

Northwest Michigan Area Service Committee

Minutes April 17, 2005

Opening: Co-Facilitator, Dave T. opened with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.

Jo D. read the 12 Traditions and Jeff B. read the 12 Concepts.

Attendance: Wanette C, Amanda B, Robin C, Don O, Cathy T, Todd S, Mike F, Dave T, Guy R, Carrie, Pat H, Nichole C, Jeff B, Jo D, Jay S, Rachel S, Rob M, Melissa B, Tricia D, Brandon C, B.J. Paul D, Grant, Paul G, Taylor D, Bill L, Cherie L, Kristy C, Nikki, Ryan C, Rich P, Adam, Brian W

Welcome New Groups: The Whiting Group is meeting on Friday's at 6pm.

Living Clean is meeting on Friday's at 7:30 at 5th & Oak.

Open Positions: Open Area Positions— RCM, Co-Secretary, and Treasurer

Area Trusted Servant Reports

Secretary: Report given by Melissa B.

I spent a total of \$14.33 on postage and copies of minutes, plus additional copies of various forms. Request of \$16

Treasurer: Report given by Wanette C.

Wanette resigned as the Treasurer.

starting balance 719.67

new balance \$961

total income \$489.32

prudent reserve \$147.26

total expenses \$386.62

lit.com. Balance \$106.54

RCM: Report given by Jo D.

I attended the last Regional Meeting and the excellent workshop the Sat. before on "public image." World has been considering ways we can improve our public image since recovering addicts are often viewed as socially unacceptable by society. Our public image is greatly affected by how we behave in and out of meetings and other activities. Our behavior is being watched by society, and we need to work hard to behave in a way that is healthy/recovering manner. If behaviors that are not conducive to recovery are happening, we need to take a united front and look at ourselves. If something is happening and the police should be called, then call them. NA does not have any legal authority. This also includes web sites and everything that is under the eyes of society. Each addict needs to not only check themselves (10th step), but also our groups and everything around. Have you done your part today in keeping with a positive and healthy recovering attitude?

At Region, we discussed changing the date of MRCNA from July 4th weekend to Labor day weekend, in hopes of better attendance. If we are interested in hosting the convention or doing a fundraiser, contact the MRCNA subcommittee.

The MSO is adding new merchandise; clothing and bracelets with clean dates (same colors at key tags).

Our new treasurer will balance the checkbook and bring the records up to date and add some checks and balances.

We discussed some people being threatened at meetings and it was agreed that the police should be called. Detroit has a zero tolerance inappropriate behavior policy. Older members need to approach the individual and inform them that their behavior is not conducive to recovery. Do not target the individual, but the behavior.

The Region donated an extra \$5000 to World. This meeting was quite small as we had quite a few people gone on vacation. Our Co-Facilitator did resign, so that position is open. The individual cannot hold a RCM or RCMA position.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you and good luck with the future. I will no longer be a part of this. ILS, Jo

Sub-Committee Trusted Servant Reports

Activities: Report Given by Cathy T.

Great participation at last activities meeting. Lots of willingness!

The bowling was lots of fun. We had a great turnout, friendly competition, another fun-filled event in Recovery. I'm sure we'll be bowling again soon!

Some upcoming events in our area to put on your calendar:

The Clean up Campout is the first weekend in May at Timber Ridge. The new owner called me the other day because she was concerned we had not reserved enough campsites, so she is going to hold a few more for us in the same area. I think the new owners are going to be great to work with. If you can't camp, you are still welcome to come out and hang out with us. The potluck will be Saturday night followed by a speaker. We're going to supply the hot dogs and hamburgers and asking people to bring a dish to share. You can bring your kids too cuz there's miniature golf, basketball, volleyball, video games and maybe a wagon ride. I'm requesting a budget of \$40.00 for food and plates and napkins, etc.

We are planning a roller skating activity on Saturday, May 21st. It will be at the Cadillac skating rink from 3:00 – 5:00. This is a good chance to get the Cadillac people involved in an activity and to get to know them on a more personal level. And just another great way to have fun in Recovery. Flyers will be out soon.

