

Wyo-Braska Area Service Committee

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1-866-4-No Dope

February 12, 2006
1:15 pm
Scottsbluff, NE

ADDENDUM

Officers' Reports:

Chair: No report as such. Everything pretty much status quo.

Vice-Chair: Chris B.'s report mainly consisted of the Treasurer's report on file.

RCM: Absent.

2nd RCM: Report filed. Ray B. reported on the URMRSC meeting that was held in Casper, Wyoming on Feb. 4, 2006. Both the Chair and Vice Chair were absent so Steve H. filled in as the Chair. Of note is that the URMRCNA VII logo contest has been extended to February 17. Entries may be sent to Amber J. at AmberJ1065@hotmail.com.

Our Regional Delegate (RD), Steve H., attended the Rocky Mountain Forum (RMF)/CAR workshop in December. Discussions on the RMF's structured format and how it did not seem to benefit our Groups led to the possibility of changing the format to a "questions, discussions, and solutions" venue that may help Groups more. This will be considered for future meetings.

The highlight of the Forum was presentation of the CAR by World Board members. If anyone wants a copy they can contact Steve H. at steveh@allwest.net.

Bill G., the RCM from the Central Wyoming Area, volunteered as the Treasurer, but after much discussion all voting members abstained effectively denying the position to Bill. The position was tabled until the next RSC meeting. Anyone interested is encouraged to attend the meeting to be held in Evanston, Wyoming on May 20, 2006.

The Wyoming Western Area reports that there is a need for volunteers to hold meetings at the men's prison in Rawlins. It was suggestion that maybe three or four NA members from each of the four Areas alternate attending the monthly meeting. Of course there is an application and screening process for everyone wanting to attend. For more info contact Rick H. through the Wyoming Western web site at <http://www.wyomingna.org/>.

Voted no for donating \$200.00 annually to the RMF. The travel cap was raised to \$3000.00 due to increase in travel expenses. While NAWS pays for the Regional Delegate to attend the WSC, it is up to the Region to fund the Alternate. Voted to allot \$1,368.13 to Tommy O. as the RDA.

The next GSR Assembly will be held in Casper, Wyoming on March 18th at the North Casper Club House beginning at 11:00 am to go over the CAR. The next Regional meeting will be held in Evanston, Wyoming on May 20th.

As part of the Wyo-Braska Area report the financial difficulties was given as the reason for the lack of any recent Area donations to the Region and that a donation would be forthcoming as soon as the books had been balanced.

Convention Liaison:

Beginning balance ...\$5000.00 Ending balance ...\$4513.80. Our committee has met twice on-line and once physically since my last report. I was late getting the Logo Contest flyer out to the Areas, so we extended that Contest deadline to 2/17 and will have a final vote on 2/24. We will then have a new Logo and announce the winner on the 24th of February. A new flyer will be out by 2/27/06. We have an early bird flyer out now. So please take copies back to your area's.

We have a working a working budget and are making good progress in all areas. We approved the purchase, and wrote a check for 100 T-Shirts @ a cost of \$7- \$8 per T. They will be available in unlimited # of colors & will be available very soon after the logo is picked. We approved to sell them @ a cost of \$15.00

Programs has made a flyer asking for Speaker tapes & we have no main speaker @ this time. They have started the schedule of events, Marathon meeting topics, etc... We have have approved to pay for a room for Hospitality.

We will meet on-line 2/24 to pick a logo. Then physically in Casper March 5th and April 2nd

Secretary: None

Sub-Committee reports: Will be transcribed and attached to amended minutes at the May ASC.

Activities:

As of this morning we have 79 tickets sold to this event. We need a bank of \$100. Also need to know if we can raffle off one ticket to the Live from Laramie Campout and one early bird registration to Unity Days. The group conscious over the last two weeks has been phenomenal, averaging 15 people. We decided to do the bachelor auction a little different. Putting the guys in a "pool" and then for each song they can be "bought" for that song for \$1. We still need a few more raffle items. The Vision of Hope group is buying some items today for the raffle. Clean and Free donated a How It Works and Why and SNL donated a JFT. I'd like to thank everyone involved and for all the support from members. Final raffle tickets were drawn with Russ and Tracy the lucky winners. Report filed by Mary G.

Chris B. Reported on the progress of the Live from Laramie camp out preparations. Preliminary flyer will be out within days. Camp out set for 10 am June 30, July 1 & 2 at 10 pm. Three days and two nights with two meals provided for \$10.00 to be held at the Hidden Valley camp grounds.

H&I: No report

Literature: Report filed by Jeannie who reports an inventory of \$828.61, as of 2/11/06. GSRs may contact her in between ASC meetings if they need anything and arrangements will be made.

PI: An abbreviated report was given by the Chair since there is no PI Chair. Webservant filed a report. Hits have met average. Copyright dates on pages changed. E-mails still being converted.

Road Trip Coordinator: Same as last meeting. List will be updated in near future.

UD: We need to approve the new flyer I have created and also approve the prices for Unity Days. We need to have more people on the sub-committee: Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and Activities. We need to start scheduling a monthly get together date to go over what we need to do for this function. (My thought is starting in May. Meet once a month on the 4th Saturday, in Cheyenne.) Need to start searching for a main speaker and a Spiritual speaker for Unity Days. Tshirts are another area we need to start thinking about. How many? What the design should be. I could really use a copy of last years stats to help in planning this years Unity Days.

