



# Meeting Minutes

## July 7, 2002

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# Roll Call

## Present

Alex Koroknay-Palicz	(President)
Rich Jahn	(Secretary)
Dan Hill	(Director)
Danya Steele	(Director)
Christen Walker-James	(Director)

## Absent

Christopher Coes	(Vice president)
Chris Manley	(Treasurer)

# Officer Reports

## President<sup>1</sup> –

- The President reported Ryan Bolz, the original "NYRA Freedom" editor that left to spend more time working on his position as CFR Southern Regional Rep, has decided to quit his position in CFR and return to "NYRA Freedom."
- The anti-discrimination campaign has stalled. Many complaints have been made regarding discriminating stores, but they always lack proper details for pursuing the case. The President sent out emails asking for addresses and phone numbers of the stores, but he hasn't gotten any responses. On Monday, the President will start calling up members to directly ask for more information. Once enough information is available, the President reported he can contact the stores personally.
- Stefan, the NYRA-Tennessee Valley President, has been in close contact with President Alex Koroknay-Palicz recently about his chapter's campaign against the Chattanooga mall. This fits into NYRA's anti-segregation campaign. Stefan has spoken with management about their anti-youth policy and has offered them alternatives that respect the rights of youth. It is going slow but it is productive so far. However, he has asked not to be included in NYRA's media blitz regarding the age discrimination campaign. He feels it may hurt his chances to find a friendly solution to the local situation.
- An NYRA member in California testified on June 26<sup>th</sup> against the smoking age bill before a committee. He says he was very nervous during the meeting. The NYRA was the only group in opposition to the bill. He has been mobilizing youth in his area to oppose this bill and has informed the President he will be returning to Sacramento at some point in the future.
- On July 4<sup>th</sup>, the President attended the annual "Smoke-In" pro-marijuana legalization event in downtown Washington, DC. He signed up several dozen new members. Some people at the event knew the President, and they let him get up on stage and talk about Youth Rights.

<sup>1</sup> Available: NYRA-BOD Message Archive. Message #402, Subject: President's Report 7-7-02, Date: July 5, 2002.

Normally the event is much larger, but because of problems caused by increased security the crowd was significantly smaller than normal.

**Vice President –**

- The Vice President was absent and submitted no report.

**Treasurer –**

- The Treasurer submitted no report and was absent due to illness.

**Secretary<sup>2</sup> –**

- The Secretary reported he has started working on a Perl script for putting form submissions on the website into text comma delimited files himself, because he was unable to find anyone to help. The Secretary reported Brad White had recently offered to help, however. The Secretary plans to use the script for the membership application form, forms for updating staff information, and forms for updating member activity information. He also plans to use it for the voting form if Instant Runoff Voting is unable to work.
- The Secretary reported he and President Alex Koroknay-Palicz have begun work on a project to meticulously go through the bylaws to fix errors and clear up any confusing parts.
- Many members still need to be added to the email list. The Secretary reported the yahoo discussion groups had not been working. In addition, President Alex Koroknay-Palicz had many new members recruited in person that needed to be added.
- The Secretary reported he had not been able to work on the membership statistics report since mid-June. It was mostly completed, but it will have to be redone anyway since the data is completely different. The Secretary plans on finishing the statistics report before the election.
- The Secretary will send out the monthly report of new NYRA members in the local areas of NYRA chapters for July as soon as the database is completely updated with all new members. Only one Chapter President contacted the Secretary about their chapter membership information in June. He had no new members to report. The Secretary will ask the chapter presidents to send an update for July.
  - President Alex Koroknay-Palicz asked the NYRA-Tennessee Valley President, who was also attending the meeting, if he had sent in his report. The Chapter President replied he had not yet.<sup>3</sup>
- The Secretary asked President Alex Koroknay-Palicz to put an ad out for an assistant. In addition, the Secretary put an ad in the forums on the NYRA website. No one has contacted him yet to apply for the job.

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<sup>2</sup> Available: NYRA-BOD Message Archive. Message #403, Subject: Secretary's Report 7/7/02, Date: July 5, 2002.

<sup>3</sup> Meeting Log: Lines 211, 213

## Committee Reports

### Chapter Formation and Recruiting Committee –

The Chapter Formation and Recruiting Committee submitted no report.

### Publicity Committee<sup>4</sup> –

- President Alex Koroknay-Palicz delivered the Publicity Committee's report as part of his officer report (See Also: *President's Report*).
- President Alex Koroknay-Palicz spoke at two drinking age debates since the last meeting for the National Youth Leadership Conference, and each were in front of an audience of 350 students. Both were very successful and many new members signed up at each. The President said he felt the first one went better than the second, but he had won both debates.
- On July 1, the same day as the second drinking age debate, President Alex Koroknay-Palicz got another speaking opportunity about the drinking age for the Washington Close-Up Foundation. Twenty students attended. The President reported he felt the students at this meeting were more hostile to the issues discussed. However, the President reported a significant number of people signed up as new members.
- Brad sent out two press releases recently. One in support of a California NYRA member who testified before the state legislature opposing a bill to raise the smoking age to 21. It was sent out primarily in California. President Alex Koroknay-Palicz said he felt anti-smoking has reached a point in this country that it isn't a good issue to press significantly. The NYRA received no call backs from the release.
- The other press release was regarding the Supreme Court decision in favor of drug testing for students in extracurricular activities. It was released on a much wider basis. There have been no call backs from this release either, but President Alex Koroknay-Palicz said he may be contacted three or four months later, as he has been from past press releases.
- President Alex Koroknay-Palicz was contacted by MS-NBC about a press release four months ago about drug testing in schools. However, there was no follow-up interview. President Alex Koroknay-Palicz speculated MS-NBC found another spokesperson.

