

Rocky Mountain Forum of Narcotics Anonymous

Colorado, Montana, Utah, & Upper Rocky Mountain Region

November 9 & 10, 2005

Salt Lake City, Utah

2:00 pm – Friday - December 09, 2005

Open with Serenity Prayer @ 2:19 pm

RMF Chair – Linda L.

RMF Treasurer – Monte H.

RMF Secretary – Brenda E.

Colorado RD – Chuck C.

Colorado RDA – Don T.

Montana RD – Prudence G.

Montana RDA2 – Dawn P.

Utah RD – Monte H.

Utah RDA – Michael S.

Wyoming RD – Steve H.

Wyoming RDA – Tommy O.

Approval of September 2005 minutes – Consensus reached with corrected changes

Reports:

RMF Chair –

TO: Rocky Mountain Forum Members and Guests

FROM: Linda L.

DATE: December 9, 2005

SUBJECT: Chair's Report

WOW - in the 68 days since I saw you all last, I have done the following:

Got the venue(s) w/sleep rooms for today and tomorrow

Produce prodigious amounts of emails, phone calls and paperwork

Wrote, faxed, emailed and phoned but finally got Monte hooked up as a candidate for a position on the Human Resource Panel

Reworked the RMF Mission Statement to update, wrote the cover letter, and got copies to you all plus got Don to post on web

Did agendas for today and tomorrow - sending them out along with Saturday's agenda sent out as a flyer

Got the PROPOSED RMF Guidelines ready to finish, edit and out to you all

Attended URICNA and CRCNA. Actually wound up speaking at a URICNA workshop for women. Thank you URICNA and especially Terry R.!!!

Answered emails sent to me or the RMF Chair

Opened the RMF Checking Account - w/Monte

Checked the RMF P.O. Box at least one per week

Responded to an email from the Latin American Zonal Forum with hello, come see us, do you all need anything?, and sent a GSR Orientation packet that they were needing

Requested and got 2 World Board members here today. Chatted with Ron thru several emails - kept them apprised of our RMF email communications too

Wrote an heartfelt thank you letter to Anthony at World for sending us Mike P. and Ron H. to be at and work and play with us at the last RMF meeting

Send Rose Z. a thank you email for her very wonderful contributions to the RMF while she was MT's RDA and for all the work she did for the last RMF meeting

Contacted Ron H. to see if he/Rio Grande Region is interested in joining RMF if we are going to try to set up the 2-3 day workshop that Mike P. (WSO) does about contracts, incorporation and insurances

Developed the "Possible RMF Workshops" list and got it to you all for working on later today

Communicated with Harper, RDA from Southern Idaho Region, about being here today and possible joining us at RMF

Set up processes for doing the RMF report to WSC, our accomplishments today, and got ready to do assignments/volunteers plus disbursements

Got a new email address (sent it to you all) plus learned how to send you all some cool things with style and color - couldn't do that with old email address - a BIG thank you Don for guiding me thru all that and much of what you all see here this weekend!!

Brought candy for today and will have rolls/munchies for tomorrow There's probably more but if I forgot anyone or anything, I am sure you will let me know!

Plus, while I am putting out thanks - Thank You All 'cuz a Chair is only as good as those who like you who work with the Chair!!

And finally, I am looking forward to an exciting year of changes to and in the Rocky Mountain Forum - its path, purpose and need.

Submitted lovin' service,

Linda L.

P.S.

To reach me:

Linda Lundgren

9555 Berrey Lane

Colorado Springs, CO 80925

719-390-7484 (H)

720-244-4291 (c)

Linda <31279@adelphia.net>

RMF Treasurer – \$ 434.16

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN FORUM
TREASURER'S REPORT
DECEMBER 9, 2005**

BEGINNING BALANCE - DECEMBER 9, 2005: \$ 434.16

INCOME:

Balance forwarded/old bank acct..... \$ 544.11
URNA donation 6/11/05 ck# 1039..... 16.84
CRSC donation 7/24/05 ck# 222..... 205.00
URNA donation 9/10/05 ck# 1043..... 73.53
URNA donation 10/8/05 ck# 1049..... 17.68

\$ 857.16

EXPENSES:

Wingate Inn/Missoula, MT/ Sept 30/Oct 1 \$ 220.00
RMF P.O. Box (initial rent w/2 keys)..... 78.00
St. Patrick Church/Salt Lake City/Dec 9 & 10..... 100.00
Super 8 Motel/Salt Lake City/Dec 9 & 10..... 25.00

\$ 423.00

ESTIMATED AND ACTUAL BUDGET NEEDS BY END OF JULY, 2006:

WEB SITE budgeted item for 2005 + 2006 \$ 200.00
P. O. BOX to be paid 2006..... 76.00
TREASURER NEEDS - estimated..... 15.00
SECRETARY NEED - estimated..... 24.00
VENUE/BEVERAGES - Cheyenne/July, 2006..... 320.00
MEMBER TRAVEL / WB COSTS / July, 2006..... 150.00
ESTIMATED reproduction costs Mission Packets..... 115.00

\$ 900.00

FUNDS NEEDED FOR COVER ABOVE 2006 BUDGET NEEDS: \$ 465.84

World Board Report for WSC – December 9 & 10, 2005, produce a report for WSC. Due by Jan. 2006.
Need assistance from RD's for RMF secretary to submit a report.

Discussion/Sharing: Discussion on N.A./A.A. mixing of messages/trade marks of using the N.A. symbol with the other fellowship. Discussion of meetings in club houses that are mixed with fellowship literature. Registered trademarks of N.A. and copyright infringement issues.

Regional Reports:

Montana –

MontaNA Regional Service Committee Report to Rocky Mountain Forum
December 9, 2005

The Montana Region held its Fall Assembly on October 15, 2005 in Billings (Area 4). A service training workshop was conducted and consensus basis decision making was explained. Discussion was held about choosing trusted servants. Communication and how we train for service was discussed. A workshop was held on the Twelve Concepts and the Twelve Traditions.

At the group assembly, Rose Z. announced she was resigning from the position of RDA. The RDA position is open for nominations. The assembly then split into small groups to discuss concerns and solutions utilizing the discussion topics, Infrastructure and Public Image. A summary of the discussion is provided. One concern of interest was the issue of signing court cards and a number of solutions were presented.

The regional service committee met October 16. Highlights included a report from the Montana Gathering. The 27th annual Gathering will be held June 16, 17 and 18 at Symes Hotel and Hot Springs in Hot Springs Montana. There was a proposal to establish a standing regional events steering committee. An Ad Hoc committee was suggested.

A permanent rotation for regional meetings and assemblies was created.

Discussion was held about our participation in the Rocky Mountain Forum. We considered whether to:

1. Be a fully participating member,
2. Completely withdraw,
3. Limit participation to WSC and when the RMF is held in Montana with minimal financial contribution,
4. Ostrich option (do nothing).

Forum was described as an assembly of regions.

Rose Z. reported that the forum wants report about types of workshops, problems and solutions. Rick G. said if we want to participate in the RMF, we have to be part of writing the guidelines. Consensus was we were not ready to adopt proposal 1, 2 or 3. We decided on a limited ostrich approach and will continue the discussion. Meanwhile, it was proposed not to send funds at this time but to send the RD to the RMF ;CAR workshop in December and inform the RMF of our current position. MontaNA RSC will provide \$150.00 for gas to travel to Utah.

We have formed an ad hoc committee (work group) that will define a possible events steering committee and investigate insurance and explore non profit status for the region. The group will write a report for the next RSC.

At the time of the group assembly, the regional H&I committee took a panel into the Montana State prison. The next meeting of the RSC and the winter assembly are scheduled for January 14 and 15, 2006 in Great Falls.

Upper Rocky Mountain Region –
December 15, 2005

Dear Rocky Mountain Forum,

Our last regional meeting was held in Powell in November. We are currently asking our areas for a treasurer and have recently elected a new secretary. We have a date for our regional convention and it will be May 5, 6 & 7 in Sheridan, WY at the Holiday Inn. I have no flyers at this time, but will be sure that the web servant and the other regions receive some as they become available. A motion was passed that in the future our convention committee does not plan the event on our scheduled regional meeting and several weeks away from the WSC since this has been an issue the last 2 years.

We now have a web servant who has been directed to purchase a domain name and web site for our region. As of this report I have no current information if the site is up.

