

Autonomy Zonal Forum Minutes
Hosted by Central Atlantic Region
Meeting opened at 11:05 am.
Traditions and Concepts read
Present: Central Atlantic Region, C&P,

Agenda for January 25, 2014 Zonal Forum

- Introductions
- Read Traditions and Concepts
- CAR/CAT
- Review/ input feedback to our newly developed Zonal plans; ask for input to possible

Regional Reports:

Central Atlantic Region:

Greetings from the Central Atlantic Region,

The Central Atlantic Region consists of 17 areas hosting 569 meetings in Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland and North Carolina.

Last weekend we held our regional convention in Hagerstown, MD and the RD team presented an interactive workshop on the new Traditions Workbook Project. There was good participation and good feedback. We are excited to be hosting the upcoming East Coast Convention within our region June 20-22, 2014. This convention is being hosted by the New Dominion, Richmond, Beach, Peninsula and Tri-Cities areas and will be held at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, VA. Please see our website for more information and a flyer. Last weekend at the AVCNA there was a **Used Book Drive for Africa** box. Prior to last weekend 20 pounds of used books were already shipped to Africa. We anticipate being able to report more information on this ongoing Fellowship Development project in the future. There has been a request by Etta F to address the zonal body regarding the **Used Books for Africa** Project. Etta would like to make a presentation to the Zonal body about creating a video that can be shown on the WSC floor during Zonal reports. Etta will send an E-Blast, via Merle S, regarding the details of this project and hopefully we can coordinate a time to meet via a webinar prior to the WSC for this.

The only position open on our regional floor is the new Vice Treasurer commitment.

In October, during our two-day regional event, we held a GSR Workshop/Learning Day. We presented on "How to be an Effective and Valued RCM", "How the Subcommittees at the Regional Level can better serve the Areas", and we held a 7th Tradition Workshop using The IDT, "Supporting Our Vision". The event was well attended and our Regional H&I Chair took the results from our small group discussions back to the local Beach ASC meeting.

Our Public Relations and H&I Subcommittees are going strong. During their last few meetings they set aside time to "Train the Trainers". One of the projects they are working on together is to reach out to Institutions within our Region. These efforts are geared toward improving our region's participation in the Unity Day Live Stream. Our H&I Chair is moving forward with work began by our prior H&I Chair on attempting to meet the step writing needs of incarcerated addicts within our region. Our PR Chair had been pursuing efforts to improve our Regional Website and Phone Line Data and

Services, as well as preparing for the Summer Institute PR opportunity. We are very saddened to report that that after a short hospitalization, she passed away last night. Our new PR Vice Chair was able to step in at the January Subcommittee meeting and “keep our PR ball rolling”.

We have a new Speaker Jam Chair and an upcoming Speaker Jam scheduled within the New Dominion Area for March 22, 2014. There are printable flyers for this and other events posted on our Website (www.car-na.org).

We are looking forward to attending MARLCNA and following that conference, we do have four CAR workshops scheduled throughout our Region before our April GSR Assembly.

In Loving Service,
Donna Lee P. RD, Eddie W. RDA, Kim A. RDA2

Chesapeake and Potomac Region:
RD Leon Parks, - RD @cprna.org
RDA Cheryl L. Dunn –RDA @cprna.org

About 420 meetings 432 H&I, 92 facilities

BattlefieCen
tral Md DC
Area
Dulles Corridor
East of the River
Frederick
Montgomery
Norvana
Rock Creek
South Potomac
Tri County

11 areas 5 in Maryland 3 in Washington, D.C. And 3 in Virginia.

C&P Region continues to work on bylaws for review workshop held on January 18, 2014 hosted by D.C. Area.

The H&I committee reports an increase 432 H&I in 92 facilities.

The second WSC webinar was planned for 11 January – 10:00- 11:30 Pacific Standard time. It was focused on 2014 Conference Agenda Report and briefly on our plans from Conference Approval Track (27 Jan 2014)

Conference Agenda report and Conference Approval Track Workshop have been scheduled for February 1,2 February 15,16, 22, 23-2014. We have dates for Norvana, South Potomac, and Tri-County. We are expecting more as I speak.

Upcoming schedule for future events the dawn of a new reality.

Chesapeake
& Potomac Regional Convention-Roland E. Powell Convention Center -
Ocean City, MD –April 11-13, 2014.

