

Alcohol and Drug Awareness Program of Weston Minutes from May 14, 2008 Board meeting

Attendance: Woody Bliss, Susan Earle, Debbie Eldon, Lisa Foster, Barry Goldberg, Ginger Jespersen, Jackie Kupper, Celeste McGeehan, Karen Sitney

President's Report: Celeste McGeehan

The next Board meeting will be Wednesday, June 11th at 7 P.M. for a BBQ at the home of Celeste McGeehan, 45 Cavalry Road, Weston. Board members can invite a guest and can bring either a salad/side dish or dessert.

The "ADAP Forum for Parents" was a huge success and Celeste thanked all of the YLC members who participated. She also thanked Mike Foster, the Weston Booster Club President for co-sponsoring the event. She also thanked John McGeehan, YLC Director for moderating the panel. There was a wonderful article in the Weston Forum by Patricia Gay and Channel 12 interviewed Ryan Seymour.

Celeste also thanked Olga Kunevsky for another successful Mountain Laurel Dance. She also thanked Debbi Eldon, Karen Sitney and Ginger Jespersen for all their help. Despite a fire alarm and the need to evacuate, the teens had a great time. The photo booth was a wonderful addition. The Contracts accessible on the ADAP website was very well received and should be repeated.

The Westport-Weston United Way Agency Application requesting \$22,500.00 is complete. The money will fund the YLC program for the 2008-2009 school year.

The Voluntary Action Center of Mid-Fairfield sponsored the Volunteer Recognition Award, presented on May 8th. The recipients from Weston included Celeste McGeehan, Danielle Tolkin, Emma Lander, Ryan Seymour (all from ADAP), Patti Masarek, Jordan Masarek and Ashley Cordisco (all from Domestic Violence)

This year's ADAP Scholarship Award will be given to the three YLC reps, Emma Lander, Ryan Seymour and Danielle Tolkin. A motion was made by Debbi Eldon and seconded by Ginger Jespersen to increase the amount of the scholarship "pot" so that each of the three can receive \$250.00. Motion passed. The checks and the engraved plaque will be presented at the June 3rd assembly. The plaque will be hung in Town Hall.

Secretaries' Report: Karen Sitney

A motion was made by Karen Sitney and seconded by Susan Earle to approve the minutes of the April meeting. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Debra Eldon

A detailed Treasurer's report was submitted by Debra and reviewed by the Board. The cash balance as of the end of April is \$18,274.31. We received a

check from the United Way for \$2,500.00 this month. We also took in \$10,660 in tickets and donations from the Mountain Laurel Dance. We spent \$2,297.65 on YLC this month. We also spent \$376 on the newsletter, \$70 on advertising and \$3,961.95 on Mountain Laurel Dance. Debbi mentioned that we may want to consider tightening expenses for the dances next year. Food could be cut back, particularly the adult finger food. There was some discussion about reducing the price of the ticket and having the food and drink donated.

The budget for next year will be prepared for the June meeting.

YLC Report: Susan Earle

Susan reiterated Celeste's praise for the YLC members' participation in the "ADAP Forum for Parents". The kids did a great job and took it very seriously. They can continue to improve the Forum and want to do it again next year.

The "Dirt" program is scheduled for WHS for May 20th. This is a one-man show in which actor/comedian John Morello portrays several different characters to spotlight several different topics (most drug and alcohol related) to provoke discussion. "Dirt" program will be supplemented by activities in each classroom run by YLC members. "Think ADAP" T-shirts and balloons with messages will also be part of the "Dirt" day. There will be two "Dirt" performances, one at 9:00 am and one at 12:30pm. Fatal vision goggles which simulate alcohol impairment will be available to test out on May 20th as well. The 8th graders who are part of YLC who want to attend "Dirt" and participate in the day's events will need signed permission slips to do so.

The last YLC meeting of the year is Monday, June 9th.

There is an appeal for three high school groups for next year. The two groups this year were larger than past years and it was discussed that the size may adversely affect communication and camaraderie. YLC does not want to turn away interested and committed participants so three groups may be a necessity, particularly since the program has gained popularity. John McGeehan is looking for another moderator to work with a third group. The cost for a third WHS group would be \$7,500.00. It was discussed that a "user fee" might be effective in getting more money for the program. It was also suggested that a letter go out to the parents of YLC kids bringing attention to the fixed costs in running such a program. Fifteen WMS YLC kids are coming up to WHS next year and eighteen seniors are graduating. A balance of grades and gender is key to the program's success and effectiveness.

Mt. Laurel: Olga Kunevsky

The contract for future dances should include a number where parents can be reached during the dance should the need arise to contact them. St. Francis of

Assisi church was a great venue for the dance. The DJ was good but next time no fog machine. Next year it was suggested that ADAP check the school calendar, including spring dances, spirit week, Company productions and school vacations prior to setting the date for the Mountain Laurel Dance.

Other Business

Ginger Jespersen mentioned that there was an ad in the Weston Forum about a \$1,500.00 grant available through the Weston Education Foundation that might apply to the works of ADAP. Ginger was going to give Celeste the ad for follow-up.

There was a Kids In Crisis Forum about suicide at New Canaan High School. Many area towns attended. It provided the participants with information about suicide, trends, symptoms, warning signs as well as resources available for troubled kids, kids referring kids, parents and educators as well as grief counseling referrals. They want the towns to know that resources are available. Weston has its own Kids in Crisis counselor housed in WHS. She is a very valuable resource for high schoolers. Her name is Bonnie Rumilly. The town pays her salary. Her position is in the budget for next year. Connecticut is starting a Suicide prevention Chapter. It was suggested that the Kids in Crisis hotline phone number be added to the red ADAP wallet cards.

New Board: Celeste McGeehan

A motion was made by Karen Sitney and seconded by Jackie Kupper to accept the following slate of officers:

President: TBD

Treasurer: Debbi Eldon

Grant Writing & Fund Raising: Karen Sitney & Barry Goldberg

Secretary: Lisa Foster

YLC: Celeste McGeehan

Website Design: Susan Earle

Newsletter: TBD

Publicity: Linda Nash

Evergreen & Mountain Laurel Dances: Olga Kunevsky

WHS Coordinator and WHS PTO Representative: Susan Seath

WMS Coordinator: Eric Tyson

Helping Hands: Jackie Kupper and Ginger Jespersen

Weston Police: Detective Carl Filsinger

Additions to the Advisory Board: Barbara Levi Berliner

The motion carried. There was discussion about the absence of a President and a newsletter editor. New blood is needed. All Board members are encouraged to promote the ADAP Board to others, particularly parents of YLC members. An article for the Forum about soliciting members for the Board is being written.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Foster and Karen Sitney, Secretaries