



August 2017

What major activities have occurred since the last meeting of this Committee?

Once again, the State Advisory council took on the responsibilities of finalizing the NYLC Summer Leadership conference at their final council meeting in May. The activities, speakers, and menu was established for the day and a half conference set at the Holiday Inn in Kearney, NE. This year's conference was focused on how to live your life with dignity and respect. Members also focused presentations and activities around leadership goals, learning from NYLC Alumni members, and the opportunities that present themselves as a member of NYLC. Members presented on their representation of NYLC at the national youth trip, Close Up, where they shared their experiences in Washington D.C.. Members also learned how to present information on NYLC, and disabilities to their peers at school. Central members Kathryn and Kaitlyn will be presenting to York High School students this fall! Members and parents had the honor of meeting and listening to motivational speaker, David J. Flood. David inspires and encourages youth to live their lives with dignity and respect and to spread that message to others on a daily basis. David did a great job interacting with the NYLC members and relating his message to their actual daily life in school or work!



A little about David from his website: www.davidjflood.com

“David’s narrative as a youth speaker comes first hand; he grew up impacted by addiction in his family; he married and became a father of two children, his oldest is a special needs son; he is active in his church; he is a hospice volunteer who visits with terminally ill patients; and is on the board of K.I.D.S. Plus, Inc. a non-profit organization which helps special needs children through sports and other activities. David attends meetings and participates in activities with The Anti-Bias Consortium for Nassau County Schools. He is a member of The Northport-East Northport Drug and Alcohol Task Force.

David’s life teaches him every day about dignity, understanding, patience, forgiveness, and most of all unconditional love. As a youth motivational speaker David has spoken in 15 states and Canada to over 150,000 students, inspiring them to look at people and things in a different way. He speaks with passion and conviction and through his humility, leaves his audience with so much to think about in their formative years as they move into their future.”

NYLC also participated in 2 summer programs, funded by a Nebraska VR grant. State Advisory member, Samantha, led and mentored a group of students during the “It’s All About the Plan!” summer program in Lincoln. Sam was able to discuss self-advocacy, leadership, transition and discuss the importance of getting involved in important causes, like NYLC. NYLC was also represented at the HETRA (Heartland Equine Therapeutic Riding Academy) summer program in Gretna, NE. HETRA is a therapeutic program for children, young adults, and adults with disabilities. This is their first year offering a summer program and they are looking to expand their services for youth with disabilities. For more information on HETRA visit: <http://hetra.org/>

What major Committee activities/meetings are planned for the near future?

August brings a fresh year of regional committee meetings. Each council will meet twice this fall and participate in Self-Advocacy workshops, Transition conferences, and local events. Recruitment for the council and a focus on building leadership skills has been expressed as a focus for meetings. NYLC has gained new members in the Central, East, and Northeast and West councils. Each new member has unique ideas and experiences that will enhance the Nebraska Youth Leadership as a whole. The future is bright for this group! NYLC is growing!

For additional information about upcoming NYLC activities, please contact Elizabeth Paesl, elizabeth.paesl@nebraska.gov or 402-670-1437 (text available).