Frederick area accepted to have the Ocean City convention in April 2015
"Miracles Beyond Measure", taken from the living clean the journey continues.

However, information was told to the RCM's CPR as well as handouts for the following:

Autonomy Zonal Forum, NAWS Membership survey, tradition book project and information on Conference Agenda Report.

H&I Speaker Jam –Saturday February 22,2014-2:00 PM -7:00PM
Oxon Hill United Methodist Church-6400 Livingston Road -
Oxon Hill, MD 20745.

Thanks for allowing me to be of service
Leon P. - RD ezysgt@yahoo.com
202-531-0271

Eastern PA Region:

We have 4 areas in our region. We currently have most of our positions filled at the regional level, with a few exceptions. We recently held elections in December. We have 43 total H&I commitments.

Phoneline information:

We have been reviewing our call logs and continue to work on the detail log. Since we get a number of calls from family members, we have added that category. We previously put patched calls AND call back requests into the same category, but have separated them into two separate categories.

The current system, though not perfect at times, has proven to be very effective and we feel call-backs and patched calls are being handled very well. We are going to continue to review our current system and will adapt and hone our system to make best use of our resources... both financial and fellowship volunteers.

If we remove all the calls that are not hang-ups or no response, the greatest number of calls continue to be to simply find a meeting. Our operators have direct access to the EPARNA website and can quickly direct callers to local meetings. The website is updated regularly by a number of dedicated servants. Using the website has proven to be highly effective. This is one concern to moving to a fellowship-based answering service. If the phoneline volunteers would have to rely on printed meeting lists, they may give out outdated meeting information. There are many other benefits to using a fellowship-based system, but the meeting information accuracy is one concern we will need to consider.

We have been working with the three other regions in Pennsylvania to coordinate a training for the staff from the Pennsylvania prison systems. They recently contacted us through NAWS and are asking for a statewide training for their staff. There are many prisons in PA without any access to NA meetings, and this effort will hopefully have far-reaching effects. We are only in the beginning stages of the process, and have yet to set a date.

Conference Agenda Report Workshops: We are co-facilitating two Conference Agenda workshops with the Greater Philadelphia Region. The first one will be held February 1, 2014 from 4:00-6:00 pm at Roxborough Hospital Auditorium in Philadelphia. The second one will be held on February 22, 2014 from 11:00am-2:00pm hosted by Montco Area. The location for that workshop is St John's Episcopal Church, 23 E Airy Street, Norristown, PA 19403

Free State Region:**Greater Philadelphia Region:**

AZF Members;

We are maintaining eleven Areas in our Region and participation that had been sparse has made a comeback. We had 90% RCM participation at our December RSC Meeting. However, we have lost several Admin members and are seeking to fill these positions immediately. We participated in the January 2014 CP Webinar.

CAR2014 WORKSHOPS

I am planning to co-host with EPARNA one CAR2014 workshop February 1st, 2014, 3pm-5pm, at Roxborough Hospital Auditorium, Philadelphia, PA before MARLCNA. There will be another co-hosted CAR2014 workshop on February 22nd, 2014, 11am-2pm, St John's Episcopal Church, 23 E Airy Street, Norristown, PA 19403 before the WSC2014

RSO

Unfortunately, GPRSC- RSO Office is in crisis to the extent that at times, we have been unable to purchase literature from NAWS due to outstanding debt and areas have begun to purchase their literature directly from NAWS or from other regional sources. On the other hand, participation from all areas in the region has significantly improved, with diverse opinions about the future of the RSO. Recently a motion to close the office was rescinded, but, without a decision about how to proceed. The Admin is currently seeking information to maintain the non-profit licensing and insurance requirements.

PHONELINE supported 414 calls in October and 429 calls in November.

H & I Commitments are maintained despite RSC financial problems.

UNITY hosted a workshop in October and has another planned for March 2014.

PR Philadelphia School System granted permission to hold presentations.

We are so grateful for their hard work. Since our last meeting:

- RSC collaborated with EPARNA for combined Multi-Regional Meeting List and Phonenumber subcommittee events. We are finding ways to improve direct contact and information sharing.
- The regional web site is back! Here is the link: <http://www.naworks.org>
If you have any events that need to be posted on our web site please forward them to Elijah.Golden@comcast.net.

