Greater Grand Rapids Area Service Committee Minutes  
July 27, 2016

- Opening: A moment of silence followed by the serenity prayer.
- Reading of the Twelve Traditions
- Reading of the Twelve Concepts
- A Vision of NA Service

ASC ROLL CALL

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Chairperson (Natalie S.) - Present  
Co-Chairperson (Margaret P.) - Present  
Secretary (Carlee W.) - Present  
Co-Secretary (Dan W.) - Present  
Treasurer (Barb) - Present  
Co-Treasurer (OPEN POSITION) -  
RCM (Steve L.) - Present  
Co-RCM (Sheldon S.) - Present

SUB-COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON(S):

Public Relations Chair (Vonnee K.) – Present  
Public Relations Co-Chair (Gabe B.) – Present  
Activities (Ryan B.) - Present

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*If your group is not on this list…please let the secretary know! Thanks!*

**Chair:**
Hi, sorry for being so punctual tonight. I have nothing new to report. I would just like to say we have a sign-up list on the table to add your email to the list to receive the minutes.

Q: Is there a clean-time requirement to be added to the list?
A: no

Any questions?
Thank you for letting me serve.

**Co Chair:**
I have nothing to report. Thank you for letting me be of service.

**Secretary:**
Thank you for letting me be of service. I have nothing to report.

**Co-secretary:**
Thank you for letting me be of service. I have nothing to report.

**RCM and Alternate RCM:**
July 27th, 2016
RD/RDA Reports
Hello all! Last month we brought some discussions to the table and were directed to get some more information before we as an area were to proceed further. This month, we have some news to report.

Regarding the MSO Pamphlet, it is not NA approved literature.

Regarding the RD/RDA term length discussion: Currently the World Services Committee meets bi-annually, meaning that each Regional Delegate attends only once (it is a 2 year term) as the RD and once as the Regional Delegate Alternate. It has been proposed that the term length be changed or a position added. In regards to changing the term length, they would like each term to be two two-year commitments. Otherwise the idea is proposed that another Regional Delegate Alternate (RDA2) be added. The last option would obviously be for no changes to be made at this time. This is a decision we need to bring to Region in September, so please take this back to your homegroups for discussion. I have printed out a “cheat-sheet” of sorts that also includes commentary from a few members serving at Region currently expressing their opinions/concerns. Feel free to take one.

Commentary from Region is as followed:

1. Have 2 two year terms for each RDA and RD. “I think the 2 two year terms for each position is best for NA as a whole. There are members that say that they would not be able to commit to an 8-year commitment and I was one of them until I went to the conference. Having been a member and in service for 28 years I thought it would be an easy transition to be the RDA. I was wrong with the amount of information and how things are done I felt lost for most of the conference. It is a great experience, so I understand why people want to have the experience but not have an 8-year commitment. But sometimes we need to look at what's best for NA and not what's best for us. With that said what's best for NA as a whole is having experience at the world level. Also there were 5 people at Region that have been to the conference and 4 out of the 5 said this is what's best for NA.”

2. Introduce a new position of an RDA 2 “ Jim C is the person that has experience with the 2 RDA positions. At that time the conference met once a year not every other year and I believe there were no zones at the time. Now if we had 2 RDA's the cost would make it prohibitive, there would be 3 people that would have to be funded by the world and region to go to the conference at about $3,000 apiece. Then they would have to be funded to go the MZF and region 4 times a year. At the conference they would not be able to work side by side with the RD one of the RDA's would have to sit off to the side at the conference session and only be allowed to observe at the breakout sessions. “

This is all we have to report at this time.

Thank you, Steven Leitelt, RCM
Sheldon Skiver, RCM-A
We have sign-up sheets for sponsorship behind the wall. There is a one year clean time requirement. We really need help in this area, so please bring those back, it would help a lot.

Q: Is the new WSO updates going to be happening in the next two years?
A: yes, please see the website for powerpoint and various other informational materials.
A: the next World Convention is in August 2017 in Orlando.

