

**Northwestern Michigan Narcotics Anonymous  
Area Service Committee Meeting Minutes  
Dec19th, 2004**

Jo D. read the 12 Traditions and Robin C. read the 12 Concepts.

Attendance: Melissa B, Nichole C, Wanette C, Amanda B, Rachel S, Terry, Jo D, Robin C,  
Christy C, Tricia D, Mike F, Dave T, Guy R, Carrie, Don O, Jay S, Dave H

Welcome New Groups: none

Open Positions: Jo D. was elected as the new RCM. Congratulations Jo! The position of RCMA is now open.

Area Trusted Servant Reports

Secretary: Report given by Melissa B.

I received a budget of \$15. I spent \$7.40 for postage and \$7.42 on copies. So I'm returning 18 cents. I am requesting \$15 again for like expenses. I'm sorry about the lack of information regarding the phone line in last month's minutes. I failed to get the PI report. And just so you all know, I don't take notes during the reports section, so anything you want in the minutes regarding your subcommittee or group needs to be in your report.

So please make them as thorough as possible. I also apologize to Jo D. For neglecting to mention the NA newsletter. This was supposed to have gone back to the groups and I really am sorry for the oversight. From now on, the Co-Sec. Nichole will also be taking notes as well as myself, so hopefully these kinds of things won't happen again.

Treasurer: Report given by Wanette C.

starting balance \$688.70

total income \$731.87

total expenses \$755.20

new balance \$665.37

prudent reserve \$152.05

The \$15 "Business Share Maintenance Fee" has been credited to our prudent reserve savings account.

It was a computer error.

Our expenses exceeded our bank balance for last month. Luckily there were no problems or overdrafts, but we need to watch our expenses. The error may have been because our rent and phone expenses were not factored in.

RCM: Report given by Jo D.-RCMA

Enclosed is my report for my attendance at the regional meeting.

Please note the list for my expenses are for a meal only, since I carpoled down with Dave T. I am requesting that since the area didn't have to incur the cost of fuel for me to drive to Holland Michigan, could the area consider paying for his lunch in consideration of the fuel bill. If you pay for his meal, I will get brownie points. Please note that the next region meeting will be hosted by this area. I did some checking on what was available and the pricing and located a place for the meeting at the Sleep Inn in Acme for \$50.00. The next price was a \$100.00. The facility will also provide coffee and water for the meeting.

RCMA's Report of Region Meeting for December 2004

I attended the meeting in Holland Michigan. The regional balance is \$17,311.23.

I presented Lisa with the area donation of \$50.00.

Brian the RD had attended the MZF (Midwest Zonal Form). The MZF is operating at 192% of its finances. There was quite a discussion on the region supporting this and a decision was made to help out by contributing \$50.00 per quarter to the Zonal and see what we get. Brian stated that they have a lot of ideas that will help us.

In April the RDA will be going to Minnesota and the RD will be going to Indiana.

This zonal consist of a 7 state committee.

Brian also had heard from the world regarding the “Outdated PSA’s” and the willingness into changing them.

The world requests a Project Plan and he is looking into exactly what they want.

There was discussion on several places (Flint, the capital area and Chicago) have problems with our public image and the press due to the problems that some groups were creating within the communities. Meetings have been shut down and relocated to do this dilemma. Some of even gone to the point of involving law enforcement agencies. The concern is our public image and the controversy that is being created. It represents a bad public image for N.A with these things going on.

MRCNA: Costs of the banquet will be cost only to cut down on the price of the meal. All positions are filled. There are going to be raffles tickets available for the RCM’s to be selling for the convention. The convention is open to any addict and no addict is turned away regardless of financial status.

MSO: There have been problems again with the MSO losing orders, getting out the wrong stuff and not being full filled timely and correctly.

Capital Area: Has had problems with thief and \$2000.00 was taken. They were looking into if they should prosecute vs. signing contracts and other options. Much discussion went into this with other areas sharing their experience, strength and hope with them. By signing a contract with the individual that stole the money changes the crime from a criminal matter to civil one. Also discussion on holding some one accountable and responsible for the position that they are serving in.

Phone Lines: There was also quite a bit of discussion on area’s phone lines, answering services, pagers, and other methods of handling the incoming calls for NA in the area. Some areas list members’ phone numbers on their answering machine, so if someone needs to get a hold of a member they can call another number.

Northwood’s Area: As far as their retreat goes for next year, there will no be allowed any dogs over the weight of 15 lbs. due to the destruction and problems from the larger dogs this year present at the retreat.

Public Information: There was discussion of the PI chair at the region level wanting to be turned into a committee vs. a chair position. It was decided after a length discussion that the PI could be a coordinator position, but not a committee at the level of the region. If they needed to create an ad hoc committee to accomplish what they wanted to, then ok.

