

Sunday May 06, 2007

Rock River Area Group Service

Held at 1111 S. Alpine Rd. Rockford, Illinois - Suite 303

Hosted by: Clean

Business Minutes

ATTENDANCE: 27

Randy S., Rob K., Sterling M., Kim S., Sandra A., Eric B., Earl P., Eric D., Kisha M., Steve R., Steven Y., Barney W., Paula T., James W., Teresa H., Jane S., Lauren J., Emanuel B., Linda F., Charley S., Mark R., Tara J., Becky B., Bill N., Katrina K., Greg W., Mark B.

- a.) Paula T. opened the meeting at 1:00 pm with a moment of silence followed by the serenity prayer.
- b.) Volunteers read the Twelve Traditions of N.A. and the Service Workers Prayer.
- c.) Chair read statement of purpose.
- d.) Welcomed Newcomers.
- e.) Roll call of Trusted Servants and GSRs. (12 of 17 GSRs reporting)
- f.) Recognized new groups.
- g.) Explained voting procedures.
- h.) Reviewed minutes from last month – accepted.

OFFICER REPORTS:

Chairperson: Paula T. (*present*) – Reminded everyone to stay on track and be mindful when someone else has the floor.

Vice – Chairperson: Eric B. (*present*) – Nothing to report.

Secretary: (*open*)

Alternate Secretary: Mark B. (*present*) – Please turn in your reports to me by the end of the meeting if you want your information to be included in the Area Minutes, as I want your information to be included. I have a few questions concerning the posting of Area's Monthly Minutes on the www.ragsna.org website regarding content and I am looking for direction. As I know, we are to be anonymous and that anyone can view the website.

1) Should the monthly minutes be posted as is, or should we use first names only, or no names at all when referring to a group's GSRs, Area's Trusted Servants, and Area's Officers at the beginning of their report?

2) Should we use only first names or no names at all, when an addict is nominated for, and

elected to a position?

3) What about using only first names in the Area attendance listing on the front page of the minutes? Alternatively, should we use no names at all and just the number of people who attended?

In an effort to preserve anonymity, I have already stripped the contact information from the monthly minutes that are going to be posted on the website. In addition, I have created two versions of web minutes to be reviewed. The first version, labeled “partially modified”, has everyone’s last initial removed. The second version, labeled “completely modified”, has everyone’s name removed. Under attendance there is now a number, GSR reports only have a GSR or GSRA designation for reporting member, Trusted Servant / Officer reports only have a present or not present designation, and the Financial report only has the position designated of any members that were written a check. I have distributed a few “completely modified” versions around the room; please take a few minutes to look this version over. As I stated earlier, I am looking for direction or suggestions on this matter concerning the posting of Area’s Monthly Minutes on the www.ragsna.org website.

This month I did not have the financial capability to copy the minutes where I normally do. I probably should have asked for the working reserve that the Area policy dictates I can have (*Section XII-V 1a, 1b*), as I have been paying out of my pocket and asking for reimbursement. I did the copies on my printer. I’m normally charged \$0.07 per sheet. I’m charging \$0.05. Total sheets used – 390. Cost for copying April’s Area Minutes was \$19.50. I have turned in my cost to the treasurer. I am asking for reimbursement of \$19.50 for copying. Lastly, don’t forget to sign in on one of the attendance sheets that are going around the room so that I may get an accurate count and so that you will be included in this months Area attendance listing. Again, thank you for allowing me to be of service to Narcotics Anonymous.

(Answer to questions) Group consensus is to post the monthly minutes as is.

Treasurer: Eric B. (*acting treasurer / present*) – Handed out financial figures data packet gathered since the April business meeting. Explained financial report. Stated that Wagner Communication expenditure is larger this month due to one of the checks not being sent out. No check written in April for AT&T because we have a credit. Regional donation was \$3,948.48, report accepted.

Alternate Treasurer: (*open*)

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Beginning Balance From: April 01, 2007 ***\$7,756.56***

INCOME

Groups 7 th Tradition.....	\$516.27
Literature sold.....	\$639.75
Area 7 th Tradition.....	\$38.50
Functions Money.....	\$0.00
RCM.....	\$0.00
RCMA.....	\$0.00
Individual Purchases.....	\$0.00

TOTAL INCOME ***\$1,194.52***

EXPENSES

3966	Commercial Printing of Rockford (Meeting Schedules)	\$205.00
3967	Community Bargain Hunter (Website Hosting & Domain)...	\$59.40
3968	Wagner Communications (Answering Service).....	\$249.36
3969	Reality Check – 7 th Tradition	\$38.50
3970	Mark B. (Copying of Minutes)	\$41.65
3971	Project Hope (Donation).....	\$500.00
3972	Randy S. (Newsletter printing).....	\$239.69
3973	WRSC (Literature Order).....	\$627.80
3974	WRSC (Regional Donation).....	\$3,948.48

