

# **THE ROLE OF THE AYA AT-LARGE DELEGATE AND THE AYA ASSEMBLY**

## **1. What is an AYA Delegate?**

An AYA Delegate is an alumnus of Yale who is selected to represent a regional Yale club, Yale College class, or graduate or professional school alumni association constituency to the AYA Assembly. There are also At-Large Delegates to the Assembly who represent alumni organized outside those three constituencies. Constituencies have varying numbers of delegates as provided by the AYA Constitution. Delegates serve a three-year term that typically begins on July 1 and ends June 30 three years later.

## **2. What are the responsibilities of an At-Large Delegate?**

Delegates come to New Haven in the fall to attend the Assembly, which is the annual gathering of alumni leaders in New Haven that generally occurs on the final home football game weekend in November. They are charged with bringing thoughts, concerns and questions they may have, as well as those of other alumni they may know, to the Assembly and raising those thoughts at the appropriate sessions. On the Thursday of Assembly weekend, delegates attend informational and educational sessions organized around a theme examining some aspect of Yale life. Friday is focused on leadership development, and generally features small group breakouts and hands-on sessions where other volunteers share their own experiences as Yale leaders. Saturday the AYA hosts a special tailgate event preceding the football game.

Delegates are expected to communicate back to other alumni what they have learned, both about the University in general and in terms of specific ideas and strategies that can help in their work with alumni groups. Shortly after the Assembly, an Executive Summary is provided by the AYA, along with some sample reports to assist the delegate in disseminating Assembly information.

At-Large Delegates are encouraged to submit their own report of the Assembly to the alumni groups with whom they work, and to AYA for inclusion on the AYA delegate reporting Web site. In the event that an At-Large Delegate cannot attend the Assembly for some reason, an alternate delegate can be appointed.

## **3. Who should be an At-Large Delegate?**

While any alumnus or alumna who would like to share their perspective and skills with the Assembly is welcome to consider At-Large delegate service, we are particularly interested in alumni who are involved as volunteers with alumni groups organized around shared interests. At-Large Delegates are ideally alumni who offer additional views to the Assembly beyond the views of a "typical" class, club, or graduate and professional school alumni association delegate. As a representative alumni group, the Assembly is optimally a diverse group of individuals in terms of age, gender, race, occupation, and geographic location.

## **4. Who can be an At-Large Delegate?**

Alumni of Yale College and the graduate and professional schools are eligible. Once an alumnus has served a full three-year term as a delegate of any type, he or she is not eligible to be appointed as a delegate until three more years have passed. If a delegate is filling out someone else's term or for some other reason has not served a full three-year term, he or she is eligible for re-nomination to a consecutive term.

### **5. Does it cost anything to be an AYA Delegate?**

Delegates are responsible for getting themselves to New Haven and for the cost of their hotel accommodations. Meals are provided as part of the Assembly. There is no charge for attending the Assembly, though the AYA does ask for a voluntary contribution from those delegates who are able to assist in offsetting some of the costs of the Assembly. The AYA does have a small budget available to assist those for whom the expenses of attending the Assembly would be a barrier to their involvement. The policy allows delegates to submit receipts and we can cover 50% of travel and accommodation expenses, up to \$300. Contributions and un-reimbursed travel expenses may qualify for a federal tax deduction.

### **6. Where can I get more information about At-Large Delegates or the Assembly?**

For questions about At-Large delegate service contact:

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For general questions regarding the Assembly contact:

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You can also learn more about Assemblies in general as well as read executive summaries of past Assemblies at <http://www.aya.yale.edu/assembly>.