

Autonomy Zonal Forum

January 30, 2010

Hosted by Free State Region

Meeting began at 11:10.

Traditions and Concepts were read. Introductions around the table.

Today's agenda

- Introductions
- Traditions and Concepts
- Regional Reports
- CAR/CAT: ask for World Board support and participation
- AZF Website discussion
- World Wide Workshop discussion (if time permits)

Regions present were C & P Region, ....., Eastern Penna Region, Greater Phila Region, Mountaineer Region, World Board Report

Regional Reports:

**Central Atlantic Region:**

Greetings from the Central Atlantic Region,

The Central Atlantic Region consists of 15 areas hosting 576 meetings in Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland and North Carolina.

We recently held our regional convention in Newport News, Virginia. The Peninsula Area did an excellent job in hosting this convention. The Region held our 2<sup>nd</sup> workshop there, providing attendees with updates on exciting events and accomplishments. Trusted servants also shared their personal experience in working in Regional service. Attendance for this workshop was increased from last year. We are preparing to submit a bid to host an upcoming convention.

Customarily, individual areas host the convention. It is felt that the region hosting the convention will increase unity and understanding among all of our areas as well as provide the opportunity for smaller areas to enjoy participation in the Host Committee experience.

The following positions are open on the regional floor: Policy Chair, H & I Chair and Outreach Chair. Per Regional Policy, the vice chair is currently performing the duties of those positions. We have opted to make the standing subcommittee for Literature Review project driven. There is a motion to do the same with our Outreach subcommittee as well. These motions are intended to make sure that even when positions are vacant, the region's needs will be met in a timely fashion with

everyone coming together to fill the void. In October, during our two day regional event, the Regional Inventory ad hoc committee hosted a workshop open to the region to perform the Area Planning Tool adapted to the Regional needs. The committee is currently in the process of setting up time frames to fulfill goals identified during that workshop. There is now an ad hoc committee for the Living Clean project. We are excited to get involved and support the process. Our Public Relations Subcommittee is still going strong, reaching out to the community to let them know Narcotics Anonymous is here and where to find us. A brochure was created to give comprehensive information on NA in our Region. Our phone line service continues to become more helpful and accessible. There have been improvements to make it easier for areas to update their meeting information. H&I continue to thrive in our region. Due to requests from incarcerated addicts within or region, there has been some interest expressed in offering Sponsorship by mail. We are currently gathering information and investigating the feasibility of creating a method to help those addicts seeking support in their recovery. The Speaker Jam subcommittee is still going strong. Our next Speaker Jam will be held on March 13<sup>th</sup>, from 10am to 6pm in Charlottesville, VA. There are printable flyers for this and other events posted on our Website.

We attended the Worldwide Workshop in Boston and have information to bring to the region from that event. After attending MARLCNA, we are preparing to hold four CAR workshops prior to our GSR assembly in April

Our last scheduled RSC in December was cancelled due to snow. It seems that snow is upon us again as we travel 30 miles per hour on the interstate. The last 20 minutes we spent on 95 allowed us to finish this report. Don't quit five minutes before the miracle. Glad to be here.

In Loving Service,

Greg H. RD, Etta S. RDA, and Donna Lee P. RDA2

### **C & P Region:**

The C&P REgions has 11 areas, 3 in Washington DC, 5 in Maryland, and 3 in Northern Virginia with 385 weekly meetings. We carry 418 weekly H&I meetings into 70 facilities.

Our region is doing well. Our regional convention in April was a financial success and donated \$59,211.50 to the region in October.

Last time I reported that we had not had an active literature committee in a while and I'm happy to say that with the Alternates and myself starting the ball rolling, that has changed. They had a review workshop 2 weeks ago and seem very excited about the process.

We have an active policy committee looking at our policies which conflict with each other and only a few have an understanding of what anything is. There's not much going on at the moment.

ILS,

Leah H.

RD, C&P Region

### **Eastern Penna Region:**

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. There are 32 meetings in the Bucks Area, 31 in the Montco Area, 25 meetings in the Pure and Simple Area, and 13 in the Twin Rivers Area.

Our region's webservant has been discussing the idea of hosting a NA History section on our eparna.org website. That is still in the conception phase.

Bucks Area will be hosting their Area Convention February 26-28, 2010 at the Holiday Inn Northeast Bensalem, PA 19020. Please come and join us.

