

Autonomy Zonal Forum Minutes July 28, 2012
Hosted by Eastern PA Region
Meeting opened at 11:10 am. All regions were present.

Agenda

Introductions

Read Traditions and Concepts

Regional Reports

Discuss results of World Service Conference

LUNCH

US Service Conference

If time: How can we combine and coordinate services/
resources amongst the regions?

*****discuss zonal website with Alan M (add-on)

Special Note: I contacted Alan M to let him know of our decision not to maintain the domain which he had set up. He informed me that Louis P. came outside after Alan left the meeting and handed him the funds needed to renew the address. Alan said he paid the bill, in spite of our decision not to continue with that address.

Regional Reports

Central Atlantic Region

Etta F. RD

Donna Lee P RDA

Eddie W RDA 2

Hi Family,

The Central Atlantic Region has now grown to 17 areas spans 5 states which include Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania and North Carolina. All of our sub-

committees are up and present at this time and rotate throughout the four quadrants of our region. We are so excited about the revision of our regional website and we encourage you to visit it at www.car-na.org. The website revisions include mappings of the surrounding regions and when you click on the regions and areas on the map it takes you to the area and regional websites.

Our H& I sub-committee is currently working on a step-writing program for those who are incarcerated. The program will be modeled after the Connecticut program that is currently in place.

Our PR sub-committee has accepted an invitation to attend the Virginia Summer Institute in Williamsburg Virginia that was held July 16th and 17th. In the past this has been a great venture for us to connect with agencies that have limited or no knowledge of NA.

The Delegate Team returned from WSC with very thoroughly written reports and a wonderful power point presentation of the information discussed there.

Almost Heaven Area is currently implementing a LSU planning session. We are excited to see that several areas in our region are trying out different elements that are found in our Service System Project.

Almost Heaven Area is about to host their 26th annual convention in Front Royal Virginia on August 3,4,5.

BRANA just finished a rather wet 31st year of camping and from the reports online it was enjoyed despite the weather.

This is my last report as RD for CARNA as my term ends in October. It has been a wonderful experience and I plan on continuing to come to these forums afterwards.

In Loving Service,
Etta F.

Chesapeake and Potomac Region

RD: Allen Jackson – RD@cprna.org

RDA: Leon Parks – RDA@cprna.org
RDA2: Cheryl Dunn – RDA2@cprna.org

About 390 meeting, 416 H&I, 73 facilities
11 Areas: 5 in Maryland, 3 in Washington DC, and 3 in
Virginia:
Battlefield
Central MD
DC
Dulles Corridor
East of the River
Frederick
Montgomery
Norvana
Rock Creek
South Potomac
Tri-County

C&P Region continues to work toward the integration of the
Regional Service Committee & the Convention Host
Committee within one corporation: CPRC, Inc (the
corporation formed to oversee the C&P Regional
Convention).

The H&I committee reports 416 H&I meetings taken into 73
facilities and has made additional improvements to the
Regional Website and meeting locator. H&I also hosted a
learning day event.

A couple of events are upcoming (flyers at www.cprna.org):
(1) The East of the River Area is hosting a Unity Day event
Aug 04, 2012, and a cookout Aug 05, 2012.
(2) The Tri-County Area is hosting a camping-under-the-
stars retreat September 14 – 16 entitled: A River of Hope VI

From my RD Report to the C&P Region in June 2012:

In the last CAR, the C&P Region was forced to ask ourselves what the Inverted Pyramid meant to us and we voted solidly to uphold a structure whereby: Addicts form Groups which form Areas which form Regions which join Zones (if they want) and form the World Service Conference. The groups of the C&P Region were remarkably clear about this: We believe this structure works for us.

With a single exception, EVERYTHING the C&P Region voted against, the WSC, under the clear direction of the WB, voted in favor of. The single exception was the C&P Vote in favor of the Living Clean book, which passed the WSC unanimously.

Here is the dilemma you confront Leon and Cheryl with: If the C&P Region is in such opposition to everything the WSC, as led by WB, is implementing, what does the C&P Region believe it gains - or loses - by showing up at the WB/WSC/NAWS event?

I propose that the C&P Region begin looking at our relationship with NAWS seriously. I want you to educate me about your vision for the C&P Region and I will do my best to help you obtain that vision. To have a vision, to plot a path, to invite a loving God into our Service Structure, we need to do some organizations Step work. WE: the RCMs, the Administrative Committee, the RD's, and everyone with a passion for NA. The BIG WE within the C&P Region.

I have TWO proposals: (1) that we inventory our relationship with WSC/NAWS to see what we give, what we gain, what we should be doing ourselves, what we should ask them to

do for us. Part of this inventory will include how we spend our money; and (2) that we revisit our relationship with neighboring Regions and the role of the Autonomy Zone.

