

Wyo-Braska Area Service Committee

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1-866-4-No Dope

May 20, 2007 – 1pm
Cheyenne, Wyoming

Chris B. opened with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer
Alicia G. read the 12 Traditions of N.A.
Mark T. read the 12 Concepts of N.A.
Tim H. read the 12 Values of W-BASC

Response to concept study question sent to groups: Concept 10, Q 3

“When is it appropriate to apply the Tenth Concept? When is it not appropriate?”

Since the concepts pertain to service it is not appropriate to apply this concept to purely personal issues unrelated to service matters. It is appropriate in matters pertaining to issues involving service in particular when a service body makes a decision based on falsehoods. In other words only in business meetings when personalities seem to replace principles.

Reading/Study/Discussion of the 11th Concept using chapter questions.

“NA funds are to be used to further our primary purpose, and must be managed responsibly.”

The Eleventh Concept establishes the sole absolute priority for the use of NA funds: to carry the message. The importance of that priority calls for total fiscal accountability. Direct contributions to each level of service help us focus on our primary purpose and enhance accountability.

Study and discussion questions:

1. What is money used for in your group? Your area? Your region? Your world services?

Most responses were that, generally, funds go to further efforts in carrying the message.

Because of the unique situation with the Clean & Serene group their finances were detailed as follows. There are 17 meetings a week serving most of the Nebraska Panhandle with two of the meetings devoted to literature study. The group rents the meeting facility paid for entirely through 7th tradition donations, including funds donated by “Manic Mondays”, a women only NA group that meets in the building on early Monday evenings. The group furnishes and maintains the building including plumbing repairs, through some purchases but mainly through volunteer donations of materials and labor. The group pays for utilities, bank services and a substantial stock of literature. They stock a pop machine and with left over funds donate two texts a month to the detention center and help purchase key tags, medallions and pamphlets to be handed out to members. They publish a local meeting list and distribute it to the Panhandle Mental Health Center, the Behavioral Health Center, the probation and parole offices and any other organization that requests them. They purchase or have donated refreshments and supplies and are still able to pass along some funds to the area as noted 2 or 3 months ago.

2. Rank the following group budget priorities: NA literature

Refreshments

Meeting-hall rent

Group reserve

Service donations

Why did you rank them in the order you did? Does your group have standing budget priorities, or does it handle such questions from month-to-month?

GSRs, please take this question back to your groups for consideration and input.

3. Do you know of instances where NA money has been spent frivolously at the group level? In an area or regional committee? In world services? What was “frivolous” about the way that money was spent? How should it have been spent instead?

One responder wondered about the way regional funds were spent on the convention and why funds were spent on this or that item? It seemed somewhat unclear if convention spending was frivolous or not.

Another thought was that a service body may be managing their funds frivolously if they are unwilling to send extra funds on to the next service body of our structure.

A specific example of what appeared frivolous spending was noted by a member who had, on several occasions, purchased items directly from NAWS and was billed only \$2.50 for postage. When the packages were received not only had they cost more to send than the \$2.50, but they had been sent the more expensive priority mail way. When a NAWS office worker was asked about the discrepancy she simply said that that was the way it was.

Another member shared that NAWS has a certain amount in the budget allotted to giving away free literature and sending it free or at reduced rates. In large part this stems from the early days of NA when literature was made available freely from the trunk of a car in the spirit of one addict helping another.

4. Are NA funds well-accounted for in your group? Your area and region? In world services? If not, what kinds of financial reports would you like to see instead?

It would seem that our area funds are not “well-accounted for” since we have two different balances – the one from the bank and the one from our own records. However, even though there is a difference we do have a fiscally balanced budget based on available funds rather than on funds that may or may not be available like our government. Ha. Ha. Up until a couple of years ago we were almost entirely basing or budget on revenues gained from the Unity Days convention, but when the event began barely breaking even we had to redo our manner of acquiring funds, mainly through an increased awareness of the need expressed to the member groups of the area.

It also seems like other service bodies are in a like position with finances.

5. “Direct group contributions to our service structure encourage responsible management of service funds and help our services maintain their focus on NA’s primary purpose.” Does your area or region depend on NA fundraisers for a significant portion of its income? Is that wise? How does it affect the relationship of the ASC or RSC to your group? Would that relationship be any different if groups contributed directly to each level of service? Would our service boards and committees be able to operate solely on income from direct group contributions?

