

Autonomy Zonal Forum (AZF)
January 29, 2005
*Hosted by Greater Philadelphia Region,
GPRSO, Philadelphia, PA*

OPEN – The meeting began at 12:30 PM with a Moment of Silence and the Serenity Prayer. The Twelve Concepts were read.

CHAIR – Darryl L. (GPRNA) presided over the AZF.

SECRETARY – Anne H. (CPRNA) volunteered to act as Secretary. She stated she would be willing to act as Secretary for the next six years.

ROLL CALL – All Regions were in attendance.

Chesapeake & Potomac (CPRNA): Jimi S., Reesheemah W., and Anne H.
Eastern Pennsylvania (EPRNA): Todd S., Tim R., Henry D, Dick R., Tom F.
Free State (FSRNA): Valerie P.
Greater Philadelphia (GPRNA): Darryl L. and Jerry J.
Mountaineer (MRNA): Rick S.
Region of the Virginians (ROVNA): Sherry V.

ARCHIVISTS – Both Sherry V. and Anne H. volunteered to be the AZF Archivists. They would keep electronic records of the minutes. Hard copies of the minutes would also be kept at the GPRSO and the FSRSC. Sherry V. has prior minutes and will make them available to Anne H. Anne H. agreed to receive \$1.00 form each hosting Region to mail the minutes to the GPRSO and FSRSC.

MEETING FORMAT – It was decided we will set the agendas for the upcoming AZF's at the current AZF.

JULY AZF MINUTES – Sherry V. read the minutes from the July 2004 AZF. Topics included: Regional Challenges, Archiving, Information on CAR/Zonal Workshops, Inmate Correspondence, Insurance, and Southern Texas Webpage.

ZONAL WEBPAGE – Having a Zonal webpage was discussed. The webpage would include links to each Region in our Zone and would contain AZF minutes. Anne H. and Sherry V. agreed to get an AZF webpage up and running by the July 2005 AZF.

CAR WORKSHOP – Next CAR will come out 11/23/05. Next WSC is 04/23 – 04/29/06. Discussed a CAR workshop and inviting NAWS participation. Discussed having a workshop at 01/06 AZF vs. Zonal CAR Workshop. Some felt getting together prior to MARLCNA would better prepare RD's for MARLCNA. Rick S. stated the purpose of the AZF was to share ES&H on issues of common concern to members of our Regions.

We decided not to have a Zonal CAR Workshop, but a Region could host a CAR Workshop and invite members of the AZF to attend.

We decided to make the primary topic of the 01/06 AZF be the 2006 CAR.

We decided that the Regions should mail the AZF Secretary their CAR workshop flyers/schedules.

REGIONAL CHALLENGES – Each Region was given the opportunity to discuss their challenges:

CPRNA: Had some Helpline issues, but committee is up and running well now. They are going to begin hosting Regional Assemblies (RA) and wanted feedback from members of the AZF. Jimi S. submitted a written report that was distributed to the members of the AZF.

Feedback:

GPRNA – Hosted Regional Assemblies on Service Structure.

ROVNA – Put agenda on flyers, had food. Hosts RSC and RA on the same day. Has RA from 10AM – 12PM, serves lunch, the RSC from 1PM – 4 or 5PM. Discusses topics in breakaway groups.

FSRNA – Hosts RA 4 times a year. Sets agenda at current RA. Uses World Bulletin for topics. Has breakaway groups, assigns Secretary and Facilitator at each table. Also has a GSR Assembly prior to RSC. Gives new GSR's guidance and GSR Handbook.

General – Nashville, TN World Wide Workshop will be held May 2005 and will be helpful in setting up the RA's.

EPRNA: Submitted report:

Our Region is still going through growing pains. We have position openings for RD, RD Alt., Regional Co-Chair, Unity Chair, and Policy Chair. Our Regional meeting list is in draft form and will be submitted for comments and approval. Phoneline and website are up and running and seem to be running well; the Areas are not complaining. The PI Subcommittee is well attended by Areas, the H&I position has been filled by Tom F. and he contacted the four Areas and they promise support at the Regional level.

