

FAMILY REUNION INSTITUTE'S

STICKY REUNION SITUATION

WHO WILL LEAD OUR FUTURE REUNIONS

July 2022

The Situation:

We'd love to see our family reunion continue well into the future. Our problem is not being able to get the younger family members interested in the planning. They like coming to the reunion, but when it comes to helping or taking any kind of lead with the planning, they're nowhere to be found. What can we do to turn this around?

The following has been compiled from Dr. Vargus' book [Black Family Reunions, Finding the Rest of Me](#)

The Fix:



Dr. Ione Vargus

This is a question of major importance, one that I've heard from many families. Here are examples of what families have done:

-The Bullock Family formed a junior group that planned the entire Saturday evening program. This early attention to youth paid off as they eventually took charge of planning the reunion.

-The Dow Family established a junior branch. They eventually assumed responsibility for planning the reunion and used hi-tech resources in their efforts.

-The Ritter Family, which is organized by regional association, has written in provisions for junior leadership in its bylaws.

Whatever activities the family has at the reunion, think of how to have the younger generations participate in the planning and/or implementation. Ensure that there is a committee of children and one of youth to develop and/or run activities for their age group. Young adults and youth should be given responsibility for planning and/or executing an event for the entire family during the reunion. Young adults should be included on the planning committee, (include at least two of them so that they don't feel overwhelmed or outnumbered by the older committee members).

In the process of organizing and implementing, young people learn new skills including leadership. They realize the complexities of family life and reunion planning. If you involve the younger generations in a strategic way, and are prepared to be open and to implement their suggestions, the future will look bright for your family reunions.
