

Autonomy Zone - Zonal Forum January 20, 2001

Open – The meeting began at 1:30 PM with the “Service Prayer”. It was decided that Nancy S. would Chair the meeting and Anne H. would act as Secretary. The proposed agenda was changed.

Roll Call – Greater Philadelphia (GPRSC), Free State (FSRSC), Chesapeake & Potomac (CPRSC), and Region of Virginians (RVRSC) were in initial attendance. Mountaineer (MRSC) came in later.

Review 7/00 Minutes – The July, 2000 minutes were approved with one change: FSRSC does not send all their convention profits to NAWS.

Group Discussion – The following topics were discussed in length:
Public Information

There is a need for a publication on "do's and don'ts" guidelines for web pages. It was asked if "free email" was violation of our traditions. A suggestion was made that we can by our own domain names for \$35/yr and \$10/month for hosting. By owning our own domains and emails, we will not be promoting outside organizations.

There was discussion regarding "800" helpline number problems. RVRSC has three "800" helpline numbers, which use the same service and this gets confusing. NAWS has a lawsuit against an organization which has put their "800" in the phonebooks under "Narcotics Anonymous".

It was noted that most Regions/Areas have separate Phoneline and PI committees with the exception of GPRSC and the Peninsula Area (RVRSC). Lastly, there are no Regional PSA's on television.

Service Offices

At our July meeting, there had been discussion regarding the Regions combining their Service Offices. No action has been taken since that time.

The Service Offices buy and distribute literature in bulk. They and are funded by the discount they receive from NAWS. The decrease in discount is affecting the Service Offices.

GPRSC has had resignations and a crisis regarding their Service Office. It was suggested they elect former member with experience.

FSRSC stated they have a BOD that runs their Service Office. CPRSC has 2 representative on their BOD.

Regional Conventions

There was much discussion regarding RVRSC's convention corporation, VRCC. VRCC is not donating the convention proceeds and has not given financial accounting in several years. They have decided they are "autonomous" and do not need to take direction from their Region or NA as a whole. It is noted they have said they "have nothing to do with NA".

It was decided a letter would be written to NAWS to ask for assistance. The letter will ask NAWS when they attend MARLCNA (February 9 - 11, 2001) to address this issue. This letter was circulated and was signed by interested members (MRSC's RD did not wish to sign letter). It was noted there would be four NAWS BOD members at MARLCNA to answer questions.

FSRSC Convention Corporation signs contracts for insurance, vendors, etc. If an individual signs a contract, that individual is liable.

MRSC was recently incorporated. They became concerned about the amount of money that was being handled and tax implications. They also felt they needed to become in compliance with federal guidelines of groups handling over \$20,000.00.

Guide to Local Service. Who has implemented it and how?

FSRSC has adopted portions of the Guide to Local Service (GLS). They stated the GLS is a "guide only". They have adopted parts of the GLS that work for them. To make a change, a motion for that change is voted on by the Areas. It is best to start with small changes, then gain momentum. Use what's applicable and leave the rest. FSRSC has a Regional Assembly (RA) four times a year, and rotates location throughout the Region to give Area members a chance to attend a local RA. Approximately 50 GSR's attend the RA. At the RA, they go over the CAR, vote in their RD & RDA, discuss the Sponsorship Survey, and go over Regional concerns. Their "RSR's" are now "RD's".

GPRSC has held two workshops on GLS to discuss and adopt. 50 to 70 GSR's attended out of 580 meetings. It was stated mostly suburban Areas attended, limited rural participation. It was suggested they rotate the RA's by Area in alphabetical order.

It was noted TWGGS has changes made to it every year, the GLS has more. There was a suggestion that motions should be made to amend the GLS.

According to the GLS, Regional Subcommittee Chairs are eliminated and addicts take on "projects". A Regional Committed Member (RCM) can step up to fill in. The GLS has more responsibilities for the RCM. Subcommittees COULD be eliminated, but not necessarily (take what works for the Region, leave the rest...).

Next Zonal Forum - Saturday, July 28th, 10 AM. Hosted by Mountaineer Region.

Topics of Discussion:

- 1) Convention Update (RD Barbara to update)
- 2) Guide to Local Service
- 3) Supporting Autonomy Zone (Purpose)
- 4) 12 Concepts (Implementation)
- 5) H&I

Close – 5:00 PM “Serenity Prayer”