Q: Is sponsorship behind the walls more like a penpal or a sponsorship?
A: You don’t need to be done with all your steps, just need to be working a program. It is a penpal thing that they do not have your address.

Someone from the floor volunteered.

Q: what is the length of time for going to the correctional facility?
A: We haven’t heard back from any of the women’s applications, but all the men’s were rejected because they did not fill out the form correctly or something. Please come to the PR committee meeting next month. Requirements are clean for one year and off paper for 3 years.

Chair: we have gotten off track, are there any questions about Sponsorship Behind The Walls?

Comment from the floor: There are sign-up sheets for Sponsorship Behind The Walls. Please take one to your homegroup and have people who are willing sign up.

**Public Relations:**

Spoken: Tonight we decided to have a table at Recovery Palooza, which costs $100. We also had to reimburse a member for about $150 for literature that we distributed to people at Turning Point and the Kent County Correctional Facility and the Probation offices.

Written Report:

July 27, 2016

**Public Relations Report**

Chairperson Hello everyone! This month Lora and I went to the convention and sat at the PR table for a few hours. Not many people came by but it was a fun, easy service commitment. I did get 3 new ladies information and contacted them this month because they are interested in PR. I hope they show up this month or sometime in the near future! Brooke and I followed through on our commitment to meet with Turning Point. I'll let her report on that. I was contacted by someone at Pine Rest requesting a weekly NA meeting for the patients. I told him we would discuss it at our next meeting and get back to him this week with a response to his request. Thanks for letting me serve! Vonnee

**Website/Literature//Treasurer Website**

Meetings:

added new group: Welcome Back Open Heart Community Church 841 Burton SW Wyoming, MI Entrance is in the back of church where the parking lot isz Sat 3:00-4:30pm

Changed location Young in recovery to Alano club

Events:

Added speaker jam August 6. Added ice cream social August 27

Literature Request for literature order 6/22, ordered 6/27. $169.75. Received literature 7/2.

150 Welcome to NA (100Gabe 50Brooke) 200 Am I An Addict (100G/50B/50Roger) 50 For the Newcomer (B) 25 Sponsorship (B) 25 Living the Program (B)

3 hard cover Basic Texts (B)

Craig K

**Phone line/Meeting List**
Jeff K.
Fellowship Development Coordinator Nothing to report this month. Thanks, Lora V.

Community Outreach Coordinator Report/CoChair Hi Family,
I contacted Recovery Allies of West Michigan about getting a table for the Recovery Palooza, which is on September 17, from 26 pm, at AhNabAwen Park. I'm waiting to hear back from them to find out how much the table will be. We should talk about who is going to spearhead our efforts there this year.
I don't have much else to report. We will follow up and check in on the places we have literature once we get our literature order.
Thanks for letting me serve,
Gabe B.

Treatment Facility Coordinator
Hi All, Vonnee and I met with Gilbert at Turning Point this month. I feel like the meeting was very productive and that a few issues were resolved. The issue with staff members coming into our meeting was the main topic. A staff member attending the meeting that we are chairing is against Turning Points normal policy. We have been given permission to kindly ask a staff member to leave if this were to occur again. I recommend if someone is not comfortable doing so, please again report to me and the issue will be discussed with Gilbert.
Also, in regards to numbers being given out to the clients, they are not opposed and say this is not against their policy. They support us in whatever decision we make in regards to this topic. They did state that it will be helpful to the clients to have support from our members when filling out their aftercare plan.
All slots for women this month were filled except for the second tuesday of the month. This was reported to Turning Point beforehand that we were not going to be able to make it that evening. Yvonne will no longer be able to serve as a point person as she has a different service commitment for the summer months. Thank you for your service Yvonne! Julia H. will be taking over as a point person in Yvonnes place. Julia has been a go to substitute for several months now. Thank you for your willingness, Julia.
The only week that was missed for the men in the month of July was on the fourth of July. This was communicated to Turning Point in advance. At this point I only have two men committed to speaking. Reggio on the 1st Monday and Julius on the 4th Monday. This month Isaiah filled in for the 2nd week and Aaron M for the 3rd week. I am diligently working on finding more men to become point people. I have been announcing our need in meetings and also have reached out to several men to reach out to other men.
Turning Point did ask me this month if we would be willing to switch our womens meeting to Thursdays at 7pm. They said it was not a requirement, more so out of convenience for them. I told them that I would check with my point people and see if it would cause a conflict in their schedules where they wouldnt be able to serve. I have reached out to all of the women point people. It does look like we will be asking to please keep the day on Tuesday as it will conflict with several peoples schedules. I do not forsee this being a problem with Turning Point as they stated that this was no big deal either way, that having us attend is more important than the staff run group that could take place on Tuesdays that they were going to put in place of us. Turning Point is out of white booklets for the clients. Thank you for allowing to serve
Brooke B

