

Houston Area Service Committee of NA

Minutes of September 24, 2017

Call to Order: 1:05 pm

Readings: Service Prayer, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts

Roll Call: Steve P. conducted the roll call. There were 9 GSRs present, along with 8 elected trusted servants. Please see Roll Call attachment. No new groups were recognized.

Key Administrative Reports

Recorder's Report – The recorder position is now vacant. Heather M. completed the minutes based on some notes provided. The minutes were approved as submitted.

Facilitator's Report – Heather M. apologized to the members for the previous meeting's derailment and asked members to help by following the agenda and keeping discussion on track. The agenda was reviewed and no new items were added. A written report was distributed prior to the meeting (also attached).

Treasurer's Report – Steve P. distributed the financial statements and reviewed the status of current funds. The bank balance was at \$4205.80, exceeding prudent reserve by \$1,704.80. The facilitator asked if everyone was comfortable with the new reports from Quick Books. No objections were expressed, however, a report showing expenses related to the budget would be helpful. A written report was distributed prior to the meeting (also attached).

Group Reports – Key announcements and events:

Chance for Freedom – 20th anniversary – Saturday October 14, noon to 5 pm

Hope Sweet Hope – brought concerns about how outreach is handled. GSR, Julie P. agreed to work with the facilitator to develop a form or way to help with consistency of message and information collected.

Our Common Bond – Speaker Jam – October 8, noon to 9 pm

New Pathfinders – brought a question about how to get help from the Public Information subcommittee.

Phoenix Group – has moved to the Third Coast Group location; still meeting at regular meeting days and times.

Hugs Not Drugs – hosting a Thanks Giving event November 23rd in conjunction with H&I and PI subcommittees. Time to be announced soon.

Rainbow of Hope – now meeting in a different room due to flooding, but still in the same location.

TSTB – asked about process for Adopt an Inmate (AAI) donations. Also announced moving Monday meeting to Tuesday (please confirm!) and planning of activities to avoid conflicting with fall festival.

Alive and Kickin' – asked for support on Monday nights at 5:00 pm meeting; 44th anniversary celebration scheduled for October 7th at the Montrose Center – all day event.

Old Business

Tradition 9 Reading: NA, as such, ought never be organized, but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.

A long discussion about the web master special worker position and the current or former agreement beginning and end dates, etc., and how to transition to more local support ensued. The importance of communication and the need for the ASC to help with improving communication was raised. Discussion shifted to group support and subcommittee participation. Suggestions included holding subcommittee meetings prior to ASC meetings or during an evening time, which PI would like to try.

Another suggestion was to ask groups through outreach or a survey about why they don't want to get involved. Heather and Julie P. agreed to work together on a form that can be used to gather information from groups about ASC and subcommittee participation.

Area Action Planning: Item tabled based on outreach discussions and current efforts related to attracting members to area services.

Nominations:

Colin P. was nominated for the Co-treasurer position and he reviewed his qualifications and answered questions. If elected, Colin would fulfil the remaining portion of the term through December 31, and would need to be nominated again to serve for the full term next year.

Tommy P. was nominated for the Policy Facilitator and he reviewed his qualifications and answered questions. If elected, Tommy would fulfil the remaining portion of the term through December 31, and would need to be nominated again to serve for the full term next year.

The facilitator announced that all elected trusted servant positions (except for RCM 2) for the ASC are now open for nominations for the term of January 1 through December 31, 2018. All positions are one-year positions except for RCM positions which last two years.

Take back to groups:

Colin P. for Co-treasurer thought Dec. 31, 2017; Tommy P. for Policy Facilitator through Dec, 2017.

PO Box Issue: The HACNA Facilitator again asked why HASCONA needs another PO Box with a physical address when HACNA has one. The members agreed that when a package needs to be delivered, HASCONA can use the HACNA physical address. Issue resolved; no further PO Box investigation needed.

Financial Subcommittee Meeting: The HASCONA financial subcommittee meeting will be held October 29, 2017 from 11:45 until 1:00 pm at the Montrose Center. Subcommittee facilitators are required to attend. The 1st through 3rd quarters' finances will be reviewed, with year-end spending projections identified. Subcommittee budget/expense plans should be brought to the meeting.

