

# Saginaw Bay Area Service Committee of Narcotics Anonymous Minutes

October 24, 2009 – New Life Vineyard Church – Midland, MI

**OPENING** - The Area Service Committee was called to order by the Chair, at 1:37pm with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity prayer.

**NEWCOMER** – Tom (No Fear), Bob (No Fear), and Erica.

**READINGS** – Al read the Twelve Traditions, Bryan M. read the Twelve Concepts, and Rodney read the Purpose, Function and Responsibilities of A.S.C.

**ACCEPTANCE OF LAST MONTH’S MINUTES** – Primary Purpose did not receive copies of September minutes, and were given a copy at today’s meeting. RCM did not receive a copy of September minutes, and does not want one today. September minutes were accepted.

## **ROLL CALL**

Trusted Servants	
Chair	P
Co-Chair	P
Secretary	P
Co-Secretary	P
Treasurer	P
Co-Treasurer	A
RCM	P
Alt RCM	-

Subcommittees Chair	
Activities	R
Helpline	P
H&I	-
Literature	-
Public Information	P
Retreat	R

Home Groups			
A Gathering of Men & Women	A	Just for Today	-
Clean and Serene	A	Keep it Simple	-
Closing Optional	-	Learning to Live	A
Common Desires	P	Let Go, Let God	R
Common Ground	A	Never Alone	A
Common Welfare	P	New Attitudes	-
Conscious Contact	R	New Awakenings	P
Desire to Change	P	New Way of Living	-
East Side	-	No Fear	P
Fishing for Recovery	P	Primary Purpose	P
Freedom Group	P	Recovery Zone	-
Graciously Forgiven	-	Recovery Zone II	P
Him & Her Recovery	-	Steppin Straight	A
Hope for Us	-	Survival	P
H.O.W.	P	The Chance	-
How it Works	P	Together We Can Do It	-
Hugs, Not Drugs	-	Twelve Steps to Freedom	-
I Can’t, We Can	-	Unity	P
If You Want What We Have	P	We’re Not Unique	R
In the Solution	P	Willing to Make the Effort	-
It Works, How and Why	R		

**ELECTIONS** – Congratulations to Rodney; our new Activities Chair, and Willard; our new Alt. RCM. After having been elected as Activities Chair, Rodney bowed out from his nomination for H&I Chair.

## **NOMINATIONS**

1. Literature Chair – Tammy was nominated by Jesse, seconded by Linda.
  - a. Qualifications: is active in NA, will have one year clean in two weeks, involved in sponsorship and step writing. Home group is New Awakenings, can read and understands the literature sub-committee duties.

2. H&I Nominations:

- a. Bryan M. was nominated by Rodney, seconded by Bob
  - 1. Qualifications: Willing to be of service, involved in sponsorship and step writing, home group is common welfare, has 3 ¾ years clean.
- b. Cody M. was nominated by Jason, seconded by Phil
  - 1. Qualifications: Is involved with sponsorship, working on the 3<sup>rd</sup> step right now, has a home group, has 18 months clean, has chaired the Wednesday night treatment center meeting in Midland, and is currently waiting for a callback from the Freeland prison about being cleared to participate in a meeting in there.

**TRUSTED SERVANTS REPORT:**

**Policy and Administration Report:** My professionalism is not with me today. So, waaaazzuuuuup!

Aside from that, the P&A committee got together on Saturday, Oct 17. It was a magnificent occasion. In attendance were the Chair, myself (the Secretary), the RCM, and our Helpline and PI Chairs. We reviewed and put together a merger of our current sub-committees; H&I, PI and Helpline. The meeting was amazingly calm and business focused.

As an outcome, we have put together a motion that we hope will allow our Area to grow in our service work efforts. This motion will be brought forward in New Business today, so until then, you'll have to just wonder in anticipation. ILS, Jennie R.

**Secretary Report:** Hello to you and yours, September minutes were emailed on Sep 27, and were mailed out on Oct 2. Total cost was \$21.84, I am left with \$78.16 in my prudent.

I received an email from Cathy, our Retreat chair, turns out in the June minutes I neglected to remove her last name from an acceptance letter she wrote, I guess someone she knew Googled her and found the minutes. This mistake has been corrected.

I am unsure yet if I will be in attendance at next month's meeting. I was asked to judge a karaoke talent contest in Flint for MRCNA, and I'm not really sure what time it starts. I may be able to be here for a little bit and help out the co-secretary as she takes notes. More to be revealed. ILS, Jennie R.