CONVENTION

GPRCNA XXVIII
“FREEDOM WITH NO LIMITS”
AUGUST 22 – 24, 2014
LOEWS PHILADELPHIA HOTEL
1200 MARKET STREET

\$129* SINGLE \$154* DOUBLE \$179* TRIPLE

FOR RESERVATIONS, CALL 888-575-6397

(BE SURE TO MENTION GPRCNA TO GET THE GROUP RATE)

OR ONLINE AT:

[HTTP://WWW.LOEWSHOTELS.COM/EN/PHILADELPHIA-HOTEL/GROUPPAGES/NAR082414](http://www.loewshotels.com/en/philadelphia-hotel/grouppages/nar082414)

FOR MORE INFORMATION [WWW.NAWORKS.ORG](http://www.naworks.org)

REGISTRATION CHAIR MONICA M. 215-519-9471

REGISTRATION CO-CHAIR DEBBIE P. 267-249-3767

Flapjack Fundraisers

- **Sunday, January 26th, 2014**, 8am – 10 am Applebee’s 8601 Henry Ave Andorra Shopping Center, Philadelphia, PA Tickets \$6 or 2/\$10
- **Saturday, May 10th, 2014**, 8am – 10 am Applebee’s 3479 East Lincoln Highway, Thorndale, PA Tickets \$6 or 2/\$10
- **Saturday, June 14th, 2014**, 8am – 10 am Applebee’s 2535 Castor Ave, Philadelphia, PA Tickets \$6 or 2/\$10

I would like to express my most heartfelt thanks to everyone who supported me during my recent surgery and ongoing recovery. The prayers, well wishes, visits, cards, and flowers truly made my experience memorable. Because of you, I never have to feel as if I am alone.
Thank my Higher Power and thank you.

Grateful to Serve,
Zoe H., GPRSC, RD

Mountaineer Region:

CAR Discussion:

Motion 1: To approve the draft contained in Addendum A as IP #29, An Introduction to NA Meetings.

- See addendum on CAT
- Page 13 notes the changes in the from the service pamphlet to the information

Motion 2: To adopt the following as WSC policy: “Seating at the biennial meeting of the WSC is limited to one delegate per region.”

- There has always been a gallery for anyone who wants to attend WSC
- Has there been discussion regarding increasing the size of the gallery?
 - There are fire laws that limit the physical movement of furniture.
 - Some research has been done to change locations, and some complications have been encountered in this concept.
- Has there been any discussion as to mentoring the upcoming RD
- There are ways to expand our training opportunities.
- Hold workshops (i.e. IDTs) where RDAs can lead, and get leadership opportunities
- Cultivating leadership is paramount, and application is vital. In the past the alternate has been able to switch out to get the on-hands experience. Have you considered the explosion of the gallery, and how to make adaptations to accommodate the extra members who will be in that section.
- In the past, some regions have had a 3-delegate team. What can be done to get information flow to them? To non-seated regions?
 - There has been no discussion to get RDAs access to information
 - A possibility to expand access to additional delegates from regions.
 - Delegates will not be allowed to switch off.
- Has WSC been videoed and shared with new delegates who have ever been on the floor in the past?
 - If this was approved, technology has been discussed. There is a lot of technology discussed in the CAT
- Most of the information available to the delegates are shared with people in the gallery
- An attempt to

- What recommendations are there to seat new regions?
- In the CAT
- Tana: When are elections typically held?
 - Purpose of question- for training and mentorship; regions elect delegates at different times; the WSC is the culmination of the training for some regions and the beginning of the training for other regions. Using other opportunities prior to WSC to train is probably most efficient.

Comments:

- What is missing when not on risers is opportunities to participate in the discussions, to share perspectives with other delegates, and when not on the risers with the delegate, the opportunity to discuss what is going on is lost.
- The experience is invaluable as an RDA to be in the mix.
- In some regions, part of the criteria for being elected includes attending at least one WSC.
- The accountability of the delegate may get lost, to ensure the information maintains its integrity.
- The accountability of the RD is up to each region, and it is their duty to properly know and choose trusted servants.

Motion 3: To adopt the following as WSC policy: “The World Service Conference does not automatically fund attendance of delegates. Delegates from regions that are unable to fully fund themselves may request funding from the World Board.”