This question was partly answered above. It was also mentioned that the region does not rely on convention funds as the convention is fully self-supporting. It has seed money in a separate account that it starts out with and after the event is finished and all accounting finalized, anything over the seed money amount is sent to NAWS.

At least at the current time, the management of funds and fund flow seem okay.

Roll Call: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, RCM, Literature Chair, Activities Chair/UD Chair, Webservant

GSR, Alternates and guests: Mary G. (GSR – Clean and Free), Mike G. (GSR – Vision of Hope), Greg B. (GSR – Saturday Nite Live), Richard M. (GSR – Clean & Serene), Jeanne S. & Tim H. (GSR & GSRA – Live from Laramie), Ray B. (GSR – Free Bird), Alicia G.(GSR – Staying Clean in Sidney) and Tommy O. URMRS AD.

Absent: Treasurer(Vacant), 2nd RCM, PR Chair (Vacant), (Footsteps in Recovery), (On Life's Terms), (We Do Recover).

NA Recovery Birthdays: Mark T. 4 yrs. Congratulations!

Recognition of new groups: None

Approval of last month's minutes:

Ray B. moved and Mary G. seconded the motion to accept last meeting's minutes with the last disbursement changed to reflect that it was for meeting room rent. Motion Carried

Opening Treasurers report:

Beginning Balance: \$2134.89 (Bank balance) \$2011.78 (ASC balance)

Break: 2:06 – 2:16 pm

Officers Reports:

Chair: Report given and filed as follows:

Dear Fellow ASC Members:

Please note potential guideline revision motions listed on agenda. These were discussed at last ASC meeting.

I need to stress the importance of ASC members reading, and becoming familiar with the area guidelines; especially sections concerning their positions. It seems that members, past and present, don't completely fulfill their duties as described (e.g. monthly and final reports: timeliness and submission, actual responsibilities, etc.)

A new signature card has been printed for signing by executive committee. I will deliver this to The Bank of the West upon completion.

The Chair's account balance stands at \$16.86; contrary to April ASC minutes there was no disbursement taken by the chair last month - hopefully this was discussed in the approval of last month's minutes.

Please register early for the Live From Laramie - Wyo-Braska Area campout June 22-24; remember 50 camper only in the actual campsite.

In Loving Service,

Chris B.
Chair

Vice-Chair: Report given and filed as follows:

ASC Members,

Next month Live From Laramie is having the Live from Laramie Campout. I am sure Craig or someone from Live from Laramie will let us know how registrations are coming along.

We have 1 confirmed registration for Unity Days 14. Unity days has been set for August 17 - 19th at Pole Creek Campground. Flyers have been printed up and are here to be distributed to each group.

I have also printed up a bunch of current meeting schedules.

I am asking to be reimbursed printing ink to print out the above. I have a receipt with me in the amount of \$54.51

We had two bills come in last month:

Qwest for a total of \$11.22 - I have a question about why the bill says that it is the final bill. Isn't Qwest our phone books? And shouldn't it be ongoing? I couldn't reach them yesterday and someone may need to call them tomorrow and we may have to pay fees to get the bill and all back on.

We have a bill from Freedom voice in the amount of \$25.65. I suggest we pay them one check of about \$90 which should cover the bill till the end of the fiscal year.

Final piece of information is that I am resigning from Vice-Chair. I am hereby giving my 30 day notice to the ASC body. I have brought all the treasury items with me to this ASC meeting. I need Mark to come by our place and pick up the activities totes and items in our basement. I do not think that Mary and I will be in Wyoming by the next meeting as we are moving back to Ohio in the next few weeks. Thank you for allowing me to serve on the ASC. We will miss you all.

ILS,

Mike G.