Our guidelines have had considerable refinishing over the past year, and we recently included travel for the RD's and funding for the forum. We have no money at this time and it is in the process of being approved by the areas.

Wyoming Western Area has asked the region for help with the state penitentiary. The area is limited in support and asked if some neighboring areas could commit to a monthly rotation.

I also have researched the possibility of insurance for our member groups and I will present that at the next regional meeting. Cost to the region would be approximately \$1000.

Sincerely,

Stephen Henderson,

URMRD

steveh@allwest.net



Rocky Mountain Forum of Narcotics Anonymous
P.O. Box 5385
Colorado Springs, CO 80931-5385
www.rmfn.org

**Upper Rocky Mountain Region
Alternate Delegate Report**

Forum members,

I am reporting on the tasks/assignments that I was asked to do since the last time we met. I was assigned two things, first to come up with a logo for the forum; second to work with Linda on securing a meeting place for our July meeting.

For the logo I incorporated a nice mountain scene, the Narcotics Anonymous symbol and Slugg from the NA Way "Home Group" cartoon. It was my understanding, with the first T-shirt made by the RMF that permission was granted to use Slugg. I have also made an "announcement flyer" for the Delegates to take back to their respective Regions Areas which include the "new logo", the logo from the website and the postal and web address.



On the second assigned task it is Wyoming's turn (Upper Rocky Mountain Region) to host the forum meeting. For the purposes of transportation (both air and ground) and past history we have decided on the Cheyenne Holiday Inn. In speaking with the hotel the weekend we have scheduled happens to be the same weekend as "Cheyenne Frontier Days" which is causing a problem for sleeping rooms. Linda agreed that we should move the meeting up a week for a better price on rooms.

Also, there is a group in the Wyo-Braska Area that would really like to have a workshop that focuses on service on the group level.

Submitted in loving service,

TommyO

AD – Upper Rocky Mountain Region

Utah –

Not a lot has gone on since Montana RMF. We had our last regional meeting the weekend after Montana. There was not a lot that occurred at that meeting. We are looking to add and RDA2. We are finally coming together better as a Region. We did have all of our Areas present at this last meeting though. It is posted on our Regional web page pertaining to all of our upcoming events. We are looking at possibly going back to a Regional Learning Days. However, at this time, it is Northern Utah's Learning Days. We are also looking at a state wide 800 number, which is currently in Northern Utah's and they are offering it to the entire Region. Thank you to the forum for nominating me to the HRP and thank you to everyone here for allowing me to serve.

Monte H., Utah RD

Colorado –

Everything is going well in our region. The only position we have open is regional H&I chair. We have a couple areas in our region that our in disarray.

We had our convention in October and it was a big success. We had 605 addicts registered. We also made a profit of \$4,405. We had issues with our H&H chair and he was asked to step down. This created quite a stir and even created a proposal at our regional committee for the chair to step down. It didn't pass. We also started an ad-hoc committee to investigate forming a board of directors for our convention. This is based on what we learned from Mike P at the last RMZF in Montana.

CRCNA XX will be in Steamboat Springs, CO on October 6, 7, & 8, 2006.

Chuck C., Colorado RD

Break: 4:27 pm

RMF Website –

Afternoon all,

Not much to report since October. I have been working on improving our visibility on the search sites. Anyhow, here are the statistics for the web usage.

Month	Number of Visitors	Unique Visitors
Jan 05	55	36
Feb 05	94	57
Mar 05	110	43
Apr 05	123	53
May 05	265	196
Jun 05	276	214
Jul 05	323	224
Aug 05	282	215
Sep 05	484	341
Oct 05	749	615
Nov 05	1170	824
Dec 05	357	284

In Loving Service,

Don T

RMFNA Web servant

World Board Report: Jim B./Ron B. – Value of becoming a “plan-driven” organization at World Services. Tie to a vision of primary purpose and personal recovery. Send in personal stories for the Basic Text by the end of December, 2005. Discussion topics in a more formal way handled through out N.A. Annual report is in the process of being prepared for release. Open positions for World Pool Resource. Human Resource Panel is interviewing candidates for the HRP pool. New regions for seating: U.S. regions and invitations to other countries. World Wide Workshops is something new with NAWS. Translation of N.A. literature helps to build the fellowship much growth has been happening with the translation. English IPs and booklets are all online with www.na.org.