As of December 2004, we are meeting bi-monthly. Our next meeting will be February 6, 2005 @ 2PM with subcommittees at 1PM.

We are still working on insurance issues.

Feedback:

GPRNA – Has a blanket insurance policy for all groups. \$8,438/yr. Groups donate \$50/yr (optional). Some members have tried to take advantage of the insurance.

ROVNA – Their Convention insurance is too high.

FSRNA: Small Wonders Area joined their Region. Has had misuse of funds and as a result, have incorporated accountability statements. The thief has agreed to pay back the money. Website issue: Trusted Servant vs. Special Worker. Special Worker is paid \$100 bi-monthly/\$15 per hour/cap of 30 hours. Special Worker states code is web-driven vs. regular HTML and is not compatible in different languages, making it difficult to transfer. Valerie P. submitted a GSR Service Guide (Draft Proposal) to AFT members.

Feedback:

CPRNA – Will send FSRNA their policy on webpages.

GPRNA: Is in the process of finding a new RSO facility and better insurance. Right now is paying \$8,438/yr. They are having trouble finding trusted servants. There has been misappropriation of funds at the Convention. Ad Hoc committee was formed regarding wasted funds. RSC performed and inventory of Subcommittee Chairs. They removed the Chair and Co-Chair of the Convention Committee and replaced them.

MRNA: Has 75 meetings and 8 Areas. Travel to RSC is a problem. RSC meets every three months in Ripley, WV which can be a 3-hour drive for some Trusted Servants. They put on two conventions a year ("True Colors"). They do not have Regional Assemblies but have utilized two of the discussion topics to help improve service participation in the Region (positive aspects of Service). They run their Regionals by consensus and their Regionals last two days. Subcommittees meet on Saturday and RSC is held on Sunday. Their Helpline answering service is run on pagers. Sometimes wrong Areas are called. They have had misappropriation of Convention funds.

ROVNA: Insurance and inmate correspondence discussion wanted from AZF. Has a moving Regional Speaker's Jam (Area to Area). Want to change their RSC from meeting 4 times a year to 6 (every two months). Are thinking about having the October and April Regionals as two-day event fellowship gatherings. Funding for Regional meeting list was denied. They disbanded their Regional subcommittees and now do service work on an as-needed basis utilizing Ad-Hoc committees. Policy committee came back and they will continue to create permanent/non-Ad Hoc committees as needed. Changed RSC location to Hotel (\$300/rm) in conjunction with a request for support from that Area. Webpage updates are not being done (Almost Heaven Area has their own page). Meeting list changes are emailed. Wants to update meetings via www.na.org database.

Feedback:

CPRNA – Regarding the insurance, the groups should ask the facility if they have riders already in place that the group would fall under for insurance.

A MOTION WAS MADE TO EXTEND THE MEETING.

INMATE CORRESPONDENCE

FSRNA – Valerie stated there was no participation. If interested, contact Tom C. at 443-786-2420. There is an Ad Hoc Chair – GUTS (Guide in Using the Steps). Inmates send letters to a PO Box and committee answers them. They will work with any facility that wants to use them.

GPRNA – They utilize an “Anonymous Email” format. Paula B. is the Regional H&I Chair. She can be reached at 215-281-3410 / ptmcnair@yahoo.com.

MRNA – H&I Chair answers letters.

INSURANCE

EPRNA – They did not incorporate due to insurance. Don't think groups are in need of this.

GPRNA – They insure their groups. Has a blanket insurance policy for all groups. \$8,438/yr. Groups donate \$50/yr (optional). Some members have tried to take advantage of the insurance.

FSRNA – Has 3-days of insurance for their Regional convention. Their service center is incorporated.

ROVNA – Convention is incorporated. They insure their convention.

MRNA – Insurance handles money over \$20K-\$25K.

CPRNA – Their convention is incorporated as a non-profit.

AGENDA FOR 07/05 AZF

The next AZF will be hosted by the Region of the Virginians on **July 30, 2005** from 12 noon – 4 PM.

Topics will include:

Our Public Image

Infrastructure

World Wide Workshop Feedback

Regional Challenges.