

Autonomy Zonal Forum
July 30,2011

Opened 11:15 a.m.

Regional reports

Central Atlantic Region:

The Central Atlantic Region is growing again and in transition. We have had a shortage of trusted servants for almost a year now; however we have recently filled most of our trusted servant's position at the region and have a new executive body. Our region has rotated for many years but recently voted to centralize the region .In doing so we have felt the pain of expense and availability of hotel space for our 2 day events. However, we have still met the need so far. The regional sub-committees will continue on the 4 quadrant rotation as we revisited this and the vote was in favor of continuing the way it was. We have 2 new areas in our region. The Virginia Beach area broke off from the tidewater area due to the size of the area and inability to finish area business in one meeting. They are having dialogue in the structuring their area as a model of the new service system project. It is there hopes to see how the new system actually works. They also plan to use CBDM. It will be interesting to see how it actually works for them. The other new area was born from our coop in Cumberland Maryland. It is called the Greater Freedom Area and has grown and stabilized to the point that it has elected to become its own area. The region finally passed the motion to purchase insurance after over a year on the floor and will be implementing the new policy in place shortly. This month the Brana area hosted it annual campout seeing a great turnout as usual and the Almost Heaven Area is preparing for is annual convention August 5-7 in Front Royal, Virginia.

In Loving Service

Chesapeake & Potomac Region:

Our area C&P region has 11 areas; 3 in Washington DC, 5 in Maryland, and 3 in Northern Virginia with 470 weekly meetings. We carry 346 H&I meetings in 71 facilities. Attended the Florida symposium in Tampa, Florida on March 23 through 26th, 2011. Session overview: Group Trusted Servants; role and responsibility, Internet technology sessions, professional internet panel discussions, mandated treatment, service system round

table. The next step, our PR handbook, and mock presentations, the new inventory, environmental scans, where we live, Worldwide Fellowship, Fellowship Development Presentation, NA history presentation, Building Strong Homegroups, Advocacy with Anonymity, Faces and Voices of Recovery, Consensus Based Decision Making, Feel the Love, INC-Incorporating Your Area Service Committees, Becoming a more effective RCM, Becoming a more effective facilitator (chairperson), Town Hall meeting, Anonymity.com-internet & anonymity, NAWS Town Hall Meeting. We hosted Unity weekend and Unity weekend cookout on July 23rd and 24th, hosted by East of the River of Washington DC. Public information and Phonenumber training from 1:00-4:00 pm also on July 23, 2011 hosted by Rock Creek of DC. Living Clean the Journey Continues Approval draft was held in Frederick, MD in June 2011. The next Living Clean approval draft meeting will be held on September 3, 2011 from 11:30-4:30 pm @ Wesley United Methodist Church, 5312 Conn. Ave NW, Washington DC 20015. Retreat hosted by Tri-County of Southern MD. Unity Retreat A River of Hope V released from our chains Lions Camp Merrick, Nanjemoy Md on September 16-18, 2011. 63 motions by the groups to changes to be removed from policy. Elections were held June 11, for Regions: positions still opened are as follows: Vice Secretary, Treasurer, Vice Treasurer, CPRC INC BOD At-Large-Rep 2, Literature Chair, Literature Vice Chair, Policy Vice Chair, Public Informations Chair, Special Events Vice Chair, FRSO Rep 1, FRSO Rep 2. In loving Service, Leon P RDA

Eastern PA Region:

Eastern PA Region consists of 4 areas within our region, and continue to function smoothly. However, we have many open positions. We have continued with our current phonenumber service, with operators answering calls; they answer questions, provide information about meetings, and direct calls to addicts to speak with an addict in need. We have insurance which covers all events and meetings. We post our meetings, minutes, and events on our website; www.eparna.org, and a clean time calculator.

Freestate Region:

The Freestate Region of Narcotics Anonymous comprises all of Baltimore, all of Eastern and Northern Maryland, all of Delaware and the northernmost tip of Virginia's eastern shore. Our Region consists of 10 unified Areas containing well over 800 meetings.