- What are the conditions that would permit a request for funding?
 - In the past, 33 regions typically requested funding, before the policy to automatically fund delegates.
- Is it possible to request partial funding? Is that in the design?
 - The reality was that the regions who only needed partial funding would make donations to World. That did not seem to happen.
- Will this motion restrict US regions?
 - At this point there has been no discussion about this
- Will there be guidelines as to requests, or criteria
 - There will be a deadline to submit requests
- What is the root of the problem? Members are not fully informed about their responsibilities to Narcotics Anonymous. It is simple to fund NA, if everyone participates who can make a donation. Has there been any discussion about how to get greater participation in funding?
- Comments:
- Money saved would be able to be put to use in the regions
- Comments:
 - We are asking questions prior to deciding if this motion passes.
 - If this motion passes; members who have been RDs will try to control who goes to the conference. It could turn into “the old boys club.” Some of the attitude that anyone can do this could be lost.

- We may lose the factor of accountability, without two people there to represent.

Motion 4: To agree in principle to move in the direction of a service system that contains **group support forums: discussion-oriented gatherings focused on the needs of the group, as described by the characteristics below.**

Characteristics of a GSF (Group Support Forum):

Essential:

- **Discussion-oriented**
- **Group-focused: Focused on the needs of the group; decisions related to area business are not made here. Some limited functions like finding volunteers for H&I panels, planning picnics, etc., may take place.**
- **Training-oriented: This is a venue ideal for orienting new members, holding workshops, and training trusted servants.**
- **Open to all: All interested members, not just group representatives, are encouraged to attend.**

Recommended:

- **Neighborhood-sized: The original Service System Proposals see group support forums as significantly smaller than local service conferences or area service committees. There would be several for each LSC. However, we have found through field-testing that some communities prefer to bring all of the groups and interested members together for one community-wide group support forum.**
- **Meets monthly: Again, the original Service System Proposals suggest monthly meetings of the group support forum, but in field testing many communities adopted a different meeting schedule. Some had group support forums meeting eight times a year in months when there was no quarterly local service conference. Others alternated GSF and LSC meetings, with each meeting six times a year.**

- Will there be a suspension of rules to determine if there is a majority support?
- The purpose of this motion is to determine if there is a need to develop more information for the group support forum.
- Has there been any thought into putting something into writing? At what point will be just stop making new suggestions and keep what we have to see how to assimilate what has been gathered. There are many pieces that are difficult to integrate.
- There are tools in the service system section on na.org to share what others have done to implement different aspects of the SSP
- If we want to continue to explore, we are continuing to spend money during each cycle. How are we supposed to do this, and where is the end of this project?
- No, there is no end date to this project, and WB was told to slow down.

Motion 5: To agree in principle to move in the direction of a service system that contains **local service conferences: strategic service-oriented planning conferences as described by the characteristics below.**

Characteristics of a local service conference:

Essential:

- **Plan-driven:** The LSC works according to a planning cycle which begins with an annual planning assembly. All interested members gather at the planning assembly to set the priorities for the cycle ahead and provide the input that will shape the resulting project plans and budget.
- **Form follows function:** Utilizes a thoughtful mixture of project-based services, services performed by committees, and services organized by a coordinator. How services are delivered (whether by committee, project workgroup, or a coordinator) is a decision made by the local service conference.

- **Strategic:** Discussion and decisions are as much as possible concerned with strategic direction and oversight. Administrative decisions and “micromanagement” are delegated to the local service board.
- **Consensus-based:** Utilizes consensus-based decision making where practical (i.e., voting may still be the most logical way to handle elections or instances where the body fails to reach consensus and a decision must get made).

Recommended:

- **Meets quarterly:** The proposals suggest the local service conference meets four times a year for planning and oversight and the local service board meets monthly. In practice, when field testing, some communities determined that having the local service conference meet every other month better served their needs. One meeting of the LSC a year is devoted to the annual planning assembly.

- **Defined by county, city, or town boundaries:** The reasons for this recommendation are threefold:

1. To avoid duplication of services;
2. To make NA more visible to professionals and addicts who are trying to find us; and
3. To make sure all parts of a state or nation are covered by a service body. Making sure these three things happen is more important than a policy about service body boundaries, particularly given the potential difficulty in unifying with a neighboring service body. What seems crucial is better communication and collaboration with our neighbors with an eye to having a conversation about possible unification down the road. The third item, making sure that all parts of a state or nation are served by NA, is something that probably cannot be adequately addressed in most places until we get to the state/nation/province part of the service system.

