

## Northwest Michigan Area Service Committee Minutes February 20, 2005

**Opening:** Co-Facilitator, Rob M. opened with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.

Dave T. read the 12 Traditions and Cathy T read the 12 Concepts.

**Attendance:** Jeff B, Guy R, Carrie, Dave T, Cathy T, Rob M, Rachel S, Terry, Jay S, Robin C, Jo D, Tricia D, Chad, Scott W, Mike F, Nichole C, Melissa B, Taylor D, Wanette C,

**Welcome New Groups:** none

**Open Positions:** The position of RCMA is open.

### Area Trusted Servant Reports

**Secretary:** Report given by Melissa B.

I spent \$3.38 over my requested budget for copies and postage to mail minutes. So I'm requesting reimbursement for that, plus a budget request this month of \$19 for like expenses plus envelopes. Total budget request of \$22.38.

**Treasurer:** Report given by Wanette C.

starting balance \$955.68	new balance \$799.96
total income \$631.90	prudent reserve \$142.15
total expenses \$787.62	lit.com. Balance \$5.00

**RCM:** Report given by Jo D.

We recently hosted the Regional Meeting of Narcotics Anonymous up here and it was a success. The regional was quite impressed with the number of members that attended our open speaker meeting and the dance that followed. We were asked "how do we such a successful turnout"?

Our regional delegate reported on information from the world and brought back the annual report from world. If you would like to see it, it is available online at [www.na.org](http://www.na.org).

In this report the topics that were discussed are as follows: Fellowship donations

Groups and meetings this reflects an increase of 917 groups and 1311 meetings from the 2003 report

New products: 18 new products were issued and 1 new draft. 11 of the products are translations and the rest have to do with revised material i.e. "We do Recover" and adding "Many of us have said "to the third step prayer.

Recovery literature on the internet: there were over 5000 visits to this site in June 2004 alone. Our literature is posted in twenty-six languages. This also can be viewed online.

Marketing and public relations NAWS had conducted many round table discussions on this matter to find the problems between NA and the professionals. This is the largest matter.

Many concerns were found to be: we are hard to locate, we are irresponsible, we're predators, our phone lines are inadequate; we are all hard core drug users and so on. The good side was that we have a vast amount of recovery literature and was impressed with some of our publications, such as the NA way magazine and the NAWS newsletter. The plan is to work on these issues during workshops with two discussions for the 2004-2006 conference cycles "our infrastructure and our public image".

Unit sales trend: interesting charts on the sales on literature and medallions, Charts for the years 2003-2004 and 183-2004.

Conventions and events: world convention in Hawaii this year, please note Hawaii is not part of the united states and considered to be in the pacific rim, in 2007 WCNA will be held in Texas, in 2009 held in Europe, in 2011 held in western north America, and in 2013 held in eastern north America.

Financial report: where does our money go? Literature production and distribution 36%, events 32%, conference supports 17% and fellowship development 15%. Total assets are \$6,243,838.

Donation by region report: There was an increase in donations from \$673.26 in 2003 to \$1077.21 in 2004, thus resulting in an increase of 37%. Michigan region had an increase in 9%. Donations from the RSC our region had donations from 3 areas and 2 groups totaling \$1069.25

It was the RD's suggestions that we look at having workshops with the topics being "Our Public Image and Infrastructure". This seems to be our weakest areas; therefore we might want to look at improving these matters.

Another area that was discussed was that now outside of subscribing to NAWS new and the NA Way magazine, you can do it on line with eSubscriptions.

I have enclosed some suggested guidelines for holding these issues.

The world is also looking at having an operating expense in reserves of 1 years worth, please express your concerns on this for the RCM to take back to the region at the next meeting.

As far as the web site, the web site coordinator at region level is looking at being able to remove information not being used to free up space.

MSO claims the problems that they are having is the world problems. 6 week wait for the Basic Text and other literature and supplies. Most people are going to the World for service. The MSO doesn't provide for the Web and does provide meeting space for Detroit area. It also provides storage for some of the NA stuff, Mail drop and archive items. The MSO has been given credit to certain places.

***MSO wants to know what they can do to serve us better?***

***What is our experience with the MSO?***

We held region elections and I will not go into who got what because is it lengthy. I will though at this time like to congratulate Dave T. who became the next Regional Facilitator, Gene from Northwood's on co-facilitator and Jo D. on Regional Treasurer. Good luck to you all on your new duties.

Grand Rapids now has meetings that are Spanish speaking for members. Lansing has an AIDS meeting. The NA logo is to be used on all information therefore helping us to enhance our public image.