Date	Expense	Cost	Left in Prudent
9/26/09			100.00
10/2/09	Postage	21.84	78.16

**Treasurer Report:** the following is the September 2009 financial totals:

Home Group Donations	Amount
A Gathering of Men & Women	\$5
Clean & Serene	\$15
Common Welfare	\$25
Desire to Change	\$10
Freedom Group	\$10
How it Works	\$20
If You Want What We Have	\$10
It Works How and Why	\$10
Learning to Live	\$5
Let Go, Let God	\$10
Never Alone	\$20
No Fear	\$25
Steppin Straight	\$5
Survival	\$25
<b>Total Group Donations</b>	<b>\$195</b>
Activities	\$16
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$211</b>

Expenses	Amount	Check #
King Communication	\$66.69	1161
RCM or Alt RCM	\$160.00	1162
Region	\$176.20	1163
Area Rent	\$20.00	1164
Secretary	\$84.91	1165
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$507.80</b>	
<b>Previous Balance</b>	<b>\$2157.90</b>	
+ Donations	\$211.00	
- Expenses	\$507.80	
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$1861.10</b>	

**RCM Report:** Hello family, big news from the Region. Iran had their first convention on October 22, about 40,000 addicts in attendance.

The Regional meeting in February will be moved to the 14<sup>th</sup> in West Shore Area. There first time hosting a Regional meeting. It's been moved so as to not conflict with the CAR workshop in Chicago, the first weekend of the month. I'd like to attend the CAR workshop, so our Area won't need to use the R.D.A. for a personal Area workshop, as we've done in the past.

Regional website down for 24 hours, that put it out of commission for over two weeks. Web servant Jim B. would like input from Areas, if we'd like to have last names removed from Regional minutes and other correspondence. He can create personal emails to accommodate us.

We voted to spend about \$2,000 to create professionally done P.S.A. for TV quality public information viewing. Then rethought it, would want feedback from us. Do we want P.S.A. \$2,000 for our own Area. Grateful to be of loving service, Matt F.

*\*\*Comments after report:* It questioned if the old PSA's were appropriate or not for current. Since they are in tape form, can they be converted to the new format for current technology? Although, rather than convert, Region would like to recreate new PSAs.

*\*\*Also, see attached Regional Inventory form. Please fill out and return to Area at our meeting in November.*

## **GROUP REPORTS:**

**Common Desires:** Next business meeting: Nov 19 Donation: \$25

Attendance is good. Donations are down. We discussed making a point to let people know that these meetings are not free; it costs money to put them on. A dollar or two in the basket would not be inappropriate.

**Common Welfare:** Next business meeting: Nov 19 Donation: \$22

A Common Welfare we meet at 12:30 to 1:45 on Tuesday and Thursdays. Tuesday we work and/or study the 12 Steps. On Thursdays we read and study the 12 Traditions. Meetings are usually large and doing well, getting some newcomers. In loving service, Bryan M.

**Conscious Contact:** Next business meeting: Nov 15 Donation: \$20

**Desire to Change:** Next business meeting: Oct 25 Donation: \$20

The only problem that the group is having at this point is finding a coffee pot big enough for the group.

**Fishing for Recovery:** Next business meeting: Nov 14 Donation: 10

Meeting's small. Speaker meeting needs support.

**Freedom Group:** Next business meeting: Nov 19 Donation: \$10

Our meeting is going strong, we meet every Thursday at the Neighborhood House at 10 and Tuesday night at Ricker.

**H.O.W.:** Next business meeting: Nov 17 Donation: \$20

**How it Works:** Next business meeting: Nov 18 Donation: \$35

We voted on all nominations. Attendance has been good.

**If You Want What We Have:** Next business meeting: Nov 21 Donation: \$20

We meet every Saturday at 6:30. We now have a record number of home group members with rotating service positions. We are able to double our rent and Area donations this month. We've had more attendance from NA members to help carry the message to all of us, including a treatment center that attends the meeting regularly. We appreciate the support. Thank you very much.

**In the Solution:** Next business meeting: Nov 27

Friday meeting going good. Great turn outs on last Friday; men and women meeting. Thanks for putting in on the meeting list. Mondays meeting are small but good. Remember they are at 12:30pm.

**It Works, How and Why:** Next business meeting: Nov 19 Donation: \$10

Doing good. Still averaging 35-40 members/addicts each meeting. Message is being carried, even through those who didn't even know they had a message.

