

WNYRCNA Minutes 7/21/12

Amelia L. opened the meeting at 12:00pm with the SP.

Basic Text Prayer read by Jim L.
12 Concepts read by Mike B.
12 Traditions read by Gene W..

Roll Call – Called by Secretary. Quorum established with 5 of 6 Areas represented (Chautauqua not attendance). 7 Regional Trusted Servants in attendance. Several members walked in during roll call.

Mailbox – Mail distributed by RD.

Next Meeting – Per Area rotation schedule, CAMNA will host RSC on September 15, 2012 at 203 Arnold Avenue Port Allegany, PA 16743.

Minutes – May minutes written by Mike D., acting secretary from May meeting; Melanie R., elected secretary, read the minutes to the committee.

Corrections: Amelia C. should be Amelia L., date of minutes should be May 19th, RD report should be 55 pages and not 155 pages, Convention committee does not meet on the last Sat of every month; fundraisers are held on the last Sat of every month minutes approved with corrections, motion to accept by Jim L., Mike B. 2nded, and motion passed.

Opening Balance – \$1,804.65 The May minutes stated 1805.65. Bank statement balance 1734.74, due to \$69.91 check costs and fees due to switching account types. Treasurer spent \$20.90, charged to his VISA, on duplicate checks for the new account.

The Treasurer wants to know if he should use starter check, straw poll of committee, majority would have the Treasurer use the starter check.

Executive Committee Reports

Chair Report – Vacant

Vice-Chair Report – Amelia L. – See report. No questions at this time.

RD Report – Jim L. – See report. Funds returned from Zonal Forum \$134.49. Mike B asked about statewide website and duplication of services. This may be a good idea, is there more information available? There will be a review of websites to find best practices. There are 18 websites in NY. There has been some research into domain names, many simple NY NA websites have already been purchased. This is a project that will be looked into and coordinated through the Zonal Forums or on people's own time and through emails. All the web servants will be contacted and it will be a collaborative effort. More people with web hosting and maintenance skills will be needed. More will be revealed.

Jason B. Would this exclude the CAMNA ASC from participating on the website? At this point it is just an adhoc committee but it would not exclude ASC that are part of the RSC.

RD Alt Report – Stephen D. – No written report. Was not able to attend the Zonal Forum.

Secretary – Melanie R. – no report

Sub-Committees

H&I Chair – Vacant

PI Chair – Vacant

Activities – Vacant

By-Law Review – Dave M. – See report. Copies of the proposed by-laws will be available at the next meeting. Policy will not be meeting in September.

Literature Chair – Bob B. – Not in attendance, no report.

Website – Michael B. – See report. Would like one person from each ASC to be a contact for updating information. Please send updates as they come to the web servant. Will not be in attendance at the next RSC due to a family vacation.

Convention – Ivan T. – See report. Jim L. Can you give us an approximate balance of Convention treasury? Approximately as of yesterday \$3,890.18. \$3,000 already spent, \$1000 to deposit, \$2000 to merchandise.

Fund allocation to subcommittees - \$500 Hospitality, \$1200 Entertainment, 750 Programming 2,500 Merchandise, \$250 A&G.

Suggestion to look at areas that can be cut like registration packets, Programming and Merchandise. Merchandise has already but cut from 5500 to 3500.

Concerns brought up about dealing with behaviors. There will be notices in the program and on signs and there will be Serenity Keepers. They will not be purchasing T-shirts for the Serenity Keepers.

ASC Reports

Buffalo ASC – Dave S. – no report. The Buffalo ASC would like more information on open positions, this information is in the by-laws and is available online on the website. RITW is going well. Phone line is very active, members are instructed to share meeting info and not opinion of meetings. Buffalo Area will have literature for sale on 2nd Sat from 4-7pm.

CAMNA ASC – Dave M. – Report will be emailed. Jason B. reported on ASC activities. McKean prison would like to bring in NA. Event in June went well and focused on Stages of Recovery. Ed B. has books for CAMNA for H&I.

Chautauqua ASC – Smitty – See report, not in attendance. Report sent to Chair and read by Amelia L. Mike B. raised the question as to rotating to the Chautauqua ASC. Although they do not have an RCM representing, they have been sending reports and donations. Including them in rotation would allow them to participate and access information. We cannot set a precedent to host ASC that have no representation.

