

# I BSTENTIA

... in abstentia: 'although not present' ...

## Purpose of I BSTENTIA:

To provide a summary of current activities & projects of the Michigan Region Service Committee of Narcotics Anonymous (MRSCNA) to members and groups of the Michigan Region who were **not present** at the most recent MRSCNA meeting on Sunday, December 06, 2009 in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

## Purpose of Michigan Region Service Committee of Narcotics Anonymous (MRSCNA):

- Provide support to Area Service Committees
- Manage the Michigan Regional Convention
- Coordinate Website & Internet Technology Management
- Build and Maintain Archival Library
- Fellowship Development services to Groups and Areas
- Participate in World Service and Zonal activities
- Attend Public Relations oriented events in the region
- Support the Michigan Service Office.

## MRSCNA Participation:

- MRSCNA meets on the first Sunday of the even months at 9:00am
- Regional Committee Members (RCM's) and RCM Alternates (RCMA) from 11 of the 13 MRSCNA Areas attended the December, 2009 meeting (number of groups/meetings/H&I meetings are in parentheses): Flint (38/58/11), Greater Grand Rapids (20/35/4), Muskegon (10/30-35/16 yearly), Livingston County (13/13/4 monthly), Northwestern (17/35/7), Northwoods (11/19/2), Saginaw Bay (38/50/6), Southern Mid-Michigan (10/17/9), SW Michigan (36/73/12), Washtenaw (22/28/6), and Westshore (5/12/0)
- MRSCNA trusted servants in attendance included: Facilitator, Co-Facilitator, Secretary, Treasurer, Co-Treasurer, Regional Delegate (RD), Regional Delegate Alternate (RDA), Convention Chair, Web Servant, Michigan Service Office (MSO) Rep, and the Public Relations (PR) Chair
- The Western Wayne Area (from the Metro-Detroit Region) Ad Hoc Committee to study Regional Affiliation also attended the MRSCNA meeting to discuss the possibility of moving from the Metro-Detroit Region to the Michigan Region
- Interested NA members from Detroit and Monroe also attended the meeting.

## Financial Update (Bob P.):

- Current bank balance (as of November 30, 2009) is \$2,713.31
- Ending balance for MRCNA 26 (Operating Monies) as of October 30, 2009 was \$5,253.55
- Approved payment of \$160 for 8 copies of the Conference Agenda Report (CAR) ... will order the reports from the MSO
- Approved payment of \$312 for air travel for our Regional Delegate Alternate (RDA) to attend the World Service Conference during April, 2010 in Woodland Hills, CA. Funds for the RDA's food and lodging (approximately \$1200) will be allocated at future MRSCNSA meetings (prior to the World Service Conference). Note: World Services funds for travel, food, and lodging for our Regional Delegate (RD) are provided by World Services
- Approved payment \$200 per year for Web services
- Liability insurance was discussed. Many groups have lost their meeting place for lack of insurance. Metro Detroit Region carries insurance for entire region and will pass along information.

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## Regional Delegate (RD) Report (Dave T.):

- The 'Living Clean' World literature project will be releasing 3 more chapters for review and input early in 2010, but they would like to get input before the chapters are created by logging on to their discussion board at <http://www.naws.org/lc/>
- The world convention (in Barcelona, Spain) financial numbers are not yet available but they believe that their projected numbers were on par with reality, so they think they only lost as much money as they expected to.
- The deadline for the worldwide membership survey has been extended to allow addicts more time to respond. That address is <http://questionnaire.disc.na.org>. Please take the time to fill out this survey as it generates the numbers needed to present NA to professionals as a viable recovery option for their clients.

## Web Servant Report (Jim B.):

- Progress has been made in the migration of the Regional websites to a new host company. Thanks to Jeff S. (MDRSCNA), Paul (MSO), and Nick (Westshore Area) for input and research
- Timeline for migration to the new web host provider is 60 days
- Need to transition to new email system
- New web host will be able to handle "Basic Meeting List" Toolbox
- Domain name is registered to MRSCNA, so transfer will not be an issue.

## Michigan Service Office Report (Chris B.):

- Online ordering of literature is in place
- Online and walk-in literature sales are slow (economy)
- Remodeling of office has progressed ... the facilities are greatly improved.