Issue discussion boards are new on NAWS website.

April 22-30, 2006 World Service Conference

Request for Service/Workshop from RMF: Topics

The topics were presented and much discussion took place with no outcome. The Saturday in July does not have an agenda for discussion topics.

Montana: Get away from workshops by looking at something similar; discussion how workshops/topics are affiliated with the guidelines

Upper Rocky Mountain Region: Brainstorming sessions

Utah: Need to talk more around topics connected to Infrastructure and Public Image.

Colorado: Have discussion topics surrounding other issues outside of the topics submitted from NAWS.

RMF Guidelines:

- a. **Content-** Review content and input for temporary guidelines and submitted to Don T. Don T. will put changes together and email to all on RMF contact list.
- b. **Deadlines-** Review by Regions and submit changes to Don T. by **March 20, 2006**. This final document will be consolidated to give to RDs and RDAs for approval at **WSC 2006**.

Questions from Southern Idaho Region – Harper/JB

Trying to find a place to share concerns: drug court problems, etc.

Western States Forum in California- cost prohibited for some members to attend- Is spending large amounts of money to attend this forum is really spending the fellowship's money wisely?

What are the costs of attending the Rocky Mountain Forum? Has this forum looked at how other forums were put together?

Came in to see what Rocky Mountain Forum is about.

Accomplishments: Linda L.

To Do List:

1. **RDs/RDAs from all Regions to help construct a report to WSC. This report is an annual report from the RMF to WSC. Please send Brenda E. ideas for report and I will type comments and send out to the forum members. – Due by January 15, 2006. Report is due to WSC by Feb. 15, 2006. – Brenda E. will submit report to WSC.**

Balance in treasury: \$ 434.16

Next RMF Meeting: July 21 & 22, 2006 in Upper Rocky Mountain Region at the Cheyenne Holiday Inn.

Adjourn: 7:06

9:00 am – Saturday, December 10, 2005

Open with Serenity Prayer at 9:35 am

CAR Workshop: Ron B. & Jim B. – World Board Members

All information is available online at www.na.org.

Topics of Discussion: Atmosphere of Recovery, Leadership, Our Public Image, and Infrastructure.

Conference Agenda Report on Motions:

Motion #1: To direct the World Board to develop a project plan, timeline, and budget for WSC 2008, to create/develop a glossary of recovery terms typically used in Narcotics Anonymous.

Discussion: Blurred message of other fellowships in meetings to provide a document, everyone has their own opinions of how definitions are perceived, and identification of who we are. This motion showed up right up before the deadline of accepting motions so it did not go through WB processes. Definitions of wording and having addicts agree on definitions of wording. The impossibility of agreeing on a set of words for a defining process.

Motion #2: To direct the World Board to create a project plan for the development of a fellowship-approved Identity Statement to be presented at WSC 2008.

Discussion: Do not see a need for a clarity statement. Looking more towards Conference Approved literature puts responsibility more on NAWS than with the groups, which should not be done. Solicitation for NA Way material to have discussion boards on these types of topics. This motion appears often, but if there is no strong fellowship guidance to move forward, NAWS will probably not spend a lot of time with this topic. From the first two motions can an issue/discussion topic come from these motions for fellowship discussion.

Motion #3: To change the time frame for approval form recovery literature from the current minimum of 150 days to a minimum of one year.

Discussion: The approval part of the language of the literature has not enough time to review material and proceed with a vote of approval. 150 days the material goes out before the conference. No time for World Board to review this motion to ask questions to maker. No time for input and review period was addressed in motion, might want to have this to have a final say on finished project. Communicate to maker of motion on how to pursue a motion to World Board and teach how the process would be smoother for making of a motion. Early in the process of literature approval anyone can participate in reviewing of material. Translation process may take to long for approval, so countries may translate the material without having NAWS involved. What is best for the fellowship as a whole, not only in the U.S., as the translation process is already done in other countries to help those people understand the literature. WE change, not the literature.