There was also discussion of the PI subcommittee creating more stuff such as billboards, bus bench signs, posters, region hotline, PSA’s, bookmarkers and business cards and the web site being the most important source for information.

There was also some discussion on having a multi-regional learning day/convention. It would consist of the whole weekend with service work and different parts of it. More to be revealed later.

## **Reports**

### **Sub-Committee Trusted Servant**

Retreat: Report given by Christy C.

Four people in attendance. Deposit of \$621.40 was made to Timber Ridge. T-shirt order was placed. Next Retreat meeting will be in March. Still have cd’s to sell.

Activities: Proxy Report Given by Mike F.

Only 4 people at last Activities Meeting- need more support.

Karaoke Night was a lot of fun. There was a good crowd and lots of singers. Brandon gave a great open talk. Literature Committee raised some money with the raffle and bake sale. Net proceeds after paying the DJ was \$231.90 which I am returning to Area.

We're having Marathon meetings at Jacob's Well again this year. From 5pm on Christmas Eve til 5pm on Christmas Day. There are sign up sheets at 5th & Oak and at Jacob's Well. Need 2 people at each time slot.

There will be a celebration on New Year's Eve night in the basement starting a 8pm. We'll eat, play games, have a burning bowl ceremony at midnight, followed by a candlelight meeting. We're asking people to bring a dish to pass.

We'll have the annual Sledding Party in Feb. With more to follow.

We have only 2 area T-shirts left. We have \$207. We can either order more t-shirts or return the money to the area, whatever the Area decides. As always, we need more support! ILS, Cathy T.

Hospitals & Institutions: Report given by Rachel S.

Last Jail meeting (men & women's) went well. Rachel, Rob and Jeff were there.

No meetings held on Thanksgiving. Jeff couldn't make it and let the jail know. Cindy was told it was a Holiday and they weren't having a meeting. Communication with the jail continues to be a problem. Pi has volunteered to help.

Still trying to get names cleared. Treatment centers and Pugsley going well. Materials are being delivered to outlying jails. No budget request.

Public Information: Report given by Guy R.

Meeting held Dec. 2nd, attendance 2. Well be talking to Judge Haley on concerns about drug court and H&I. Meetings not getting into the jails on a regular basis. Would like all GSR's to attend the PI meeting on Jan. 6th to discuss making better use of our phone line service.

Literature: Report given by Dave H.

The 3rd Literature Committee meeting was held Dec. 9th Attendance: 1

Fund-Raising Efforts- \$105 Game Night- Bake Sale \$190 Karaoke- Raffle/Bake Sale Total Raised- \$295A group order was placed December 15th - groups participating:

### Group Service Representative Reports

The Beach Meeting: no report given

(This group holds meeting between Memorial Day and Labor Day.)

The Benzie Group: no report given

Growth Through Recovery: Report given by Tricia D.

Average attendance this month - 10 Are all trusted servants positions filled? -no

Area Donation - none

Decision on subjects presented to the group - Area Elections-yes, we would like Area elections to be more formal. We suggest a format in which letters of willingness for positons are submitted to area, letters then go out in area minutes for groups to "vote/discuss/consense" upon, then bring votes back to Area.

Newsletter- forgot to discuss, sorry.

Literature Committee- will not be utilizing this service at this time, doesn't meet our current needs.

Phone Line-We question whether our Area has the financial resources to support any options that might incur more expense than we have already committed to as an Area. We appreciated all the creative work you all have been doing , but would need more specific information on costs, etc. before giving further comment. Thanks Again.

Suggestions brought to the area from the group - none  
Comments-We have a new chair for our Sunday meeting. We are extending the time for the Sat.and Sun. Noon literature study meetings. We will be continuing to review and update our meeting format & guidelines at our next Group Conscience meeting. Copies of old format & guidelines will be up on bulletin board, feel free to grab a copy and review before our next Group Conscience meeting. We keep having fun and experiencing Growth Through Recovery.

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

Average attendance this month - 15-20 Are all trusted servant positions filled? - no  
Area Donation - \$50

Decision on subjects presented to the group - To have area elections on either a separate day, or later in the day, or possibly the Saturday before. Keep extra money from dance for literature committee. Interested in newsletter, but need more information. New phone line is good idea, would like more information.

Suggestions brought to the area from the group - Take care of our Area's needs before Region.  
Comments-none

Living Clean: Report given by Mike F.

Average attendance this month - 40 Are all trusted servant positions filled? - need Thursday night and Friday night chairpeople  
Area Donation - \$100

Decision on subjects presented to the group - Area Elections-have picnic ½ hour later, more time for elections. Newsletter ok if done by a committee and Area approves before printing. Yes to literature committee order.