CAR workshops will be held in the Bucks Area at their convention site, on Saturday February 27, 2010 at 10:15. Anyone who wishes to attend the CAR workshop only will be permitted to attend, without needing a registration badge. The Pure and Simple Area is hosting a CAR workshop on Sunday, February 28, 2010 from 12:30-3:30 at St. Michaels Lutheran Church 25 East Church Street Sellersville, PA 18960 (Main & Church Streets). Twin Rivers Area will host their CAR workshop on Saturday March 6, 2010, location is not yet determined.

We have been meeting with Greater Philadelphia Region and Midatlantic Region to plan for a multi-regional event which will be held August 2010. The Tri-State Region has recently come onboard for this event, so this event will encompass the entire state of Pennsylvania. We plan for this to be a one day event to celebrate local unity within a global community, and would like it to coincide with World Unity Day. We are still working out the details regarding location.

Our Communications Committee, created by the Eastern PA Region in the Fall of 2008, 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](http://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. Their most recent and arduous task was to correct meeting information in the Multi-Regional meeting list. The Eastern PA Region and the Greater Phila. Region have been creating and publishing a Multi-Regional Meeting List.

The RD plans on attending MARLCNA in February, as well as WSC in April. I look forward to seeing everyone at both events.

### **Free State Region:**

#### **Greater Phila. Region:**

We have eleven Areas in our Region with nine active Areas. We are reaching out to the two remaining Areas to offer our support. We host 365 meetings a week and approximately 94 H&I panels each week. In addition we are in need of trusted servants in our Region as well as in our Areas however we are providing our needed services.

Currently we are in the planning stages of holding a multi-regional event with Eastern PA, Mid-Atlantic, and Tri-State sometime in August coinciding with the World Unity Day. We are looking forward to this experience because of the Unity it will promote.

Since our last meeting our Region has started the planning process of bringing awareness of donating to our fellowship services and through this process we hope to inform our Region of what the expense it takes to run our region and how their donation match those expenses. Hopefully we will be able to match the number of groups against the expenses of the region and come up with a figure. This has been done in other regions around the world and has been successful. In addition we are still moving forward in working in our solution of paying down our literature debt and we are being successful with our plans.

We are holding our 25th Regional Convention on April 2-4, 2010 at the Radisson at Valley Forge of PA. All are welcome.

In loving service,

Merle H. RD EPARNA

#### **Mountaineer Region:**

We 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 spring convention will be held May 7-8-9 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. We have a flyers on line if anyone is interested at: [mrsrna.org](http://mrsrna.org).

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

The region purchased a vinyl billboard cover and it was installed in Charleston, West Virginia. The actual billboard rental was donated.

We are in the process of reviewing and upgrading our phonenumber service and operation; possibly utilizing more current technology.

Our third Regional Service Forum (held at the fall 2009 Convention) went well, but We conducted a workshop on one of our IDT's; "Leadership" 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. This forum is an important link to help in the communication chain from groups directly to regional and world, this allow sharing among the different NA communities, other than through the RSC.

In March 2009 of last year, the RSC held a special, two-day Regional Inventory session. The information from this inventory was utilized in September to help us with developing a strategic plan for the region—all NA members in the Region were invited. The workshop-type event followed the APT format we developed approaches for our various areas of service and for improving the Region's relationships with other service bodies.

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.

Rick W., RD

David H., RDA

Mountaineer Region

## **World Board Report:**

- Regional reports are due by February 15. Send it in.
- Review and Input for Living Clean Project: There are two more R&I periods. The first one is April 1-June 1. In the fall (date to be determined) the remainder of the book will go out for review and input.
- Literature development: the Board wants to have a major discussion at WSC about this. The material will be in the WSC Report in March.
- NAWS has been struggling with internal problems and resources. It was decided to put a stop to all projects for a couple of years and do an inventory to discover what is going wrong. Due to the restructuring, they have built up a substantial reserve with a way of operating, if something happens, they do not have to radically change what they do. That happened in two ways; They had a big loss at the World Convention in Texas. We have gone through about half of our reserve, forcing us to look at our process of how we use our resources. Hard questions; i.e. do we let parts of NA go without literature because NAWS is broke? We are still not building that reserve back. NA Way: Proposals for distribution methods that make more sense and will not be wasteful. Workshops: World Wide Workshops vs. having personal meetings with WB members. There are still only two WWW in the U.S. over a two year cycle. This has been scaled down somewhat to save money.
- Shipping; World has been losing money in shipping and look at it as a business in order to make changes. Issues with the exchange rate (Euro), where money was being lost. The European fellowship is very angry over the changes.
- Executive compensation:
- Service System: Shifting language from service structure to service system. Currently structure focused. Structure is only 1 piece; there is also processes, people, resources.
- Seating- regions with similar voices are seeking seating. As the world develops, we need to create an evolution that encourages voices that are emerging outside the U.S. New regional seating policy
- Recommendation that NO regions make motion to be seated so we can focus our discussion on how we decide to change and restructure the local service units.
- NAWS News; looking for ways to be more effective and stop misuse of resources