I am hosting an open invitation discussion about C&P Region's relationship with WB/WSC/NAWS on August 05, from 1 – 5 at the Arlington Public Library in Virginia.

Eastern PA Region

The Eastern PA Region continues to consist of four areas, which are Bucks, Montco, Pure and Simple, and Twin Rivers. We host about 110 meetings weekly throughout our region.

Most of our regional positions remain open (we currently have a secretary and a treasurer). The RCMs have decided to chair the regional meeting on a rotational basis until we resolve the lack of trusted servants issue. We have been discussing the future of our region, and have scheduled a regional inventory on Saturday, September 29. This will be held at the Pleasantville Church, 3424 Limekiln Pike, Chalfont, PA 18914, from 1 pm to 5 pm. Contact people are Merle S. 215-275-3141, Marc W. 267-258-3872, and Harry D. 267-337-4560. This inventory is open to anyone who would like to attend.

We have been struggling financially, and have been researching ways to reduce our spending. After some extensive research, one of our members was able to find better rates for our phoneline and 800 number. At the end of our June meeting, it was clear that we did not have the financial resources at region to support the zonal forum. We decided to ask the homegroups and areas to help by

bringing food and human resources to the Zonal forum. 3 of the areas took collections at their Area service meetings, some homegroups donated funds and their time, and many others are here to offer man/woman power, we have gained a sense of unity and pride. I am very proud of what our region put together with a song and a prayer, and the support has been very touching.

We have been participating with 3 other regions in PA (Greater Phila., Midatlantic, and Tristate) to form a workgroup to decide on ways to collaborate and coordinate services within Pennsylvania. We are focusing on outreach and possibly a statewide phonenumber, although this is not yet finalized. We recently obtained an e-mail address: pennsylvanianapr@gmail.com

In loving service,
Merle S.
Acting RD EPARNA

Freestate Region

The Freestate Region of Narcotics Anonymous comprises all of Baltimore, all of Eastern and Northern Maryland, all of Delaware and the northernmost tip of Virginia's eastern shore. Our region consists of 10 unified areas containing well over 800 meetings.

1. Baltimore Area- An Area of meetings of Baltimore City
2. Bay Area- An Area comprised of meetings in the south of Baltimore
3. Delmarva Area- An Area comprised of meetings in the center of Delmarva Peninsula
4. East of the Bay Area- An Area comprised of meetings on the eastern shore of Maryland

5. Northeast Freedom Area- An Area comprised of meetings in Baltimore

City and on the east and northeast side of Baltimore

6. Northwest Area- An Area consisting of groups northwest of Baltimore

7. Ocean Gateway Area- An Area comprised of meetings in the southern

Delmarva Peninsula

8. Small Wonder Area- An Area comprised of meetings in northern

Delaware

9. Susquehanna Area- An Area comprised of meetings in the northeastern part of Maryland

10. Westside Area- An Area comprised of meetings to the west of Baltimore

On August 11, 2012, The Freestate Region will hold elections for all position including RD and RDA. This will be hosted by the Bay Area at United First Methodist Church, 17 Ferndale Road, Glen Burnie, MD 21061.

On August 18, 2012, the Freestate Region Regional Assembly will be hosted by the Small Wonder Area. It will be held at Elsmere Presbyterian Church, 606 New Road (and Ohio Avenue), Wilmington, DE 19805. This will be held from 10AM-2PM. The showing of the WSC 2012 DVD will be on the agenda.

I asked my Region to give input on the structuring of our Zone and their reply was whatever you decide. You have our vote of confidence.

In Loving Service,

Walt B., RD

(443)708-7724(home & fax) (443)208-0421(cell)

nawalt94@gmail.com

Greater Philadelphia Region

Greetings,

We currently serve eleven Areas in our Region and are continuing to grow as well as our H&I commitments. Despite our need for trusted servants at the Regional and Area levels, we are still providing necessary services.

After the WSC 2012 passed the “Living Clean, The Journey Continues we had a member sell copies of the draft and copies of an unapproved traditions work book. Our course of action taken was to inform the local community and ask whoever was doing this to stop. That meant buying, selling and copying.

We are collaborating through conference calls with Mid Atlantic Region, Tri-State Region, and EPRNA on Pennsylvania shared services. The focus has been Public Relations. We have asked members with PR experience to be part of the working group with the hopes of having at least two members participate from each region. This body will be sending out a brief survey for fellowship feedback. This is an effort to bring communication and unity between the regions in PA.

The Greater Philadelphia Regional convention is August 10-13, 2012 at the Double Tree-Hilton Hotel, 301 West DeKalb Pike, King of Prussia, PA 19406. The World Convention will be held in Philadelphia in 2013. No word yet on forming the workgroup.

