

MINUTES - CLEAN ACRES AREA MEETING - OCTOBER 15, 1995

The meeting was opened by Bob B. as chair with the serenity prayer, followed by a reading of the Twelve Traditions by Dave and the service paragraph from the Basic Text by Bob S.

Attendance: Bob B., Chair; Terry B., H & I co-chair; Dave, alternate GSR, Free At Last; Bob S., GSR, Give It Away; Maurice, GSR, Hope On The Hill; Lila, new group presenter, Surrender To Live; Benny B., General Chairman, It Works How & Why; Erin, GSR, Lifesavers; Rob U., RSO Rep; Howard, GSR, HOW; Denise, GSR, It Works How & Why; Stacy, Treasurer; Jim, GSR, Just For Today; Henry, Literature Chair; Sylvester A., GSR, Footwork; Sue, GSR, Friday Night NA; Percy, Alternate GSR, Footwork; John, Region Phone Chair; Al, GSR, Tuesday Night Alternative; James, S., Area Rep; and Stan, Acting Secretary.

The minutes were read and accepted as corrected, Jim moved, Benny seconded, unanimous.

Treasurer's Report: \$500.00 beginning balance
160.67 deposit
54.19 donation to Region
210.00 new Group donations
57.07 All The Answers
11.70 Secretary expenses
24.00 Literature for H & I
616.00 subtotal
116.00 donation to Region
500.00 ending balance (prudent reserve)

I would also like to mention that for the December Area meeting I will be out of town. But I will be getting together with my Co-Treasurer between now and next Area and will have her sit in with me for the November Area meeting to prepare her for December.

Committee Reports

PI - No one in attendance, no report.

H & I - We contacted Chester County Prison, BGI, Help Counseling, Guadenzia House, and Counter Point Kennett Square and we will start meetings soon. Counter Point is started every other Friday night from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Chester County Prison will have a list of people to serve soon; this meeting will be Wednesday night from 9:00 to 10:00 pm. All of these institutions want NA to come in and hold meetings, so we need help. Meetings now covered include Chester Counter Juvenile Center, Coatesville VA PTSD and Building 39B, and Counter Point Kennett Square.

Literature - We like to send love and respect to all Area members and Home Groups. We are still in need of a Literature Co-Chair. Also, if any Group needs coins over ten years, please place an order with the Literature Chairperson. Balance on hand: \$1488.44, bank balance, \$164.96. owed to Region, \$0.

Ad Hoc Committee - attached

RSO - attached. Rob U. announced his resignation as RSO Rep, effective immediately. A unanimous resolution was passed thanking Rob for his dedication and service, and hoping he will remain in close contact with Area.

ASR - attached

Group Reports

Footwork - Attendance rebounded to 40-50 from 20-30. Business meeting attendance has continued to slowly rise, with seven at the last meeting. Stan resigned as GSR, and Sylvester A. was elected to succeed him. All trusted servant positions are filled. Malvern Institute will resume regular attendance. We made a \$50.00 donation to Area. The Group nominated Sylvester A. as Literature Co-Chair.

Free At Last - Monday, 7:00 pm. at Malvern Center. Strong attendance. Newcomers enhancing recovery. New members attending (moving from other locations). Voted to continue use of Basic Text (cover to cover) as topical material.

Friday Night NA - We meet on Fridays at 8:00 pm. at the Kennett Clubhouse on Newark Road in Toughkenamon. Our business meeting is on the second Friday of every month at 7:00 pm. Support is down at our business meeting. Please come join us in carrying the message. We made a \$15.00 donation to Area.

Give It Away - Meeting has strong attendance. Anniversary meeting was very successful. We need trusted servants. We gave a \$20.00 donation to Area.

Hope On The Hill - Group meets every Tuesday of the month from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm. We are in dire need of support and trusted servants.

HOW - Attendance is still good. We need trusted servants.

It Works How And Why - Meets every Sunday from 5:00 to 6:30 pm, at St. Agnes Church in West Chester. Attendance has been good and business meeting has more support. New format should be completed for December and in use by January 1996.