## Ongoing MRSCNA Projects:

### 1. Michigan Region Convention of Narcotics Anonymous - MRCNA 26 (Matt F.):

- MCRNA 26 will take place on July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend (2010) at the Valley Plaza Hotel Complex in Midland
- MCRCA planning meetings take place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month (11:00am) at the Valley Plaza
- This year's theme has been chosen: **Our Message is Clear, We Do Recover**
- 2 successful fundraising events have been held in Midland (+\$257) and Flint (+\$450)
- Pre-registration is \$20 ... after June 1<sup>st</sup> registration will be \$25. Registration will include entertainment for the entire weekend
- Upcoming Fundraising Events:
  - January 30, 2010 @ Valley Plaza in Midland - Volley Ball Tournament 3-2 or 2-3 ... music, dance, video and Guitar Hero competition ... \$5/person ... Speaker ... bring snacks
  - March 06, 2010 in Lansing - Chrissie Burns, comedian ... 5:30 potluck ... speaker @ 7:00pm will be Roscoe E. from Saginaw ... dance to follow
  - May 22, 2010 in Traverse City - Motorcycle Run ... camp out and softball fund raiser ... \$5/person ... speaker will be John R. from Bay City
  - June 12, 2010 - **It's is going to be the big one!** More will be revealed
  - All the fundraisers will have a pre-registration table and pre-convention merchandise available. Event flyers will be posted on both the Convention and the Regional websites to expand access and awareness about fundraising events.



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**Ongoing MRSCNA Projects (continued):**

**2. Public Relations: Ad Hoc Public Service Announcement Project Report (Marianne G. & Dave C.):**

- We have chosen what we want each of the four (4) PSA's being developed to say (scripts) and what the scenes (locations) will be
- Each video will avoid 'promotion', but will demonstrate 'who' and 'how' NA can help and inform viewers/listeners how to contact NA for information and assistance (via Helpline numbers)
- Regional and Area Public Relations (PR) and Public Information (PI) trusted servants will deliver the PSA's to local TV (and perhaps, Radio) stations for airing ... TV and radio stations are required by the FCC to air a minimum of Public Service Announcements free of charge
- We will need to get about 100 different faces/profiles (non-addicts) within the 30 seconds allocated for each PSA
- Our goal is to have the PSA's ready for distribution prior to the World Service Conference in April, 2010.

**3. Ad Hoc Helpline Project Report (Ron W. & Willard Y.):**

- Flint Area is exploring improvements to "contacting new addicts" and requested Regional support to improve Helplines
- The Michigan Region's Phonenumber Project conference call will take place on Saturday, January 09, 2010 at 10:00AM for all Helpline trusted servants in Michigan
- Purpose: with the Public Service Announcement (PSA) Project in full swing, we may have PSA's available for distribution near the end of the first quarter in 2010 ... this is a great time to assess and improve (where practical) our Area (and Regional) phonelines
- We will begin our discussion with an assessment of our current state ... with an eye to identifying best practices and providing an opportunity to learn from one another in the spirit of continuous improvement ... so that no addict seeking recovery need die from the horrors of addiction
- A conference call-in number/pass-code and starting questions for all Helpline trusted servants can be obtained from Willard Y. @ [willardyoung@yahoo.com](mailto:willardyoung@yahoo.com) or 989/992-6171
- This conference call will require pre-conference preparation (e.g., costs & utilization)
- Following our review of the current state of NA phonelines in Michigan, we will discuss and formulate a future state (vision) for our phonelines in additional phone conferences.

**4. Regional Inventory Project Report (Local RCM or RCMA):**

- A Regional Inventory Survey was prepared to gather feedback from MRSCNA Area Service Committees, Groups, and members regarding their viewpoints about the effectiveness of MRSCNA
- Local Regional Committee Members (RCM's) are responsible for the distribution and collection of the surveys in their respective Areas
- The Regional Inventory Surveys are due at the next MRSCNA meeting in Holland, MI.

**Regional Calendar 2010:**

- Midwest Zonal Forum (MZF) @ Hyatt Regency O'Hare in Rosemont (Chicago), IL 60018
  - February 5: -- NAWS Update 8:00pm to 9:30pm
  - February 6 (8:00am start) to February 7 (5:00pm end) -- CAR/CAT Workshop
  - Note: CAR - Conference Agenda Report; CAT - Conference Approval Track
- Sunday, February 14, 2010: MRSCNA meeting @ 9:00am in Holland, MI.