Break: 10:41 am

Discussion Topic: Atmosphere of Recovery

#1 Regular monthly group business meeting; variety in meeting formats; treatment facilities are attending NA meetings so the message can be passed onto newcomers; having a newcomer meeting with Steps 1, 2, 3/literature study meetings; awareness of living in the solution not the problem; following the traditions; regular group inventory; training of chairpersons; meeting format statement of cross-talk, etc.; focus on home group unity; sponsoring people to get involved by greeter/coffee maker/meeting set up; preamble of safety and atmosphere in recovery

#2 Class separation of roughness of language and offensive; cultural separation; Spanish-speaking; women separation of rough language; professionals (identification of people/anonymity), acceptability of alcohol versus addict; young people missing; drug court; missing experienced members; missing women; people from institutions where H&I is happening; Native American population is missing; addicts missing in functions.

Why are addicts missing? – Solutions: Focus on H&I/provide necessary resources; provide follow up after attending meetings in facilities/make sure they get to meetings when they leave the facility; provide professionals with meeting lists and information about NA; pick convention speakers more reflective of our message and not about the abuse of negative language; correspondence with addicts upon release to bridge gap/transition to meetings; present appropriately by dressing, speech, etc.; celebrate the diversities in addicts; literature geared for addicts over 5+ years clean;

#3 Giving full love and attention to the person who is speaking; discourage war stories and speak about solutions; encourage clarity of NA message by modeling; help distracted addicts remain focused; make sure as an individual I am helping everyone; make sure I send a message of Welcome Home; not getting up and causing distractions; encourage people who monopolize to not do so in a polite manner; encourage women with women and men with men; go ahead and announce from Area to Group if missed; advocate and focus on

sponsorship; be mindful and respectful of our language; be mindful of new people where they come from; lead by example

#4 Change type of meeting speaker/tradition/open/step (variety); exchanging of phone numbers with newer members (group phone list as well as individuals giving out personal numbers); starting the meeting on time and ending on time; equal participation in meetings with chair people who can run the meeting as a facilitator; train people in co-facilitator position to facilitate meetings; use the resources in your group written experience from prior trusted servants; home group members responsible for group inventories/support each others right to seek recovery; educating home group members; regular group business meetings; have it in a facility that is accessible and promotes a clear message of NA

Break: 12:12 pm

Discussion Topic: Leadership

#5 Match People – Position

Nominating and qualifying of with a process and stick to it; getting to know each other outside of meetings to match talent or skill sets with task; pathways through vice chair, etc. positions as through experience instead of just being a member; follow suggested clean time requirements; inventory need for positions that may be hard to fill-is it necessary to have?; head hunter method by looking and soliciting individually for people to fill positions- “you would be good for the position”, etc.; avoid service cliques such as “good ole boy syndrome”; reliability in service such as meeting attendance/consistency; equality of opportunity; do not put addicts into service positions because it would be “good for their recovery”

#6 Mentoring, Training, Orientation

Learning through simple tasks at group level; teach newcomers the responsibilities associated with service positions; pathways-member/experience/vice chair; term of office to be extended for learning/training; soliciting experienced members for help in subcommittees/service positions; honor that experience/rotation; process pathways go together – need to be in a vice chair/learning position; stagger elections so not to lose experience at one time-train new before previous person leaves; use past member experience more; all committee members take responsibility to help others- it’s a WE thing; constant reminding of how leadership is important as an on-going process

#7 Sense of Responsibility/Ownership/Stewardship

Explanation of stewardship-making it better than how you found it; encourage the importance of documentation for records-accountability; developing a service position inventory assessment/benchmark/while in position to make sure performance can be measured; importance of reliability, full-fill commitments to the position, punctuality; stress the 4th Concept by the knowledge of

#8 Leadership – Difference between Leaders/Leadership

Giving back rather than receiving; leaders have vision - know the pathways; leadership is about walking the walk; leadership is action; leadership is not about control, just guidance; leadership is delegation; leadership is motivation, encourage, inspire; lead from the front be willing to give of time and work with others to teach them to be leaders – courage.