Correctional Facility Coordinator
Hello Family,

We did receive a case of Introduction Guide to N.A. Books from the region. I talked to Rob Steele and will drop them off the next time I go to the jail. He will make sure they get to the right people.

The volunteer applications that were turned in were not filled in correctly and were all rejected. I talked to most of the people to let them know, and will try to connect to get them filled out correctly to resubmit.


We are requesting that as we move forward that at least one person from the attending night attend the PR meeting. There has been many times when people have not shown up or called to let any one know. We feel this will eliminate some of the issues we have been facing and keep us accountable. Roger will address this at the next meeting.

Thanks Roger and Tom

Q: Are you looking for people to do H&I still? Perhaps you could make a form for people to take back to their homegroup to sign up.
A: That is a good idea. Please mention it to your homegroups and invite them to contact the PR subcommittee.

Q: are we supposed to just sign up at 6? Because last time I came there was another man there?
A: we have spoken to Gilbert at TP lately and that is a separate issue that they have to address.

Comment from floor: I would like people to come with me on the day I go
Comment: These details are not a topic for area, so we should move on.
Another person volunteered.

Q: If you need checks between now and the next meeting, and you let me know by email I don’t mind mailing them out, as long as I can verify it is within budget and from one point person.

Activities Report:

There is a flyer for an ice cream social at Lifestream Free Methodist Church.
Turned in budget submittal form.

Q: Why didn’t you mention the No Name group activity.
A: I was uninformed.

Treasurer Report:

Total balance after checks and deposits done today is 1507.82

Q: how does that compare to average?
A: I don’t know because I am new to this position

Old Business:

Comment from floor: About 3 years ago I brought up a concern about a person who was a sexual predator and the issue was pushed aside, and I was thinking “How can we have this person not be in our meetings, because he was threatening to women there”, and it was kind of brushed aside. The individual is now put away for rape. So what can we do about addressing these issues?

Does anyone have a nomination for Co-Treasurer?
A: Fred
Comment from floor: He’s not willing.

**Vote on Consensus-based decision making:**
“Quorum” explained: we have 13/21, quorum met
Vote taken: no opposition
Motion passes

**Vote on Proposed Activities Subcommittee Guidelines:**

Any opposed?: My homegroup members are. Their concerns are: they are thinking about the picnic we run once a year and are worried that people from activities subcommittee will be coming to run the cash box. I tried to explain it to them, that this wouldn’t be happening, but they decided they wanted to vote no.

Chair can someone from ad hoc address?
A: It is not about control, and you are right, that that wouldn’t be happening. The ASC would be available for what you need, but it would not be forced. This is a good example of consensus based decision making.

Discussion of how consensus based decision making works: Do we table this and take it back to his homegroup or not?

If there is a new motion to change something, you take it back to your homegroup and come back. If there is one or more persons who are in disagreement we let them bring up the concern and discuss the concern. If the GSR gets the new information and feels like the homegroup would change their vote based on the new information, the GSR can change vote accordingly.
Comment from adhoc: It was also described that for an outlier on decisions, “If you can live with it”, we can pass it. The activities subcommittee would have a rotating budget, and you would receive the money and handle it, and the ASC would get it back from you.

Chair: In this consensus based decision making it would be helpful if GSRs underline the portion in the motion that the group does not like, and bring it back for clear discussion and information gathering.