Just For Today - We meet Wednesdays at 5:30 pm. Exton, PA 202 and Route 30. Attendance is good and positions are filled.

Lifesavers - Group meets on Monday night at 8:00 pm. at the Westminster House in Kennett Square. Meeting and business meeting attendance is good. We made a donation of \$30.75 to Area. We also brought back a nomination for Literature Co-Chair: Sylvester A.

Tuesday Night Alternative - Meets on Tuesdays from 8:00 to 9:30 pm. at Bowling Green in Toughkenamon on Newark Road. Attendance is good. Business meeting is on the second Tuesday of the month and needs support. All are welcome. We are making a \$50.00 donation to Area.

A new Group, *Surrender To Win*, was accepted into Area. It meets on Monday nights from 8:00 to 9:30 pm. in Hutchinson Church in Coatesville. It will be a non-smoking meeting.

Old Business

Nominations - Sylvester A. was nominated for Literature Co-Chair and submitted his qualifications as follows: "I have 47 months of recovery and I have been involved in the rooms of NA on the Group level. My qualifications include being the GSR and Treasurer of my previous home group. I am now GSR for my new home group, Footwork, in this Area. But my best qualification is my willingness to serve my home group in the best way I can and to help maintain unity in the Clean Acres Group of NA. Jim moved that nominations be closed and Bob S. seconded. Unanimous.

No nominations were made for Area Co-Chair, PI Co-Chair, Secretary, Area Alternate Rep, and RSO Rep.

Area Elections - Stan's motion to establish a regular calendar for Area nominations and elections was referred back to the Groups. As a result of this referral, the motion was amended to take effect in October 1996, rather than October, 1995. The motion calls for nominations to be made in October and November, elections in December, and terms of office to run from January through December of each calendar year, with the Treasurer to serve a two-year term beginning January, 1997.

New Business

Sale of Non-Approved Literature at Region - Motion sent back to Groups.

Bob S. asked if a corporation could be formed for running conventions.

Clean Acres Area

Minutes - October 15, 1995

Next RSO meeting are first Monday in November and first Saturday in December.

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sam Wass", followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

As Acting Secretary

The Motion 39/88 Forum Ad Hoc Committee held four workshops during August. They were located throughout the Area: West Chester; Coatesville; Kennett Square; and Exton. Attendance ranged from three to nine members. The following ideas, opinions and questions are extracts from the workshops' minutes, and summarize the main points raised.

About the motion:

- This political correctness is a fad.
- Politically correct is an inappropriate label for this motion, it's about spirituality, not politics.

About the language:

- Current language does not reflect the principles.
- The language reflects religion, the members promote spirituality.
- We're limiting ourselves.
- Each member should have the right to choose her/his own HP, not adopt the one given.
- The wording of the steps and traditions do not reflect the principles of the program; this is a spiritual, not religious program.
- The steps, as they are written now, go against the traditions of the program as they direct my attentions to an image of a God of gender rather than a God of my understanding.
- God has Christian under tones, but we have a spiritual not religious program, so that creates a contradiction.
- The concept of HP is the true principle, not God.
- Is there a term, HP or otherwise, that will translate and convey the true principles of our fellowship?
- Can we accept "God" as a concept, rather than "God" as "Him"?

Considering the newcomer:

- Newcomers usually arrive with lots of "God" problems.
- Most people need someone to translate the steps to help them to deal with the "God" issue.
- Later in the Basic Text it says that our concepts of a HP are up to us.
- When we come into the rooms, is the word God in a religious sense frightening the newcomer before other clean addicts get a chance to explain that this is a spiritual not religious program?
- Perhaps this is a good thing that newcomers have to find out about a God of our understanding.
- This stops addicts from coming to meetings.
- Will we always need a translator if we do not change the wording?
- Newcomers who see religious overtones in the steps may fear that a conversion will be forced upon them.
- Those of us who stuck around in spite problems with "God" in the steps are numerous; but who knows how many don't stick it out?