Break: 2:33 pm

Discussion Topic: Our Public Image

#9 Responsibilities for NA image/reputation

As individuals, our personal relationships with professionals, i.e. our doctor, we can mention NA as an offer up for information that may be helpful to others who may need help; on the flip side, there may be times

where that's not appropriate to give up information about ourselves being members of NA; personally don't intentionally act inappropriately (cussing, throwing cigarette butts, etc.) by watching how we act as members; take personal responsibility and join a group looking out for the welfare of NA; be consciously aware of our actions and how it affects NA pointing out to others when their behavior is inappropriate; being respectful of the meeting place – maybe read in a meeting format; leading by example to help inspire others; doing the next right thing

#10 Negative Image/Reputation

Loss of meeting venues; loss of NA members/potential members; professionals will not send their clientele because we act like “idiots”

#11 Image/Reputation is it Appropriate

Fear of predatory behavior; fear of others' perceptions that meetings are where drugs are found; NA seen as a social event rather than a program of recovery, not carrying the message enough; lots of people do not realize that we deal with the disease of addiction instead of thinking we focus specifically on drugs; seen NA as low life, heroin addict, ex cons, bikers, and not from other walks of life; improving our public image not constant enough as new professionals enter their fields and are not educated about what we are about; members' actions judged at conventions that professionals see us as inappropriate; the association that drugs are illegal with criminal behavior

#12 Cooperation Among Services

Communication and coordination between service committees is more efficient avoiding duplication of effort (PI, H&I, Phonline); cooperation between service communities sharing their success with struggling communities about what is working for them; our members who are also professionals can get involved at the society level and create some inroads to raise awareness that NA can provide a service to that society; committees being more proactive with the institutions we carry our message into ensuring the clear message is being carried to their residents; educating the public about what we're about dispelling the notion that we're just about drugs, that we can help anyone with the disease of addiction; NA communities share their experience, NAWs disseminating that information back to other communities so they don't have to reinvent the wheel; 8th Concept; even though there may be separate committees, view it as a whole system that needs to work together, not separate entities; need to communicate so we know what the structure of our committees are about; committees can meet together to pool resources and improve communication

Break: 3:37

Discussion Topic: Infrastructure

#13 Current Structure – Best Suited – What Could Work Better

Combine H&I and PI together/ PR handbook explains this; keep updated handbooks and meeting lists; willingness for change – try different things to change; access to handbooks by informing members (GTLS); moving ASC meetings and events from town to town; follow up in a timely manner

#14 Basic Minimum Structure Needs – How Best Meet Needs

More H&I/work; bring a recovery atmosphere to the ASC; principles before personalities; how to do consensus, such as convert from the old way to the new way; get the help line phone number out to the community and getting it into the phonebook; carry the message; define needs - underlying principles of faith, humility, and trust

#15 How Do We Best Serve Our Groups/Area/Region, etc.

Invite NAWs to the forums (zonal) to share experience, strength, hope; forum shares experience, strength, and hope with common problems with solutions to problems; Regional planning guide to show Areas how to use guides that are helpful; zonal level – learning how to discuss/workshop/train the trainer; encourage change,

acceptance of new ways by using gentle and loving ways; blend the “old” and the “new” ways of NA; invite experienced/past leaders to be involved/facilitate in round table discussions; educating, sponsoring, opening the doors for the addicts, giving back; Area level- to use all types of communication-via email, snail mail, etc.; contrive outreach efforts; meet in central locations for ASC; remembering who we are serving

#16 What Can I Do – Why Should I Be Of Service

Continue to work steps in our own recovery, become informed; sponsorship; lead by example; take a commitment and complete it; don't take on more commitments than you can handle; use available help-resources, literature, other members; we were taught to do service and give back so it is our responsibility to teach others; not trash talking service committees; reporting the positive from service committee meetings; I owe NA, it needs to be done – this is our fellowship- no one is going to do it for us; don't take disagreements in service as personally or seriously; knowing when to let it go

Break: 5:06 pm

Targeted Literature:

Native Americans and other subcultures
Update bulletin “Our Relationship to AA”
Update bulletin “Drug Court”

Basic Tools:

Better description of the service components that speaks to now – World Level Trusted Services

Potluck, Speaker Meeting, & Dance: Foothill Drive & 1700 S. – 5:30 pm

Questions???

Adjourn: 5:42 pm

Montana Region Fall Assembly: Sharing on discussion topics from NAWS

FALL ASSEMBLY

October 15, 2005

Workshop – Service Training

Dawn and Rick presented and explained a service packet and cd, now available through the Montana Region, to attendees. The Twelve Concepts and Twelve Traditions were read. The service structure was explained. The challenges of providing services in our largely rural state were pointed out. Many of the same people end up doing all of the service. The acronyms were explained, and Rick explained the copyright laws concerning the use of the Basic Text and other intellectual property of the fellowship. The copyright symbol must be used when material is quoted.