Solution Item: Group Outreach - Solution ideas for engaging other groups in area and area services. What is our message for outreach?

- Members discussed current outreach efforts (for example: Frank contacted Save your Ass group but has not heard back). The facilitator ask members to think about the message we want to send and the information that we want to bring back. Suggestions included:

- Ask NA members and groups (anyone, not just those scheduled for outreach) why people don't want to be involved.
- Identify a contact for each group, and number of members.
- Ask about reasons for not participating in ASC.
- Ask what the ASC can do to support the group(s).
- Suggest that groups send representatives to the subcommittees.
- Make sure all messages and conversations are positive and supportive: Help us help you; here to help each other; we want to be involved with you; we want to help your group over time, etc.
- Ask what would make area participation more attractive.
- Promote the benefits, such as cross-group connections, strength in numbers, enhanced recovery, mutual support, etc.
- Develop a list of groups that are not participating and may need outreach support.
- Maintain consistency in the messages and information collected.

Heather M. and Julie P. agreed to get together to develop a form that would help keep messages and information collection consistent as ASC members and outreach subcommittee members visit and talk to various groups and NA members.

New Business

Proposals:

Proposal 1 - requested a policy change to require that subcommittee facilitators (primarily H&I and PI) attend regional service committee (RSC) meetings, and that compensation be given for attending. Policy was read and the proposal was withdrawn since the provision was already in policy. Members discussed how the RSC meeting is organized and how regional committees meet in break-out sessions during the day.

Proposal 2 – That the treasurer/co-treasurer begin sending 7th tradition donations to the Region (RSC) and World (WSC) each month, with RSC getting 10% and WSC getting 5% of the amount of funds above prudent reserve. The intent is to continue sending money above and beyond prudent reserve monthly.

The proposal was discussed in light of the finance subcommittee recommending after the first quarter that, due to limited funds, donations be sent quarterly. After each quarter, the finance subcommittee would recommend amounts based on funds available and anticipated expenses. Passing money on monthly would ensure that donations are made. The finance committee would still assess the ASC financial position each quarter and made recommendations for addition donations.

ACTION: Members agreed to represent their group's conscience and the proposal passed by consensus.

Proposal 2 – To change policy to reflect a new financial subcommittee schedule consistent with the calendar year quarters ending in March, June, September, and December. Meetings would occur during the month following the end of each quarter. The intent is to respond to changes in the election schedule and be consistent with the Fiscal Year of January through December.

ACTION: Members agreed to represent their group's conscience and the proposal passed by consensus.

Nominations and Elections for 2018:

Take back to groups: All positions open for nominations except RCM.

Administrative and Sub-Committee Report – Based on time, only key items were reported. See attached written reports as submitted.

RCM Report: The regional delegate, Dennis, is asking for input on a Conference Agenda Report (CAR Report) and for ideas about when and where a workshop could take place for the region. New IPs are up for review; they can be accessed on the WSC website – www.na.org.

Activities Facilitator's Report – The co-facilitator reported for the activities subcommittee facilitator who could not attend. The Halloween event is scheduled for October 28. The activities facilitator requested the typical \$500 seed money to fund the event. Funding was granted with the suggestion that the storage unit be checked for related material prior to purchasing any supplies.

H&I and PI Reports: Minutes of each subcommittee's last meeting will be distributed with the ASC minutes.

Observations and Suggestions: A member suggested clarifying (maybe on the meeting schedule) what an open versus a closed meeting means. The issue was briefly discussed.

Announcements: Texas Bluebonnet Regional Convention of NA (TBRCNA) is scheduled for February 9-11, 2018 at the Omni West in Houston. Volunteers are still needed – contact Kristine B. The committee is looking for artwork submissions; registration is open online at TBRCNA.org; members encourages to talk about the convention to increase awareness and enthusiasm.

Review of Business

Actions and Items to Take to Groups:

- Two nominations for Policy and Co-treasurer were submitted
- All ASC positions are open for nominations for 1018, except RCM1 which is a two year position.
- No new proposals.

Financial Review of the Day's Income and Expenses: The day's 7th tradition income totaled \$937.84 and expenses totaled \$1,890.59, including RSC and WSC donations. The ASC financial position is at \$756.05 over prudent reserve.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 4:30.