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$5,909.88
CHECKBOOK BALANCE	\$3,745.15
STATEMENT BALANCE	\$3,745.15
PRUDENT RESERVE	\$3,041.20
WORKING FUNDS	\$703.95

TRUSTED SERVANT REPORTS:

Regional Committee Member: Sterling M. (*present*) – Good afternoon Rock River Area. We (RCMA and RCM) will be attending WRSC hosted by WSNAC in Oshkosh, Wisconsin May 19 – 20, 2007. Please get me your group and Area Function flyers. Did we have any group interest in a GSR / RCM Regional Workshop prior to C.A.R. report? H&I report to include number of facilities we are currently going into, how they are attended, and any NA or Regional needs. We will be delivering Project Hope Donation, RRAGS Area Donation, and Literature Order. Chair requests \$280.00 to attend Region.

(Answer to question) Yes, GSRs do show an interest in a C.A.R. Workshop. In Loving Service, Sterling M. (RCM) & Steven Y. (RCMA).

Regional Committee Member Alternate: Steven Y. (*present*) – Requests \$60.00 to attend Region with RCM. This will be my last Area and Region as I am leaving May 24, 2007 to finish my schooling. I will miss everyone at Area. In Loving Service, Steven Y.

Functions: Kisha M. (*present / had to leave*) – Nothing to report.

Literature Review: Steven Y. (*present*) – Nothing to report.

Hospitals & Institutions: Kim S. (*present / had to leave*) – Sorry I had to leave, if anyone needs literature, please contact me. Everything else seems to be going fine. In Loving Service, Kim S.

Public Information: Rob K. (*present*) – P.I. activity for the month of April 2007:

- 1) Additional Subcommittee Meeting: Held 4-21-07 at Freedom To Grow. Attendance = 5. Summary in brief: **A)** Open actions: Facility contacts with Rosecrance River District and

PHASE – Belvidere. PI presentation set up with Salvation Army (Rockford) for 4-23-07.

B) PSAs: Videotape was received from WSO. Tape was to be distributed to local television stations. **C)** Phonline Learning Service Day: Subcommittee adjusted the date due to a committee member schedule conflicts. New date: Saturday July 14, 2007, It Works to host. A high-level agenda for the presentation was discussed and agreed upon. **D)** PI Subcommittee Policy: A subcommittee member took the action to conduct a thorough policy review.

E) Phonline: Sub-committee had an in depth discussion of the situation and go forward plan with the answering service for the Phonline. A full report on this situation will follow, being the primary subject of PI's report to the ASC this month.

2) Salvation Army (Rockford): PI Subcommittee members gave presentation to staff on 04-23-07. It was determined that they would best be served by an H&I panel presentation format, with the eventual possibility of an institutional meeting. Best night was Wednesdays, exact time TBA. PI will work to hand this off to H&I.

3) Centegra Health Systems (Woodstock, Illinois): Staff from this facility called the Phonline to request meeting schedules for the Rockford Area. PI Chair followed up with the facility to make sure they were aware of NA in their local Area (Chicago Region) and to clarify that they were specifically requesting Rockford schedules. After a brief discussion, it was determined that they were indeed seeking western Illinois information, for post treatment referrals for their clients living in our Area. Chair sent (25) schedules and a brief note directing them to the RRAGS website for future use.

4) New NA group (“There Is Hope” – Rochelle, Illinois): Again this month, corresponded (email) with the group contact person, informing them as to date and location of the May ASC meeting and inviting the group to send a representative.

5) PI Goals / Proposed activities for May 2007 (and forward): **A)** Continued planning for Phonline Service Learning Day. **B)** Close open actions from April (ongoing and proposed facility contacts, etc). **C)** Continue follow up on situation with answering service provider. **D)** Begin efforts for outreach into Spanish speaking community. Bilingual NA members are needed to help with this effort.

6) RRAGS Phonline (answering service): On April 02, 2007, the PI chair received an email from the owner of our present answering service that handles the RRAGS Phonline. This message detailed our present service's intention to restructure the billing for our account, effective May 01, 2007, from a flat fee of \$81.50 per month to a combined base rate / per minute charge. The new cost would be a base fee of \$89.00 per month for the first 75 minutes and then \$0.65 per each minute over 75. Our present Phonline answering service estimated our average usage at 400 minutes; estimated new cost would be approximately \$300.00. $\$89.00 + (325 \times \$0.65) = \$300.25$, effectively an increase of 3.5 times the current cost.

