

MINUTES
D.C./MD/VA NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS
AREA SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: June 13, 1981

Place: 666 11th Street, N.W., Washington, D. C.

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Attendance:

Larry N., Pete K., John M., Robin E., Wayne H., Chris W.,
Harvey B., Thomas W., Charles W., Louis P., Dorine P., Carol R.

Absent GSRs:

Sunday Meetings: V.A. Clinic (Clyde C.), Berwyn, Martinsburg; Monday
Meetings: Howard (Mike P.); Tuesday Meetings: Courthouse (Mike G.),
Glad to be Alive; Thursday Meeting: Living Circle (John H.),
Wilson Club (Tommie D.); Friday Meetings: VANATA (Ed H.), Friday Live
(Tommie T.)

Dorine P. (Chairperson) opened the meeting at 3:30 p.m. with a
moment of silence for the still suffering addict and the Serenity Prayer.

Secretary's Report:

Dorine P. made a motion to dispense with the reading of the
minutes and Thomas W. seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Income from groups for the past month was: Second Chance - \$35.,
Clean and Serene - \$20., Howard - \$10., Courthouse - 20 ., Uptown -
\$115. for a total of \$200. Our expenses for the month were:
Answering Service - \$32.25, Post Office Box - \$13., Mark for the
mailing - \$116., and next month's answering service - \$66.50.
We are still somewhat in the hole, but should pull out with this
collection from this meeting.

Committee Reports:

Institutions Committee - Anthony E.

Anthony was unable to attend, but he submitted a written report,
which is attached. He did not hold a meeting of the committee this
past month, but has been contacted by the Committee for Alternatives
to Incarceration who want to use N.A. for offenders with drug
problems as an alternative to jail. He posed some suggestions for
verifying for the court a person's attendance at meetings.

Charles W. said that the problem with the people currently
coming who need to have their attendance monitored is that they come
in late and want the form signed. He said that what they are doing
in his group is collecting all of the forms at the door by the
Secretary and putting the time of arrival on the form.

Louis P. said that the Baltimore groups had that problem in AA
and that they used as a general rule that the person puts his slip on
the table at the beginning of the meeting and picks them up at the end.

Dorine said that she feels strongly that a person should be there at the beginning of the meeting as most facilities who send people give them ample time to get there. The Chair or Secretary should be the only people at a meeting who sign slips and that groups should purchase a stamp with the group name and address for the slips and that a slip should only be signed if the person is on time.

Thomas W. felt that it is a problem monitoring what time a person comes in and getting anything out of the meeting for yourself and that he felt that a stamp was a good idea so that a person could not forge a signature.

Dorine suggested that we set a policy to go by.

Larry N. agreed that he wouldn't want to have to sit and watch what time who came in the door. He said that we should watch not to alienate the addict, also.

Carol R. explained that this group that Anthony talked to is wanting to use N.A. as an alternative to jail for addicts and that she felt that it was important that the groups handle this responsibly so that we might be used to save some addicts from incarceration.

John M. said that we want the court to know that the groups and N.A. are responsible and that for the addicts own growth it is important that we expect them to be responsible also.

Louis said that the rule of thumb in California is that you can come to your first meeting drunk or high, but after that time you are asked to leave if you come again in that condition.

Dorine explained that in the D.C. groups we confront people who are high, but that we cannot search anyone.

Chris said that the Probation Office in Prince Georges puts on the court slips that the person attended the meeting and was sober and stayed for the entire meeting. He feels that imposing this on the addict is really doing the addict a favor as opposed to being punishment. He feels that it is important to impose good habits for addicts.

Louis made a motion that the ASC recommend to the groups that court slips be turned into the Secretary at the beginning of the meeting and picked up at the end.

Chris suggested that if an addict comes late and asks to have his slip signed that we deny that and refer him to a later meeting that evening where he can still catch an entire meeting.

Charles W. seconded Louis' motion. The motion carried.

Larry N. suggested an addendum to the motion in how do we deal with someone who comes in late.

Chris said that when someone is late give the slip to the Chair and the Chair will note the time of arrival on the paper.

Larry N. suggested that the motion carry a stipulation for lateness.

Louis P. said that he felt that if the person were late we should not sign the paper.

Thomas W. reiterated that most facilities give the person ample time to get to the meetings on time.

Dorine said that when some come to the meetings and are late they come in blind.

Larry N. said that meetings where people are high casts a bad reflection on the group.

Harvey asked if it was N.A. position to police meetings.

