



WPRA Young Professionals Network Conference Call Minutes Monday, March 27, 2017

Roll Call:

- By Region- Name and organization/ school

WPRA YPN Overview:

- To serve as a networking and resource forum for emerging leaders and distinguished professionals within WPRA.
- To connect members to programs, initiatives, and individuals making an impact on their community via the NRPA YPN.

Guest Speaker and Topic Discussion:

- Guest Speaker: Brian Bevacqua- Recreation Manager at the Quechee Club in Quechee, VT
 - Prior to getting into municipal recreation Brian went to school for Adventure Education
 - Quechee, VT has found that adventure programming has drawn in a lot of teens, which is a tough group to program for.
 - Hurdles to starting an adventure program:
 - Insurance and the liability of offering this type of program.
 - Cost, equipment and gear is not cheap. Not worth it until you get your program off the ground.
 - Research is key:
 - Research what opportunities there are in your area.
 - Look into grants available for self-reliance or leadership type programs., there are funds available.
 - Partnerships:
 - Reach out to Adventure Outfitters in your area. Those outfitters will have the equipment and instructional staff. Set up a meeting to discuss what you are interested in. With partnerships, their insurance will cover the liability and you will be able to use their gear and instructors. Your organizations roll will be advertising and running the program through your community.
 - Once the program grows and becomes popular you can look into purchasing gear for your organization to have available to rent out to community members.
 - Understanding how these programs grow:
 - Adventure programming will start off slowly
 - Start with an introductory summer, offer intro classes. Your target market might not have a lot of people with experience in the activity but they might be interested in trying it.
 - As the program grows don't stay stagnate, keep adding more to grow the program.

- Benefit is that adventure programming has the potential to start small but grow much larger than you may have even intended. These programs also have the ability to make money.
- Biggest challenges you faced in Quechee?
 - Two biggest push backs were that it cost too much money, and the organization would be held liable, didn't want to take that risk.
- Brian can be reached by email if you have any questions. Feel free to reach out to him if you're interested in starting a program or get an existing one off the ground.
- Brian Bevacqua: brian.bevacqua@quecheeclub.com

Round Table Discussion:

- Professional Resources- What do you use to stay connected to current trends and topics both locally and nationally?
 - Webinars on the NRPA website
 - read articles in the monthly Rec magazine
 - use NRPA connect to post questions or look at questions other posted and see if they relate
 - look at other departments social media accounts to see what they are doing and get ideas

Ask the Network:

- None

NRPA Connect:

- American Academy for Park & Recreation Administration Conference Scholarship
 - Now accepting applications. This is an externship, it's different than the NRPA scholarship
 - <http://aapra.org/academy-externships>
 - need letter from your director
- NPRA is offering a scholarship for the Directors School

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- Twitter: @WPRA_YPN