On June 11th is the NA Variety Show! This will be at the UAW hall and will begin with a speaker. The Karaoke people will be there. Please sign up for an act or talk to Paula. Any kind of act would be great – singing, dancing, juggling, comedy; whatever your talent is! Get your kids involved too. This event is also going to be a MRCNA fundraiser so they will have people from their committee here and we will donate a portion of the proceeds to them. We're also having a pie in the face contest, featuring Dave T. and Brandon so you don't want to miss that! We will need lots of help putting this on so if you want to get involved, please come to the next activities meeting.

We're going to be canoeing in July and there will be another beach picnic at Long Lake so listen for more details.

Again, we have more of the area "Hugs Not Drugs" T-shirts for sale. They're going fast so be sure to get yours. We are selling them for \$10.00 or \$12.00 for XXL. Show your pride in your area!!

That's it for now. As always we can always use more help and ideas so come to the activities meetings. And come to the Activities too. They're lots of fun! Thank you for the opportunity to serve. Cathy T.

Hospitals & Institutions: Report given by Rachel S.

All is going great. Thanks to Terry's willingness and determination, he is now able to take meetings into the Jail. Sgt. Smith agrees that the rule stating no felons eliminates a large percentage of our population. So long as there are no charges of violent felonies, requests will be considered. Three other men's names have been handed in for clearance, so hang in there Jeff, help is on the way. All other H&I meetings are being held consistently thanks to all who have been showing up. H&I meeting in Gaylord was well attended by people from our area. Report is that our Area's H&I has it's act together. Budget request is \$193.61.

Public Information: Report given by Guy R.

Attendance- 10

Website- up and running ok, World Links?

Munson Drug Class, May 3rd, have volunteers

Phone Line- John and Nichole are in the process of changing it.

Taylor was elected as Co-chair of PI

Bryan B was elected as Secretary of PI

Statewide poster was presented at Region. It will be the same throughout the state, the only difference being the phone # of the Area.

Trying to get an 800# that would be the same throughout the state.

Health Fair at NMC- was on Tuesday, April 12th, a few people asked some questions and picked up IP's

Need help with Drug Court class. Will be starting to put together format at next PI meeting. Asking all NA members with input to attend.

Have requests from Holy Cross Child Services and from TC Probate Court for literature and someone to speak to kids about NA.

Literature: report received via email 4/18

Accounting

\$ 33.36 starting balance

\$ 96.50 deposited from New Freedom 3/20/05.

\$ 50.00 deposited from Living Clean 4/5/05

\$ 110.10 raised at "Movie Night" 4/13/05

\$ 289.96 total balance

Retreat: Report given by Rich P.

The retreat subcommittee has started up and had good turnout, 20 people attending. Positions: Chair-Rich P, Co-Chair-Kristy C, Speakers/Workshops-Brandon C, Sound/Recording-Paul D, Secretary/Treasurer-Melissa B, Setup/Teardown-Jay S, Flyers/Signs-Dave H, Cooking-Dave T.

The "Name the Retreat" Contest is in full swing and will run to the next retreat meeting, which is May 3rd. Immediately following that, we will hold the "Design the T-shirt" Contest.

We will also be going over ideas for fund raisers for the retreat on May 3rd also, so I encourage everyone to attend.

Timber Ridge has been sold, but I was assured that nothing will be changed as far as what we have reserved, except the one cabin by the main site is going to be moved. Don is still a sound contact for us at the campground. It is a good thing we reserved when we did, because another group is still wanting our campsites.

Group Service Representative Reports

The Beach Meeting: no report given

Growth Through Recovery: Report given by Brandon C.

Average attendance this month - ? Are all trusted servants positions filled? - ?

Area Donation - none

Decision on subjects presented to the group -Subjects brought to the Area from the group - none

Comments- Brandon C is the new GSR and would like to receive Area minutes. But the groups conscience is not to send a representative to the Area Service Committee at this time.