- Does this eliminate members from having positions or being in

- service? Are there fewer positions?
- No it actually expands opportunities and positions.
 - What will be the role of the regions with responses to this service system?
 - Perhaps regions will make changes to how they operate, or they may remain the same. If the question comes up again regarding states and regions, it will improve the quality of our groups and services in NA.
 - How does the SSP enhance the growth of the regions?
 - This will help to improve our delivery of services and to grow where there has been neglect (i.e. Public Relations, helping professionals to find NA, corrections services, meetings missing in certain geographic areas).

Motion 6: To agree in principle to move in the direction of a service system that contains **local service boards: a body overseen by the local service conference that administers the work prioritized by the LSC, as described in the characteristics below.**

Characteristics of an LSB:

Essential:

- **Responsible to the LSC: Reports to and is overseen by the local service conference.**
- **Carries out the priorities of the LSC: The board oversees the work to accomplish the goals set by the local service conference. They present a budget and project plans to the LSC for approval, and they coordinate the service work of the committees, workgroups, and coordinators.**
- **Meets monthly: It seems practical to meet on a regular basis, though not all meetings of the LSB must be face-to-face. Some LSBs may choose to hold some meetings online for convenience.**
- **Administers the LSC meetings: The local service board is responsible for putting together the agenda and facilitating the LSC meetings, including organizing the annual planning assembly to get information from the whole NA community**

Recommended:

• **Consists of admin body and service coordinators: The proposals initially conceived of the local service board as a monthly meeting of the trusted servants elected by the LSC (the admin body) as well as the subcommittee chairs, project coordinators, and other service coordinators. In practice, there may be meetings where not all of these trusted servants are needed.**

- The local service assembly will help to increase communication, to determine what direction they would like to see their groups to go and to gather input.
- How will this concept (GSF) attract any more people than previous types of service?
 - It can become the norm of the future.

- What are some ways to educate more members to understand what we are discussing?
- Many locations cost money, and making pancakes, etc becomes problematic. We still need a place to go, someone to be in charge, to look for the location, shop for the food, etc. Where is this money supposed to come from?
- It is up to each locality to make decisions as to how to pay for what is needed and come up with ideas to meet each GSF's unique needs.
- These concepts are for the purpose of building stronger homegroups.

Comments:

- We need to step back and evaluate what we are doing. Align our services with our available resources. Be realistic about what we really have available.
- Motions 4,5,6 is around the home group and area services, and therefore does not touch on technology needs.

Regional Proposals

Proposal A: To place a moratorium on the Service System Proposals. Ideas for the moratorium range from two to four years. (5 proposals A1-A5)

Proposal B: To specify the specific decision-making mechanism for anything related to the SSP. (2 proposals – B1-B2)

•

Proposal C: Currently seated regions retain their seat at the WSC forever. (1 proposal – C)

- No current recommendations about seating at this time, because it is premature. It is better to wait until we reach a final decision about our service system before deciding this type of proposal.

Comments:

- We will discuss the efficacy of regional proposals as opposed to regional motions.
- Sometimes it does not take a motion to have a discussion.
- In the process of working with the regions who made the proposals, the regions were unable to put them into them into CAR ready proposals.
- Is there some kind of template developed to assist regions in creating good proposals or motions (if we go back to that format).
- It appears that seating recommendations have been put on the back burner. What has happened to that?
- It was in the original recommendation from the first SSP workgroup and it is in writing.
- The seating criteria was never a primary charge of the workgroup. It flowed along at the same time.

Proposal D: Ideas to evaluate or reduce WSC costs either by creating a

workgroup to look into conference costs or by eliminating World Board travel to the WSC. (2 proposals – D1-D2)

Reviewed ideas and concepts on CAT

AT WSC: we will meet briefly and then visit other US zonal forums.

Video for WSC re AZF: Etta will send a preview to secretary, which will be sent out to the delegates.

Agenda for July 26, 2014 Zonal Forum

Hosted by Mountaineer Region

- Introductions
- Read Traditions and Concepts
- Regional Reports; please forward your reports prior to AZF; they will not be read
- Discuss website/ zonal plans/other zonal forums research
- CAR/CAT/WSC decisions/ Zonal plans
-
- Review/ input feedback to our newly developed Zonal plans; ask for input to possible

Upcoming schedule for Autonomy Zonal Forum:

Mountaineer Region: July 26, 2014

Chesapeake and Potomac Region: January 31, 2015

Eastern PA Region: July 25, 2015

Free State Region: January 30, 2016

Greater Philadelphia Region: July 30, 2016

Central Atlantic Region: January 28, 2017