRA.”⁷

² Meeting Log: Line 9

³ Meeting Log: Lines 17-23

⁴ Meeting Log: Line 52

⁵ Meeting Log: Lines 113-203

⁶ Meeting Log: Lines 121, 123, 128, 134, 153, 158-159

⁷ Meeting Log: Lines 125-127, 142, 144

- President Alex Koroknay-Palicz asked if the bank had any flexibility regarding 501(c)3 pending status. Treasurer Chris Manley replied they had no such flexibility, because the IRS allows organizations to have pending status for up to 7 years.⁸
- Secretary Rich Jahn asked if NYRA had to obtain 501(c)3 status by April for donors to be able to receive their tax deductions. Treasurer Chris Manley replied that in fact NYRA only had to be 501(c)3 pending by April. He also noted that because NYRA can be 501(c)3 pending for up to 7 years, any donations made since the founding of NYRA could be tax deductible because it had only been in existence for 4 years.⁹
- Treasurer Chris Manley recommended he wait until NYRA had raised the full 1000 dollars, because 501(c)3 pending status is all that is necessary.¹⁰

Secretary¹¹ –

- The Secretary reported he had documented all resolutions passed in the current year. His next goal was to get all past resolutions documented. All past proposed resolutions are documented. The vote totals just have to be reviewed to determine which passed.
- The Secretary and President Alex Koroknay-Palicz have established a coding system for resolutions they think will work very well.
- The Secretary reported he has developed a format for resolutions similar to what was used by the original Secretary, Matt Walcoff. The Secretary plans to put all resolutions in this format, and he intends to re-codify all past resolutions using the new system. There was a resolution passed by a previous Board that mandated a coding system, and so this would overrule the new coding system developed. To remedy this, the Secretary plans to draft a resolution to mandate the new coding system. The Secretary asked if anyone had any comments, suggestions, or problems with the coding system, because he wanted to set a standard that would last a while.
- The Secretary reported he planned to finish the statistics report by the election. It has to be done at least once per term year, as mandated by the President.
- The Secretary and President Alex Koroknay-Palicz had been working on changes to the bylaws. They had discovered some NYRA operations had become inconsistent with the bylaws, and in addition there were some minor grammar corrections.
- The Secretary reported he had backed up all NYRA-BOD emails he had, and he planned on continuing to make backups.

⁸ Meeting Log: Lines 136-139

⁹ Meeting Log: Lines: 167-170, 172-175

¹⁰ Meeting Log: Lines 162, 166

¹¹ Available: NYRA-BOD Message Archive. Message #268.

Committee Reports

Chapter Formation and Recruiting Committee –

The Chapter Formation and Recruiting Committee had nothing to report.

Publicity Committee –

The Publicity Committee had nothing to report.

Fundraising Committee –

The Fundraising Committee had nothing to report.

Agenda Items

Item 1: Accept resignation of Danya Steele –

The resignation of Director Danya Steele was accepted (See: *01-02 Res. 25*).

Item 2: Reaffirm Position Papers¹² –

AGE DISCRIMINATION

- Treasurer Chris Manley clarified the agenda item was only for discussion on each position paper, and not voting on any resolution to change them.¹³
- Chris Manley argued the first position paper about age discrimination was too vague. President Alex Koroknay-Palicz argued the position papers were deliberately supposed to be vague and not outline our stance specifically on every issue. Chris Manley suggested clarifying NYRA is opposed to “illegal age discrimination.” Alex Koroknay-Palicz argued this statement is ambiguous as well when laws conflict. Secretary Rich Jahn argued there is unreasonable age discrimination occasionally that may be legal. Chris Manley then suggested using the phrase “unreasonable age discrimination.” Alex Koroknay-Palicz suggested the term “unreasonable” may be too vague. However, Chris Manley pointed out how all of the position papers are in the context of being *for* youth rights.¹⁴

CURFEW

- The board all agreed with the curfew position paper.

