

AZF 7-29-16
Hosted by the Greater Philadelphia Region

11:19 STARTED

SERENITY PRAYER led by Eddie

INTRODUCTIONS:

Billy W – AD – Greater Philly

Eddie W – RD – Central Atlantic

Kim A – AD – Central Atlantic

Merle S – RD – Eastern PA

Ryan S – AD - Mountaineer

Cooper B – RD - Mountaineer

Craig R

Sherri V

Mike –

Arlene

Roy

Dee P – AD – Free State

John R – RD – Free State

Clarence

Anthony W – AD Chesapeake & Potomac & Cheryl D – RD Chesapeake & Potomac showed up while we were still discussing the agenda

First Order of Business

Set agenda - (see prioritization numbers below)

- Proposed Item: Allow for full PR presentation as an opportunity for Training and Mentorship for the delegates

The body did not support this - motion failed 2-3-0

- Several members sought clarification on how we would proceed if some professionals did happen to show up and we re-clarified the decision from our teleconference, which was that Billy would be sitting at the door, and he would explain that we had opted to do an abbreviated presentation for them.

AGENDA FOR TODAY'S MEETING

1. The body voted to View an approximately 1.5 hour PR presentation between 1 and 2:30 3-1-2 (present not voting)
2. Review the FIPT Statement that World sent out and asked up to send input on. Exchanging information amongst our regions would allow us to get a wider perspective on how this statement and the issues it addresses affects our fellowship.
3. Secretary – position and duties and responsibilities
4. Inventory
5. Website review
6. Future of the Autonomy Zone – Roll of the zones Motion 11

Agenda item #1 FIPT- suspended until we can get it up on screen

In the meantime we discussed agenda item #2 the secretary commitment

SECRETARY Commitment

- ✓ We decided the Gatekeeper of the documents will be the webservant.

ELECTIONS:

- a. Vacant positions shall be taken back to Groups, Areas, and Regions when possible
- b. All candidates should have the following:
 - i. A working knowledge of the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts of Narcotics Anonymous
 - ii. Willingness to serve
 - iii. Willingness to give time and resources necessary to fulfill duties required
 - iv. Previous Zonal participation (may be waived)

Secretary - Duties and Qualifications

The Secretary:

- ❖ Will have a minimum of 5 yrs clean time
- ❖ Commitment is a non-funded volunteer commitment (there will be no reimbursement of travel expenses)
- ❖ Will record accurate minutes using the template provided
- ❖ Will provide an accurate summary of the discussions of the meeting as well as the final outcomes of such discussions.
- ❖ Will include all submitted written submissions to the meeting such as reports, pros and cons.
- ❖ Will maintain and update the AZF contact list
- ❖ Shall be elected every two years. The commitment may not be held for more than 2 consecutive terms
- ❖ Distribution of the minutes requires the secretary to:
 - a. Send to every person on our contact list an electronic version of the minutes within two weeks following the meeting/teleconference.
 - b. If requested will mail hard copy to anyone who provides a self – addressed stamped envelope and requests hard copy be sent.
 - c. After Zonal approval, will send both telephone conference call minutes and regular minutes to the world board within four weeks.

Secretary Guidelines (approved see teleconference minutes 3-14-16) 1

- ✓ Template – Each hosting region will be responsible to put together the minutes. Decided to use the template that Cheryl submitted and we will revisit should any problems arise after we implement.
- ✓ Secretary Guidelines were adjusted: See below (Webservant will upload new guidelines to website)
- ❖ The last bullet point will be changed from *shall be elected every two years....* to *“The taking of the minutes shall the responsibility of hosting region.”*

Break for lunch

Reconvened at 1pm – Zoe did introductions and we began the presentation for the body and the 3 attending professionals (2 with legislative ties and 1 from Social Services Organization) with 10 minutes to fill out the survey.