Just for Today By the Bay: Report given by Robin C.

Average attendance this month - 20-35 Are all trusted servant positions filled? - no, need co-gsr & co-treasurer

Area Donation - \$50

Decision on subjects presented to the group - none

Suggestions brought to the area from the group - After excellent discussion at our group conscience meeting, the group of 10 to 15 people, after reaching consensus makes the following recommendations: 1. that no new policy regarding NA policy be adopted 2. That based on our 1st and 12th Traditions, the RCM and Literature Chair be asked to resign. In our discussion, we felt that the differences in the personal relationship between the RCM and Lit. Chair are significant enough that they cannot at this time work together. Since our recovery depends on NA unity, we must make our corporate unity a priority. Having 2 people in primary places of responsibility within the program with such a great chasm between them disrupts our corporate unity. It is imperative that the people who hold key positions for us be able to work together. They don't have to like each other, but must be able to work together. Again, the issues between these 2 make it difficult, if no impossible to put principles before personalities. It is because of our concern for these two individuals and our own corporate unity and serenity that we recommend asking for their resignations.

Comments- none

Living Clean: Report given by Jeff B.

Average attendance this month - 50 Are all trusted servant positions filled? - yes

Area Donation - \$125

Decision on subjects presented to the group - Decision to support Recovery First's Suggestion/Motion 2, as written, was made. (regarding ASC group service reports, etc. be considered confidential)

Suggestions brought to the area from the group— none

Comments— There was discussion and education for our trusted servants on what to do if police shows up at a meeting, went well. There is a new Friday night meeting at 5th & Oak at 7:30, which has the playroom.

Living in Harmony: no report given

Never Alone: no report given

New Attitudes (Manistee): no report given

New Freedom (Cadillac): Report given by Don O.

Average attendance this month - 8 Are all trusted servants positions filled? - yes

Area Donation - \$20

Decision on subjects presented to the group - principles before personalities; should follow suggestions of Area

Suggestions brought to the area from the group - none

Comments-none

Recovery First: Report given by Guy R, proxy for Robert V, acting GSR

Average attendance this month - Tue.45-50/Mon&Thur.25-30 Are all trusted servants positions filled? - yes

Area Donation - none

Decision on subjects presented to the group - Yes to both Suggestions/Motions that were brought back to the groups.

Suggestions brought to the area from the group - none

Comments-none

Women in Recovery: Report given by Cathy T.

Average attendance this month - 10-12 Are all trusted servant positions filled? - need GSR, Treasurer & Secretary

Area Donation - none

Decision on subjects presented to the group - Suggestion/Motion #1— Agree that PI committee should draft a letter to law enforcement

Suggestion/Motion #2- Agree that trusted servants should not surrender any documents to law enforcement without a court order.

Suggestions brought to the area from the group - none

Comments-none

Sharing Session

Jo resigns the RCM position.

Wanette resigns Treasurer position.

Nichole resigns Co-Secretary position.

Thanks to you all for your service!

Old Business

Brandon C. expressed willingness and stated qualifications for the RCMA position and was voted in. Congrats B!

Recovery First's suggestion #1 - PI is drafting a letter to send to law enforcement agencies educating these agencies to our traditions and respectfully requesting that they be observed.

Recovery First's suggestion #2 - Because it is a violation of traditions to make any of our reports, communications, etc. public, we don't find any need to specifically add them into the Area Procedures. "This is already covered".

New Business

Budget Requests:

Rent	\$50	
Phone	\$19.62	
Secretary	\$16	approved
Activities	\$40	approved
H&I	\$193.61	approved

A reminder that we don't really have "motions", but rather "suggestions"

Regarding JFTBTB's request for resignation of RCM and Literature chair-
comments included:

Our goal is not to judge people and drive them away

Why disrupt the system at this point? Is this issue really gonna continue?? No, we think it's over. The RCM has resigned.

Lit. Chair has put in a lot of effort.