### Fundraising Committee –

The Fundraising Committee had nothing to report.

## Unfinished Business Items

### Item 1: Appoint Brad White to the Board of Directors –

This item was dropped from the agenda due to Brad White being unable to serve on the Board of Directors for the remainder of the summer.

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<sup>4</sup> Available: NYRA-BOD Message Archive. Message #402, Subject: President's Report 7-7-02, Date: July 5, 2002.

# Agenda Items

## Item 1: Approval of Membership Dues Resolution –

- Secretary Rich Jahn restated the proposed resolution for the Board as it was initially<sup>5</sup>:
  1. The power to regulate membership dues amounts will be held by the President and Treasurer acting jointly to both encourage supporters to donate to become members and at the same time ensure budgetary needs are met. The Board of Directors should guide both officers in their decisions, and, ultimately, hold the power to overrule these two officers.
  2. In addition to regulation of member fee amounts, the President and Treasurer shall also regulate the amount of the chapter initiation fee.
  3. The fundraising committee will be charged with the responsibility of soliciting for membership dues with the assistance of the Publicity Committee and individual chapters.
  4. Only one level of membership will be in place. Membership, as defined indirectly by the bylaws, is the ability to vote in the organization, the ability to be on the Board of Directors, and the ability to be a Corporate Officer. It is encouraged, however, that the fundraising committee use tactics such as offering "a free t-shirt" for a higher level donation. However those who donate more than required for membership will still be classified in the same membership bracket, meaning they retain the same powers of members as defined by the bylaws. This will allow members to give different amounts of money, while still receiving incentives and remaining on the same level. Other NYRA supporters are encouraged to be a part of NYRA events, but only paying members will be voting members, because they have stepped up and are being fiscally accountable for their organization.
  5. Chapters will be charged a one-time fee, and the Chapter Formation and Recruitment Committee will be responsible for collecting fees. Members of chapters will be able to receive membership in the NYRA for a reduced dues amount.
  6. The Fundraising Committee, Treasurer, and President will jointly keep the members informed of membership dues and handle all questions regarding membership dues and Public Relations related to the subject as far a membership is concerned.
- President Alex Koroknay-Palicz suggested items 2 and 5 be combined, because they both had to do with chapter fees.<sup>6</sup>
- President Alex Koroknay-Palicz noted Chris Manley wanted it clarified in the resolution that the CFR Committee would solicit for chapter fees, the Treasurer would collect the fees, and the President and Treasurer would set the amount of the fee.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Meeting Log: Lines 248-253

<sup>6</sup> Meeting Log: Lines 255-257

<sup>7</sup> Meeting Log: Lines 263, 266, 272

- Secretary Rich Jahn recommended rewording the first bullet point of the resolution, because it was confusing.<sup>8</sup>
- Secretary Rich Jahn made the suggested changes and restated the resolution:
  1. The power to regulate membership dues amounts will be held by the President and Treasurer. They will act jointly to both encourage supporters to donate and ensure budgetary needs are met. The Board of Directors should guide both officers in their decisions, and ultimately hold the power to overrule these two officers.
  2. In addition to regulation of member fee amounts, the President and Treasurer shall also regulate the amount of the chapter initiation fee. Chapters will be charged a one-time fee, set by the President and Treasurer with advice from the Chapter Formation and Recruitment Committee, and the Treasurer, like all membership dues and monies, will be responsible for collecting fees.
  3. The fundraising committee will be charged with the responsibility of soliciting for membership dues with the assistance of the Publicity Committee and individual chapters.
  4. Only one level of membership will be in place. Membership, as defined indirectly by the bylaws, is the ability to vote in the organization, the ability to be on the Board of Directors, and the ability to be a Corporate Officer. It is encouraged, however, that the fundraising committee use tactics such as offering "a free t-shirt" for a higher level donation. However those who donate more than required for membership will still be classified in the same membership bracket, meaning they retain the same powers of members as defined by the bylaws. This will allow members to give different amounts of money, while still receiving incentives and remaining on the same level. Other NYRA supporters are encouraged to be a part of NYRA events, but only paying members will be voting members, because they have stepped up and are being fiscally accountable for their organization.
  5. The Fundraising Committee, Treasurer, and President will jointly keep the members informed of membership dues and handle all questions regarding membership dues and Public Relations related to the subject as far a membership is concerned.

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<sup>8</sup> Meeting Log: Lines 274-276

# Resolutions

## 01-02 Resolution 24: Membership Dues<sup>9</sup> –

### Votes For

Alex Koroknay-Palicz  
Christopher Coes  
Rich Jahn

(President)  
(Vice president)  
(Secretary)

### Votes Against

None.

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<sup>9</sup> Meeting Log: Lines 337-338