Considering other religions/cultures:

- Are we truly a world-wide fellowship?
- The missing part here is that we do not know what it is like for other cultures, other religions.
- If the steps used "Allah", how long ago would we have changed them?
- We should get beyond our personal experience as Americans in order to allow changes that will make this work for all cultures.
- Customizing translations to each culture could backfire, creating different NAs in different countries.
- We need a universally translatable version of the steps to keep unity.

Responses to change:

- We don't want language to be too sterile.
- If we make a change to the wording, do we change the principals of the program?
- Our fellowship was made possible by changing another fellowship's wording.
- This is a program of change and growth (i.e. the Basic Text is now on its fifth edition), so change in the literature need not be feared.
- As individuals, many of us already change the steps to our own interpretation.
- Fear, freedom, creativity.
- Will we offend North America if we change; we are the majority. - What will happen with those who do not want to change if we in fact do change.
- Will churches no longer welcome us? Is this relevant?
- If I'm already confused about the steps, changing them will add to the confusion.
- The literature can't address all specific problems. If we change the wording to satisfy one group, it may start an endless cycle.
- It works; don't fix it.
- The steps are the first thing I ever stuck to; I don't want to change them.
- Keep it simple, I'm comfortable, don't change anything.
- It's broke, so fix it.
- If it was working for everyone, the motion never would have been presented.
- There are more important things to focus on.
- The wording is a problem, but how big of a problem?
- Should we spend so much time on this wording?
- Changing the wording of the Steps and Traditions may spread disunity.

The gender issue:

- Does the use of gender-specific pronouns (i.e. he, him) promote a male dominant program?
- Some are offended (i.e. those who have a feminine Higher Power) by the masculine pronouns for Higher Power in our Steps and Traditions.
- How does AA deal with these issues?
- We haven't considered anything, we just adopted the steps as previously written.

Since the workshops were planned, the Ad Hoc Committee learned that the World Service Board (WSB) has presented a third motion on this issue - Motion 47. The new motion passed at this year's World Service Convention. According to Motion 47, WSB will prepare a paper on the issues and present it to the Fellowship (this was to have been done by August, 1995). Furthermore, WSB will present a recommendation to the Fellowship in the 1996 Conference Agenda Report on how to resolve the issues.

RSO REPORT

15 October 1995

The office is open for literature sales on Tuesday nights from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM and on the 2nd Saturday from 8:00 AM to 12:00 noon. I volunteered at the office on September 26 to help process literature orders. I am currently serving as the ad-hoc chair for replacing the computer hardware and sales software, and also serving on an impromptu committee to document the office procedures.

I have some good news and some bad news. First the good news.

The RSO Board met on September 30 where I was not able to attend and again on October 7 at the RSC weekend where I did attend and we accomplished a lot of business. I took seven pages of notes! So tighten your seat belts and I'll give you a summary of these meetings:

Computer The computer crashed again on September 26. Looks like a corrupt file. Three bids were submitted for a replacement computer and a motion passed for a \$2600 allotment for hardware. Software programs such as Peachtree and Quicken under consideration.

Office Guidelines This ad-hoc committee of three concerned Board members sat down and listed all the office procedures which need to be written down. For example, how to run the computer sales system, how to package literature sales, etc. Partial work was submitted.

Copier The RSO treasurer received multiple bids for a replacement copier. Motion passed to purchase a Cannon NP6030 copier at \$8333.40.

Quorum Motion passed to lower the quorum from 60% to 50%. Then we passed a follow up motion to uphold the quorum throughout the entire meeting to conduct business.

Shelving Motion passed to hire two special workers to assemble the recently purchased literature racks that have been laying in boxes on the office floor for two months.

Treasury: The Board has given power of attorney to an accountant to contact the IRS and resolve missing tax filing for 1993 and 1994. The accountant recommend several accounting packages, accounting practices, discussed our tax status in relation to the RSC, RSO, and the conventions, and talked about the signatures on accounts.

Co-Treasurer The Board passed a motion for a Co-Treasurer position, 3-year clean time requirement, non-signer on accounts, co-area representative, trusted non-elected position.

