



**YFU-USA Alumni Association
National Alumni Council
Spring 2004 Meeting Summary**

NAC Update to YFU Staff

The YFU-USA National Alumni Council (NAC) met in Bethesda, MD over the weekend of April 16-18, 2004 for our Spring Meeting. The goal of this meeting was to build upon discussions at last fall's meeting in Chicago and our efforts between meetings, as well as to devise more ideas for promoting the Alumni Association to our alumni constituency. Another goal of this meeting was to meet staff members in person at the YFU USA headquarters and to discuss both the Alumni Association and the NAC with them.

The meeting started with a "happy hour" to welcome the members of the NAC, hosted by YFU USA at their office in Bethesda. This allowed for the NAC members to spend some time getting to know the staff of YFU, and to build upon relationships that had been only virtual in the past.

The NAC also had the opportunity later that evening to hold a working dinner with YFU USA President Mike Finnell, Margie Eulner Ott, and David Barber to discuss the Alumni Association and the NAC's activities. Below is a summary of what we discussed:

- Mike Finnell suggested that the NAC tap into as many YFU resources as possible and mentioned the YFU Choral event that reached 1100 members as an example of a network that works well. He also stressed accountability and suggested that through our projects, the NAC focus on reaching and supporting the few alumni who are active, rather than wasting our efforts on trying to track down everyone.
- Margie Eulner Ott echoed Mike's suggestion that we not cast the net too wide, but harness and focus on the select few who were changed by YFU while on their programs. She shared with us the estimate that only about 10% of YFU alumni will want to get involved in volunteering for YFU after their return. Margie also suggested that the NAC strive to provide Reentry Orientations for all returnees.
- David Barber agreed with Margie that we should continue offering Reentry Orientations to all returnees, and suggested that we hold online chats for returnees who can't attend in-person Reentry Orientations. He also suggested that the NAC have the Chair or someone from the Executive Committee join management conference calls in order to facilitate direct communication between the NAC and YFU staff, and requested that we send any available orientation photos to him.

Business Items Addressed over the Weekend

The NAC recently purchased 600 Alumni Association luggage tags, and we have decided to begin by distributing them at selected PDOs and Reentry Orientations. We will make further decisions on their distribution on a case-by-case basis. We hope that YFU alumni will visit the Alumni Association website after seeing its address on the tags.



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The NAC also discussed giving the Alumni Association website a new look to make the information contained there easier for YFU alumni, staff, and volunteers to access. Over the next year or so, the Website Project Manager, Heather Curtis (alumweb@yfu.org), will be working on overhauling the site, and she would love to hear any suggestions you may have.

The NAC also addressed the issue of follow-through and accountability, both internally and with volunteers and alumni involved in our projects. Although we did not come up with any final solutions to problems related to this topic, we did come up with some ideas, including using the telephone more to reach volunteers, being more diligent about reminding people what they need to do, and providing better support for Alumni Coordinators. It is important to the members of the NAC that we continue to show YFU that we are productive and reliable.

According to NAC tradition, all members donated to the Follebout Fund at the conclusion of our meeting.

Current NAC Membership

Tommy Buadaeng
Andrea Coronado
Heather Curtis
Laurel DeLong
April Forer
Adrienne Fortin, Vice Chair
Valerie Moles - *not present at meeting*
Danielle Rocheleau Salaz, Chair
Ryan Savage, Secretary
Kris Stone

We were happy to welcome our new member, Laurel (Back) DeLong, to the Council this February. We will be holding elections again early next year, and we would be pleased to receive your nominations. An election announcement will go out in January.

Current NAC Projects

Below are descriptions of many of the NAC's current projects. For additional information about these or other NAC projects, please visit the YFU-USA Alumni Association website (www.yfu-usa.org/alumni) or contact the Project Managers listed below.

Alumni Contact Network is intended to help fellow alumni get and stay in touch with each other as well as to provide opportunities for alumni to get reconnected with YFU in many different ways. Many different groups (by program, year, and country) already have a volunteer class contact working on contacting and finding fellow "exchange mates." Andrea Coronado (yfu_acn@yahoo.com), Project Manager.



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Alumni Referral participants respond to emails, calls, and letters from prospective students or parents. Referral participants must have gone on exchange in the past five years; anyone who has been back longer can become a Screener of Alumni Referral participants. Danielle Rocheleau Salaz (referral@yfu.org), Project Manager.

Lead Inquiry Team members call students who have expressed interest in YFU exchange programs and encourage them to sign up for the opportunity of their lifetime: being a YFU exchange student. Kristjan Stone (lit@yfu.org), Project Manager.

Alumni Association Website - Getting input from alumni is one of the most important aspects of this project - whether it is getting new stories for the Alumni Link or Alumni Corner, or making the site as a whole more user friendly. Heather Curtis (alumweb@yfu.org), Project Manager.

Alumni Prospects Liaison - This position replaces the former District Facilitators. The Alumni Prospects Liaison will help facilitate electronic communications between the NAC and alumni. He will also help individual alumni find out about volunteering and other opportunities and will help them to get in touch with other alumni, staff and volunteers in their areas. Tommy Budaeng (puon16@hotmail.com), Project Manager

The Alumni Coordinator Project is a project to support the local Alumni Coordinators across the United States. The project manager will support each coordinator at the level that they wish to participate in this volunteer opportunity. She will provide resources both online and in-person where feasible to all who request assistance in the volunteer community. Valerie Moles (vcmoles@comcast.net), Project Manager

The Alumni Address and Interest Update Project allows the correct routing of each alumni interest form to the appropriate Project manager and YFU staff. It also ensures efficient updating of an Alumni's address in the YFU databases. Valerie Moles (vcmoles@comcast.net), Project Manager.

Networking with Global YFU Alumni Groups is an important project to share information about what alumni are doing around the globe. Laurel DeLong (laureldelong@yahoo.com), Project Manager.

The Alumni Link is an open forum for sharing stories about exchange and communicating what's happening with alumni around the country. Check often for new stories, and please feel free to share your story. Laurel DeLong (laureldelong@yahoo.com), Project Manager.

The Executive Committee for the NAC are the Chair (Danielle Rocheleau Salaz, daniellersalaz@hotmail.com), Vice Chair (Adrienne Fortin, metropeppers@hotmail.com) and Secretary (Ryan Savage, ryan6008@aol.com). If you have ideas, suggestions, or other comments about the YFU-USA Alumni Association, please direct it to one of us.