Consensus-based decision-making was explained. This allows a process of discussing principles, priorities, how we are meeting our primary purpose, and to plan into the future. It allows for the greatest participation in achieving a conscience. A consensus may be blocked if a tradition or concept is being violated. All members bear substantial responsibility in a consensus.

Break

Discussion was held about choosing trusted servants. An issue was raised about lack of people willing to assume leadership positions. How to get people involved with service, keep them involved, and keep the spirit of rotation. Sometimes we need to let things go and see what happens. Sometimes we need to drop commitments. Burnout is a problem.

Communication was discussed. Events like the Assembly are ways to communicate, and it is important how we communicate outside of the fellowship. It is important to learn from our predecessors, especially the Gathering. This is a vital part of service.

How do we train for service? It was suggested that Areas take this training workshop to their Area meetings. Informal sessions can be held before meetings. Alternate positions can be a way of mentoring those new to service. Sponsoring people into service is most important. Service is where the real gifts are. Being of service does not mean you are necessarily holding a position. Opening a meeting and cleaning up are very important. Everybody brings different skills. Being part of the group conscience is being of service.

Concepts and Traditions

First Tradition – Unity; principles before personalities; mapping every decision back to our primary purpose helps us prioritize.

Second Tradition – group conscience.

Third Tradition – The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using; we're welcoming no matter what; freedom from judgment;

Fourth Tradition –

Fifth Tradition – Primary purpose; message is hope and the promise of freedom; all we have to give.

Sixth Tradition – No diversions from our primary purpose.

Seventh Tradition – Put more in basket; being fully self-supporting is in asking how can I help—filling service positions; importance of checking out what is self-support; selling a product is not a donation; raffle tickets to raise money for H&I—shirts, etc.—also raffled off services by NA members (massage, cooks, etc.); our own contribution is our labor—the money for the product is not; a carwash could only be function among members because of anonymity, etc.; don't advertise it as an NA carwash; consider the fourth tradition and whether it affects NA as a whole; keep it within our circle of recovery; we should have this discussion in depth within our groups and areas; each do our part.

Tradition Eight – We are all equals.

Tradition Nine – Organization means direction from above—this is not an excuse not to be organized, be on time, do a professional job, etc.;

Tradition Ten – No position pro or con on outside issues; we take no position on whether drugs are right or wrong; no opinion on medications—representing NA as a whole and consideration of the addict I'm talking to—learned from mistakes.

Tradition Eleven –

Tradition Twelve – Not just about ignoring difficult personalities—no classes of membership—everybody in the room is equal—that is the place where it is impossible for personalities to be over principles; just because I don't like somebody doesn't mean they can't carry the message; its my personality that is the problem;

principles are the most important—consensus based decision making is more effective because principles are brought up more and more people are heard from; remember what principles I want to convey—makes it simpler when I'm focused on principles; this is the most important thing that keeps me in check—I concentrate on this tradition—I'm aware of defects surfacing—found myself putting personalities before principles—

A summary of the Twelve Concepts was read. There was a suggestion to have a discussion on the Concepts at a future assembly.

Comments and suggestions for future assemblies were requested. Suggestion to have the concepts be part of a literature study at the group level; the Concepts apply to the service structure; go over one at each service meeting or go over with a sponsor; her group reads the Tradition of month—could be done with the concepts.

Group Assembly

The RD report was read. Rose Z. announced that she was resigning from the position of RDA. She compiled and read a job description of the RDA position. The RDA position is open for nominations and hopefully will be elected in January.

RD stated we are at the point in our assembly where we discuss group concerns and solutions. We will approach this topic utilizing our discussion topics.

RD read profiles on discussion topics, which are our infrastructure and our public image.

RD asked for list of group concerns and then we will try to put those under our discussion topics.

Broke into small groups to discuss solutions to the aforementioned concerns.