Convention: What is there to report? The convention treasurer, who, according to convention policy #11, is supposed to be a member of the Board, refuses to attend the Boards meetings,

Administrative: The RSO and RSC administrative committees met and discussed several issues such as the lack of understanding of the RSC/RSO relationship, policies, bank accounts, another office in Camden, and of a possible split in the Philly region in Inner-City.

Phone line: The phone line works in the 215 area code, but, there are several problems with the operations. The phone line chair has been in direct contact with Bell Atlantic, letters and bills sent to his business address. The \$2160 for identa-ring is with the chair and remains uncashed. The Board appointed Steve P. as a phone line liaison.

Miscellaneous: The Board approved a letter to be sent to all areas not currently participating on the Board asking them for support. Those not participating are Northwest Philly, South Philly, Pyramid of Freedom, Riverfront, Beehive, and Pure & Simple areas.

And now for the bad news.

I regrettably must resign my position as Clean Acres RSO representative position effective tonight. Due to my work schedule I will be unable to attend area service and RSO meetings from November until March of next year. I thank you for the opportunity to serve this area and my gratitude speaks when I care and share with others the NA way.

In Loving Service,

Rob U.

doesn't like attending the convention meetings either, but is OK with managing a \$100,00 cash flow through the convention account. What do you think?

Meeting Lists: We got better communications from the meeting list chair last month. The deadline for this meeting list passed on October 10. Changes for next meeting list can be submitted now.

Security: The Board appointed the Camden rep as the security chairperson. He is responsible to maintain contact with the security systems and keep abreast on who gets into the office.

New Location: The Board appointed Steve P. from Philly to look for another office location. The current lease runs out in April.

Lawyer: The Board met our new lawyer, Mark Edelson, at our last meeting. He was there on his own time to gain information on how the Board, region, and convention works. Boy is he in for a ride! We gave him a list of issues that the Board wants clarification on such as the by-laws, RSC-RSO - Convention relationship, conflicts in policy or by-laws, fiduciaries responsibilities, financial - legal - obligations and liabilities, use of tax ID number, multiple corporations, purpose - powers, employee guidelines, taxes, contracts, theft and legal litigation, etc.... Ed B. from the SVA volunteered as the legal liaison between the lawyer and the Board.

Committee Room: Appointed Avbon G. as the committee room overseer to resolve any conflicts of scheduling, priorities, appearance, etc. The Board approve to let the Schuykill Valley Area hold their area service and H&I meetings in the committee room.

Merchandise: Chas N., co-chair and acting office manager, is recommending that the office expand the sales to include merchandise other than conference approved literature, key tags, medallions, etc. The new merchandise would include T-shirts for sub-committees such as Hospitals and Institutions, Public Information, and Phone line. The RSO would put up a \$1000 seed money to purchase the initial gross of shirts, then the money collect would roll over in a sub committee account.

The RSO is asking the areas for direction and suggestions. As your RSO rep I'm asking this area to consider what's our Seventh Tradition say about self support. Will the sales of T-shirts take away from the fund flow we currently receive in the basket we pass around in the rooms? Is this a secondary fund flow? I'll leave the discussion for your groups.

Attendance: The Board discussed the lack of an attendance policy. Ed B. and myself offered motions for resolution which the Board rejected, so Ed and I are working on a joint motion for the next meeting. Basically, the way the Board operates now is that any Board member who misses two consecutive meetings, regular or emergency meetings, loses voting privileges and is dropped from the Board. They must be voted back on the Board the next meeting. The motion Ed and I are putting together will only require attendance at regularly scheduled meetings (1x month).

ASR Report

Regional Meeting 10/8/95

We met at North American Motor Inn on City Line Ave on Sunday 10/8/95.

Minutes were read and second, we had a quorum of ASRs in attendance.

RSR: Regional ^{Weekend} Oct. 21, Agenda.

Resolution group: draft copy attached on what they're working on I.E. mission statement etc. vision WSC ~~is~~ quarterly meeting, WSB lang statement on motion 39/88. New products: WSC will be memorial day weekend in N. Carolina. Regional ~~Weekend~~ learning weekend information forthcoming.