The Greater Philadelphia Region Board of Directors has been held in the odd months, spreading the word about our need for trusted servants, utilizing workgroups to deal with a single topic and/or issue, and bring awareness of the importance of the 7th tradition.

Yours in Service,
Paula B. RD
Zoe H. RDA

Mountaineer Region

Greetings from the Mountaineer Region of NA

The Mountaineer Region we support 10 areas with about 150 meetings around the state and we are continuing to grow at a steady pace. We understand that our numbers are not at the level of many of regions of our zone, the Mountaineer Region is carrying a strong and clear message of NA recovery.

At our spring Mountaineer Regional Service Form we had a presentation on the WSC. A presentation was also done at our July RSC. Areas were asked to start thinking about the roles of Zones. We held elections at the July RSC, David H's term as RD is up and Rob O. is our new RD. Kristina C. is our new RDA and we are excited to have her become a part of this level of service. We also made a \$3000 donation to World.

Our helpline is functioning well; we are using One Box answering service to send every call directly to a recovery addict's cell phone. Phonenumber members are on a 4 hour rolling weekly schedule. It is working great. Our phonenumber chair had been busy doing several workshops and we are now handling 6 to 7 substantial calls a day. We are currently looking at H&I and doing a Regional inventory on it.

Mountaineer Region has two conventions each year. This year's annual fall convention will be November 2-4 at Cedar Lakes in Ripley West Virginia. This convention is held in a beautiful outdoor environment with 3 lakes, lodge, rooms and dorms. Region hosts a Mountaineer Regional Service Form at every convention to present and discuss service related issues. Many area functions too numerous to mention. If you are interested in these functions please see our website

www.mrscna.org for more details.

Gratefully serving,
Rob O., RD
Kristina C., RD Alt.
Mountaineer Region

Discussion:

Results of World Service Conference

- At round table, discussions at round table got hung up. Without financial resources. We do not have to change our financial situation to utilize NAWS to help us. How are we going to continue as regions with already limited resources. It may not be necessary to funnel money into this body.
- Let's start using NAWS and the WB.
- Struggles: include apathy, enthusiasm
- We can create an executive body. Presently the hosting region is the chair. We could maintain the current system of having hosting regions being rotational.
- Have a more structured zonal forum. Decision making is presently limited to setting the agenda.
- The more organized and structured we can become, we will be in a better place to meet the future needs of our evolving service system.
- Create a questionnaire to go back to our regions to put information on the table; i.e. would you be adverse to the AZF going to a more structured body, would you be willing to fund it?
- Would like to see us provide a service once a year, to the local community wherever the zonal is being held.
- When we met at WSC, we discussed environmental scanning. What services would we be providing to the region, what services would the region be providing to the zonal? What services would you like to get from a

consolidated body? If the regions say they would like a more structured zonal, developing an executive body would be need-driven.

- Look at some other zones to see what they are doing, and present that information to our regions so they understand what a zone represents. Find some zones to model what we would like to become, take the information on the road
- Environmental scan of other zones; we did not assign anyone to do it.
- Form a workgroup
- Some regions are discussing and thinking about a move to regions who may be more rural, or share similar needs.
- How were the zones structured or put together when they were formed? Some of our actions may be for naught if there is this big a change.
- Individuals are murmuring that world is “thinking for us” and we. We are presently looking at our delivery of service, and it would be helpful to assign a workgroup including the formulation of a questionnaire. We could create a packet to inform our regions of our compiled information.
- Six months is a good chunk of time to develop a questionnaire and a power point presentation if we develop a workgroup.
- Perhaps we can utilize workshops through NAWS and the WB to fill the gap.
- In the wake of the straw polls and propostions, we may no longer have 4 regions in PA
- Keep in mind short-term goals and long-term goals
- One of the biggest problems is apathy. One of the biggest disconnects at World Service is that we no longer have standing sub-committees. One of the

things the zones can do is to reconstruct standing sub-committees. It can be a place for training, and we can have sub-committees build support.

- We do not always want to depend on World Board or NAWS to always direct us and build knowledge; we can build that at home, without WB and NAWS.
- We can plan, generate ideas and thoughts here at the zonal forum. We can plant the seeds.
- One concern about an executive body, it pulls people, with an overlap of duty. Without an executive body, we pull people from other duties.
- Money would be a big concern
- One fundraiser per region, to raise \$100 would give us a start of \$600. We need to come to our regions with solutions, rather than more problems.
- We need to mentor and train our trusted servants, hold a multi-regional workshop to do this, which regions need extra help?