**Tax ID number:**

BArb: The two areas that are incorporated reported that they do have to file a return every year and there are costs associated. World recommended not incorporating, that we would have to have a board of directors and there is a stringent process to go through, and that with it being difficult to get lengthy service commitments, it is unreasonable. They also did not recommend that an individual addict use their own SSN for an account because it could put them in personal jeopardy. None of the information tidbits really help us make a decision.

Q: does region recommend we do?
A: they made no recommendation, simply said we can’t use their number because it’s illegal.

RCM: we’ll bring that back next time we go to region

Comment from floor:
I was there when region went through incorporation process. What was going on was that we had conventions with very large sums of money. It had a lot to do with why the Detroit are and the Regional Area are two separate entities. Opinions were very split.
Comment from floor: Is it reasonable to not have a bank account?
A: none of our checks and balances about keeping the treasurer accountable would work.
A: We would have an addict with a bunch of cash.

Proposed Activity Subcommittee Guidelines:
Comment from dissenting GSR: I cannot find the part in the document that might say that hands would be in the cash box.

Q: Didn’t we say that part of this was about accountability when we brought it up last month? I don’t see how that’s possible without hands in the cash box.
A: (Adhoc recaps accountability parts) It’s really not about control. There would still be trust involved.

Comment from floor:
I found a part that may suggest that, but it is about if the activities subcommittee hosting their own event, not helping a group host an event.

Chair: Table until next month, because this is a learning curve for consensus based decision making, so please take it back to your homegroup (to dissenting opinion).

Consensus Based Decision making will be put on the website.

Chair: the decision making guidelines says that we must have new business submitted in writing to the area secretary before the new business portion of the meeting starts.
(people are unsure if that quote is from an updated version)

New Business:

Sexual predators at meetings:

Comment from floor: the Na pamphlet about disruptive behavior would be a good place to start.

Comment from floor: As a woman who has gone through that, I understand the concern, but the 3rd tradition states the only requirement is a desire to stop using. To turn them away seems non-spiritual to me.

Comment: I don’t think the disruptive behavior pamphlet addresses this. The problem was occurring before and after the meetings and was targeting the newcomer. I was not warned about this problem when I was new. At what point do we do something to restrict the person; maybe have them only allowed to go to same-sex meetings.

Comment: I would agree the pamphlet is not useful for this issue. As an area we are not here to make that decision, but homegroups can. They can weigh the 3rd tradition vs. the safety of their members and make that call. We are here to serve the groups, not the other way around. Home groups are autonomous.

Comment: I just don’t want to see it happen again.

Comment: It was mentioned that it happens outside the meetings, so is it really an NA decision to make? If it’s at an NA sanctioned event, then act on it, but if not than can we?

Comment: I understand her question was if she was allowed to ban him or not, and you can, as a home group. I am also hearing we need to have a discussion about how we talk about it.
Comment: In the past, things like this have come up and people have been banned from homegroups.

Comment: There were two problems that have come up in my experience: one was a group of treatment center residents, and we told them they were not allowed to come unless the staff person kept all under control from then on. The other was a person who was out of control and mentally ill and we did have to supervise him out at times when he was out of control.

Comments: The groups can also take into account that if a person has been around a while, they know what they need to do if they get banned from a homegroup. It wouldn’t be as good to ban a newcomer, a still sick and suffering addict.

Q: do we have a list of behaviors that are considered not allowed? I was struck by the mental health comment.
A: it’s up to the group.

Comment: In the case she was talking about it was clearly sexual predator behavior targeting newcomer females and he would go to another group and move around. The personal safety of the members could be a guideline.

Comment: I have known this person for a long time and consider him a friend, but he is sick and he is still sick. He is being dealt with where he is and knows what he did was wrong. It says “no addict turned away” regardless of what they did. He is paying the consequences right now, and I’m sure when he gets out he will get help and he shouldn’t be bashed right now.