Craig Robertson reconvened the presentation at 1:15

- Craig gave us some background about NA and how we view our relationship with professionals
 - Then he went over some survey information about our growth and how useful the data we receive is in helping us to identify our needs in terms of services and literature. It gives professionals an insight into who we are as an organization.
 - He showed the slide from the “Regions around the World” map, which depicts 67,000 weekly worldwide meetings. Of special note is the growth of NA around the world.
 - Cultural Adaptability of NA – We have no opinions on outside issues – we avoid taking a stance on religion and political ideologies so we can continue to reach addicts around the world. Our literature is in 47 languages and our meetings are in 80 languages
 - The 2015 Membership Survey outlined 68% rated first meeting *Important or Very Important* - Craig discussed how important it is for members to be welcoming and inclusive. The survey showed less than 1% were less than 21 years old so we started creating literature for younger addicts so we could begin reaching them better. Average clean time put together – 27% 1-5 years. Family Relationships is the biggest area (92%) of improvement identified by the survey. The Areas of Improvement slide really shows how we improve (regain useful productive lives)
 - **Cooperating with Professionals** – *slide contents shown below*
 - *Welcoming your clients to meetings*
 - *Presentations to professionals and clients*
 - *Printed material, audio-visual, helplines, websites*
 - *Subscription to NA newsletters and literature use for client introductions to NA*
 - *There is no charge or fee to attend NA recovery meetings or for NA presentations*
 - Contacting NA – contact info provided on the final slide
- Clarence then came up with Sherry and went over the contents of the folders.

Clarence went over the contents of the big blue folder: AZF Survey, Welcome page with info about our Zone, History of NA information, FAQ with suggested Answers, AZF Additional Contact Info, Presentation Evaluation Survey, NAWS Lit. Order Form

Sherry and Cooper went over the IP Packet which included = Am I An Addict, NA: A Resource In Your Community, Membership Survey, Welcome to Narcotics Anonymous and An Introduction To NA Meetings

Clarence addressed some of the things that participants mentioned in their surveys.

- They asked for a video showing what our meetings are like
- A perceived shortcoming of NA is we aren't helping people with mental illness and that our program of complete abstinence leaves some people feeling alienated. Clarence recommended “In Times of Illness” and that we are currently working on some IPs for both of these concerns.

Questions:

Eddie W thanked the panel and talked about his initial introduction to NA and how vital a role PR plays in assisting addicts in finding our rooms.

Craig asked how many of us found recovery through professionals and the majority of the hands in the room went up.

Clarence asked the guests to fill out the survey

Cooper said he had done a presentation at a school and said 99% of the people he talked to didn't know what NA is or what we do.

Craig mentioned he, too, found NA via a professional and that now there are links on professional websites that take visitors to Na.org. He went on to talk about how our local PR subcommittees can provide regular presentations to hospitals (neo natal nurses in particular) to educate mothers of crack babies on how NA can help.

Zoe talked about getting bumper stickers on every fire truck, ambulance, pharmacy window with our 800 number - She asked "Where AREN'T we?" How do we reach these places and stay within our boundaries that our guidelines have outlined

Sherry encouraged us to show up on the NAWS webinar to learn more about how we can do more as individual members. Fellowship Development and Public Relations is trying to fill in the blank spaces in the map worldwide. She went on to inform our guests on how to get the free literature that is available for download from na.org.

Kim brought up National Night Out which is happening this coming Tuesday and it's PR opportunity to continue to raise awareness about NA.

John spoke about how he found NA.

Craig spoke further on "Where we are not" - Local communities need to plan events - plan, plan, plan. See who is missing from your meetings, go to where that segment of the population exists. Go to: Community Centers and provide information. Be on the lookout for opportunities. The national return drugs day - NA should have a presence on these sites! Contact the mayor's office, the governor's office. Plan, look for opportunities, show up.

Billy asked our visitors to talk about their perceptions of NA and how we can be a better resource for them. -- Tom M - State Representative: spoke on our mission - loved the fact that we are not political. As a legislator he frequently looks for a legislative agenda.

Ralph Bradley from Family Services - felt we have a very real issue in our meetings. People are ostracized and ridiculed because of their other illnesses when they show up at NA meetings. Medically Assisted Treatment Programs and NA are very divided.

The PR Presentation concluded and we broke for 20 minutes

AZF resumed with the FIPT agenda item.