## **CAR/CAT discussion:**

- Discussion about timeline for literature projects: Some feel that there isn't enough time to provide proper input. Do we wish to continue the Living Clean project, continue the review and input. Ask yourself what is more important, the process or the product. How should we best spend our resources. There are problems with the short process of the literature processes. You can't

differentiate between the two. The CA Region has an ad hoc committee which has people in place to be ready for the process. What is the problem at this point; was there not any input, was the input poor? Ron does not think there is a problem. If there is to be an effective process, with addict writer and editor, a workgroup with a good cross-section of individuals, then that becomes a dynamic interplay. The Board becomes involved, and then it goes out for review and input. Some feel that is not working that well, they do not have enough time to coordinate the process. Historically, the fellowship is not very committed to reviewing literature. A workgroup that is ready to go is a good way to be more effective.

- Service delivery system; Models; More ideas soon to come; rather than the one area service committee, which is providing two different purposes; mutual support group, and the services group, separate the two (similar to AA structure). It is not World's business to say that another region iCan you disconnect how regions are formed to the local level, but it has no implication at the Conference level. The geographical area would be represented, not necessarily all the regions within the geographical area. Some local services do not have a process to inventory if we are using our resources in the best possible way.

**Motion 1:**

- More inclusive, which indicates more OUR statement, rather than World Board statement. Some concerns were raised at a workshop saying it was World's way of a "back door" move.
- Our corporation, NA Services Inc. needs to be managed from the local level all over the world is not conceivable. It would be impossible to fulfill this level of need, with so much diversity. There is a need to delegate responsibilities to the World Board, with discussions and input from local sources.
- Are we boxing ourselves in by passing this motion? Putting the vision up first is the "horse". Are we limiting the parameters by putting a vision statement in place. World is not thinking in that way, if it is not consistent with our vision, then it is not going in the correct direction.
- The World Board is one entity, this is a WB motion, not a workgroup motion. The WB has a direct relationship with the workgroup itself, and they are helping to keep the workgroup remain focused. All of the major projects draw from diverse representation of the fellowship.
- Was the WB asked to develop the vision statement? The parameters of the service project were laid out, and this is one of the work products that came out of the projects.
- The new bullet, Every member inspired by the gift of recovery... brings it down to the individual member. One member felt this statement was an implication that every member has to do service. Answer; linking the 12th step to this statement. When the work group met for this purpose, the group was not happy

with the direction from the WB, but as time went on, they wanted to put something to inspire addicts to be involved in service in any way.

**Motion 2/3:**

- One member stated that she thinks the draft is “not bad.”
- The title of the pamphlet “Money Matters” may give the wrong impression. This could be misleading to some people.
- Communication is a problem at many levels, which can cause severe breakdowns in communication. This is an attempt to communicate more directly between groups and levels about their area service level. It puts the groups in the position in a little more control; “the power of the purse.”
- There are concerns that direct donations to World Services will limit or deny the money that areas and regions have available to them.

**Motion 4:**

No discussion

**Motion 5:**

The regions who are producing them are not making money, but they are on sale on e-bay for lots of money.

NAWS is not opposed to this purple keytag, and it makes sense financially, however, there are implication regarding translation. There are some minute issues, but it doesn't matter. When is the fellowship given time to dialogue about this? Why hasn't the WB done an online survey?

**Motion 7:**

There is a Spanish speaking area in Southern California making this request. There may be a more appropriate place to address this issue, and the WSC is not the place to do this.

**Motion 8:**

As WB members move around the world, this thinking about a workbook on the traditions is being seen world-wide. Some ask why we need more literature, and others feel that we need some literature. This may not be the proper place or time to make the determination that we need to add another book length project to our agenda.