It was suggested that when making products use designs that can be multiple purpose there for increasing the desire for such merchandise and avoids have merchandise that no one wants. I.e.: dated material and such.

I also have receipts for the donuts and the area donation that I gave to Laurie.

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

**Activities:** Report Given by Cathy T.

We had a pretty good turnout at the last activities meeting. Some new faces and new ideas. Thanks everyone for your support.

On January 29<sup>th</sup>, we had a tubing party at Timberlee, which I was unable to attend. The activities co-chair, Mike F., was there though and said they had a great time. Not very many people showed up but the ones who did had lots of fun.

The dance on February 5<sup>th</sup> was also lots of fun and very well attended. We had lots of folks from out of town that were here for the regional meeting so we got to meet new people. The speaker was good and so was the food provided by the Literature Committee. We had great music, a raffle and an auction, also put on by the literature committee. The literature committee was able to get to their goal with this fundraiser so thanks to everyone who came out and supported them. We brought in \$367.00 at the door and after paying the DJ \$100.00, we are returning \$267.00 to the area.

On Saturday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, we are having our annual sledding party out in Cedar. Hopefully, we will have enough snow by then, but we will have the sledding party regardless. If there is not enough snow to sled, we can still have a bonfire and eat chili. There is also a Frisbee golf course for anyone interested. If anyone has or knows of any wood we can have, please see me. Dave T. is making his famous chili and we are asking people to bring a dish to share. The caravan will meet at Tom's West Bay at 11:30. Hope to see you all there. I will need a budget of \$5.29 for bowls and hot chocolate, which I have already purchased.

We have a lot of fun stuff planned in the months ahead. There's going to be a game night on Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 5<sup>th</sup> & Oak. I have flyers for the GSRs. We're just supplying the coffee and pop, which was left over from the dance, and asking people to bring food to share, so there is no budget request.

We're also planning a St. Patrick's Day Dance on March 19<sup>th</sup> at the usual place. We're going to have Sloppy Joes and green punch. I am requesting a budget of \$225.00; \$150.00 for the hall and \$75.00 for food and supplies.

We're talking about going roller skating at the rink in Cadillac in early April. We'll have more details on that next month and the big event we are planning, which I think will be a blast, is a USO show, with a Bob Hope MC and lots of talent and costumes. We are planning it on Armed Forces day on May 21<sup>st</sup> and will even be inviting some local armed forces to come watch. This is a big event which will take lots of planning and willingness so if you are interested in helping out with it, please come to the next activities meeting. We will be passing around a sign up sheet for talent, so if you want to perform, and I know we have some real talent in this fellowship, watch for the sign up sheets. This is really going to be fun!

I hear a lot of people around the fellowship complaining that there is nothing to do and they are bored in recovery. Well, I'm here to tell you that there is lots of fun to be had in recovery. All's you have to do is show up!! Be a part of! Get involved in these fun activities. And if you have ideas, please come to the activities meeting. We want to hear your ideas. Thank you for the opportunity to serve, Cathy T.

**Hospitals & Institutions:** Report given by Rachel S.

Thanks to all who supported the Area at the Regional H&I workshop. Jail and treatment center meetings are going well. Welcome to Ryan C, Jeffery K, Matt K, Nicole C, Robin C, and Kristy C. to the Jail. All are approved to go in. Group decided to stay on Jail approval list. Trusted servants should try to make at least one meeting a month. Welcome Paula and Nikki. They will now be chairing every other Wed. at Phoenix. After next week I, Rachel, will be stepping down from chairing meetings at Phoenix and begin to take meetings into the jail every week. We are still in need of men who are willing to go into Dakoski with Terry. Dave T. will chair Dakoski while Terry is out of town. Budget request is \$307 or plan B is \$159.16

**Public Information:** Report given by Guy R.

Attendance— 2

Website— up and running ok

Phone line— John M, the person who helped set up the phone line, is willing to help PI redo it.

Schedules—Corrections are being made. Benzie group dropped. No child care at Friday nigh JFTBTB group.

Drug Court—PI has been asked by the Probation Dept. to participate in a four wk. introduction program to NA. I ask that all trusted servants attend the next PI meeting on March 3 so that we can set up a format on what to present to these new people.

Budget Request—\$80 for intro guides and IP's

**Literature:** Report given by Dave H.

The 4th Literature Committee meeting was held February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2005. Attendance: 6. The primary discussion at this meeting was the design and fabrication of a large, secure storage and display case for the literature committee's stock of books etc. Several members have offered donations of materials (wood, hinges, casters, etc.) for this case. Some fund raising efforts will be devoted to this project. The case should be completed and housed at 5<sup>th</sup> & Oak later this spring.