1. Baltimore Area- An Area of meetings of Baltimore City
2. Bay Area- An Area comprised of meetings in the south of Baltimore
3. Delmarva Area- An Area comprised of meetings in the center of Delmarva Peninsula
4. East of the Bay Area- An Area comprised of meetings on the eastern shore of Maryland
5. Northeast Freedom Area- An Area comprised of meetings in Baltimore City and on the east and northeast side of Baltimore
6. Northwest Area- An Area consisting of groups northwest of Baltimore
7. Ocean Gateway Area- An Area comprised of meetings in the southern Delmarva Peninsula
8. Small Wonder Area- An Area comprised of meetings in northern Delaware
9. Susquehanna Area- An Area comprised of meetings in the northeastern part of Maryland
10. Westside Area- An Area comprised of meetings to the west of Baltimore

Our next Regional Service Committee Meeting is August 13, 2011, hosted by Northwest Area. At that RSC elections will be held for Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Alternate Secretary, Treasurer, Vice Treasurer, Policy Chair and Subcommittee Chairs. The RD and RDA positions are not up for election until August 2012.

On Saturday, August 20, 2011, The Freestate Region will be having a Regional Assembly hosted by East of the Bay Area. The Assembly will be dedicated to Phase II of the Service System Project and gathering input for the project. The Assembly time will be from 11am - 4 pm, and there will be a Hotline Learning Hour prior to the Assembly from 10 am-11 am.

The Freestate Regional Service Center has announced due to a 5% increase from the World Service Office as of July 1, 2011 and therefore the Service Center will be implementing a 5% increase on literature. The following item will stay the same price: Basic Text, Gift Edition Books, Miracles Happen, and IPs #24 Money Matters; Self Support in NA and #28 Funding NA Services.

The Freestate hotline is a toll-free number (1-800-317-3222) that is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week answered by live persons who are all volunteers.

At our June Regional, the Convention Corporation reported an \$81.15 loss on the November 2010 Freestate Convention. The Freestate Region created an ad-hoc committee to look into the policy, guidelines and practices of The Freestate Convention Corporation. A report from the ad-hoc committee will be forthcoming upon the completion of their investigation.

In loving service,

Walt B. RD Freestate Region

nawalt94@gmail.com

443-759-8056 (home and fax)

443-769-8239 (cell)

Greater Philadelphia Region:

Greetings,

Since our last forum I have been elected as the new RD and I would like to introduce Zoe H. as the new RDA for the Greater Philadelphia Region.

We currently have eleven Areas in our Region, host 365 meetings a week, and approximately 94 H&I panels each week. In addition we are in need of trusted servants in our Region as well as in our Areas however we are providing our needed services.

Project Payoff a work group for paying off our literature debt is moving strongly with great effort. We had held a dance which was well attended. We held this fundraiser in the Delco Area to continue to promote unity within our region. We are doing a flapjack fundraiser at Applebee's for our next endeavor on August 14th. This is bringing a buzz in our region due to the out of the box thinking on this event.

We now have a new phonline system and it has saved us about \$500 a month. There are few minor wrinkles however it is running smoothly.

We are currently planning future workshops on the 2010-2012 IDTs, CBDM, and leadership so that we can move forward as a region.

Yours in Service,

Paula B. RD

Zoe H. RDA

Mountaineer Region:

Greetings from the Mountaineer Region of NA; and welcome to our beautiful state; we grateful to be able to host the summer Autonomy Zonal Forum.

Here in the Mountaineer Region we support 9 areas with about 140 meetings around the state and we are continuing to grow at a good pace. Though our meeting numbers are staying about the same, the attendance is generally increasing. We feel that some of this growth is attributed to our PR efforts.

We host 15 to 20 H&I meeting and have an active regional PR committee who does numerous presentations to professional organizations, that affect Addicts state wide. The region has one billboard that moves around at the discretion of the billboard company, this is done as a public service by the company; the region just purchased the printed fabric billboard cover. We are considering purchasing more billboards.

Our helpline is functioning well; we have recently changed the answering service to send every call directly to a recovery addict's cell phone. Phoneline members are on a 4 hour rolling weekly schedule. It appears to be working great.