**Motion 9:**

We came up with a strategy at WSC 2008. We put that discussion to rest, and the solution was to remove the reference out of the “Just for Today”

**Motion 10:**

There was no need to do this as a motion, as discussed at WSC 2008. This was discussed and is already being trialed in this year's CAT. It is not necessary to make it into a motion. **What is an effective alternative to making motions that can be addressed in some other manner? Where else can ideas gain traction?**

How about using discussion topics as a spring board at a Zonal Forum?

There are minority viewpoints and sometimes they are not heard. The dialogue at WSC becomes very unified, and the ensuing discussion will demonstrate the majority opinion. WB will listen to the majority voice, even when it hears the minority voice. There are certain criteria before a motion is CAR ready. The WB is responsible to get the motion clear. Motions (in any form) need to be in by August 1, and they need to be finalized and CAR ready by October 1.

**Motion 11:**

The issues go to the idea of what is a work group. The WB feels the work group is a tactic to get WB's work done, and the work group is not responsible to report to the fellowship, it is responsible to report to the WB. The WB is strongly opposed to this motion.

The World Board filters what the work group needs to do, taking their direction from the WB. With this motion, the fellowship will get unfiltered information. This motion would radically change the service system at the World level. Workgroups have no separate existence at this point.

One member stated that at the local level, they are not even aware of workgroups. Some of the information that would be posted could easily be misinterpreted, or misconstrued. Half thoughts might be communicated, and others will take issue with it.

The workgroup may need to be redirected by WB. The relationship between a work group and WB needs to remain clear. The communication breakdown is no longer between the RDs and World Board.

Using terminology along with the concepts to help other levels of service and the fellowship in general to know about the work the work group does.

How is a work group chosen? By the executive committee, made up of 4 WB members. How does the executive committee choose? One way is through the world pool. The other way is WB members travel around and they identify people who are thoughtful and engaged, and they can make a recommendation.

There is a process which is based on a strategic plan, and everything is driven by that strategic plan. There is a charge document which guides the work group.

In the strategic planning process is an environmental scan. What are the trends in the world that are going to impact NA? How will be plan for that impact?

**Motion 12:**

This motion is a good motion, but WB would like a deeper examination of what is driving this motion.

**Motion 13:**

Once a motion passes, it becomes policy, and it is too restrictive. Craft the review and input period to fit the project, rather than one that fits all. This motion may be too limiting, and we need to leave it open for flexibility.

The fellowship is letting WB know that we need more time for review and input, but in this particular case, this topic is set on the agenda for discussion at the

WSC. The cost issues, time issues, editing processes, etc. all play into determining the length of time needed for a project.

WB's sense is that they have not yet gotten a coordinated system that works well for regions/areas. This policy locks us in when, and we lose the flexibility to make decisions based on each individual project. We can talk things through and tweak it as needed.

Is there any way we can deal with this project by project? Can regions ask for additional time on a project. Yes, this is current practice, and this motion would change that. However, extending the time means going into a new cycle, changing placement of resources assigned to projects

**Motion 14:**

There are three types of materials, Fellowship Approved, Conference Approved, and World Board Approved

This motion wants there to be a 180-day review and input period no matter what the type of materials. This motion limits the flexibility, and the conference establishes the approval process when they approve the process.

**CAT:**

Motion; to revise the conditions of the moratorium; No regions will be considered for seating at WSC 2012.

The purpose is to stop adding to the seating, while we may

Motion; to remove the language about the NA Way. Take out the production details to have the flexibility to make changes at the level of policy. There will be no surprises, unless at the group level there is communication breakdown. WB does not want to get rid of the NA Way, because it is the only way to communicate with the fellowship. One concern is that by removing the language, it leaves open the possibility of making changes in the NA Way that are not approved of by the fellowship. Is there a way to reword this motion with substitute language achieving the same purpose, identifying conditions that the conference

**Request by GPRNA:** Rather than hold our Zonal Forum at WSC, we attend other Zonal Forums to see what how they conduct business. We can meet at the beginning, and have it as an option.

Intent: most of us do not have the opportunity to see what other zonals do.

Decision to meet first, and then decide to

Free State will write up the Autonomy Zonal Forum report at the WSC.

**Agenda for Upcoming Zonal Forum to be hosted by Greater Phila. Region July 31, 2010:**

- Introductions
- Read Traditions and Concepts
- Regional Reports
- AZF Website discussion
- Brainstorm a means to discuss topics rather than making motions
- Discuss decisions out of the conference, especially the strategic plan, and project development
- Discuss Zonal Forums that we have observed at the WSC

**Upcoming schedule for Autonomy Zonal Forum:**

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

Free State Region: January 26, 2013