Larry suggested that we suggest to newcomers that they come to the next meeting clean.

Dorine recommended that if a person is more than 15 minutes late that we would not sign the papers.

Public Information Committee:

Mark W. was out of town so he sent a report with Carol R. Carol reported that the Committee dealt mainly at their last meeting with the idea of a speaker's bureau for N.A. so that when someone contacts N.A. requesting a speaker for a school, civic organization, radio program, etc. we would have some idea of who to send and what their background was. We also set some criteria for the speakers: mainly that if one person went to speak they should have one year sobriety, if more than one went, at least one of the persons going have at least a year. Also, he asked all GSRs to ask who in their group was interested in speaking and get names and addresses and Mark will develop and send around a questionnaire to try to get some information on each speaker so that choices can be made for who would be the best person to send.

Larry N. said that he thought it sounded good.

Harvey B. reiterated that all GSRs should talk with the people in their groups and get names of interested person to Mark W.

Literature Committee:

Bill Z. was not present. Louis P. reported that Baltimore has bought a mimeo machine and they are preprinting a pamphlet for newcomers which is taken largely from the little white book. He said that all of their directories are gone.

Larry N. asked if their pamphlet was approved literature.

Louis said that it has the N.A. logo on it. He said they are using the suggested reading for the beginning of a meeting, and the prologue with the steps on a separate sheet.

Dorine said that the D.C. groups read Who is an addict, What is the Narcotics Anonymous Program and How it works. Which is all printed in Who, What, ... pamphlet. She said that it is suggested that meetings be 1-1/2 hours to accommodate the long reading.

Entertainment Committee:

Paul F. was absent so there was no report from this committee.

Literature Committee addendum:

Carol R. suggested that we should have started packets already set up for new groups getting started so that we can give them some support to begin.

Larry N. said that the Virginia groups are paying for it out of their own pocket.

Louis asked if it was alright to reproduce N.A. literature since by copyright laws it cannot be altered in any way.

Larry N. said that Louis is correct. By law we are not supposed to reproduce the literature without written permission from the copyright holder and that if we wrote California and asked permission to reproduce they would deny it since literature is the only way they use mostly to stay self-supporting and to provide starter kits for the new groups free.

Old Business:

a) Absent GSRs - Carol R. recommended that we recommend to groups that if their GSR is absent three times the group should consider electing someone else to that position since that leaves their group unrepresented.

Larry N. said that we told GSRs not to make reports to their group until they got the minutes and that the minutes were not mailed out this time. He also asked if we could publish the names of the missing GSRs.

Louis pointed out that that was already reflected on the first page of the minutes.

Carol R. apologized saying that the minutes were quite long, there was only three weeks this time between meetings and she was ill for one of them.

Dorine P. suggested that we table that consideration until the next meeting in light of the fact that the minutes did not get out in time.

b) Directories: Carol R. asked what the status of the printing of the directories was. There was no one present at the meeting who knew that information.

c) Hotline Problems: Carol R. said that she wanted to bring it to the attention of the GSRs - what do we do when a person has the answering service book and information and goes back out as happened this time.

Dorine said that we should be careful to make sure that a responsible person has the book. No newcomers.

Thomas asked what was required of doing the hotline call pick-ups.

Carol R. explained the procedure.

Louis P. suggested making a duplicate of the instructions. He said Baltimore is now using a beeper system which he carries with him at all times. He said that it works and he responds quickly to calls.

John asked what the cost was.

Louis said that the company was in this area and it costs approximately \$25. monthly, plus a \$50 deposit.

Harvey asked who would be responsible and would they have to respond right away. He asked if only one person picks up the calls.

Dorine said that in this area we don't have enough people involved in the service work.

Louis says that he figures in Baltimore of the 50 active people only about 5 are involved in service work so far.

Carol said that the answering service is too much for one person to take on permanently -- a week is about max. time for it and that we don't get any emergencies that are that dire that the calls have to be returned immediately.

Havey said that he felt that the beeper was too much trouble.

Dorine also said that we have gotten some crank calls -- like where do you get dope.

Charles noted that if the thing went off anywhere we would be using a lot of money making calls from pay phones and that is a little out of hand.

Thomas W. volunteered the Uptown group to take the answering service calls for this month.

New Business:

1. Carol R. said that David B. has a site for a possible meeting location and anyone interested in setting up a meeting in Hyattsville should contact David.