Niagara Falls ASC – Irish H. – Vice Chair of RSC, RCM has stepped down. Fundraising chair stepped down and the Vice-Chair has stepped up. Niagara County jail, not able to attend due to strict requirements. H&I Chair is Gregory P. Ed B. requested contact information to distribute books.

Ni-O ASC – James H. – See report.

Ni-O has the same problem getting an orientation set up with Niagara County jail. Is there fishing at Krull Park - yes

NEWNY ASC – Susan M. – New phone line number is . Schedule will be emailed. \$300.00 in treasury. The ASC meets every 2nd Thursday. Mike B. offered to help with getting Area info posted on the website. Sub-committees are formed for H&I and PI but no Activities yet due to the size of the ASC body.

Nominations & Elections

Chair – Open

H&I – Open

PI – Open

Activities – Open

Old Business –

Minutes from Special meeting – All issues are addressed below in the contract review.

Convention contract – Keith W., Convention Vice-Chair & Hotel Liaison –

Pg1 Date of event needs to be November

Pg 1 Lowered room rate to \$112.00

Pg3 Need to change NA to WNYRCNA XVII , especially in the section that states the reservations are guaranteed by NA.

Pg2 Cutoff date can be changed per Keith

Pg3 room nights should read 121 not 134

Pg4 wording added to include concession sales

Pg4 100% pre-payment needs to change to what we want the breakdown to be per Keith. We need the deposit ASAP though.

Pg4 We do not have a credit card, this can be changed to check per Keith.

Discussion ensued on the contract prices for the breakout rooms and Grand Ballroom. The Hotel Liaison believes that this is the best deal we can get and the hotel is waiting for a signed contract. It needs to have the wording fine tuned and approved with a 3-payment breakdown. A deposit is required. Jim L. called to question the vote on the contract with changes identified today, all in favor.

Online payments – Mike B. directed to research online payments. Other Conventions are using PayPal. Any account should be set up by the RSC and fund flow directly to the RSC. It is the recommendation of the web servant that this not be pursued this year. Jim L. – This is a huge topic at the Forum. This has caused a great deal of discourse between RSC and Convention committees in other areas. The Region will not pursue this topic at this time.

Chautauqua Donation – the Area found another way to get the donation to the Convention committee by putting the check in Newcomer donation even though the RSC expressly returned the check because it was earmarked for the Convention. How will the money be used for Newcomer donation? It will be used by Registration for Newcomer packages.

Convention adhoc committee – to establish location and dates, and develop a contract for the next Convention. This will help us be more proactive for the next year. This will affect the responsibilities of the Convention Vice-Chair. Changing the Convention Chair term or extending the convention contract term to 2-year might help deal with the problems. The issue will be tabled until next meeting for discussion with pros and cons.

Break, meeting reopened at 2:18pm with SP

New Business

No New Business

Opening Balance:
Return of funds \$134.49
Expenses \$60.90
Closing Balance \$1808.33

Treasurer's report was not received.

Chautauqua RCM Report

First off I would like to apologize for the confusion with sending my reports and having them read. Our area has been trying to get the minutes for the last regional meeting in May and they have not been posted online yet. This is a concern to us due to the fact that's our only way of information flow at this time. So hopefully they will be posted soon, and it would be very helpful to us.

Our area is doing well and is trying to fill a couple of our positions at the area level. The activities committee would like to thank the regional convention committee for coming to our spring fling picnic and also for donating a registration packet to our area. Also our area received the check back from the convention committee and we decided to put it in the new comer basket at the convention meeting that was held before our event. We hope this will help carry the message of recovery to those addicts that can't afford to attend the convention without some help.

Our area is continuing to grow we have had a couple new groups join our area. I have emailed the website an updated schedule for our area. Also the hotline number we have is currently not working due to technical issues. We are currently trying to solve the issue but for the time being it is out of service. Our areas ending balance was \$156.77 which includes our prudent reserve off \$150.00

In loving service
Smitty

Niagara Orleans RCM Report

Hello family. The Ni-O area is running well. We are in the process of electing people for our executive and sub committees, nominations are in resumes have been read and the homegroups will be voting at the next area meeting. Also we will be holding our annual summer picnic at krull park in olcott, on august 12th. Please come out and support us it will be a great time. I apologize for not having our areas closing balance , because my books are in my wife's (The Boss's) car.