¹² Meeting Log: Lines 207-285

¹³ Meeting Log: Line 303

¹⁴ Meeting Log: Lines 332, 353, 367, 379-380, 436, 441

DRINKING AGE

- Treasurer Chris Manley suggested the position paper emphasize the drastic differences in alcohol abuse rates of Italians compared to Americans. He asserted it is about 20 times less with Italians, and they drink from birth. Vice President Christopher Coes agreed the article could better emphasize the differences of alcohol abuse and alcohol policy between Americans and Europeans.¹⁵
- Vice President Christopher Coes reasoned NYRA also wants a new approach on how people drink in America. He suggested emphasis on this point would address the common argument lowering the drinking age would result in a large number of 18 year old drunks.¹⁶
- President Alex Koroknay-Palicz said he would hesitate to change the position paper, because it is the most researched position paper, and it had been quoted in a book before. He also argued the paper already discusses a lot of the cultural changes necessary to decrease irresponsible drinking.¹⁷
- Treasurer Chris Manley said he believed one major problem with the position paper is how it insults law enforcement, which weakens the credibility of the paper. He suggested the paper focus on more positive aspects of lowering the drinking age.¹⁸
- President Alex Koroknay-Palicz argued he hasn't had any problems defending the paper, and he has spoken about the issue on many occasions.¹⁹
- The Board voted to table the discussion of position papers for the August 4 meeting.²⁰

Item 3: Approval of Budget –

- Secretary Rich Jahn asked Treasurer Chris Manley if he could write an excel version of the proposed budget for quick reference in addition to the word document he had sent out.²¹
- Secretary Rich Jahn asked if the Youth Rights Knight idea was eliminated, since it was not mentioned in the budget. President Alex Koroknay-Palicz answered it would be up to the fundraising committee to decide that.²²
- Treasurer Chris Manley suggested the board also vote for approval of the proposed 2003 budget. President Alex Koroknay-Palicz recommended the board wait until December to approve it so it would have more finality. He suggested the proposed resolution simply be used for applying for grants. Secretary Rich Jahn said approval of the 2003 budget was not put on the agenda formally, and he had not reviewed it yet. Chris Manley asserted he would not feel comfortable sending the proposed budget to the IRS and to grant giving organizations

¹⁵ Meeting Log: Lines 462, 466

¹⁶ Meeting Log: Lines 471-474

¹⁷ Meeting Log: Lines 475, 482

¹⁸ Meeting Log: Lines 551-552

¹⁹ Meeting Log: Lines 720, 722

²⁰ Meeting Log: Line 794

²¹ Meeting Log: Lines 826, 838

²² Meeting Log: Lines 867-871

without approval from the Board of Directors and with the notion we will revise it as needed in December of 2002.²³

- Treasurer Chris Manley suggested the 2003 budget be approved as a temporary operating budget for him to send to the IRS and grant giving organizations. President Alex Koroknay-Palicz argued temporary approval was pointless. President Alex Koroknay-Palicz further argued the 2003 budget should be scrutinized the same way the 2002 budget had been if it were to be passed.²⁴
- President Alex Koroknay-Palicz rejected the item in the 2003 budget that appropriated money for a “leadership conference.” He said he would agree with a general NYRA conference, but there already are plenty of leadership conferences, and NYRA should not be in the business of teaching leadership skills, or at least not for the price of 6000 dollars.²⁵
- Vice President Christopher Coes argued leadership training was in the best interests of NYRA, because it had worked very well for the NAACP.²⁶
- Treasurer Chris Manley outlined the goals of his idea of a leadership conference as:²⁷
 - 1) To allow youth to discuss issues related to them in the forum of youth rights. Our position papers will not be discussed, but it will allow for us to see what other youth think about these issues and so we can compare how a sampling of teens feel to what this organization states its belief to being.
 - 2) To recruit potential leaders within the NYRA from accross the country and educate them, through the conference, on work that has been done in the field of youth rights and what they can do to help.
 - 3) To increase general exposure of NYRA not only to youth but to schools and adults as well.
- Secretary Rich Jahn said he agreed with the second and third point, but rejected the first. He argued NYRA should not base its beliefs on what a majority of youth currently believe, because currently most probably do not care about youth rights. The primary purpose of NYRA now, he insisted, was to educate the public about youth rights.²⁸
- President Alex Koroknay-Palicz agreed and further pointed out NYRA represents a movement, not a demographic group.²⁹
- Treasurer Chris Manley asked President Alex Koroknay-Palicz how exactly he planned to gain support for NYRA, if not through a leadership conference. Alex Koroknay-Palicz replied he proposed to do so like it was done with civil rights. To speak out actively on this subject,

