

Autonomy Zonal Forum
July 25, 2009
Hosted by EPARNA
Chairperson: Merle H.

Regions Present: Philly, Free State, C&P, Tri State Region, CAR,

Meeting began at 11:15
Introductions
Traditions and Concepts read

Agenda (as set from January, 2009 Zonal Forum):

Regional Reports
MARLCNA discussion
Extend invitation to World Board members
Florida Symposium sharing
Phoneline discussion; number of calls per month/systems used/ cost
Living Clean, The Journey Continues

Regional Reports:

The Central Atlantic Region:

Hello family,
The Central Atlantic Region currently has 15 Area's, 2 co-ops, 396 home groups, 552 weekly meetings.

The following positions are open: Policy, RDA-2, Outreach chair. We currently have the following ad-hoc subcommittees: Regional Inventory, In times of Illness, Computer purchase, and Convention Bid. The regional inventory has gathered information from area's within the region and is prepared to have the region's inventory taken on the second day of our two day region in October. The In times of Illness ad-hoc subcommittee was formed because we have not had a literature review chair for the longest time and now literature is being handled on a project driven basis. The In times of Illness committee hosted workshops in each of our four quadrants to gather input throughout the region, this information was then forwarded onto World. We had a computer purchase ad-hoc subcommittee because our region needs a new computer. The subcommittee was charged with finding a laptop computer for under \$500, and with this they were successful. Since the last Zonal Forum meeting the liability insurance ad-hoc subcommittee has been dissolved due to its purpose being fulfilled. The liability insurance ad-hoc subcommittee was able to gather different prices for insurance for meetings and presented this information to region. A motion was passed to have our regional convention to be hosted by our region. This may sound weird but our region (since after the 4th convention) has had a convention

corporation to oversee the convention and individual areas would put in bid's to host the convention. As a result the region formed an ad-hoc committee to investigate the process and execution of the bid to be submitted by the region to host the 30th AVCNA.

We recently changed our policy to have pro's and con's given before a nomination is to be taken back to area's. Our policy used to have pro's and con's given after the nomination was taken to area's and just prior to voting. There was a motion passed at the last region in support of our Public Relations request to have an information brochure giving contact information about CARNA to be distributed during PR presentations. The Central Atlantic has had the following annual events throughout the region since the last zonal forum meeting: The 9th Tidewater Area Convention, the 4th Anniversary of The End of the Night, Feeling Our Way through II Speaker Jam, Shevana 6th Annual Speaker Jam, PACNA 19 campout, and 28th Annual BRANA campout. And upcoming starting August 2, 2009 will be the Almost Heaven Area XXIII Convention.

With love of the fellowship,

Central Atlantic delegate team
Greg H. RD, and Etta S. RDA

Chesapeake and Potomac Region:

The C&P Region has 11 areas, 3 in Wash, D.C., 5 in Md., and 3 in Northern Va. with 385 weekly meetings. We carry 418 weekly H&I meetings weekly into 70 facilities.

Our region is doing well. We had our regional convention in April and 5500+ addicts attended. One thing we did differently is instead of having regional committee workshops that nobody attends, we combined the subcommittee's workshops and named it Service, Why Me? It was well attended, so misdirection can work.

We have not had a functioning regional literature committee in quite some time. As a result, the RD, RD1, and RD2 hosted a literature workshop for review and input on Keeping It and Giving It Away, and developing input for The Living Clean project. We showed our Lit Chair and Vice-Chair how this can work and they are planning a review and input session for Living Clean this fall.

Our Phonenumber and Web servants seem to be doing well.

We continue to have Groups and Areas that investigate the 12 Concepts of Service, and sometimes adopt them without adopting any of the implied service structure, which suggests that C&P seems to like Group Conscious instead.

We have had the issue of “special interest meetings” at our convention resurface a couple of times in the C&P in the form of a motion to the groups. The groups have chosen to leave in place a policy prohibiting these types of meetings and to continue on in the spirit that we are more alike than different.

We had an ad-hoc committee planning to rewrite the C&P Region’s Convention Guidelines to make the BoD the “Host Committee”. The ad-hoc committee finally determined that a better result was to tighten financial controls within the BoD and retain the Area-host concept. We have our elections in August for all positions except RD, RD1, and RD2, which are 2 year terms.

ILS,
Leah H.
RD, C & P Region

EPARNA:

Our region is comprised of four areas, spread over eastern Pennsylvania, and a small portion of New Jersey. These areas include Bucks Area, Montco Area, Pure and Simple Area, and Twin Rivers Area. Bucks Area is planning a convention to be held February 26-28, 2010 at the Holiday Inn Northeast on Street Road in Ben Salem. Room rates are \$85 a night, and more information can be found on our website on the events calendar. They have held many fund raising activities to help raise money for this convention. Bucks is also the host of three picnics every year, Memorial Day, 4th of July, and Labor Day. These picnics are always well-attended, and a welcome sign of the season.