In loving service,
James H
Ni-O RCM

Website Report

Hello family:

The WNY regional web site continues to be up and running. Minuets from the last meeting have been posted. Updates have been made. If you have any information your area needs posted to the site please contact me. We are still looking for members to join the committee from each area
The review of web site on-line payment continues to move forward. Eastern New York and Greater Philadelphia Regions are using pay pal.

In loving service, Michael B.

Vice-Chair Report

Good Afternoon Family,

I am excited more than ever to have this opportunity to serve as this Region's vice chair. With your continued support and guidance I am learning the true meaning of humble service. I am overwhelmed with gratitude to you all. Also, a hearty **thank you** to Mike D. from the NEWNY area for taking our minutes at the last meeting of this committee.

On July 7th there was a special meeting held to review/vote on the proposed contract from the Holiday Inn Grand Island. There was an unexpected change in meeting location. But, those who attended displayed a level of patience and flexibility that we all should be proud of. Thank you.

Though we did not meet quorum requirements to vote, we reviewed the proposal and addressed concerns regarding the cost of the rooms as well as the cut-off date. There were also concerns raised regarding method of payment/direct billing. There was a twenty percent service charge (taxable) under Banquet/food & beverage attrition that we felt also needed to be addressed. Our hotel liaison noted our concerns and was asked to address these issues with the hotel. This is not an easy task. I remembered, during this meeting, why I did not do well in contract law. The payment of rent to the church of \$20.00 should be made out to First Congregational United Church of Christ.

Contact was made with some of our RCMs to discuss the vacancies on the WNYRSCNA. Also to gain a better understanding how their H & I, Activities and Public Relations subcommittees are doing.

If there are no objections from this body, a flyer to stimulate interest, and prayerfully nominations, to our vacant positions has been made to be distributed by our RCMs.

According to our by-laws, the purpose of the WNYRSCNA is to provide services, assistance and communications to our Area Service Committees as needed, requested or directed. Extended vacancies on the RSC makes it difficult to foster unity among our areas, it breaks down communications, and creates undue challenges for the RSC to serve the needs of the groups that created it. Our groups created our RSC we need their support to provide these services.

Thank you. Still In loving services
Amelia L.

Policy Adhoc Report

We met today but there was not much to do. The first final draft of the proposed by-laws is complete. Melanie should have them in a presentable format by our next meeting. We will then distribute them to committee members for review. If anyone has any comments or notices any changes that should be made, show up at the meeting in November.

We will not meet in September but will meet one hour before the November meeting.

In Service, Dave M.

Convention Chair Report

Our last convention committee meeting was held on Saturday , June 9, 2012 at 66 Englewood Ave. Bflo.

Opening Treasurer Bal: \$3,918.18

Hospitality Comm. Chair Lori - Discussion was held regarding child care facility being set up during convention weekend . Also convention badges for preteens (under the age of 14)

Fundraising / Entertainment Committee :

1. Speaker jam , Sunday June 7, 2012 66 Englewood Ave. F/E Committee was given \$150.00 for the rent of facility and the purchase of food . Proceeds from the event \$ 101.00 was to be turned over to the treasurer .
2. Fun Day N The Park was given by the F/E Committee on Saturday June 23, 2012. Proceeds from the event \$246.00 was turned over to the treasurer . Also raffle ticket sales \$160.00 was given to the F/ E chair to be turned over to the treasurer.

Fundraising has been given \$710.00 and returned \$1228.00 therefore giving us \$518.00 . also our Merchandise has raised approximately \$452.00.

The WNYRCNA Convention Committee held its monthly meeting at the Pavilion Allen Park in Jamestown, Saturday , May 26, 2012 before the area event “ Spring Fling” During that time the donation of \$500.00 was returned to the Chautauqua area RCM .The RCM then stated it was the group conscience of this area to donate the money to the WNYRCNA Convention Comm XVII , then he placed check in the donation container located on table next to merchandise . I discussed the regional concerns and direction that was given to me by the body, he then informed me that his report would be specific regarding this matter. I suggested that he make himself available for the upcoming Regional meeting to be held on July 21, 2012.

The Convention Comm would like to submit this year's logos from the Arts & Graphics Comm for RSC approval for upcoming convention XVII so the Merchandise Comm can start the process of ordering. Also, the Registration Committee has been working real diligently with the various areas activities committees and have registered approximately (55 registrants and total revenue raised \$1,100.00)

The next Convention Committee will be meeting on Saturday July 28, 2012 at the Niagara Falls Public Library, Main St, Niagara Falls NY. Executive Committee will meet prior to the regular convention comm. at 2:30pm; followed by regular committee meeting at 3:00 pm .