The Mountaineer Region has two conventions each year. This year's annual fall convention will be October 28-30th at Cedar Lakes in Ripley West Virginia. Saturday evening begins with a "costume" speaker meeting and is followed by a costume dance. The Region hosts a Mountaineer Regional Service Form at every convention to present and discuss service related issues. Please visit our regional website at "mrscna.org" for more information.

Thank you for the opportunity to present some of our experience on Consensus Based Decision Making; our region has been using this format for over 8 years.

Greatfully serving,
David H., RD
Rob O., RD Alt.
Mountaineer Region

Discussion:

Regarding the Service System Project:

What input is going on in each of the regions?

- At first it was thought that there would be another layer of service, or that the groups would be removed. It was discovered that we needed to address the proposals in increments, to avoid confusion/misinformation.
- It has been presented at each area floor during area service meetings.
- Apathy has been noted at many areas in more than one region.
- Attitude of “what is going to happen to my homegroup?”
- Some of the discussion about the service system project was diverted by conversation about the US Fellowship formation talks.
- Some groups resist change including changing terminology from ASR to RCM.
- There is a sense of distrust within the fellowship.
- Much information which is provided at the Regional level to be taken back to areas and groups is not being communicated
- No regions are making alternative suggestions or coming up with other ideas
- The RDs may be presenting the information with a bias, rather than simply disseminating the information without an opinion.

Consensus Decision Making Workshop

(See power point handout)

Definition

- Consensus is a process by which a common mind of the meeting is sought about the wisest way forward on a particular issue at the time

Description

- A cooperative process for making decisions in which everyone consents to the decisions of the group
- A problem-solving orientation for people who wish to work together

Process Outline

- Chairperson is critical to this process; needs to be able to hear what is being said and mold it into something that can be written down and understood
- The participants need to have the trust of who they are representing to do this and make decisions.
- It will not work if the trusted servant has to go back to get a conscience on items processed in the CBDM manner

- Ideally; Concerns and reservations will be identified and addressed through the consensus decision-making process
- When the call for consensus on a proposal is made, you should ASSENT if you support the proposal, all things considered
- Assent is signified by remaining silent

Levels of Dissent

- Assent with Reservations
- Stand Aside
- Block
- CDM requires practicing spiritual principles
- RR vs CBDM

Mock Panel

Questions/ Discussion

- What order are the colored cards called on?
- What is appropriate time for questions during the process?
- Do you typically keep the process openly in sight during a discussion
- Does this process get easier as participants “learn the ropes?” Or does it frequently become emotion-filled?
- Do discussions typically get as bogged down the way this mock one did?
- What comes first, discussion or proposal?
- Once the proposal is put out on the floor, it belongs to the body
- Once a proposal is made, ask if anyone opposes it. If no one opposes, then it is agreed upon
- Bottom line; can everyone agree with this proposal. It is the responsibility of the chair person to allow a discussion to go on until everyone has had their say (if they need it)
- No limit to pros and cons
- Sometimes a discussion needs to be tabled, make action points, or a take a majority vote

US Fellowship

- This is currently an outside issue, and it is not something that some regions are entertaining

WSC Round Table Request

- Going about this in a backward chain; ass backwards
- Wait to see who is on board attitude
- A second conference will be held in Tulsa, Oklahoma in October

- The US Fellowship sent a representative to a workshop in one region. They stated that there is insufficient group representation at the World level
- Not everyone was contacted regarding the formation of this group
- Which group/ groups are being represented in the letters that are being circulated?
- Who would facilitate this round table meeting?
- If we were to agree to this sort of structure, it would be important to go about it using spiritual principles
- Let it go to the conference floor, and discuss it on the conference floor; this can bring about a unified decision, rather than a fragmented choice

Agenda for January 28, 2012 hosted by Chesapeake & Potomac Region

- Introductions
- Read Traditions and Concepts
- Regional Reports
- Discussion:
- CAR / CAT discussion
- US Fellowship and regional thoughts
- Set agenda for next Zonal

Upcoming schedule for Autonomy Zonal Forum:

Chesapeake and Potomac Region: Jan 28, 2012

Eastern PA Region: July 28, 2012

Free State Region: January 26, 2013

Greater Philadelphia Region: July 27, 2013*****WCNA that summer***

Central Atlantic Region: January 25, 2014

Mountaineer Region: July 26.2014

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