2. Carol R. said that Michael C. explained to her that he is not able to make meetings on Saturdays, generally, because he has to work and that if we want him to continue to act as Treasurer he would be willing to do the work and submit reports to the group via someone else, but if that is not acceptable to us then he would be willing to step down and let someone else assume that position. Carol R. said that personally she felt that he had done such a good job that she felt that we should let him keep it and submit the reports.

Louis suggested electing a Vice Treasurer. That would serve to safeguard the money, also.

Thomas W. suggested putting the topic on hold since a lot of people were not here.

Louis asked if we now require two signatures to cash checks.

Dorine said no, just one.

Louis suggested that we set it up for two. Larry agreed saying that that is what the Virginia groups do and Dorine said that D.C. groups do also. Louis said that in ~~XXXXXX~~ Baltimore there are four persons who are authorized to sign checks, but two out of the four have to sign them. One alone can't do it.

Carol said that she thought we had three authorized persons, but only one has to sign.

Dorine suggested that Louis' idea of a Vice Treasurer to work with Michael was a good suggestion.

Harvey said that he would be willing to help.

Dorine said that she would like to nominate Br. Ric since he is keeping the books for a lot of the D.C. groups and is quite good at it. She nominated Br. Ric. John seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Carol R. asked what is the mechanism we want to use for authorization of expenditures. Can a Committee Chairperson just note an expense and go ahead, or do they have to submit the recommendation to the ASC as a whole, and get authorization to make that expenditure.

John M. suggested that anyone using ASC funds should submit a purchase order to the ASC Chair and should be submitted to the ASC in entirety for approval so that we don't over-extend ourselves like we did last month.

Louis seconded the motion.

The motion carried.

3) Happenings in Other Areas - Larry N. reported that the people in Central Pennsylvania are putting together a proposal to have the 12th World Conference there and they will present the proposal at the East Coast Conference for approval and then take it to Miami to make the bid for the Convention.

2nd East Coast Convention - They are still pushing for people to register. There will be a late charge after June 15th and after the 12th they can't assure banquet attendance. If you plan to register at the door they can't assure that you will get in. Larry suggested

calling first (George: 215-322-1552) or have people contact Larry N.

He said that a lot of work is being done now on getting the World Service Directory together.

There are also Input forms for World Service Office and any group, individual, region, area, etc. can submit recommendations, complaints, etc. to the WSO.

Larry also reminded the group that we still have to elect an Area Service Representative Alternate to go to the Regional meetings with Mark. Larry asked Louis if Baltimore considered themselves a separate area. Louis responded affirmatively.

11th World Convention in Miami: Larry N. reported that they are seeking speakers and if anyone is interested contact Bob at 305-523-5837 (P.O. Box 694594, Miami, Florida 33169).

The Meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

The next meeting will be held at 666 11th Street, N.W., Washington, D. C. at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 11, 1981. GSRs please come, everyone else is invited also.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol R.
Secretary
Washington/Maryland/Virginia
Area Service Committee

Attachment

Addendum: ROLL CALL OF GROUPS

Sunday Meetings

1. V.A. Clinic - No GSR present (2nd), Berwyn - No GSR present (1st),
Martinsburg - No GSR present (2nd).

Monday Meetings

A Second Chance - No GSR present (1st)

Tuesday Meetings

Courthouse - No GSR present (1st) - \$20.; Glad to be Alive - No GSR present (2nd)

Shenandoah Lodge (Peter K.) - No donation, new group, growing in attendance.

Wednesday Meetings

Clean and Serene (Harvey B.) - has to get together with the Treasurer to determine donation.

Chance to Live (Charles W.) - Group is growing and doing well. They have agreed to donate all their raffle money to ASC.

New Freedom (Larry N.) - Doing well, donation \$10. because now they are supporting some new groups that are just getting started.

Thursday Meeting

New Visions - No GSR present (1st) - \$10., Living Circle - No GSR present (1st)

Bladensburg (Wayne H.) - Beginners meeting, needs support.

Friday Meetings

VANATA - No GSR present (4th), Friday Night Live - No GSR present (1st)
Wilson Club - No GSR present (3rd)

Mid-Valley (John M) - They held their first meeting June 12th and it went well for a first meeting.

Saturday Meetings

Uptown (Thomas W.) - \$30.

HOW (Chris W.) - Group is growing. They need support. He will check about the donation amount.

Baltimore groups - Louis P. The groups are fairly static. Things are going fine and they are attracting more stayers in the program. They hope to start an institution meeting in some of the youth rehab. centers. The calls on the answering service are low and sporadic. They hope to start up a newsletter soon.