Yours in Service,
Ivan J. Carmichael

RD Report

Since the last meeting of this body in May, this trusted servant has fulfilled the required NEZF service commitments. (See attached Addendum NEZF Notes)

Discussions continue to focus on the events of the 2012 WSC, the role of regional servants regarding the outcome of the votes, what the Zone will be doing as the Fellowship moves forward, and what the New York State Delegates meeting would reveal concerning the possibility of a statewide service project.

It is evident that there is a future before us that will hold many challenges. How we approach the challenges may very well determine the quality of the outcomes. As I have been taught, by participating in the process there is no challenge that we can't meet head on. The first Tradition reminds us there is no challenge we can't work through.

The SSP for instance, as opposed as I was to it and as privileged I was to carry the conscience of our Region, its journey continues. We as a region can fight against the proposals or we can look at the proposals for what they are – proposals – that if we act on them will present benefits and challenges. (See attached Addendum WSC 2012 Notes)

As I have learned, challenges are, if one is proactive and positive, opportunities. We here in WNY need to participate in the process if we wish to contribute to NA's development. To quote the Vice Chair of the NEZF, "If you look beyond the structure, do environmental scanning, shared services, get people talking about what we are going to do to make NA a better fellowship, than we will have a better fellowship!" Have the areas and the homegroups throughout each area reflect on this: There are 15 states including New York that have multiple regions and as a result within each state there is duplication of services. Whether or not the SSP becomes a reality, we can consider what we could do together to decrease or eliminate all together the duplication of services.

With all that in mind the regional delegates from the five regions of New York, along with other trusted servants, began meeting. First asking would their regions support a NY delegate service project, and what project would best serve the regions of New York that would involve little or no financial resources. An ad hoc committee was formed, and the delegates returned to their regions to introduce the idea of shared services project and to see if there was regional support.

There was lengthy discussion regarding our services and how they might interact with the proposals of the SSP. The reality that the SSP would not be fully determined until 2014 for many was problematic, but it was realized that regardless of the SSP we could work on how to share services to better serve NA. The substance of the 2nd and 3rd meetings of the NY delegates was the development of a tentative PR project or a NY NA state website. We chose these two possibilities because there already exist an infra-structure and the cost would be minimal. The existence of 18 websites in New York grabbed our attention, and it was decided to look at the websites in other states to gain varied perspective. The possibility of creating a single website where all the existing websites of New York could be pages was placed on the table. More will be revealed. (See attached Addendum New York Delegate Meeting Notes)

It is amazing how time can help shape one's perception. It has been approximately 3 months since the WSC, the NEZF has met, and the trusted servants have returned to their regions to communicate their take on the events and discussions since. And, here I am still working on keeping myself open-minded and willing. NA just continues to blow my mind. Isn't it awesome, how when we all can come together – no matter how diverse our makeup – we continue to discover that we are more alike than we are different.

It is clear that the Fellowship is in a state of synergy. It is clear that the Fellowship is growing. It is just as clear that there are those in the Fellowship that are embracing the process, that there are those that are holding fast against the process, and that there are those that are unsure/undecided about all that is happening. The discussions leave this servant with much to share with the Region. I am now more than before asking all the trusted servants to remind the homegroups of WNY that, open-mindedness and willingness, is what will be needed to work collaboratively. As we collaborate we may find that we move into the future with all, part, or none of what was addressed at the 2012 WSC

So I conclude as I often do with the following: If we as a Region want to effectively participate “in matters affecting other groups or NA as a whole” (4th Tradition), then we need to be mindful of the 7th, 8th, and 9th Concepts of NA; as well as, the 1st Tradition.

- Tradition 1 “Our common welfare should come first. Personal recovery depends on NA unity.”
- Concept 7 “All members of a service body bear substantial responsibility for that body's decisions and should be allowed to fully participate in its decision-making processes.”
- Concept 8 “Our service structure depends on the integrity and effectiveness of our communications.”
- Concept 9 “All elements of our service structure have the responsibility to carefully consider all viewpoints in their decision-making processes.”

**With certainty ~ More will be Revealed ~ yours in service,
Jim L**