

Autonomy Zonal Forum (AZF)

July 30, 2005

*Hosted by Region of Virginians,
Martinsburg, WV*

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

CHAIR – Sherry V. (ROVNA) presided over the AZF.

SECRETARY – Anne H. (CPRNA) was Secretary.

ROLL CALL – All Regions were in attendance.

Chesapeake & Potomac (CPRNA): Jimi S., Reesheemah W., and Anne H.

Eastern Pennsylvania (EPRNA): Henry D, Merle H., Tom F.

Free State (FSRNA): Valerie P.

Greater Philadelphia (GPRNA): Darryl L., Jerry J., and Wayne.

Mountaineer (MRNA): Rick S.

Region of the Virginians (ROVNA): Nancy S., Sherry V., Greg H.

Others: Amanda (PA Area), Burrell, Donna, and Don.

JANUARY AZF MINUTES – Valerie P. read the minutes from the January 2005 AZF. There were some discrepancies. They were:

- 1) GPRNA was referring to their Regional convention when they were talking about the misappropriation of funds.
- 2) MRNA does not remember saying “Insurance handles money over @20K-\$25K.
- 3) “Regional Challenges” should be called “Regional Reports”.

It was also noted the AZF Minutes need to be sent to NAWS.

ZONAL WEBPAGE – The AZF webpage was created by Anne H. She distributed copies of the pages for review. Suggested changes were made.

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

CPRNA: Has been hosting Regional Assemblies. Held Convention in Ocean City, MD. Is hosting workshops for first four chapters of the Public Relations Handbook.

EPRNA: Submitted report:

We would like to introduce ourselves: Henry D. (RD) and Merle H. (RDA), just voted in June 2005.

The only commitments needed to be filled is RSC Co-Chair. All four Areas are still growing. We have been approached by several members of a Little Apple Area (Mid Atlantic Region) group that borders our Region geographically. No news yet on the presentation at one home group where we did a presentation of “WHO” we are.

We have a new Regional meeting list and it's available online. Our website is fully functional and now represented on www.naws.org.

Our RSC H&I supports 180 commitments monthly throughout our four Areas.

Two challenges we have are small discussions in the groups that have not been a major issue on RSC floor: Group Insurance & Representation of CAR Voting.

All else is well in EPARNA.
Love in Fellowship, Henry & Merle

Note: Since EPARNA is a new Region, it will take six years before they can talk at the WSC, eight years to vote at the WSC and ten years before they can be on the floor of the WSC.

EPARNA subcommittees meet the first Sunday of every month and the RSC meets the first Sunday of every other month.

FSRNA: Rhonda, their RDA, has been nominated for a position on the World Board. They are hosting Public Relations Handbook Workshops. Their Regional convention is 11/25 – 11/27 and they have brought registration forms. They have contracted a Special Worker who maintains their Regional website. Their position rotation is in August.

GPRNA: They recently held elections. 11 out of 17 positions have been filled. Public Information has put PSA's in buses and trains. TV and radio PSA's coming shortly. They took a Regional Inventory and have brought copies. Are going to have a list of acronyms as an educational tool for members. Their Regional Service Center will be staying in the same location.

MRNA: RSC meetings are conducted by consensus. No voting/no motions in discussions. Problems are discussed. No major issues have been resolved by consensus. RSC meets every three months and lasts two days. On Saturday, ASR's come to discuss the issues and Subcommittees meet. New Business is on Sunday. H&I does not have enough volunteers. Phonenumber beeper system is not working.

ROVNA: Their Region needs a simpler meeting schedule. They followed the Guide to Local Services (GLS) had and stopped having subcommittees but ended up reinstating their H&I Subcommittee. They have rotating Speaker Jams. Their areas of concern include budget travel for RD's and H&I's budget. They have 2-day Regionals that are held every other month. Older members are coming back to service. They have GSR Assemblies. GSR Assembly outcome: Funnel for funds without Subcommittees.

OPEN DISCUSSION

MARLCNA

Sherry reviewed MARLCNA workshops. She discussed Public Image/Infrastructure, Qualities in Leadership, and pointed out there are bulletin boards at www.na.org. What's not working: Phonelines; information is not being distributed.

Nancy discussed the H&I workshop at MARLCNA and our public image. She discussed her Home Group's policy on how to keep the meeting in order. They have Home Group members sitting around the room with signs that say "Meeting going on" that are held up when members are being disruptive during the meeting. She also mentioned the VRCC convention is 1/13 – 1/14 in Richmond, VA.

Tom gave his viewpoint on the H&I workshop at MARLCNA as well. He stated the meeting started late, that it was more of an Area H&I workshop, not a Regional H&I workshop.

Anne discussed the Internal/External Images we as a Fellowship project. She stated her Regional workshops followed the breakout format NAWS utilized both at MARLCNA and WWW. NAWS has the format on the www.na.org website.

Rick noted that Craig, Muk, Mike, & Travis were the NAWs Reps at MARLCNA. He brought up the topic of "Strengthening our Home Groups". We can all do this by showing up consistently, sharing the message, and leading by good example.

Henry discussed "Infrastructure" and how too we deal with disruptive behavior at meetings: One-on-one approach, call facility security, call police, keep us out of the public eye.

World Wide Workshop (WWW)

Anne noted that although the topics and format were repetitious to that of MARLCNA, the enthusiasm that radiated throughout the workshops during WWW was fantastic.

Sherry noted NAWs gave us basic information throughout the WWW such we can save money by subscribing to e-subscriptions to NAWs News and the NA Way. Noted the publications were in five different languages and that the President of Malaysia recognized NA. Public Relations efforts can ask NAWs for literature. NAWs has statistics of Fellowship growth since the Basic Text was publicized. There was a convention in India where 9,000 addicts showed up with 11 days' notice with no flyers. Literature sales are still the primary source of NA income. The World Pool Information Form is on www.na.org. There is also a link for the IP's on www.na.org. Some Regions at the workshop had a rep from each Area participate and rented a van to cut travel costs.

Darryl enjoyed the enthusiasm of the WWW and felt recharged. He noted that the round-table discussion kept rotating the members. He commented on mismanaged funds. He said the groups come to the Region if they can't afford their rent.

Cigarette Butts

The issue of cigarette butts and keeping our public image at the Group level was discussed.

Greg suggested a "Home Group Clean-Up Day". Home Groups should take ownership of space inside and outside of facility. This promotes a good rapport with facility.

Merle stated they have two volunteers to pick up butts.

WEBPAGE

The proposed AZF webpage was reviewed and suggestions were made. The minutes will not be password protected, but the contact list will be protected. Change the hosting date for Mountaineer Region to July 2008; Region of Virginias to January 2008.

WSC Report

Sherry will submit a report to the WSC regarding the Autonomy Zone before April 2006,

AGENDA FOR 01/06 AZF

The next AZF will be hosted by the Chesapeake & Potomac Region **January 28, 2006** from 12 noon – 4 PM.

Topics will include:
CAR 2006
Regional Reports