#### Fund Raising Efforts-

\$ 205.00 Raised (February 5<sup>th</sup> Dance)  
\$ 200.00 Donation from Activities Sub-Committee  
\$ 405.00 Total

\$ 300.00 Literature purchased and on hand (Basic Texts, IP's & Keytags)  
\$ 705.00 Total raised to date

Please extend my sincerest gratitude to Cathy T., the activities committee and those members supporting and assisting our efforts at the February dance. An over zealous (addict) estimate of spaghetti lovers put us in jeopardy of sustaining a major setback at this fund raiser. God and the generosity of our members carried the day, allowing us to double our outlay and move forward. A minimum of 1 additional fund raising event will be required to achieve our initial goal of \$ 800 and allow us to fabricate the storage case for our stock.

Donation boxes will remain out at Living Clean and Recovery First for the time being. We ask that meeting chairpersons are encouraged to draw attention to these boxes and our efforts by making announcements at meetings. These boxes have brought in over \$ 30.00 thus far.

Bank Account- An S22 account has been opened at Credit Union One for the Literature Committee. I have attempted to order directly from World Services using electronic check transactions from this account. World Services is not set up to transact

business in this fashion. It will be necessary to establish an account with a debit card carrying the Visa or Mastercard logo to make electronic transactions. I ask that the area service committee give Wanette permission to set up this account at Credit Union One. I verified that they provide this service and have all the pertinent tax and contact information on file to accomplish this. The group order placed with World Services last month arrived short some items and with 6 extra Basic Texts as well as other items. I faxed a list of the discrepancies to the WSO. They promptly shipped the missing items but initiated a charge to my personal bank account to cover the extra items sent. This resulted in an overdraft of my account and \$ 60 of overdraft fees that I was forced to eat. Although I see this as an unfortunate growing pain, I urge the area service committee to work toward resolving the bank account issue to prevent future problem.

Group Order- A group order will be placed on Monday February 21<sup>st</sup>. I encourage all groups and sub committees to get their orders to us today if they intend to participate in this order. I will order approx \$ 400 worth of additional items on behalf of the Literature Committee with this order. Dave H.

**Retreat:** no report given

### Group Service Representative Reports

**The Beach Meeting:** no report given

**The Benzie Group:** this group has been closed

**Growth Through Recovery:** Report given by Nichole C.

Average attendance this month - 15 Are all trusted servants positions filled? -no, need Secretary

Area Donation - none

Decision on subjects presented to the group - newsletter-we need more info such as purpose of intent, likelihood of sustenance and how will it be ensured that the content is NA approved

Subjects brought to the Area from the group - none

Comments- We wanted to share that we had a goal for a prudent reserve and we finally reached it - so, thanks.

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

Average attendance this month - 15-25 Are all trusted servant positions filled? - no, need co-treasurer

Area Donation - \$50

Decision on subjects presented to the group - Area should make their own decision on what they want to do about elections.

Suggestions brought to the area from the group - none

Comments- none

**Living Clean:** Report given by Jeff B.

Average attendance this month - 42 Are all trusted servant positions filled? - yes

Area Donation - \$175

Decision on subjects presented to the group - Elections- separate time and place, 5th & Oak is OK

Newsletter- OK for 3 mo. Trial to be reevaluated by groups then. Newsletter name to be decided by subcommittee after receiving direct input from any addicts who chooses to submit ideas.

Suggestions brought to the area from the group- For newsletter if approved- use some NA Way articles. Post open positions for groups, Area, and subcommittees in need of help.

Comments- none

**Living in Harmony:** Report given by Taylor D.

Average attendance this month - 16 Are all trusted servant positions filled? - ?

Area Donation - \$17

Decision on subjects presented to the group - none

Suggestions brought to the area from the group - none

Comments- none

**Never Alone:** Report given by Melissa B.

Average attendance this month - 18 Are all trusted servant positions filled? - need GSR, Secretary & Treasurer

Area Donation - \$30

Decision on subjects presented to the group - Elections—Group is in favor of holding elections more formally at a regular Area meeting, completely separate from the softball activity. Newsletter— Group is not in favor of an Area Newsletter. But if Area and groups do decide on the newsletter, our group would like to suggest a 3 mo. trial period.

