

# YELL! Newsletter

Fall 2015 Volume 3, Issue 3

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## Youth Conference Update

The Youth Conference took place in conjunction with the National Convention on July 23 and 24 at the Cedar Rapids Marriott in Cedar Rapids, IA. The Youth Conference hosted twenty-four young members ages 12-19, representing six Districts and eight states. For two days, the Youth Conference attendees gathered to share their experiences, participated in community service projects, learned about their heritage through dance and started a discussion about the future of Western.



The Conference started with attendees bringing in the state and national flags before the Convention delegation. They went to do icebreakers and broke up into groups to share their thoughts on the future of the lodges and YELL! groups. Everyone shared their ideas with each other to create

suggestions to share with the delegates at the National Convention on Friday morning.

The group had lunch and went to the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library to help with the service project. After helping to stuff envelopes, Diane Bradley of Lodge 225, worked with the Czech dancers from Lodge



225 to teach the others how to do traditional Czech and Slovak dances. The young members learned the dance to show it off at the Friday night banquet. Then members headed back to the hotel to reunite with family and friends.



The Youth Conference reconvened on Friday morning. The volunteer speakers practiced their speeches and headed into the

ballroom to speak. The young members were able to share their thoughts on the future of the Association with members of the delegation. The delegates were impressed with the young speakers and the ideas they shared.

When the speeches were finished, the young members helped unload supplies for the fraternal service project. When the project started, the attendees helped organize the distribution of t-shirts, hair nets, and aprons to participants. The young members also took part in the event by scooping grains and powders, then sealing and boxing meals.

Youth attendees, as well as delegates, were really pleased with the Youth Conference. Already there is talk of next time and the next program.

**Read about the Young Members Advisory Council on page two** to learn about the newest feature to come from the Youth Conference.



To see pictures and read more in-depth about the Youth Conference, check out the September Special Convention Edition of the *Fraternal Herald*.



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## Fraternal Department Under Construction!

In August, the Fraternal Department experienced a change in staffing. Kitty Chadima resigned from her position as Lodge Director. She is looking forward to not commuting, and being able to take care of her mother. She thanks everyone for their kindness over the years. We wish her the best of luck.

With this change, as well as a new Publication Coordinator, the Fraternal Department will have some adjustments in the next few months. Our hope is to make things more streamlined and more efficient while being able to better serve our members. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns, 1.877.935.2467. Thank you in advance for your patience.  
- The Fraternal Department (Linda, Kelsey, and Darcy)

## Halloween Bags Available

If you'd like a Halloween bag please send or email your request by October 15 - one bag per child. If your YELL! group is giving them for a project, please send \$.20 per bag (limit 50 per YELL! group).

Email us at [wflains@wflains.org](mailto:wflains@wflains.org) or call the Fraternal Department at 1.877.935.2467 to order your bag. You can also find an order form in the latest *Fraternal Herald*.

## Quick Reminders

**-T-shirts:** Has your YELL! group outgrown their YELL! t-shirts? Send me an email with the sizes you need and the address and I will send you new shirts at no cost to you!

**- Send in your projects:** Be sure to send in your lodge articles or YELL! articles about all the great activities your group has done so far this year. This will help you with proof for the lodge awards in January.

**-Send in YELL! changes:** Do you have new members or a new Youth Liaison for the YELL! group? Please email me the new members or new liaison's contact information.

Contact me: Kelsey Logan

[klogan@wflains.org](mailto:klogan@wflains.org) or toll free: 1-877-935-2467

## Young Member Advisory Council

During the Youth Conference, the attendees were excited to keep up the momentum from the event. Several ideas were discussed about how to connect with the younger members after the Convention ended. We decided to create a Young Member Advisory Council that will allow young members to share ideas with each other, as well as to the Board of Directors.

The Young Members Advisory Council is a program designed to increase young member involvement within Western Fraternal Life. This program allows young members to be on a council where they can share ideas with each other, get involved as leaders on a local and state level, and have input on member programs for the board to consider.

If you are interested in learning more about the Young Member Advisory Council, contact Kelsey Logan. You or the Youth Liaison I have on file, should have received a letter regarding this information. If you did not receive a letter, please let me know as soon as possible. We will hold a teleconference in late September about the purpose and mission of the Council to be presented at the Board of Directors meeting in November.

*The mission of the Young Member Advisory Council is to give the next generation of Western Fraternal Life leaders a place to grow, learn, and share.*

## Tentative Requirements for being on the Young Members Advisory Council

- Western Fraternal Life Member
- Age 13-25
- Be able to participate in teleconference calls
- Be involved in the lodge or YELL! group (dependent on location and ability)
- Willing to attend State or District Meetings as a representative

