

Autonomy Zonal Forum (AZF)
January 28, 2006
Hosted by Chesapeake & Potomac Region
Frederick, MD

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

CHAIR – Jimi S. (CPRNA) presided over the AZF.

SECRETARY – Anne H. (CPRNA) was Secretary.

ROLL CALL – All Regions were in attendance.

Chesapeake & Potomac (CPRNA): Jimi S., Reesheemah W., Anne H., Allen J., Carey F.

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

Free State (FSRNA): Rhonda R., Valerie P., Mike B., Karen H., Austin C.

Greater Philadelphia (GPRNA): Darryl L., Jerry J., Shahyid B,

Mountaineer (MRNA): Rick S.

Region of the Virginians (ROVNA): Sherry V., Greg H., Eddie W.

JULY 2005 MINUTES – The July 2005 minutes were amended as follows:

- 1) Page 2, The “Note” EPRNA regarding seating needs to be removed. They are eligible to be seated in 2010.
- 2) MRNA Report, page 2, second line. Change “No major issues” to “Most major issues”.

Note: Secretary has amended the July minutes and has posted the amended version on the AZF website.

REGIONAL REPORTS

CPRNA: Submitted Report.

Things are going well in the C&P Region. We are having our Annual Regional Convention this coming April 7-9, 2006. For the first time ever, three of our Areas are working together to make up the Host Committee- Battlefield, Dulles Corridor, and NorVaNA—CPRCNA XX “The Ties that Bind Us”. They are facing challenges as any Convention Committee does, but seem to be handling them as well as can be expected. We are all hoping for a Successful event where the message is carried to a huge number of addicts (~5,000), despite the CPRC Inc. Board of Directors President’s discontent with the inefficiency of last year’s Host committee to pass on information, (including financial reporting) to this year’s Host Committee.

Jimi, Anne, and I have been hosting Workshops to review the PR Handbook material from NAWS. So far, we have reviewed the entire booklet except for the last 2 chapters which we will do next Thursday. Attendance has been poor and we could use suggestions on how to get more people interested in the future and getting them to actually show up and participate.

The 3 of us will all be attending MARLCNA in February and look forward to seeing all of you there as well. We are planning Regional CAR/CAT workshops to help the addicts in our Region understand the material, so the groups are better informed when they vote on the material.

Jimi has recently received the appropriate information from the LAZF (Latin American Zonal Forum), the EDM (European Delegates Meeting), and the APF (Asia Pacific Zonal Forum) so we can give them our yearly donation of \$1,500 per zone.

Our Regional phonline committee has signed a contract with a new provider which will save the region money, as well as, make it possible for an addict to directly answer the phonline when a call comes in. We are all hoping the new system delivers everything that we are expecting and that the transition goes smoothly. The RDs as well as other Regional trusted servants (Regional Treasurer, Secretary, Policy Chair, Regional Chair and a few others) were present on 1/14/06 to review our current budget. We are having issues because the budget is usually grossly higher than what we actually spend and what we actually have to spend. But this year, if everything in the budget was spent at 100% we might not have the funds to cover the expenditures. So, we decided to ask an RCM to make a motion to change the Priority List in our Policy- because it is

outdated and our Regional Treasurer will inform everyone to try and spend their budgets wisely because of this issue.

A few other interesting things going on in our Region are: an Area asked the Region for \$10,000 to help fund pre-convention expenses (ie. Hotel, other deposits)- the groups overwhelmingly denied their motion. Our Annual Regional Picnic was held in October 2005 at Pohick Bay Regional Park- the event was a success! RCMs voted to make PDF versions, without trusted servant names & contact info, of our Regional Minutes available on the website, although I don't believe they have been posted yet. RCMs voted to nominate Jimi S. at this year's WSC as a Co-facilitator for the next Conference cycle.

In Loving Service,
Reesheemah P. (RDA C&P Region)

EPRNA: Submitted report. Their Region will be up for WSC seating in 2010.
All is well in the Region.

We held elections in December 2005, and there has been new turnaround. There are still several open positions at this time.

Insurance is still an issue. No decision has been made to purchase insurance at this time.

We approached and gave a presentation to the Little Apple Area regarding information about our region, and they sent an ad hoc committee to our October regional meeting to ask further questions. They are considering joining our region.

Our upcoming events include attending MARLCNA in February and going to the World Service Conference in April. We plan on holding our first Regional Assembly on May 20.

In loving service,
Henry D. & Merle H.

FSRNA: Valerie stated she will email report. No report received as of this date.

GPRNA: No report submitted.

Submitted Regional minutes to the body. Their Region will host the WCNA in 2013. Their Region is in financial straights. Groups are keeping money that could pay for insurance: \$50 per group. Service office relocating. Is putting PSA's on busses.

MRNA: No report submitted.

Has 8 Areas. Is in West Virginia and Eastern Panhandle. RCM meets every three months. PR Handbook workshop at their "True Colors" convention. RSC meetings are conducted by consensus. They're starts at noon on Saturday at Ripley and goes through Sunday. Still call Area Reps ASRs. Area reports state problem/issue/concern – not motions. Regional is held at Cedar Lakes. There is no charge for Regional meetings. It costs participants \$12/night in dorm.

ROVNA: Submitted report.

We have an average of 13 areas in attendance and our Region has meetings in Virginia, West Virginia, Western Maryland and the Outer Banks, NC. We meet six times per year.