Suggestions brought to the area from the group - none

Comments- none

**New Attitudes (Manistee):** no report given

**New Freedom (Cadillac):** no report given

**Recovery First:** Report given by Guy R, proxy for Dave H.

Average attendance this month - Tue.40-55/Mon&Thur.25-35 Are all trusted servants positions filled? - yes

Area Donation - \$50

Decision on subjects presented to the group - Elections—Separate the elections from the baseball game by holding the Aug. meeting in a regular business format and continue having a softball game separately. Let positions go unfilled rather than coercing the unqualified or unwitting members into the job. Newsletter—Yes, form a separate sub-committee or assign this task to the Literature committee. Be certain that Area has final edit and approval responsibility, as a means of protecting the integrity of Area and NA as a whole.

Suggestions brought to the area from the group - none

Comments-none

**Women in Recovery:** Report given by Cathy T.

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

Area Donation - none

Decision on subjects presented to the group - Elections—should separate election from softball game, no change to procedure, but hold elections at regular Area meeting, advertising ahead of time. Newsletter— No, Don't think we need another committee or additional cost to Area. Questions and concerns of anonymity and who is donating the publishing services, a member?

Suggestions brought to the area from the group - none

Comments-Our meeting time is now 7:30 pm. We will need to change the schedule next time they are printed.

Thanks to all the women who supported our meeting last month so that we can keep it going.

## Sharing Session

To avoid any confusion, please list as much information as possible on flyers for activities, including a contact #.

Should Dave H. be reimbursed for \$60 overdraft fees for the literature committee?

## Old Business

RCMA position remains open

Much discussion regarding how to handle the money associated with the Literature Committee orders:

-Group ordering has created chaos and complicated the committee's goal of a store format.

-It was agreed it would not be wise to have a debit card associated with our bank account.

-To keep it simple, have the money transferred from the lit.com. Acct to the checking and have Area Treasurer write a check to send with the order.

-Area would like the Literature Committee to draw up their committee guidelines.

-Any cash on hand be immediately deposited into the bank.

-Allow groups to decide where to get their literature from, whether it be WSO, MSO, or the Literature Comm.

Area Elections- Based on group consciences, Area Elections will be held at the regular August Area Meeting, completely separate from the softball activity.

Newsletter- Groups were divided on this issue. There were 2 direct yes' and 2 direct no's. And 1 yes, with a 3mo. trial and 1 no, but with a 3mo. trial. The 3 mo. trial posed the problem of start up costs of approx. \$40. And with costs being a valid point, a motion was made to table the newsletter for now, until money is available.

## New Business

### Budget Requests:

Rent	\$50	
Phone	\$19.62	
Secretary	\$22.38	approved
Activities	\$230.29	approved
H&I	\$307	approved
PI	\$40	approved

Tabled the issue of Dave H. being reimbursed for \$60 overdraft fees for the literature committee.

Tim P. brought up the possibility of a new meeting starting at the Whiting Hotel downtown.

## Open Forum

(no notes)

### Attention GSR's

#### Open Positions

- Area RCMA. This position has a 6 month clean-time requirement, though more is recommended.  
Duties include: assisting the RCM in their duties as the primary liaison between the Region and our Area  
attending both Regional and Area meetings  
fulfilling the duties of the RCM in their absence
- Growth Through Recovery needs a Secretary
- JFTBTB needs a Co-Treasurer
- Never Alone needs GSR, Secretary & Treasurer
- Women in Recovery needs a GSR, Treasurer & Secretary

#### Announcements

- The Benzie Group has been closed
- PI has been asked by the Probation Dept. to participate in a four wk. intro. program to NA. PI would like all trusted servants to attend the next PI meeting on March 3 so that we can set up a format on what to present.
- St. Patrick's Day Dance on March 19<sup>th</sup> at the UAW Hall. We're going to have Sloppy Joes and green punch.
- NA Way Magazine is free and available by writing to NA Way Magazine, PO Box 9999, Van Nuys, CA 91409  
Emailing to info@na.org or calling 818-773-9999 ext.117

#### Group Discussion

The WSO is asking for a 1 year operating expense in prudent reserve, which is over \$7 million. The World's present reserve account currently has over \$1 million in it and that would operate the office for 42 days. Please note that it costs over \$600,000 to operate for one month. Broken down on a daily basis it costs over \$28,000 per day to operate the World office. Please express your thoughts and concerns on this for the RCM to take back to the region at the next meeting.

MSO is having some concerns as to why so many people are going to the World for service. The MSO would like your groups input on :  
***What is our experience with the MSO? What can the MSO do to serve us better?***

**Next Meeting March 20th, 2005 at 4:00pm**