

Northwest Michigan Area Service Committee Minutes January 16th, 2005

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

Jo D. read the 12 Traditions and Carl read the 12 Concepts.

Attendance: Wanette C, Amanda B, Rachel S, Terry, Jo D, Kristy C, Robbie B, Carl, Taylor D, Dave H, Rob M, Dave T, Jeff B, Guy R, Carrie, Cathy T, Melissa B, Nichole C, Robin C, Scott W, Jay S, Niche W, Brian W

Welcome New Groups: none

Open Positions: The position of RCMA is open.

Area Trusted Servant Reports

Secretary: Report given by Melissa B.

I spent \$17.78 on stamps and copies. Requesting \$2.79 reimbursement, along with budget request of \$15.

Treasurer: Report given by Wanette C.

starting balance \$665.37

total income \$586.90

total expenses \$296.59

new balance \$955.68

prudent reserve \$142.15

lit.com. Reserve \$200

RCM: Report given by Jo D.

We're hosting the Regional Service Committee here on Sunday, Feb. 6 at the Sleep Inn in Acme; 9am- approx. 2pm.

Sub-Committee Trusted Servant Reports

Activities: Report Given by Cathy T.

Great turnout at the last activities meeting! Thanks everyone for your support.

The Christmas Marathon Meetings were a success once again. They were pretty well attended and we had lots of food and fellowship. Thanks to everyone who helped out by chairing meetings, cleaning up, etc.

We had a lot of fun on New Year's Eve. We played games, ate nachos and brought in the New Year with confetti and noise makers. We followed that up with the burning bowl ceremony, which was a powerful and moving experience and then had a candlelight meeting. It was a good and safe way to ring in the New Year. I am requesting \$25.46 as reimbursement for pop, coffee and New Year's party supplies as I failed to request a budget for that.

We had originally planned to go tubing on January 15th but the snow fairies did not cooperate so we will try again on January 29th. It will be at Timberlee at 2:30. The cost is \$9.00 per person per hour or \$14.00 for 2 hours. They don't have any group rates. Last year we had a blast! Of course, I won't be going but you guys can still go.

On February 5th, we are having a dance at the UAW Hall. Our area is hosting the Regional Meeting on February 6th so we want to have some entertainment for our regional guests the night before. The speaker, hopefully someone from the Region, will be at 7 and the dance will start at 8 with DJ Paul. The Literature Committee will be providing the food to help them raise some money so my budget will not be as big. I believe they will begin selling the food after the workshops at around 5:30 and into the night. I am requesting a budget of \$175.00 - \$150.00 for the hall and \$25.00 for coffee, cream, sugar, etc.

The Sledding Party which was going to be on Feb. 19th has been pushed back to Feb. 26th due to a conflict in my parent's schedule. We'll have Dave's chili, a bonfire, hot chocolate and coffee and lots of good family fun. Flyers will be out soon with more details.

Lots of fun stuff going on so watch for flyers. As always, we can use more help so please come to the activities meetings.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve. Cathy T.

Hospitals & Institutions: Report given by Rachel S.

Treatment Centers and Jail going fine. Talked with Sgt. Smith on 1/15. He is trying to find out the status of names given for approval. He has been taking classes and hasn't been around much.

Talked with Les from region. The H&I region rep has stepped down. We will discuss at next H&I meeting what we want from region when they are up here. I am suggesting that there is an H&I learning day, instead of a panel.

Budget request of \$86.74; see budget request form.

Public Information: Report given by Guy R.

Schedules-corrections are being made.

Website- people who wish to be put down as a contact require one year clean time.

Posters- have volunteer's to check posters

Phoneline- ?

Information kits being put together for drug court and Munson drug class. Requesting a budget of \$117.50 for the information kits.

Literature: Report given by Dave H.

The 3rd Literature Committee Meeting was held Jan. 11 with 2 in attendance.

Fund-Raising efforts- Feb. 5th dance 1) Food Concession 2) Raffle-Keytag Rack, na zippo lighter, etc. 3) Donation Cans

We have raised \$295 plus Activities donation of \$200 gives us a total of \$495 raised so far.

A group order was placed Jan. 12th: groups participating 1) \$117.50 PI 2) \$136.20 Recovery First 3) \$29.50 JFTBTB 4) \$277.85 Living Clean 5) 129.50 Literature Comm.

An S22 savings account has been opened at Credit Union One for the Lit. Comm. We will attempt to order directly from World Services using electronic check transactions from this account.