We have recently met with Greater Philadelphia Region and Midatlantic Region to begin planning for a multi-regional event which will be held sometime next year. We plan for this to be a one day event to celebrate a spirit of love and cooperation.

The Communications Committee was created by the Eastern PA Region in the Fall of 2008. The Committee was created from the merging of the then standing Meeting List Committee and moving the Phone Line and Web Servant technical duties from PI into a single unified committee. The Committee's purpose is to maintain and support an accurate meeting list and the services required to distribute the meeting list via the phone line, the web and printed meeting lists. The duty of the PI Committee to guide the NA related content for the eparna.org website still remains with PI. The Communications Committee will continue to serve the PI Committee to facilitate changes where information for addicts and the public is concerned.

The Communications Committee's main duty is simply to maintain the day to day technical functions of the phone line, web site and to facilitate the changes to the meeting list from the member NA groups to the eparna.org website, naws.org website and the Multi-Regional Meeting List. The Eastern PA Region and the Greater Phila. Region have come together to create and publish a Multi-Regional Meeting List.

Our new phone line has been up and running well, and we are about to discontinue the loop from the old phone line which redirects callers to the new number.

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone, thanking you for your wonderful support and for coming to our region for this Zonal Forum.

In loving service,
Merle H.
EPARNA RD

Free State Region:

Free State Region has over 800 meetings with 10 Areas
Our Regions is sending the RD and RDA to the World Wide Workshop in Boston on November 20-22, 2009.

Our region has submitted 2 regional motions for the CAR.

The Delegate team has and is doing Area and Regional Inventories.

Held the Regional Assemblies on Input & Review

We are currently in the process of redoing our Meeting Schedule format

We have a special worker that maintains our website, working with the World Service Office to coordinate info with them.

Phoneline: discussion about referring to treatment centers and recovery houses.

We will be holding Review and Input workshops at a Regional Assembly on August 15 in Wilmington, from 10-5, and on August 29 at the RSO in Baltimore from 10-4.

Walt R.
RDA
nawaltvette@aol.com
410-644-0258 (home) 301-606-1147 (cell)

Greater Philadelphia Region:

Currently we have eleven Areas in our Region. Over the last six months we have lost an area and gained an area. We host approximately 310 meetings a week and 94 H&I panels each week.

At our last convention, we held a Regional Assembly and the topic was Our Freedom, Our Responsibility, with emphasis on “where would you like to see our region in five years?”. This was an open forum for any and all members of our fellowship, with special emphasis for members of our region to attend. What was developed from this assembly were 9 goals and they were prioritized.

- Full service involvement at the RSC
- Orientation Day for newly elected Trusted Servants
- Communication
- ASsessment of current Regional Service Structure
- To have a consolidated policy
- To be fully self supporting through our own contributions
- Metro H&I system

There were two more that were considered to fall under the duties of our Regional Delegate;

- Multi-Regional events within PA
- Yearly workshops on Tradition/Concepts/Service

We also learned an invaluable lesson, in that we will not hold another Assembly at our convention. It was asked of us, “will addicts have to register to attend?” We had special badges for any addict that wanted to attend but did not want to register. Overall it was pretty well supported.

We are still in need of trusted servants from the groups to the region. In addition our donations are down and we are looking into ways that we can bring our donations up and why members are not donating or supporting their groups and region.

Our region is formulating a plan to pay our literature bill by 2013, hopefully before WSC 35. We have reached our limit for purchasing our literature without paying for it at the time of purchase. In the future, areas will have to pay for their orders when they place their order; the same practices that the RSO has to abide by.

This year’s convention will be our 25th and we hope to make it a memorable convention.

Earl W RD
Paula B. RDA

Mountaineer Region:

We now have 9 areas spread over most of West Virginia with about 150 meetings spread throughout this large geographic area. Our meetings are centered mostly around the larger population centers with many rural locations not served by NA at all.

We have two conventions each year, one in the spring and one in the fall. Our upcoming fall convention will be held October 30, 31, and November 1 at Cedar Lakes in Ripley, WV. Our conventions are small (300-400 people) and are more like spiritual retreats. These are really great events and I encourage all of you to come. I have a few flyers if anyone is interested.

The Region provides a region-wide phoneline and supports the Areas in providing Public Relations and H&I services. I think H&I Committees serve about 12 institutions throughout the state.