Infrastructure:

1. Signing Court Cards- how to clarify we are not part of the government we are signing it for the addicts;
 - a. Develop a way to let people know that when we sign a card, we are signing it for the addict not the agency requiring the signature
 - b. Informing people we are not obligated to sign the card and put a condition on the signature being that they are not disruptive of the meeting.
 - c. Create a chairperson's guidelines, which states a chairperson is not obligated to sign a paper if he or she is uncomfortable with it. For example: if the person is not at the meeting, he or she receives a blank piece of paper.
 - d. PI presentations to professionals and facilities that informs them of what NA is and isn't and tell them what our limitations are. Follow up by asking them to share this with their residents
 - e. Encourage people to be aware of the cards they are signing and for whom
 - f. Don't sign cards or have some meetings where we don't sign cards
 - g. Positive peer pressure
2. Unqualified trusted servants;
 - a. Service workshops

- b. Asking a person to qualify before she or he is elected
 - i. Does she or he:
 - 1. Have a sponsor?
 - 2. Work steps?
 - 3. Have previous service experience (if needed)?
 - 4. Understand expectations of the job?
 - c. Mentorship
- 3. H&I and PI effectiveness and strength in reaching institutions;
 - a. Continual communication and flexibility
 - b. Persistence and realistic expectations
 - c. H&I and PI training
 - d. Be Patient
 - e. Sharing results with membership to encourage people to get fired up and honor the “spirit of rotation.”
- 4. Lack of clarity regarding expectations of trusted servants; and lack of passing on ESH with service and service mentoring;
 - a. Keep documentation of what individual service positions entail (job descriptions)
 - b. Have job descriptions available at the service committee level so if an individual drops of the face of the earth, the job description is still alive and well.
 - c. Use of alternate positions for mentoring and training.
 - d. Leave a service in position in better condition then when you got it.
- 5. Lack of a working knowledge of the traditions;
 - a. Talk about traditions in literature study meetings
 - b. Sponsorship
 - c. Talk about traditions at service meetings
- 6. Lack of human resources and/or lack of people willing to be trusted servants.
 - a. Sharing with the fellowship what we are doing in a good way versus bitching about our service commitments
 - b. When sharing ESH talk about your experience with service connects with long-term recovery.
 - c. Sponsorship

- d. Go around the room in a meeting and have people with service positions identify the service they do and what it is to give an awareness of service.

Public Image:

1. Behavior of court assigned populations
 - a. Announcements at the beginning of the meeting such as please respect the facility;
 - b. Personal confrontation by an experienced member;
 - c. Changing the format
 - d. Informational panels to the facility re: what NA can and cannot do
 - e. Book study meetings
 - f. Newcomer meetings
2. Unqualified trusted servants;
 - a. Knowing when to say no to an individual
 - b. Passing on knowledge of the position (qualifications and so forth)
 - c. Suggest to nominee to talk to sponsor and think about it prior to saying yes
 - d. Leave a position better then when one got it
 - e. Qualify for the position-avoid electing a warm body just to fill the position
 - f. Service is a privilege not a right
 - g. Informing individuals that this is a we program including service
 - h. Having nominees leave the room and have an actual election
 - i. Having nominations open and then electing at the next meeting
 - j. Elect trustworthy “trusted servants”
3. Reaching target populations such as youth, prescription addicts, professionals and so forth;
 - a. Posters and schedules in rural communities
 - b. Doing PSAs
 - c. Putting 800 number out to rural communities
 - d. Putting something with posters which informs people of what NA is
 - e. For youth- taking H&I into youth facilities
 - f. Don't discriminate

- g. Taking panels into high schools
- 4. Institutions and professionals unwillingness to hear Narcotics Anonymous message;
 - a. Taking literature into the facilities
 - b. Following the process
 - c. Good communication with facilities
 - d. Consistency in service
 - e. Following our handbook(s)
 - f. Putting up posters
 - g. Not taking on more then we can handle
 - h. Putting contact numbers and schedules in institutions
 - i. Keeping schedules updated
 - j. Contacting the staff to inform them of what we have to offer
 - k. Taking panels to judges
 - l. Panels to high schools
 - m. Finding ways to get staff to spread the message to other facilities
- 5. Teaching respect of meeting facilities.
- 6. FOR ALL OF THE ABOVE;
 - a. Have learning days and discussions with no other agenda besides discussion of the aforementioned
 - b. Sponsoring people into service
 - c. Asking newcomers how they found out about NA

RD note – Now we need an action plan to put some of these ideas into motion.