Literature Committee placed a minimal order to bring group order over \$500. The committee will continue fund-raising efforts at upcoming events. Target is another \$300 to be raised.

Retreat: Report given by Melissa B, Retreat Treasurer

The \$245 from last year's retreat plus the \$100 from Area in Nov. was not satisfactory to Timber Ridge as a deposit for this year's retreat. So along with a hefty reservation from another NA member, the t-shirt deposit money was used as well. This of course created a problem when ordering t-shirts. To complicate it further, it was actually like \$10 cheaper to buy 12 shirts rather than the 8 we needed (a quantity discount thing), so that's what I did.

To make a long story short, I paid \$163 for these shirts out of my own pocket. Forty I will receive from the sale of the 4 additional t-shirts. So I am asking for reimbursement of \$123. You could consider it part of the deposit to Timber Ridge, because that's essentially what it is.

Also, I have 3 checks equaling \$42 to give to Area.

Hopefully this squares this whole t-shirt mess up. Thank you for your patience and sorry for the whole "robbing Peter to pay Paul" scenario.

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 Nichole C.

Average attendance this month - 10 Are all trusted servant positions filled? -no, need Secretary

Area Donation - none

Decision on subjects presented to the group - none

Subjects brought to the Area from the group - none

Comments- none

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

Average attendance this month - 15-20 Are all trusted servant positions filled? - no, need co-treasurer

Area Donation - \$50

Decision on subjects presented to the group - none

Suggestions brought to the area from the group - none

Comments- none

Living Clean: Report given by Jeff B.

Average attendance this month - 40 Are all trusted servant positions filled? - yes

Area Donation - \$200

Decision on subjects presented to the group - none

Suggestions brought to the area from the group - none

Comments- none

Living in Harmony: Report given by Taylor D.

Taylor D. is the new GSR

Never Alone: no report given

New Attitudes (Manistee): no report given

New Freedom (Cadillac): no report given

Recovery First: Report given by Dave H, acting GSR

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

Area Donation - \$50

Decision on subjects presented to the group - We support an improvement to the phone line. A warm human answering the phone is preferred.

Suggestions brought to the area from the group - none

Comments- none

Women in Recovery: Report given by Cathy T.

Average attendance this month - 5-10 Are all trusted servant positions filled? - no, need GSR & Secretary

Area Donation - none

Decision on subjects presented to the group - none

Suggestions brought to the area from the group - none

Comments-Group is struggling- desperately need support- may have to close meeting due to not enough 7th tradition to make rent. Usually meetings consist of the women from Dakoske plus 2 or 3 members with experience to share.

Sharing Session

Concern was raised regarding Trusted Servants leaving the Area Meeting after giving their report.

Trusted Servants are committed to staying through the entire meeting as they may be relied upon later in the meeting for questions, information, etc.

Should we amend the area procedures to state this?

How about simply bringing it up at the beginning of the next Area meeting?

Concern was raised regarding the lack of attendance at Sub-Committee meetings.

Let's encourage people to become involved by speaking to them personally.

Explain that they can have a say in NA by expressing their ideas and votes at Sub-Committee meetings.

Old Business

RCMA position remains open

Election Process

- Wanette will talk to Lisa G from the Saginaw Bay Area to see what process they use
- slow down the process and make it more formal
- take back to groups again
- fear to commit if resume is required
- problem getting bodies there
- keep elections more formal and orderly, more organized
- responsibility still rests on members to ask questions of persons willing
- keep it more simple, résumé's etc. complicates the process
- one bad experience last year doesn't warrant a whole change in process
- responsibility rests on facilitator to keep the process orderly
- make it 2 separate events
- flyer specific to elections
- this concern was brought up by groups and needs to be addressed
- groups who brought up the concern were going to submit ideas and plans, but they are not here
- elections are announced as a joke, so they are perceived as a joke; announce seriously, they will be perceived seriously
- our process lends itself to impulsivity
- our election process eliminates the groups from being a part of it; groups consciences are being missed
- eliminate the "hoop-la" so we aren't caught up in it
- this issue needs to go to groups for more resources and input

Newsletter

- Letter from Jo D. -

"This is the information that you asked me to look into as far as publishing an area newsletter. Please see sample newsletter; note that this is only a mock up. The cost I got down to paper only (about \$10 per bundle) and one printing cartridge (about \$20 a year). The monthly publishing would be donated. The cost would vary on the number of copies to be printed. The suggested quantity would be 25 to start with and go up in increments of 25. If the number goes up, so would the cost of the paper.