Our second Regional Service Forum (held at the spring 2009 Convention) went well, but seemed to be not as entertaining as our first one. We discussed use of the Area Planning Tool, our vision for the Region, and how to inspire and encourage participation in service. We are using a 90 minute time slot on Saturday between the dinner and the speaker meeting at our bi-annual conventions. We still do not have a real definite plan for developing this Forum and continue to hope that it will kind of develop on its own. Most importantly, we are putting something in place to allow sharing among the different NA communities, other than through the RSC.

In March 2009, the RSC held a special, two-day Regional Inventory session—all NA members in the Region were invited. The workshop-type event followed the APT format and developed lists of assets, liabilities, goals, and approaches for our various areas of service and for improving the Region's relationships with other service bodies.

We have a follow-up weekend planned for the end of August. At this two-day workshop, we plan to discuss developing and implementing specific approaches for reaching prioritized goals set at the earlier inventory weekend.

During the past year, we have expanded our PR activities to include more information booth presentations at professional conferences, regional jail release job fairs, and one presentation at a gay rights event that caused some controversy.

We also are moving ahead with our billboard project and will start with one experimental billboard in the Charleston metropolitan area.

We would like some discussion and input on the following topics:

Area autonomy

Area geographic boundaries

Region sharing property (e.g., PR display, recording equipment) with Areas and Groups

Rick W., RD

David H., RDA

Mountaineer Region

Discussions:

WEBSITE AND ARCHIVES: Presented by Mike - Eastern PA Region

Website has some minutes but not all

Contact List - If you want to continue to have the list then it needs to be updated on a regular basis

? About Autonomy Zonal Forum Rotations - keep rotations as is and remove alphabetical words.

What do you want to see on the website? CPRNA.org/CPF

MARLCNA DISCUSSIONS: No real discussion. Felt it was uneventful. World Wide Workshop in Oakland and MARLCNA were identical.

FLORIDA SYMPOSIUM SHARING: Suffolk Co., NC and FL web servants - see written sheet.

Sherry has the brochure for website infrastructure.

Workshop on financial IPS.

Consensus Based Decision Making

Revised Issue Discussion Topics

2 IPS - What is the basket for - no one liked graphics

Not enough time for review and input

Workshops were too close together

Conflict of timing

Motion in CAR to get rid of basket - FAILED

Next Florida Symposium - MARCH - year when there is no CAR

REGIONAL ASSEMBLY: Aug 15, 2009 - Wilmington 10-5

Aug 29, 2009 - Baltimore - 10-4 Warwick Ave

Regional Services Office

REGIONAL PLANNING TOOL/INVENTORY CONTROL: Discussion was carried out and determined that it has helped to improve communications in regions and areas by doing this inventory. Freestate suspends The Service Committee Meeting in order to conduct the Area Planning Tool. They condensed the original 6 point plan to a 4 point plan in order to condense it and do it in a 2 hour session. The Freestate Region has it as policy to conduct this once a year. Eastern PA Region has a special day set aside to conduct the Area Planning Tool.

PHONE LINE DISCUSSION:

Eastern PA Region: They use Answer Com - 27 operators - 400 calls, meeting list info - \$150.00

800 # - 12 cents a min (they own the 800 #) call patch service to proper person I.e., woman for woman suffering and a man for a man suffering 19 cents a min

Mountaineer Region: Answering Service who has the updated meeting schedule - pager system for 2 areas - pagers are shared - local # for Charleston area - unlimited calls processed by answering service - \$3600 per year.

FreeState Region: \$4100 per year for toll free line and message center - manned by NA volunteers who are given a regional approved hotline manual. Systems is working very well. Been in existence for 15 years.

LIVING CLEAN, THE JOURNEY CONTINUES

Chapters 1 & 2 - closing date 9/15/09.

FREESTATE REGION'S MOTION FOR 2010 CAR:

Discussion was carried out on the following motions.

1. No more than either up to 2 informational pamphlets or one booklet or one book-length piece will be in Review & Input process at the same time.
2. Review and Input periods will be at least 6 months for informational pamphlets and booklets and at least one year for book-length pieces.

AGENDA FOR JANUARY 30, 2010 AUTONOMY ZONAL FORUM
FREESTATE REGION, BALTIMORE, MD

Regional Reports

Worldwide Workshop Discussion (if time permits)

AZF Web Discussion

CAR & CAT Discussion

Extend Invitation to World Board Members

Upcoming schedule for Autonomy Zonal Forum:

Free State Region: January 30, 2010

Greater Philadelphia Region: July 31, 2010

Central Atlantic Region: January 29, 2011

Mountaineer Region: July 30, 2011

Chesapeake and Potomac Region: Jan 28, 2012

Eastern PA Region: July 28, 2012

(discuss GPRNA World Convention; how can we help)