RSO Board TREA: op bal 32,000, depos 13,000
exp. Rent 253 Phone line check to WSO ending bal. 14,400.44 car 32,000. moving forward with lawyer and accountant on taxes. Fed, state,

RSO Board: met SAT. met lawyer who suggested everyone on RSO be under the umbrella of RSO corp. formed Ad-hoc committee to set up guidelines for special workers new computer (2,578.) No progress on theft of old computer. because computer had insurance it will basically pay for new computer. Due to problems at RSO the chair resigned but later reconsidered. Motion is made to sell NA related jewelry and other N.A. related material.

RSO/RSC Rep: RSO board asking Areas send Reps to present an Area conscience and to be a participant in how the RSO board runs.

Meeting List: 4 Reps in attendance, exchanged into updates are going well, updates and changes. budget of 500.00 submitted

P.I.: No Rep in attendance. Bucks CT, has made a poster. Budget and policy were discussed Budget of 3,000.00 submitted to last until next June
Regional Learning wk-end Nov. 18 AT 18th & Market
Phoneline: Aug 26, startup date was met and system did not work, glitches were eventually worked out and system is up and running. Need volunteers from various Area codes to help with coverage.

H&L: Have begun supplementing Area H&L Lit needs to those in need. T-shirt has been design to promote Regional Learning day.

Multi-Regional Learning Weekend June 29-30 Inna 57st New York. everyone must register.

Unity: Policy for sub-committee discussed, Paul K. was nominated for Unity Co-chair qualification were read. election will be held AT next Regional meeting.

Next meeting to be held Nov 11 AT RSO office.

Time is 12:00 noon.

Cleansheet: Motion

working with Convention to get free registration for patients so they can attend.

Policy: discussed date and time for meetings to be held ~~next minutes~~ of submitted budget of ~~1000.00~~ 100.00

JAC: Lit Review submitted budget of 750.00. Convention has problem. co-chair not letting chair follow traditions. Treca not showing up AT meeting.

Concu: Theme & Logo, openings on committee.
Treasurer not showing up for meetings or RSO board meeting no accountability. Treasurer and co-treasurer moved bank account without consulting RSC. There is a lot of disruptions because of personalities. Checks aren't clearing directly as a result of moving the bank account. Theme and logo The "war is over"
~~Concu~~ Conu Treas, Conu co-chain, RSO Treas, RSO chair are check signers next meeting next Sun. 2601 N. Board 12-4

Admin: Bad debit issue discussed. Chair was to call person to see if they would pay any more. A couple of hotels were contacted

LIT Review: 3rd weekend of Nov or 2nd weekend of Dec for Learning Day on Guide To Service Structure. Shall be ordering a case of The Guide.

New Business: Motion #13 sent back to Adm committee for clarification.

Motion #1: That Addendum of meeting list be made available to all areas so it can be updated so as not to throw away

Motion #2: provide H&I 500.00 seed money for T-shirts. Intent: Provide LIT & carry message to suffering addicts m/s/p 8/0/1

Motion #3: Region give N/W Area \$500.00 monies to keep running

Intent: Area in dire need of funds to pay bills

Motion: out of order

Motion #4: Region direct Conu. chain contact bank where funds were transferred and ask bank to freeze acct. and start a new account with correct signatures

Intent: Accountability and responsibilities in light of T&D info. contracting m/s/p 6/0/9

addendum
to motion 4

Motion #5: That RSO retract bills and itemized bill invoices for monies owed Intent: Accountability and Responsibility. Out of Order

6:00

Motion #6: JAC: That Admin meet in odd months of SAT so they can conduct business in an orderly manner
m/s/p 9/0/0

Motion #7 That RSC direct The Convention Committee to adhere to policy
m/s/p 9/0/0

Motion that Conv ^{Treasurer} ~~Chair~~ be ratified/approved by RSC prior to serving. Intent provide further accountability of the Conv. to RSC. Back to groups.

Motion #8 ~~that~~ with correct signatures as per our policy and if this can't be done Lawyer be contracted to pursue this matter m/s/p 6/0/3