"I am going to suggest that the area also allow this to be a committee position and not a sole person responsibility. Please note that I already have 4 other members willing to work on the committee. The committee would be responsible for what material is to be published in the newsletter and that the committee approves all material to be published. Please note that the committee standards are from the world and that the Traditions would be followed and meant. The newsletter committee would be meeting on Tuesday nights and maybe one other night in order to get this organized, depending on availability of a location. Also the committee would be establishing guidelines on the newsletter as to what color of paper, what areas of interest, and reviewing all materials to be published and anything else pertaining to the newsletter.

"At this point, I am requesting that it goes to the groups and if approved, that the groups also come up with a name for the area newsletter."

-The issue of the area newsletter was moved to new business. See additional notes in that section please.

New Business

Budget Requests:

Rent	\$50.00	
Phone	\$19.62	
Secretary	\$17.79	approved
RCM	\$75.00	approved
Activities	\$200.46	approved
H&I	\$84.25	approved
PI	\$117.50	approved
Region Donation	\$100.00	approved
Retreat	\$123.00	approved
Total budget approved \$786.62		

Newsletter

- Should we form a newsletter sub-committee?
- It would be following newsletter committee standards from World, as well as the Traditions
- Jo would print the master copy on her computer with the cartridge provided by Area, then copies would be made with Area paying for the cost of paper. Other publishing costs would be donated.
- Should we really be accepting a donation of the publishing?
- submissions for the newsletter would be brought to Area and/or the newsletter committee meeting
- newsletter would be distributed at Area
- any feedback accepted
- Do we really want to form another sub-committee when the other ones already need support?
- Issue needs to go back to groups for discussion and input.
- world guidelines and a mock-up of the newsletter will be sent to GSR's for group discussion
- do groups have any suggestions for a name for the newsletter?

Open Forum

(no notes are taken during open forum)

Attention GSR's

Open Positions

- Area is still looking for an 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
- Women in Recovery needs a GSR and a Secretary. The Women's group is struggling- desperately need support- may have to close meeting due to not enough 7th tradition to make rent. Usually meetings consist of the women from Dakoske plus 2 or 3 members with experience to share.

Announcements

- Tubing on January 29th. It will be at Timberlee at 2:30. The cost is \$9.00 per person per hour or \$14.00 for 2 hours.
- On February 5th, we are having a dance at the UAW Hall. The speaker, hopefully someone from the Region, will be at 7 and the dance will start at 8 with DJ Paul. The Literature Committee will be providing the food.
- We're hosting the Regional Service Committee here on Sunday, Feb. 6 at the Sleep Inn in Acme; 9am- approx. 2pm.
- Annual Sledding Party is on Feb. 26th. We'll have Dave's chili, a bonfire, hot chocolate and coffee and lots of good family fun. See flyers for more details.

Group Discussion

Issue #1 -Area Elections

Currently our Area holds it's annual elections in August prior to the softball game. The vote is conducted by method of secret ballot with simple majority electing nominee. Area allows a proxy letter of willingness and qualifications to be submitted if someone is unable to attend the election. All NA members are welcome. Having elections prior to the softball game has been a way of encouraging NA members to attend and participate. A concern was brought to Area by a group that the Area Elections would be taken more seriously if they were held in a more business-like setting.

So far, only 3 groups have expressed their groups conscience on this issue. One was to have the picnic 1/2 hr. later, leaving more time for elections. Another was to hold the elections completely separate from the picnic. And yet another was to have a new voting format in which letters of willingness would be submitted to Area, distributed to groups to "vote, discuss, consense" upon, then

bring votes back to Area.

Please read over the Area notes regarding this issue with the group.

Does the group believe the Area Elections procedure should be changed?

And if so, what changes does the group believe are necessary? Please be as specific as possible.

Please bring input from the group to the next Area meeting.

Issue #2 -Area Newsletter

Interest has been expressed regarding starting an Area Newsletter. Two of the groups have discussed this issue, but requested more information. So, along with these minutes, GSR's have been provided with the World Guidelines for newsletters and a mock newsletter for group discussion.

Please read over the Area notes regarding this issue with the group.

Does the group believe that Area should form a Newsletter Sub-Committee?

Please bring input from the group to the next Area meeting.

Next Meeting February 20th, 2005 at 4:00pm