Comment: I’m really big on, you know sometimes we go back to the old ways, but we are in a new world now. I work with mentally ill people. I understand the seriousness of what happened. I’m glad you brought it up because we have a duty to warn. We need to be letting people know the dangers that are out there. We are living in a more dangerous society. We need to grab the newcomer and let them know, because it’s our responsibility. If it came to me, I would let that person know, if I see them with a person, I would let that person know too. We have a duty to let other homegroups know as well.

Comment: I would like to reiterate what was said. In my past we usually confront the person and they typically leave and don’t come back. We walk women out to their cars, and we get out there and watch.

Comment: It is up to the discretion of the homegroup.

Comment: I have a lot of archived documents at home that might help us with incorporation information. Should I bring it?

Welcome Back group will be added to the meeting list.
Steps to Freedom will be added to the meeting list.

Treasurer final amounts for the day:
Donations total: $301.10

GROUP REPORTS:
Crystal Clear Group (NEW):
NO REPORT
Downtown Resting Place:
NO REPORT
Just Hope Group (Returning):
Just for Today:
Trusted Servant Submitting Report/Donation: Jeff K. (emailed report)

Total 7th Tradition Collected Last Month $32.00
Group donation to Area Service Committee $ 17.00

MONTHLY GROUP PROGRESS REPORT (OPTIONAL):

Good evening!

We donated $17 to the ASC this month. Our group also approved the new Activities Subcommittee guidelines and the substantial consensus-based decision making provisions to the area guidelines.

If you’re looking for a home group that is a closed NA meeting that meets for only one hour every Wednesday at Noon, with very comfortable furniture, and serves fun-sized candy, please drop in for a meeting.

ILS,
JeffK

Keep Coming Back:
7th Tradition: $97
Area Donation: $5
Report:
Trusted Servant: Lisa K.

Keeping the Dream Alive:
7th Tradition: $ n/a
Area Donation: $0
Report: “was not able to meet with treasurer- donation next month”
Trusted Servant: Margaret P.

Living the Dream (NEW):
No report

Men of Character:
NO REPORT

Montcalm Alano Club NA:
7th tradition:
Area Donation: 0
Report: “Interested in being included on meeting lists and attending area.”
Trusted Servant: Kayla P.

Natural Life:
**New Beginnings:**
No report

**No Name Group:**
7th Tradition: “don’t know”
Area Donation: 0
Report: “no moneys given”
Trusted Servant: Jean H.

**Open to Change:**
7th Tradition: $ 56
Area Donation: $ 11.70
Report: Trusted Servant: Ryan B.

**Open-Minded:**
NO REPORT

**Path Begins the Journey (NEW/Returning):**
NO REPORT

**Principles Before Personalities:**
7th Tradition: $ 152.32
Area Donation: $ 61.16
Report: “We started Trivia/Game session to lift spirits @ the business meetings”
Trusted Servant: Sarah F

**Progress Not Perfection:**
NO REPORT

**Saturday Night Candlelight:**

LOCATION/MTG TIME: Pine Rest/6:30-8:00pm

OPEN / CLOSED: open

BUSINESS MTG: third saturday

MONTHLY REPORT INFORMATION

Total Attendees for the Month: 65

Average Per Meeting: 16

Total 1st Step Meetings this Month: 1

Total 7th Tradition Collected: $66

Area Donation: $100

Anniversaries Celebrated: 0

REPORT: The Saturday Night Candlelight Meeting continues to meet and follow the traditions to

the best of our ability. We could use additional homegroup members. Our rent is paid through October. We have literature available for sale and good selection of IPs for taking.

Area donation: $100

Sisters of Serenity:
Sisters of Serenity:
No report

Staying in the Solution:
NO REPORT

Steps to Freedom (New):
7th Tradition: $ 37
Area Donation: $ 10
Report:
Trusted Servant: Susan F.

Sunrise to Sunset:
No report

Surrender to Win:
NO REPORT

T.G.I.F.:
7th Tradition: $ 71.54
Area Donation: $ 46.24
Report:
Trusted Servant: Aaron S.

We Qualify:
7th Tradition: $103.33
Area Donation: $40
Report:
Trusted Servant: Bill Z.

Welcome Back (New):
No report

Young in Recovery:
No report