Sorry for the short report but I just found out last night that our RD would not be attending due to a medical emergency. Our Region has been busy with starting up Regional Subcommittees again. We feel that we can better carry the message with having accountable committees. We have an H&I, Literature Review, Speaker Jam, PI, Activities, and Outreach. We are in the process updating our Policy to reflect these changes and having the respective committees write a statement of purpose.

We did a Regional Speaker Jam in the Goochland Department of Correction in December.

All the delegates have been funded for today and MARLCNA and the World Conference.

A motion to get our treasurer a debt/credit card in hopes of taking advantage of airline tickets and to reserve rooms but this did not pass so at this time our treasurer is still at times using their own credit card in order to purchase these things.

We are working on getting our world database and our Region phone line function more efficiently.

We have broken our Region up in Quadrants to better serve the Region. The Regional Conference is moving around and we have most of our CAR workshop dates in the four Quadrants.

Upcoming events:

Feb 18, Our 119th Regional Service Conference in Newport News, VA

Mar 4, Quadrant 3 will be in Danville, VA. Hosted by Southside Area

Mar 11 Quadrant 2 will be in Winchester, VA hosted by Shevana Area

Mar 18 will be a Regional Speaker Jam in Charlottesville, for the Piedmont Area

March 24-26 will be the 6th Tidewater Area Convention in Portsmouth, VA

May 26-27 a home group speaker jam will be in Roanoke, VA

Aug 4-6 the 20th AHA convention. They are asking if you have any photos from past AHA conventions please forward a copy or email. A flier will be on the Region web page shortly.

We are planning on the 15 and 16th to have the region conference and GSR assembly.

AZF REPORT

Sherry V. submitted AZF report for the WSC. We will deal with who will give AZF report at the WSC. Will post report on AZF website and link AZF from CPRNA webpage.

The Autonomy Zone is comprised of six Narcotics Anonymous Regions. These Regions are located in the Eastern portion of the United States of America. The Regions in the Autonomy Zone are Chesapeake & Potomac (Maryland, Northern Virginia, and Washington DC), Eastern Pennsylvania (Pennsylvania), Free State (Maryland, Delaware, & Virginia), Greater Philadelphia (Pennsylvania & New Jersey), Mountaineer (West Virginia, Virginia, and Region of the Virginians (Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, & North Carolina). We meet twice a year on a rotating basis. We last met on January 28, 2006 in Frederick, Maryland.

The Eastern Pennsylvania Region is continuing to function as a Region, carrying our message of recovery and is an asset to our Zonal Forum. Our continued welcome to the Eastern Pennsylvania Region and we support them in their efforts of recognition as a Region in Narcotics Anonymous.

During the past two years we decided to have some points of accountability pertaining to the archiving of our minutes. In the past we relied on several persons to just have and maintain copies. We now have a secretary responsible for the minutes and the archives. We are continuing to have the delegates from the hosting region to facilitate the meeting thus eliminating the need for officers.

A common area of concern is the growing need for insurance for groups and other meeting facilities. One of our Regions does carry insurance that covers the groups but it is very costly.

We established a web page for the Autonomy Zone with our minutes integrated in it. Webpage address:
<http://www.cprna.org/azf/>

Details of our meetings and the individual reports from each Region can be viewed via our new website. Our next Autonomy Zonal Forum meeting will be July 29, 2006 hosted by the Eastern Pennsylvania Region. All are welcome to attend and participate.

OPEN DISCUSSION

AZF Webpage: GPRNA has PA and NJ meetings. MRNA does not have OH or KY. These changes need to be reflected on the AZF webpage.

NEXT AZF: Eastern PA will host the next AZF in the last week of July. Any member is welcome to attend and participate.

WSC: We will decide who will give the AZF Report at the WSC. We will post the AZF Report on the website and have a link to the AZF page on the C&P webpage. We do not know what room we will have at the WSC.

CAR Motions: We discussed the CAR motions.

Motion 1: To direct the World Board to develop a project plan, timeline, and budget for WSC 2008, to create/develop a glossary of recovery terms typically used in Narcotics Anonymous

Cons: Recovery terms, not service terminology. Not translatable into other languages. Members should ask what a term means when they don't know. Meanings of words evolve. Uniformity vs. diversity. "Addictionary".

Motion 2: To direct the World Board to create a project plan for the development of a fellowship-approved Identity Statement to be presented at WSC 2008.

Pros: Message is blurred. Statement would teach people what our language is. Identity Statements are needed at conventions, not at home groups. NAWA approved statement (Bulletin #13). Some groups use harsh statements, need loving and caring message instead. Right now, groups are left to their own devices. We need a good impression of NA.

Cons: The only requirement is membership... Not dictate what we say. It is a violation of Tradition 3. More complicated issue for a single statement. Would need a separate statement for different situations: conventions vs. groups. Confusion: no "anda" group. Some places a clarity statement is not needed. It is dictating to the newcomer. It can keep people away. Identification is important. Wouldn't make a difference, each person makes a decision, each group is autonomous.

Motion 3: To change the time frame for approval form recovery literature from the current minimum of 150 days to a minimum of one year.

Cons: They're already given time for input, so they don't need more time for approval. The review and input stage is more important than the approval stage. Translation is done by addicts. Ad hoc committees translate prior to submitting it to the Fellowship. "Worldwide" Fellowship.

Pros: Problem with Board's recommendation. What is appropriate for one community?

AGENDA FOR 07/06 AZF

The next AZF will be hosted by the Eastern Pennsylvania Region **July 29, 2006** from 12 noon – 5 PM.

Topics will include:

Regional Reports

New Information Discussion Topics (IDT's)

Results of WSC