**Let Go, Let God:** Next business meeting: Nov 17

On November 19 we will be having a gratitude dinner at First Ward Community, 1410 N 12<sup>th</sup> St, Saginaw MI, from 6-9pm. There will be a open speaker.

**New Awakenings:** Next business meeting: Nov 21 Donation: \$5

**No Fear:** Next business meeting: Nov 18 Donation: \$20

Group is growing. Home group members are at 6. Beginning to have enough participants to hold group service positions; GSR, treasurer, etc.

**Primary Purpose:** Next business meeting: Nov 18 Donation: \$20

Meetings going good. Standing room only. People from treatment attending regularly.

**Recovery Zone II:** Next business meeting: Nov 17

**Survival:** Next business meeting: Nov 17 Donation: \$5

We have had a great attendance. We also get a lot of newcomers. We get Dot each week without donations. We had to buy literature and pay rent. That is why we haven't any donation for this month.

**Unity Group:** Next business meeting: Nov 23 Donation: \$20

We had a few newcomers this month and attendance is good. We discussed about passing 2<sup>nd</sup> basket for the Unity Picnic in July. Also our Christmas meeting and dinner, which more will be revealed. Also a change of format after the new year, more will be revealed.

**We're Not Unique:** Next business meeting: Nov 16

We are in need of home group members. We meet every Monday at 7:30pm. Please come and help keep us alive.

## **SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Activities:** Next committee meeting: will be determined by next chair

This committee had 2 meetings at the Willing to Make the Effort group on 6<sup>th</sup> and VanBuren on Friday night, Oct 2 and Wednesday night, Oct 21. We discussed the next event which is the Halloween dance. Everything seems to be in order for a good night of recovery. The doors will open at 5:30 and the dinner will be at 6pm. We decided to do the children's costume contest shortly after dinner, also the piñata. Phil W. from Brighton will be our speaker and will be talking about our theme "Removing the Mask." Thank you for letting me serve this Area. I will finish my term tonight and then transfer all activities materials to the next chairperson. ILS, Al L.

**Helpline:** Next committee meeting: November 16 at 6pm at Aldersgate Church in Midland

Website is current and meeting lists have been updated. I printed 1500 meetings lists today and am seeking reimbursement of \$198.75. I was contacted by an addict in Ubyly who is seeking a starter kit and I directed him to today's service meeting. The "website" minutes from last month contained the full name of an addict, which was discovered by a co-worker of the addict. I was informed and promptly removed the last name and reposted the corrected minutes. Website once again functional after server failure. Bryan H.

**Public Information:** Next committee meeting: November 16 at 6pm at Aldersgate Church in Midland

Meeting commenced at 8:30pm, discussed recent policy and administration meeting and forthcoming motion to make Helpline, PI and H&I officially the PR committee. Poster drives in Saginaw, Bay City, and Midland respectively are scheduled for November. Please contact Jesse U. or Bryan H. ILS, Jesse U.

**Retreat:** Next committee meeting: TBA – either 11/22 or 11/29

Last meeting held 10/18/09:

1. Deposit of \$1,567.00 has been sent to RA MacMullen Conference Center for deposit.
2. Prices increased from previous year. Cost to attend retreat in 2010 is \$142.50. Financially impaired cost is \$70.
3. Theme was voted on: the theme for 2010 will be "Conscious Contact"
4. Group brainstormed on design for shirts.
5. Tentative dates from fundraising activities for financially impaired:
  - a. January 9 or 16 – Card party in Saginaw

- b. February 6
- c. March 6 – Bowling in Saginaw
6. Final details of location will be worked on prior to next meeting. Cost for cards is \$5 donation.

**BREAK** 2:34 – 2:43, opened up with the Serenity Prayer

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Motion #909 – Motion brought forward by the P&A Committee, seconded by Bryan M. Please take this motion to your home group for a vote.