Suggestions brought to the area from the group - none  
Comments-

Living in Harmony: no report given

Never Alone: Report given by Guy R.

Average attendance this month - 15 Are all trusted servant positions filled? - no  
Area Donation - \$80

Decision on subjects presented to the group - none  
Suggestions brought to the area from the group - none  
Comments-none

New Attitudes (Manistee): no report given

New Freedom (Cadillac): no report given

Never Alone: Report given by Don O.

Average attendance this month - 7 Are all trusted servant positions filled? - yes  
Area Donation - \$20

Decision on subjects presented to the group - none  
Suggestions brought to the area from the group - none  
Comments-none

Recovery First: Report given by Dave H.

Average attendance this month - Tue.40-55/Mon&Thur.25-30 Are all trusted servants positions filled? - yes

Area Donation - \$15

Decision on subjects presented to the group - Suggestions brought to the area from the group - none

Suggestions brought to the area from the group - none

Comments- none

Women in Recovery: no report given

### Sharing Session

Amendment to last month's minutes- The Growth Through Recovery does not express a grievance toward the Literature Committee. It was one individual who expressed a grievance concerning procedural issues regarding the way Area handled the Growth Through Recovery's motion to disband the Literature Committee.

Minutes need to reflect accurate expenses, including rent and phone.

Possibly produce PSA's locally for Michigan. Anonymity was discussed regarding showing individual's faces on TV.

PI is looking into the possibility of a Region wide phone line.

PI is a hot topic! Get involved in getting message out to the public

Before our hosting of MRCNA in Feb., we will have a Saturday meeting to brainstorm PI issues, etc.

Sat. night JFTBTB meeting does not have a babysitter available any longer.

### Old Business

Jo D. Is the new RCM, which makes the position of RCMA open.

Newsletter: discussed by some groups, which all request more information. Jo will bring a cost study and a mock newsletter to next month's Area.

Literature Committee- groups agree that it is ok for the Lit. Comm. to keep any money gained by discount from consolidation of orders.

Another Literature Committee order will be placed after the Lit. Comm. Meeting, which is Jan. 11th. Groups or individuals can utilize this service.

Could the Lit. Comm. somehow utilize the Area bank Acct? Would make online ordering easier. Wanette will check into this.

Need new signers on the bank account to all meet at Credit Union One on Saturday, Jan. 8th at 10am.

Today we only have one signer. Wanette will get checks signed and hopefully they will go out with the minutes.

Area Elections- lots of input from groups- possibly give more time between the elections and picnic  
-another suggested a format in which letters of willingness for positions are submitted to area, letters then go out in area minutes for groups to “vote/discuss/consent” upon, then bring votes back to Area. (Possibly come in with a format for next month).

- not to set people up for failure, but rather, for success
- educate people in Traditions and Concepts
- not push so fast
- maybe have stricter requirements, which would require a Guideline Amendment
- not be so desperate to fill positions, let them go vacant if needed
- more business-like setting

New Business  
Budget Requests:  
Rent           \$50  
Phone           \$19.62  
Secretary       \$15  
Lit. Comm.     \$200 (discussed last month)

Yes, on allowing Activities to take their \$\$ to order more “Hugs not Drugs” T-shirts.

Growth Through Recovery is extending the amount of time for the Sat. and Sun. Noon literature study meetings.

Open Forum

Attention GSR's

The position of RCMA is now open at Area.

Living Clean group needs Thursday night and Friday night chairpeople. Attend their Group Conscience if willing.

Growth Through Recovery is extending the amount of time for the Sat. and Sun. Noon literature study meetings (Noon -1:30).

Growth Through Recovery Group is in the process of reviewing and updating their meeting format & guidelines. Copies of old format & guidelines will be up on bulletin board, feel free to grab a copy and review before our next Group Conscience meeting. We keep having fun and experiencing Growth Through Recovery.

Sat. night JFTBTB meeting does not have a babysitter available any longer. Friday does still have a babysitter.

PI would like to invite all GSR's to attend the PI meeting on Jan. 6th to discuss making better use of our existing phone line service.

Another Literature Committee order will be placed after the Lit. Comm. Meeting, which is Jan. 11th. Groups or individuals can utilize this service.

We are having Marathon meetings at Jacob's Well again this year. From 5pm on Christmas Eve til 5pm on Christmas Day. There are sign up sheets at 5th & Oak and at Jacob's Well. Need 2 people at each time slot.

There will be a celebration on New Year's Eve night in the basement starting a 8pm. We'll eat, play games, have a burning bowl ceremony at midnight, followed by a candlelight meeting. We're asking people to bring a dish to pass.

We'll have the annual Sledding Party in Feb. More info to follow.

**Next Meeting January 16th, 2004 at 4:00pm**