



THE ★ BLUE RIDGE ★ JOURNAL

49TH YMCA CONFERENCE ON NATIONAL AFFAIRS

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PLANS FOR CONA 50TH FEATURE ALUMNI OUTREACH

MOLLY BRENNAN, WI, AND COLBIE COOK, IN ★
STAFF WRITERS

As the 2016 conference comes to a close, CONA alumni and staff are busy making plans for an anniversary. The July 2017 conference will be the 50th Conference on National Affairs and the focus now is on alumni outreach.

Suzanne Mabie, a CONA staff member and chairman of the anniversary planning, said alumni will arrive Thursday, the final day of the 2017 conference, and stay until Saturday. The alums will attend part of Plenary and the Closing Fire ceremony. Other preliminary plans include tournaments and tours for families of alumni, meetings regarding donating to the conference and networking among alumni. Other plans may include an alumni bonfire and meals.

Mabie said CONA administrators would like to focus on communication prior to the conference. Five years ago, the conference celebrated an anniversary with alumni, but lack of outreach limited the celebration's potential. "We had a couple of meetings and had dinner," Mabie said. "It was about 30 people, so we really didn't get it out enough, we're going to start doing that as soon as the conference is over." Outreach will include social media communication and surveys to determine which activities alumni would like to see.

As the 50th anniversary approaches, CONA staff look both at the future and at the past. "50 is a big milestone number," said Mabie.

To learn more, go to <http://ymcacona.org/50-2/>



49TH CONFERENCE ★ SEEKING ALUMNI FROM FIRST 48 CONFERENCES FOR 2017 REUNION.

PHOTO BY JOHN WARNER

LEAVE THE MOUNTAIN WITH CONFIDENCE AND PRIDE

MICHELLE CHUNG, MA ★ MANAGING EDITOR

As I sat on a Eureka Hall rocking chair, feeling the light breeze against my skin, hearing the birds and quiet chatter of other delegates around me, and gazing into the comforting Blue Ridge Mountains, a series of emotions washed over me. Joy. Inspiration. Nostalgia. Comfort. The most important: pride.

Pride for my delegation - for welcoming me and accepting who I was (including my flaws). For listening to each other's struggles and successes in a loving way, even when it wasn't during a roundtable. For being my support system and family that I could go to no matter what.



MEDIA TEAM ★ CONA FRIENDSHIPS LAST FOREVER.

PHOTO BY NANCY DENNIS, AL

Pride for those around me, regardless of where they came from - for having the courage to put their opinions and values out into the open (in a devotional or a speech) and be accepting of their unique self. For making the effort to say hello to a complete stranger and connect with those from other delegations. For being present, for working their plan, and for proving to the world that age does not define intelligence or one's capabilities.

EDITORIAL

Pride for myself - a feeling I never truly experienced until my time at CONA. After a week of long days and busy nights, I felt fulfilled as though I actually made an impact. I felt proud of myself, and I felt valued.

Every delegate at this conference, where the best of the best come together to discuss the most pressing issues of our nation, should take pride in their desire to make a change. You have shown an interest in the state of this country some adults fail to have, and you have taken proactive measures to change the world. You have been caring, honest, respectful and responsible. You have shown that you want to better the world we live in - and after this conference, undeniably, you should be proud of yourselves.★

CAMPUS YMCA CONGRESS IS HEAVEN FOR CONA FANATICS

PETER BROTHERS, KY ★ STAFF WRITER

As we approach the end of our time on the mountain, the graduates here are forced to face the end of our Y careers. This is the source of distress for us, but it doesn't have to be that way; Campus YMCA Congress is gaining traction all over the country, and they're easy to get into.

In order to become a part of the Campus YMCA Congress, commonly known as college Youth in Government, individuals must contact Derek Summerville of Florida, who is the adviser for the program. Once involved (in either media, judicial, Congress, or Cabinet), delegates attend a four-day event held in Washington, D.C., which is more autonomous than high school conferences. There is a Capitol Hill meeting

space, and all actions are organized much more through the decisions of the students.

Don't worry if your college of choice doesn't have a campus chapter; the program is only five years old, so representing your school by yourself is common and there aren't many schools with a large program, anyway. Having this kind of opportunity in college is a lifesaver for those of us who have invested so much of ourselves in the Y, and serves as a continuation of the program into our adult years. These Y chapters are an adaptation of the familiar message of empowerment and hopefulness that fits the needs of college students, including year-round interaction with students through service and professional development. ★

BLUE RIDGE WORD SEARCH

P	R	W	H	G	F	T	F	E	K	V	E	Z	A	L
W	R	X	Q	A	S	R	V	X	J	L	K	N	M	Q
E	B	O	T	Z	I	W	N	X	B	E	O	A	E	K
S	T	W	P	E	T	W	M	A	C	C	S	J	R	S
J	D	A	N	O	V	L	T	N	X	K	Q	O	I	N
Y	U	D	B	W	S	A	R	A	I	N	P	B	C	O
S	S	L	X	E	B	A	T	I	R	I	P	S	A	W
T	V	E	Y	E	D	Z	L	V	X	V	S	S	G	W
Q	C	I	D	I	V	I	S	I	O	N	W	M	Q	J
S	H	Y	B	Y	P	W	P	N	G	V	L	I	N	L
Q	O	A	R	L	A	I	D	E	M	A	N	O	C	M

WORD BANK:

- AMERICA
- DEBATE
- JULY
- SNOW
- CONA
- DIVISON
- PROPOSAL
- SPIRIT
- DEBATABLE
- FRIENDS
- RAIN
- YIELD
- MEDIA

PRESIDING OFFICER OF THE DAY: HARRISON SATCHER



1. He was born in Alabama but grew up in Florida.
2. His favorite musical is Hamilton.
3. His favorite color is blue.
4. He can touch his nose with his tongue.

5. In high school, he played lacrosse. Now, he plays ultimate frisbee and fences.

6. The most beautiful place he's ever seen is the Continental Divide in Colorado. He definitely recommends seeing it. ★

PO PORTRAITS BY NMEMKA AGBAFE, NC

FEATURED PRESIDING OFFICER: LUKE DAVIS



1. He attends Oklahoma State and is triple majoring in economics, finance and management science information systems.

2. He writes, plays music and is a worship leader back home.

3. He is a proud owner of a 35-pound Maine coon cat.

4. He wants to give more than he wants to get this week.

5. His favorite drink from Starbucks is a Mocha Frappuccino (He prefers local coffee though).

6. A delegate for three years, he loves and appreciates the beauty of the mountain. ★

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