²³ Meeting Log: Lines 899-905, 934

²⁴ Meeting Log: Lines 947-955, 988

²⁵ Meeting Log: Lines 1000, 1003-1004, 1006

²⁶ Meeting Log: Lines 1013-1017

²⁷ Meeting Log: Lines 1137-1140

²⁸ Meeting Log: Lines 1144, 1151-1152

²⁹ Meeting Log: Lines 1208-1209

educate young people and adults all across the nation, and stick to youth rights issues and convince the rest of the country to agree through education and persuasion.³⁰

- Treasurer Chris Manley argued those attending a leadership conference would be interested in youth rights, because they would be paying to attend it.³¹
- The Board moved on from discussion of the leadership conference to other items in the budget. Secretary Rich Jahn asked what the “Office of Membership Services” was. Treasurer Chris Manley replied it would be a staff position to take over maintaining the membership database from the Secretary.³²
- Vice President Christopher Coes asked why there was no mention of the Chapter Formation and Recruitment Committee in the budget. President Alex Koroknay-Palicz clarified it wasn’t mentioned in the budget, because it was forgotten. However, it was discussed in subsequent emails. The CFR budget was to be paid for out of membership dues.³³
- Treasurer Chris Manley noted he would revise the budget to include chapter fees and the CFR budget.³⁴
- Discussion was closed, and Chris Manley motioned the budget be approved and become NYRA’s operating budget immediately, with prioritization of funds based on the instructions included in the budget itself.³⁵ Chris Manley then revised the motion to approve the 2002 budget, provided that the Treasurer combine the present document with other emails pertaining to financial matters for the 2002 calendar year.³⁶

Item 4: Discuss Bylaws Changes –

- Secretary Rich Jahn began summarizing the bylaw changes made already by him and President Alex Koroknay-Palicz.
- Treasurer Chris Manley recommended the notification requirement for board meetings stay 14 days when done by regular mail, but be changed to 7 days when done by email.³⁷
- Treasurer Chris Manley suggested adding a new officer position for the chairperson of board meetings. He also recommended a vice-chairperson position be added, to act as chairperson in the absence of the chairperson. President Alex Koroknay-Palicz argued it was a simple task that did not deserve an entire position dedicated for it.³⁸
- The Board realized discussion of bylaw changes was too complex to adequately discuss in a meeting that had lasted so long, and they voted to table discussion for a future meeting. The

³⁰ Meeting Log: Lines 1240, 1251, 1259

³¹ Meeting Log: Lines 1340

³² Meeting Log: Lines 1403, 1413

³³ Meeting Log: Lines 1432-1434, 1438

³⁴ Meeting Log: Line 1595

³⁵ Meeting Log: Line 1733

³⁶ Meeting Log: Line 1751

³⁷ Meeting Log: Lines 2103, 2121-2122

³⁸ Meeting Log: Lines 2221-2461

future meeting would be a specially schedule meeting, however, in order to officially pass the bylaw changes before the election began.

Resolutions

01-02 Resolution 25: Accepted resignation of Danya Steele³⁹ –

Votes For

| | |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Alex Koroknay-Palicz | (President) |
| Chris Manley | (Treasurer) |
| Rich Jahn | (Secretary) |
| Dan Hill | (Director) |

Votes Against

None.

Absent

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Christopher Coes | (Vice president) |
|------------------|------------------|

01-02 Resolution 26: Approval of 2002 Budget –

We approve the 2002 budget, provided that the Treasurer combine the present document with other e-mails pertaining to financial matters for the 2002 calendar year.

Votes For

| | |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Alex Koroknay-Palicz | (President) |
| Chris Manley | (Treasurer) |
| Rich Jahn | (Secretary) |

Votes Against

None.

Absent

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Christopher Coes | (Vice president) |
|------------------|------------------|

³⁹ Meeting Log: Lines 205-243