Kim - Central Atlantic - read the FIPT statement issued by World and expressed an interest in hearing the discussion from our participating regions because it will help when discussing within Central Atlantic Region

Eddie - Central Atlantic - felt the letter is good because it asks for the behavior to stop instead of mandating or ordering.

Cooper – Mountaineer - says the Mountaineer region is in favor of the letter as written. He doesn't feel it will make the people stop, but it will raise awareness.

John – Free State - feels the letter will be ineffectual

Cooper - says WSO has taken action and they are going to website hosts and letting them know they need to remove copyrighted material

Anthony - C&P – there are people who will totally disregard anything NAWS has to say. He feels we should continue to educate people about what is approved and not approved. Newcomers are getting caught in the crossfire.

Merle – Eastern PA – do we want NAWS to take the meetings off the meeting lists

Sherry – the legal expenses involved in going to court would be extreme.

Kim felt it wasn't good that NAWS is riding on the delegates approval for the statement instead of just doing what the fellowship has empowered them to do.

**Agenda additional item for January – review how this went.*
Discussed our inventory and what our goals were

Being a hub for communication *(one of our stated goals)*

What is the purpose for being a hub for communication – foster collaboration

Form follows function – what are we trying to do? We are trying to improve communication via Networking among regions, assisting with training and mentoring, collaborate – less redundancy of services.

Question – have we sought other regions to come and share info with us – yes

Jimbo spoke on: All Zones seem to have different roles. Florida symposium is funded by their region. We need to focus on Training the trusted servants to improve communication.

Anthony: Lack of service – participation – is disheartening - but collaborating with a neighboring zone is a good idea but we must improve our own lines of communication between ourselves before we try to improve communication with others.

Sherry asked us to find out how other zones are funded.

Cooper talked about having more training events to develop communications within our zone. First priority within our inventory is Learning and Training – let's return to the original intent of this forum and exchange information

Billy brought us back to what is our purpose/focus – why do we meet. We have terrible communication sometimes between ourselves. – What are we doing. What are our limitations, (funding, communication)

Clarence: How can people learn/be taught if you only meet twice a year.

Merle – we did this inventory because at WSC we began talking about the role of the zones.

Kim: Who are we training? Can we go back to doing reports? Within the region where we are meeting we could decide what the current issues are and determine what kind of training we will be doing based on that region's needs.

Cooper feels we should be training our replacements.

Craig – mentioned Kim's idea was discussed 3 years ago. He felt the training should be broader. Train for other trusted servants. His vision for a Zonal Forum was networking.. When World Services did away with H&I and PR at the world level, nothing replaced it. Our Vision statement tells us what we should be doing. We should stop spinning and narrow our goals.

Cooper: WSC discussions seemed the same as before. Come back to our original vision... we need to network

Lots of further discussion on how we got here. A suggestion – set time frames on the agenda so we can actually feel a sense of accomplishment.

We identify challenges within the hosting region and focus our efforts on being of service. **Read group reports** and based on the identified concerns build the next

REGIONAL REPORTS (none received)

AGENDA – JANUARY 2017

- Review how July 2016 PR Presentation went
- Read group reports at next meeting – issues and concerns in your region, upcoming events, number of areas, home groups and identify how your subcommittees are functioning – info about liability insurance, who you use for phone line carrier, etc...
- Review of Website
- Motion 11
- Open Forum time

Upcoming Schedule

- Mountaineer Region: July 29, 2017
- Chesapeake and Potomac Region: January 27, 2018
- Eastern Pa Region: July 25, 2018
- Free State Region: January 26, 2019
- Greater Philadelphia Region: July 27, 2019
- Central Atlantic Region: January 28, 2020

In loving grateful service,

Kim A,

Central Atlantic Region AD

Minutes approved:

Region	RD	AD	AD2
CAR	√	√	-
C&P	Abstain	√	-
EPARNA	√		-
Freestate	√	√	-
Greater Philly	√	√	-
Mountaineer	√	√	-

*Attendees: *Contact list removed for the web*

**archive document available upon request*