US Service Conference

- CARNA will have a skype presentation to gather more information from the fellowship assembly
- FreeState has decided not to support the concept
- At the 3rd meeting it has been named the US Service Conference.
- There is a meeting planned in Layton, Utah in November (28?) to form officially. It will be the US service conference inaugural meeting.
- Who will this meeting be geared towards?
- Some of the attendees did not know what this was about and had no information regarding this concept.
- Information can be found at www.usfellowshipassembly.org

- Will submit a copy of all regions who participate in a Zonal Forum. Presently, Alaska is the only region not part of a zonal.

How can we combine and coordinate services/resources amongst the regions?

- check with our regions, to see who has standing subcommittees?
- Use our zonal website to connect people from the regions
- Some regions are already coordinating meeting lists.
- Apathy may present a problem
- Start small and develop a central database of communication
- Try to be part of an already existing event rather than have a separate activity
- C&P is willing to continue to host the AZF website. We would need an administrator apart from the C&P webservant
- What is it we are really trying to do here. Form follows function. What services do we want to offer to our regions? Plan an objective, then we can make some more functional decisions and offer value to our membership at home.
- We could workshop what it is that we are trying to do, and make it as meaningful as possible. We need to do planning to make this happen.
- We can do a mentorship workshop to exponentially expand our knowledge base, holding small trainings, having 6 topics per year, one topic per region.
- A member from the Northeast Zonal Forum does have fellowship development. Their zone is two days long. FD occurs on Saturday, and the business meeting takes place on Sunday. They invite local community members

to see what happens at a zonal forum and to see how it works.

- Clearly defined... what services are we trying to coordinate; what are we trying to impact? What can we come together within each region to focus?
- Take back to our regions to explore the feasibility of having a two-day zonal forum.
- Have a zonal forum inventory, including white board, use the planning tool, identify challenges and list issues, develop goals, gather and prioritize information.
- Should we have a ½ day workshop at our next zonal forum? It could be an agenda item to put on our next zonal.
- Most of the delegates have already done workshops for a planning tool, and the first step would be to set up our priorities. Tweak the inventory to see how it would suit the zone.
- It would be an internal inventory. We could develop a tweaked inventory developed by a team, send it out to the delegates to take a look at it, and to start at the next zonal forum.
- Remember travel distance

Discussion regarding the zonal inventory

- Do we want to tweak the questions to send out?
- Before we can do an inventory of what we can provide to the region, we need to find out what our regions want
- Find out what each region would like from the zonal forum, and then we can discuss how to make it happen.
- The action item is for the delegates to get a sense of what each region wants from the regions
- What needs to come first?
- We need to have something to present to our regions, rather than ask them what they want

- In NA, the group is our key for existence. It all starts with the newcomers.
- Why does it need to be either or? Some of the things that happened at World Service, based on what was heard from the fellowship over the years. It was working in combination to meet the needs of our fellowship. The role of the homegroups is not the same as the role of the zonal forum.
- We need to get our body in better order, so we can present that to our regions.
- Anything we do short-term can be moved to long-term. What will get us from point A to point B, then from point B to point C.
- We can ask ourselves what can we do to help the local body.

Develop a questionnaire about standing sub-committees, and the role of the zone.

Task someone to discover points of interest regarding other zonal forums.

Our zone is transcending, and where do we fit in as far as the whole scheme of things.

Website; do we want to spend the money to maintain the site?

- What areas of need does your region have?
- In what areas do you need additional support?
- Which areas of need are not being met by your region?
- What challenges are you encountering in which additional support would be needed.

- What kind of help has World not provided you that another body could help you with (a smaller more intimate level)
- In which ways do we interact with other regions?
- Other sub-committees?
- How can we improve those interactions?
- Do we have any needs that are common areas of concern? i.e. drug courts in Virginia, PA
- Are there any issues, concerns that having more information from a wider range of people or experience would be helpful

What do you see as the benefit of having the zonal forum, something the body can help with

We decided not to keep the zonalforum.com/org.

We need to find an administrator to maintain and update our website on the CPRNA link. It would require an hour every 6 months.

Michael J., and Donna Mc offered to be the administrator for the website at CPRNA. They both qualified themselves to attest to their own accountability.

Can both people work as a team?

Agenda for January 26, 2013

Introductions

Read Traditions and Concepts

Regional Reports

Zonal Inventory

Upcoming schedule for Autonomy Zonal Forum:

Free State Region: January 26, 2013

Greater Philadelphia Region: July 27, 2013****WCNA that summer***

Central Atlantic Region: January 25, 2014

Mountaineer Region: July 26.2014

Chesapeake and Potomac Region: January 31, 2015

Eastern PA Region: July 25, 2015

webservant@cprna.org

for sending information

In loving service,
Merle S.