No-one is perfect.

NA unity is the issue, not the individuals themselves. Individual stuff affected both Area and Regional stuff.

They both show up and do their job.

For unity and harmony, we need to ask for those resignations.

What message does that send to newcomers? To allow those kinds of tradition violations?

We each make our own decisions as to what drama/chaos we get sucked into.

When we are drawn in— we need to ask ourselves "when and why did I get caught up in their drama?"

Not in the Area procedures that a direct violation of traditions results in resignation, which it should be.

As a member, it is our responsibility to be each other's eyes and ears.
It's wrong to oust someone because of a mistake, "you messed up, so you gotta go".
By asking them to resign, we are calling them on their part in the whole thing, like a sponsor would do.
Compassion is ok, but we also need to get better.
This issue has halted our higher purpose of carrying the message.
Keep yourself clean first, service is second.
Book paraphrase-Not one of us can make good decisions alone, but together we can make a consistent good decision.
Not our job to change someone's else's behavior.

A reprimand may be ok, from the proper person.
"You mean I can get pushed out of service because I messed up?"
The disease kicks in when chaos kicks in. Not one of us is cured.

After much discussion, consensus was that we will NOT be asking for the resignation of the Literature Committee Chair.

Because of a recent problem with a flyer, it was suggested that our flyers state, "no outside contributions".
And maybe a little plaque or sign at dances to the same effect.
Should flyers be approved of by the appropriate subcommittee before distribution?
Probably would take too long and the flyers wouldn't get out in a timely manner.
But it would be smart to allow someone to check over a flyer.
Make sure it includes the NA logo also.

Open Forum

(no notes)

Attention GSR's

Open Positions

- Area RCM- This position has a 1 year clean-time requirement.
Duties include: To serve as the primary liaison between the Region and our Area. To make materials available from the RSC as requested. Attend the RSC meetings and as many group service and sub-committee meetings as possible. Serve as Area Facilitator in the absence of the Facilitator and Co-Facilitator. To be a co-signer on the area bank account.
- Area Treasurer- This position has a 2 year clean-time requirement.
Duties include: To keep full and accurate financial records for the Area. To collect all donations from the groups and/or subcommittees. To be custodian of the committee funds. To be primary signer of all checks. To be primary depositor of all Area funds. To make a formal report of receipts and disbursements at each ASC meeting.
- Area Co-Secretary- This position has a 6 month clean-time requirement.
Duties include: To assist the Secretary in their duties of note-taking at the Area meeting and producing and disbursing Area minutes to all trusted servants and GSR's in the Area. To perform the duties of the Secretary in their absence.
- Women in Recovery needs a GSR, Treasurer & Secretary
- JFTBTB needs a CoGSR and Co-Treasurer

Help Needed

- PI subcommittee needs help with Drug Court class.
- The "Name the Retreat" Contest is in full swing and will run to the next retreat meeting, which is May 3rd. Creative ideas needed. Call Rich P. for details 883-2305
- The Activities subcommittee needs help putting on the NA Variety Show on June 11th. Come to the next Activities meeting.

Announcements

- Living Clean has a new meeting happening on Friday night's at 5th & Oak at 7:30, which has the playroom.
- A new group is meeting at the Whiting Hotel downtown on Friday night's at 6pm.
- The Clean up Campout is the first weekend in May at Timber Ridge. If you can't camp, you are still welcome to come out and hang out with us. The potluck will be Saturday night followed by a speaker. We're going to supply the hot dogs and hamburgers and asking people to bring a dish to share. You can bring your kids too cuz there's miniature golf, basketball, volleyball, video games and maybe a wagon ride.
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portion of the proceeds to them. We're also having a pie in the face contest, featuring Dave T. and Brandon so you don't want to miss that!

-More of the area "Hugs Not Drugs" T-shirts for sale. They're going fast so be sure to get yours. We are selling them for \$10.00 or \$12.00 for XXL. Show your pride in your area!!

Next Meeting May 15th, 2005 at 4:00pm