Serenity Break: 4:30 – 4:45 pm.

Sharing Session:

- 1) Reiterated specifics on the Live from Laramie Camp out.
- 2) Discussed Concept #1
- 3) Discussed finances and decided to hold an Executive session later this month, before the next ASC meeting, to balance and determine budgets and figure out what the ASC had decided to base Regional and NAWs donations on.
- 4) Discussed the upcoming CAR workshop and the importance of attending.
- 5) Discussed the CAR tract materials and how to obtain.
- 6) As the Webservant for the Region, Richard M. asked for permission to use an adapted version of the “Wyo-Braska Web Site Policy and Guidelines” for the Region. After little discussion a consensus was reached allowing the Region to use the ASC guidelines. No motion.
- 7) Earlier mention of a group needing to renegotiate rent being paid to hold meetings in a church facility prompted a bit of discussion about Tradition Seven. While we are fully self-supporting and do not accept outside donations, this does not mean that we have to pay for the use of a facility if that facility opens it’s doors to other groups as well. If NA would be singled out for special treatment then there would be a conflict. As long as a service, be it rent, a PSA, a newspaper notice etc., is provided to all non-profit organizations indiscriminately we are self-supporting in that we avail ourselves of the same benefits as all other organizations.
- 8) Discussed the changes being contemplated by the Clean and Serene group to the opening preamble. Essentially the words “Out of respect for the Narcotics Anonymous program . . .” will be added in front of the sentence “We ask that you use **Narcotics Anonymous** language in all that you say at this meeting.” The intent is to clarify why we use NA language in order to further emphasize the non-affiliation with other twelve step programs in particular AA. Tradition Four grants each group autonomy to conduct meetings as they see fit for their particular circumstances as long as the action does not affect other groups or NA as a whole. This was brought up in sharing simply so that other groups experiencing difficulties with implied affiliation might have a viable means to clarify the difference.
- 9) An excessively large phone bill prompted discussion on how to remedy the situation. It seems that our toll free number was dialed by someone in Nebraska and then apparently left connected for close to an hour. We are billed by the minute so that’s why the bill was so high. Kathleen said she would call the phone company and plead our case and see what can be done about it.
- 9b) While on the subject of the phone bill a Clean & Serene group member brought up the lack of a donation by the C & S group to the Area for at least two months and how this may be causing “hard feelings” between the Area and the C & S group. Some time back the group had voted to discontinue their own phone service and donate \$35.00 to the Area instead.

And yet no donation had been given for the last two months. The explanation was that even though voted for, at any time the members at a business meeting can vote out a previous decision. Due to slumping 7th Tradition donations and increased expenses the group had voted at the last two GSC meetings not to make the donation. This does not mean that we won't vote to make any future donations. It is a month by month decision.

10) Next, discussion revolved around the posting of Handicap status and if this is appropriate and if so when. Some facilities are documented as being Handicap accessible on both the NAWS web site and on our web site and yet they really do not meet the requirements as outlined in the Americans with Disabilities Act. It seems that the distinction is in whether or not a facility is considered to be public or private. NA meetings, while some are “. . .open to anyone wishing to experience the fellowship.” they are not considered to be public facilities. Therefore the handicap requirements are less strict and generally, if a wheelchair can be rolled into the facility unaided then it can be considered handicap accessible even if the person may have some difficulty using the restroom. The key seems to be in providing an atmosphere of recovery for as many as possible and if a meeting is noted as handicap accessible then people searching the meeting lists will know that they can at least attend. Then other members can assist them in getting around inside the meeting which is not true in a public setting where the wheelchair bound are left to fend for themselves.

11) The next matter discussed is one that has never come up before and poses a significant problem in providing an atmosphere of recovery in which the entire family may feel comfortable. It seems that at some meetings some people are getting “frisky” either in the bathrooms or in the hallways outside the restrooms or even out in the parking lot. On occasion, members are involved in body piercing during the meeting and those sitting in the rear often carry on conversations not related to NA. And often court ordered members come to the meeting to call in, with the meeting hall caller ID being shown, and then leave without attending the meeting. All in all, an environment that is not conducive to recovery.

Group issues do need to be addressed at the group level, but since these problems may tarnish NA's image as a whole, at least in the afflicted locality, we can offer suggestions and therefore it was appropriate to bring to the Area. Ultimately it may come down to a matter of leadership and having trusted servants confront the transgressors personally and ask them to either leave the inappropriate behavior outside or not attend until they do. It may not be best to openly confront an individual in front of the rest of the group. It is usually best to ask the person off to the side where they can be privately talked to. Honesty not tempered by love may be cruel.

There is a very subtle distinction between not allowing the behavior and not allowing the person within the meetings. Many may take the rebuke personally and interpret it to mean that they are being kicked out even though according to Tradition Three “The only requirement for membership is the desire to stop using.” The distinction is that the person is welcome – not the behavior. In some instances the proper authorities may even need to be called.

12) GSRs were encouraged to ask their groups to help fund travel expenses to workshops. Those attending workshops will always come away from it with new knowledge and insights. Sometimes these get togethers may be the only way new ideas can be introduced to the group.