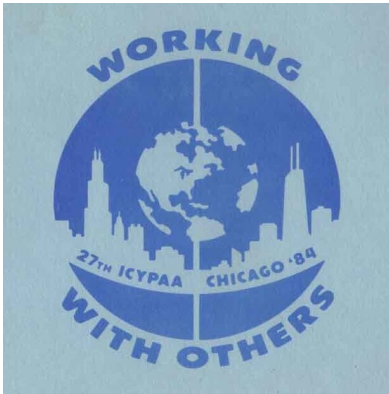


THE NEWSLETTER FORMERLY KNOWN AS...

DA NEWS



"We are an ever-growing group of sober Chicagoans, diverse in age and sobriety, who want for our city a chance to host the next International Conference of Young People in AA (ICYPAA). We are committed to unifying newcomers and young people in AA, generating enthusiasm and participation for the 53rd ICYPAA in San Francisco, CA, and ultimately creating a group of excited and capable AA members who can help bring ICYPAA to Chicago. Throughout our pursuit we aim to share our experiences with others, honor the traditions and spiritual principles of AA, and carry a message of gratitude, service, and fellowship."

As a 33 year old, in recovery for alcoholism, I was shocked when an AA member invited me to my first Young People's meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous. Although I was hesitant to attend, the experience was life changing. The young sober community in Chicago is a family within itself. I have gained much of my spiritual growth and program knowledge from members who are biologically younger than me.

**Newcomer Zeal
-Tamara S.**

Alcoholics Anonymous speaks to the necessity to work the program precisely as it was worked by the first 100 members, and does not speak to age, race, gender, length of using or length of sobriety. Those who have experienced drastic life changes due to the principles and promises of the program have built a quality of recovery, rather than only a quantity of "sober time."

Holding service positions at young people's meetings provided me with a sense of belonging and community with alcoholics of all ages. The AA program of step work, character building, and the community of young alcoholics helps to inspire me to practice the principles of Alcoholics Anonymous in all of my affairs. I am excited to attend the ICYPAA conference in San Francisco and hope other recovering alcoholics will join me. Being a newcomer at a meeting with people who are primarily younger than me was a humbling experience that helped relieve me of grandiosity and judgment. All members of Alcoholics Anonymous have a desire to stop drinking regardless of age, making the community that much stronger when young and old alike share, fellowship and learn from one another.

**Volume 3, Issue 1
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Upcoming Events

WICYPAA
Friday, January 21-23rd
Hyatt Regency: 333 W.
Kilborne Milwaukee, WI

Bring in the New Year
Right...
Chicago Bid for
ICYPAA's
New Years Eve Bash
December 31st 2010

The Chicago Bid for
ICYPAA meets every 2nd
and 4th Tuesday of the
month at CASO, located
on the third floor at: 180
N. Wabash in downtown
Chicago

You can also visit us at:
<http://chicagoicypaabid.org>
and listen to podcasts,
read archived issues of
this newsletter or
meeting minutes, or get
the latest info on
upcoming events

I moved to Chicago in early sobriety, and here I found a thriving Young People's community. I started to get involved at meetings and met other sober people my own age. These people encouraged me to attend sober parties and events, many of which were put on by a committee bidding to bring a Young People's conference to Chicago. This conference was called the International Conference of Young People in Alcoholic Anonymous, but I frequently heard it referred to by its strange-sounding acronym, ICYPAA.

***The Rewards of
Service
-Claire P***

Motivated by the strong Fellowship

I saw around me, I attended my first ICYPAA in Atlanta. I was terrified and chain-smoking. As the weekend went on, I began to get more comfortable. I made new friends and got closer with the people I already knew. I came back to Chicago exhausted, but full of joy. I knew I had to get involved with my city's bid committee.

After a year of hard work on the Chicago Bid for ICYPAA, we headed to New York City for the 52nd annual conference. Over that year, I had made some of my best friends on the committee; I had gotten enmeshed in the Fellowship and learned about what service means. I was less afraid of people and I had quit smoking. I had begun to see what I could give, rather than focusing on what I could get.

That weekend in New York was the best weekend of my life. I have never felt more a part of than I did for those four days. Atlanta's conference had been fun, but I had been anxious and only focused on myself. In New York, I had a purpose as part of the committee. I was able to be of service to those around me. I felt useful and had readjusted my focus to the comfort of others. Instead of always wanting to be somewhere else with someone else, I was happy being of service to those around me. I saw how being involved with the Chicago Bid for ICYPAA had changed me.

This year, I have another position on Chicago's committee and I am looking forward to the 53rd ICYPAA in San Francisco. I am constantly reminded of how important ICYPAA has been in my sobriety. When I first moved to Chicago, it was crucial for me to see that sobriety didn't have to be punishing— that my life wasn't ending, but rather beginning. The events put on by Chicago's bid committee were the first examples I saw of young people having fun in recovery. I am incredibly grateful that the Chicago Bid for ICYPAA has afforded me the opportunity to be of service and to give back to other young alcoholics.