**Motion:** To combine wording and responsibilities, as to replace the H&I, Helpline, and PI subcommittee sections of the Saginaw Bay Area Guidelines with the following:

#### **Public Relations Committee**

1. This committee will consist of a Chair, Co-Chair and any member who wishes to help carry the message of recovery to those who have not heard of us, or misinterpret us, informing them of what we have to offer as recovery from the disease of addiction, and how and where we are available.
2. The Chair and Co-Chair positions of this committee shall be nominated and voted on by the Area body, in accordance with the Voting Procedures in Section VII of our Guidelines. The Chair and Co-Chair positions are required to have a minimum of 2 years clean, and a minimum of 1 year of continuous service within the Saginaw Bay Area Service Committee.
3. Committee responsibilities:
  - a. Unify efforts of Twelve Step work within hospitals and institutions, unify efforts of public information and relations inside and outside the fellowship, and will follow the suggestions in the *Public Relations Handbook* to the best of its needs.
  - b. Give a report of their activities at each A.S.C. meeting.
  - c. Keep minutes of all its meetings and a record of all its income and disbursements from each function it provides.
  - d. Develop and maintain a telephone answering service. Additionally, maintain a Twelve Step call list for the answering service.
  - e. Develop and present workshops to coordinate and improve members' ability to carry the message through the answering service.
  - f. Print and distribute meeting lists to groups and Area subcommittees.
4. The prudent reserve is established at \$300.

**Intent:** To combine 3 sub-committees onto one, to help further carry the message of recovery, and to align our Area's efforts with those of the NA service structure world wide.

**Pros:** Having the chair and co-chair is good so that all the responsibilities don't fall on one person's shoulders.

**Cons:** Scope of responsibilities for chair may be too much for one person.

2. Trusted Servant Absences: It was questioned whether or not our Guidelines were going to be followed or bent for individual circumstances. Our co-treasurer has been our co-treasurer by name for the past 4 meetings, and has only been to one of them. After a discussion ensued, it was agreed that the co-chair will contact the co-treasurer and talk with her.
3. Mail: Mail was not picked up for today's meeting. In an effort to be responsible with our bills, the body had agreed to write a check of \$90 to King Communications and next month we will figure out the balance. When last reviewed, Quest's bill was around the \$2-\$3 area, we will wait for next month to send money for this particular bill.

### **OPEN FLOOR**

1. There was concern after hearing a home group's report about how they will be asking members to donate more money and how they will be going about asking their members. Many representatives

from other groups had expressed concern of lack of funds, especially when a treatment center may be in attendance at the meeting. Some suggestions were to watch the timing of sending the 7<sup>th</sup> tradition basket around, maybe wait until partly through the meeting so that those who are coming in late may be able to donate. Also make a reminder in the opening of the meeting that the 7<sup>th</sup> tradition helps pay for rent, supplies, literature, coffee, etc. This may help members understand where the money is going and may want to contribute more. It was also mentioned that maybe each group could inventory their priorities with the 7<sup>th</sup> tradition. Maybe buying coffee isn't as important as paying rent or buying literature. It was a consensus, though, that intimidating members for more money is not a spiritual principle to practice.

### **CLOSING/NEXT AREA MEETING**

Meeting closed at 3:55pm with the Serenity Prayer.

Next meeting is Saturday, November 21 at 1:30pm, at St Alban's Church  
105 E Erie  
Bay City, MI 48706

In loving service,  
Jennie R., Secretary

## Regional Inventory

RCMs may decide to send this to home groups in their Areas or simply answer the questions themselves using the 1 – 5 scale such as:

1. Not at all      2. Needs improvement      3. Adequate      4. Outstanding      5. Excellent

When the numbers are totaled for each question, the Region can see what most needs improvement, and what s working well.

How well does the Region serve the Areas? \_\_\_\_\_

How well does the Region communicate with Areas? \_\_\_\_\_

How well does the Region respond to the needs of Areas? \_\_\_\_\_

How well is the Region managing the funds entrusted to it? \_\_\_\_\_

How well does the Region mentor its trusted servants? \_\_\_\_\_

How well does the Region encourage Areas to ask for help? \_\_\_\_\_

How well does the Region assist Areas with public relations issues? \_\_\_\_\_

How well does the Region foster communications with Areas? \_\_\_\_\_

How well do RCMs improve that communication? \_\_\_\_\_

How well does Region assist Areas in outreach? \_\_\_\_\_

*The following questions are to be answered in a paragraph or two.*

What functions does Region provide other than putting on a convention?

Should the convention be held on a holiday weekend?

How can the Region improve the way information is passed on to Areas?

Should the regional meetings be held quarterly rather than bi-monthly?

Should the regional body host more workshops/learning days?

What suggestion /solutions do you have?

*For the Home Group Member*

What is the regional body's primary function?

How well are you informed of regional activity?

How well does information flow from Areas to home groups?

How well does the regional body serve the Areas?