Treasurer: Report given by the Vice-chair and filed as follows:

ASC Members,

Try as we might Mary and I could not reconcile the bank account with the books that were given to us by the former treasurer. We are missing bank statements from November and December of 2006. And we have no records of any kind for late December 2006. We can not tell if check 1196 to Region in the amount of \$39.30 cleared or not. We would have to spend \$25.00 to get a record from the bank for December's transactions. This is what we have:

The bank online, as of May 19, 2007 says we have a balance of \$2,134.89 According to the books (that we tried to straighten out) the balance is: \$2,011.78

A difference of \$123.11. If check 1196 is still outstanding it would be a difference of \$83.81.

The one thing we have noticed all along though is that the bank has always said that we have more money than what we say we have on our books.

Since I am leaving the area I will turn over all the treasury records and archives to whomever the ASC decides to turn it over too.

ILS,

Mike G.

Secretary: Report given and filed as follows:

Hey All,

Not much to report this month. The meeting lists were updated as per the Webservant report.

As a reminder the guidelines approved last November are posted on the ASC web site in the PDF format. The last page, "Amendments" under Article 14 have been updated and are available here today. There has been only one significant change as recorded in the minutes – that pertaining to the change to the PR subcommittee. The "Guidelines" will be updated accordingly at the appropriate time.

The order of elections sheet has been updated to reflect the revised guidelines and is available.

The contact list has been updated with information from last months reports and sign-in sheet. REMEMBER! This sheet includes personal information and as such is for internal use only. It will not be e-mailed, posted on the web site nor made available to the general public. If any changes need made please let me know.

Updates for the PR handbook are now available for download from the NAWs web site at www.na.org/PR/index.htm. Included are portions of 7 pages of the main text with changes indicating updated numbers for world wide meetings and number of participating countries as well as content pages reflecting new resource material. The bulk of the updates are resource materials for Chapters 2, 4 – 7 inclusive, 9 and 11. Added are 3 pgs for chapters on "Core PR Principles," 22 pgs for "Preparation & Training for Interacting w/ the Public," 18 pgs concerning working w/ "Media," 16 pgs "Criminal Justice," 8 pgs for treatment settings, 16 pgs on "Phonelines," and 8 pgs on "Event Planning."

Finally, remember that forms and documents are available for download and printing on the ASC web site and if anyone would like minutes, guidelines, etc. snail mailed just let me know.

ILS
Richard M.
Wyo-Braska Area Service Committee Secretary

RCM: Report given and filed as follows:

Hello friends I attended the regional business meeting on May 5th, here are some of what was discussed I took Richards logo Idea & almost everyone liked it. There was some discussion about the cowboy & it was brought up that we could use it with permission. As the representative from this area I let the region know that the Wyo-Braska area is not in favor of the cowboy logo. It was decided that we would once again take this back to the groups for more ideas.

I think we have decided in our area that there are no groups that need insurance They have decided to keep this open at the region level. So if there is any changes on that let me know.

We also talked & voted to call the Regional assembly every year instead of the GSR Assembly & the CAR.

Convention Guidelines are in the making which should help us out in two years when it is our turn to be the host.

In loving service
Ray B

RCM 2: Absent – no report.

Group Reports:

Footsteps in Recovery: Absent

Concerns:

7th Tradition:

Votes and /or motions:

Needs: Other:

On Life's Terms: Absent

Concerns:
7th Tradition:
Votes and/or motions:
Needs: Other:

Clean & Free:

Concerns: Giving the votes to the GSRs. [i.e., only GSRs have a vote at ASC meetings]
7th Tradition: 0
Votes and/or motions:
Needs: Literature Other: None

Vision of Hope:

Concerns: GSR is moving , but an addict named Amy is offering to keep the meeting going.
7th Tradition: \$13.71
Votes and/or motions: None
Needs: None Other: None

Saturday Nite Live:

Concerns: None
7th Tradition: \$20.00
Votes and/or motions: None
Needs: None Other: None

Clean & Serene:

Concerns: Police officers walking into meetings and asking for specific individuals. While polite, their presence has still been disruptive to the meeting and disturbing to some newcomers. We have a course of action planned, but would appreciate input from other groups.
7th Tradition: 0
Votes and/or motions: We believe it prudent for us to seriously consider liability insurance, if practical, primarily because we are the only tenants in the building and even though the landlady has liability coverage, any litigation would most likely end up with us being named as a co-defendant along with the landlady.
Needs: We still need an alternate GSR. Other: None

Live from Laramie:

Concerns: None
7th Tradition: \$50.00 ASC – \$40.00 URMRS – \$10.00 NAWS
Votes and/or motions: None
Needs: None Other: None

Free Bird:

Concerns: None
7th Tradition: \$25.00
Votes and/or motions: None
Needs: None Other: None

Staying Clean in Sidney

Concerns: None – Attendance is more stable starting to hold own.
7th Tradition: \$20.00
Votes and /or motions: None
Needs: None Other: None

We Do Recover (Torrington, WY) Absent

Concerns: Need more support.
7th Tradition:

Votes and /or motions:

Needs:

Other:

Sub-Committee reports:

Activities/UD: Report given orally as follows:

Mark T. briefly brought us up to date on the Unity Days preparations. He needs some help with finding speakers and a pot luck sort of meal. He is having difficulty in finding speakers mainly due to a lack of contacts. Others have volunteered to help with that. He also asked for the message to be spread for anyone attending to bring some kind of a covered dish for one of the meals.

Also the Cheyenne groups are planning on a 4th of July in the park picnic and all are being asked to donate something and let him know about it so there is a balance.

The Live From Laramie report was given for Craig by Jeanne but alas, I can't find the \$^%(@) thing! Sorry. I'll keep looking. But plans are well under way with almost enough pre-registrations to break even with after this meeting.

PR: No report however, the vice-chair reported that there were some questions about a bill received from Quest indicating that it was the "final" bill. Does this mean our phone line is being disconnected? He or Mary will check it out and take care of it. They will also see to it that the listings will be changed from "phone line" to "info line."

Webservant: Given and filed as follows:

GENERAL: The meeting list was updated, both the on-line and the on-line printable versions. A clarification needs to be tended to for the Clean & Free group, but otherwise I think everything is current. If it isn't please let me know and I'll take care of it.

I received one e-mail from a concerned parent that wasn't too clear as to what she wanted so I personally called her and visited with her. I believe it a very informative and productive conversation that could not have as easily been dealt with via e-mail.

TECHNICAL: I still haven't had the time or energy to redesign the URMRCNA, Archives and ASC pages. I am slowly getting caught up and hopefully will be able to do this before the next ASC meeting.

Remember, GSRs can download their motions, disbursement and report forms from the "Archives" page on our web site.

I am continuing the process of downloading all e-mails, except spam, converting them to PDF files and saving them to disk so that the web site may be purged of all old e-mails. PDF files are also being encrypted to aid in preventing unauthorized, and perhaps malicious altering of our documents.

NOTE: In order to open these PDF files the Adobe Reader 5.0 or greater is needed. Version 4.0 will **not** open them.

FINANCIAL: Domain name registration of and hosting fees have been paid up until August.

And finally, ". . .wherever we go, we always represent NA to some degree. If we are seen acting poorly while we prominently display an NA logo, . . . we carry a distinctly unattractive message . . ."

"It Works: How and Why", Tradition 11, pg. 206.

In Loving Service,
Richard M.

Literature: Report given and filed as follows:

Hello Family!

We now have an inventory worth \$895.29, as of 5/19/07. Please have all your literature purchased for your groups before the last break so I can figure up the new order before disbursements. GSR's feel free to contact me if you need literature in between area meetings. Just as a reminder, my term will be up as literature chair in June, and I've already done it twice so our guidelines say I may not continue. So, GSR's please make sure someone is at the June meeting who is interested in being our literature chair. It is a fun position, I have enjoyed it.

In loving service,

Jeanne S.

Break : 3:33 – 3:46 pm

Sharing Session:

- 1) GSRs only vote at ASC meetings. Essentially, allowing only GSRs voting privileges would negate concept three in which "The NA groups delegate to the service structure the authority necessary to fulfill the responsibilities assigned to it." At this point in time almost every GSR is also a member of the executive committee anyway. Aside from this, if voting was opened up to everyone attending an ASC meeting a specific group of people could override an otherwise committee consensus rendering many other groups' vote mute.
- 2) PO Box key. Mike G. gave the post office box key to Ray B. According to our guidelines, as the RCM, Ray is the next person in line to attend to picking up the mail and redistributing it.
- 3) Today's meeting date confusion. Somehow the LCCC security had us scheduled to meet on Saturday instead of today and the guard was a little perturbed by this mainly due to opening the facility on a day when noone would be there and the potential for mischief. The hosting group will make sure this doesn't happen again.
- 4) Police officers interrupting NA meetings in Scottsbluff. The Clean & Serene group has recently experienced city police officers walking into meetings and asking for specific individuals. This has not only been disruptive, but very disconcerting to many members especially newcomers. A representative from the group well versed in the traditions and PI literature is going to review the new PR handbook and the newest resource materials just published by NAWS and set up an appointment to meet with the Chief of Police. At this time, the group is seeking input on how best to approach this serious matter.

Essentially, it seems that Clean & Serene is approaching the matter very well, Some specific input included mentioning to the Chief the importance of the principle of anonymity, our traditions and the need for our members to feel safe at our meetings especially for the newcomers many of which have been commanded by the courts to attend the meetings. It may be best to appeal to the Chief on a human, one on one level as opposed to a confrontational or business approach.

- 5) Bank account. Since we have had many changes in who will be available to sign checks, the recently prepared signature card would be invalid. Gail W. was contacted and asked if she would consent to remaining as a signer on an as needed emergency basis until a new card can be prepared.

Old Business: Taken care of in sharing session and motions.

New Business: Taken care of in sharing session and motions.

Motions ~ #1 To change the WBASC Guidelines, Article 6, paragraph 3 in the following manner.

“When an Administrative Committee position is vacated early, the ~~addict~~ **member** voted into that position may, with a 2/3 majority vote of the present GSRs, ~~begin the two (2) full year consecutive terms in the month elected~~ **complete the current term, regardless of how many months remain, and continue for the following full year in the position.** An officer or standing subcommittee chair may resign by providing written notice to the WBASC chairperson thirty (30) days in advance of vacating an office or position.”

INTENT: Clarify and simplify time limits on positions filled in mid term.

Moved by Richard M., seconded by Ray B, read and tabled until next ASC meeting as per guidelines.

#2 To add the following paragraph to the WBASC Guidelines in Article 2 between paragraphs 3 and 4.

“A group may be removed from full membership, meeting lists and the telephone information line if it misses three (3) consecutive WBASC meetings without contact or representation. A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of all voting participants shall be required to remove any group from membership. A group may also be removed from full membership by having an authorized representative submit a written request to the WBASC.”

INTENT: To clarify a means by which an inactive group may be removed from WBASC meeting lists etc.

Moved by Richard M., seconded by Ray B, read and tabled until next ASC meeting as per guidelines.

#3 To allow \$125.00 to be disbursed for food for LFL campout

Intent: To provide food for two meals at LFL campout

Moved by Jeanne S., seconded by Mary G., passed unanimously.

#4 To allow Live From Laramie (Craig H.) to spend extra money received as gate receipts, if needed, to buy more groceries if more than 50 people show up.

Intent: To provide extra groceries if needed.

Moved by Jeanne S., seconded by Mary G., passed unanimously.

Elections ~

Treasurer – Qualifications & duties read. Tim H. volunteered and qualified himself.

5 for – 1 opposed – 1 abstained = passes

Mike G. will make a final deposit and turn over everything to Tim H. Chris B. will assist in getting Tim H. trained and up to speed. Thank you everyone.

PR Chair – Qualifications & duties read. No volunteers or nominees.

GSRs – We need participation. Please check with groups for volunteers. The area is doing okay financially but we desperately need participation or we may have to disband.

Vice-Chair needed for next ASC meeting

Literature Chair needed in June also.

Chair needed in August.

Disbursements:

\$ 99.00 –	Mark T. Unity Days
\$109.51 –	NAWS literature order
\$ 54.51 –	Mike G. reimbursement for printing meeting lists for Tx centers – PR
\$ 11.22 –	Quest – PR
\$ 25.65 –	Freedom Voice – PR
\$125.00 –	Jeanne S. LFL campout food – Activities

Closing Treasury balance:

Area 7th Tradition of **\$20.00** to: **Saturday Night Live**
Next mtg: June 10, 2007, Sidney, NE. Address to be announced.
Adjourned @ 5 pm

WBASC/rlm