Members of the PI Subcommittee conferred quickly to formulate a response. On April 10, 2007, we sent an email to our present Phonline answering service indicating that an increase of this magnitude was unacceptable for several reasons; primarily that we would have no real way to verify the amount of time being spent. Their response was that their operators spend a large amount of time finding meeting location information in their paperwork and that a “paperless” solution might cut costs. We then directed them to use the RRAGS website for this information. We also requested a teleconference with them to discuss ideas to reduce the time that their operators spent. They responded that their staff was too busy for such a call at that time. Since then the PI Chair was able to have a brief phone call with them, but resolution of these issues is still ongoing. The emails documenting these negotiations can be provided on request.

Meanwhile, PI has conducted a search for alternate providers; using the criteria of cost, 24-hour operation, and location closer to RRAGS. Not many providers fit these criteria, the most likely being in Freeport, Illinois. We solicited information from this provider. This alternative provider also bills on a per usage basis, so the cost could only be estimated. As such, their billing would be structured differently; we must roughly estimate their costs, which would appear to be \$130.00 - \$170.00 per month. \$70.00 / month flat fee for the first 100 calls + \$0.48 per *call* over 100. (Note: Incoming calls, Pages to volunteers, and retrieval of each message; all count as calls.) We average 60-80 calls a month. Therefore, a worst-case *estimate* would be 80 calls X 3 = 240 calls/pages/retrievals. [$\$70.00 + (140 \times \$0.48 = \$67.20) = \137.20] Even a hundred calls would be \$166.00.

The situation with the Phonenumber was the primary topic of the Subcommittee meeting held on April 21, 2007. As a group, we agreed to a go-forward plan as follows: **A)** Continue to try to work with our present Phonenumber answering service in an attempt to limit costs (ask that operators stick strictly to our requested procedure, be mindful of call length, etc). **B)** Prepare a detailed estimate of alternate provider cost based on projected usage. **C)** Investigate with Wisconsin Region to fully understand and utilize the capability of the Regional provided voicemail, in hopes of using that system to limit answering service operator contact with callers. **D)** Wait to see first month billing from our present provider under new rates, to be able to compare actual costs. **E)** Continue to search for estimates from other potential service providers.

After working with Regional PI, the Region's voicemail system is set up to provide recorded meeting information and enables the caller to ring through to an operator (the answering service) for personal assistance. The system works, but could use some improvements, which we will work with the Regional PI to accomplish.

As a side note, this uncertainty with the answering service occurs simultaneously with the roll out of the PSAs to local media. The PI Subcommittee decided it was best to display only the Regional # and the RRAGS website info on the PSAs in hopes of limiting operator contact time.

The PI Subcommittee will look to the GSRs for input, while continuing with the actions outlined above.

7) Additional PI Subcommittee Monthly Meeting: Next meeting is 05/19/07 at Freedom To Grow @ Noon. Other related Subcommittees (H&I, Digital Info, etc) are encouraged to attend in order to foster communication and sharing of ideas.

8) Phonenumber Learning Day (new date): It Works 2026 North State Street Belvidere, Illinois Saturday July 14, 2007, hosts new Date. We would like to remind GSRs to please take a flyer for this event back to your groups.

9) Committee activity prior to May ASC: Attendance – 2. **a)** Discussed status of PSAs with local media. One station can air PSA; others cannot due to low broadcast quality. Cable is yet to be discussed. **b)** Discussed possibility of free promotion of PSA at local station.

MOTION: To use Regional # as our main phone number. Switch to our new provider. Provide fast forward option on Regional number to access our new provider for operator help. Target of June 01, 2007 for new service to be up and running. Intent is to reduce cost while increasing efficiency and service. Discussion. *Vote: Passed.*

Policy & Procedure: Randy S. (*present*) – Chair distributed a proposal for the 2007 / 2008 ASC Meeting Rotation to be reviewed. **MOTION:** To accept the 2007 / 2008 ASC Meeting Rotation. No discussion was warranted. *Vote: No one opposes: Passed.*

Literature Stockpile: Jimmy M. (*absent*) –

Literature Stockpile Alternate: Charley S. (*present*) – This months literature sales were **\$542.95**. The literature reorder was **\$472.69**.

Convention Committee: Barney W. (*present*) – We met twice in the last month. Subcommittees are up and running. They are working on their budgets. Arts & Graphics is currently requesting ideas for the convention theme. Hotels & Hospitality checked with 5 hotels and narrowed it down to 1, Holiday Inn (Rockford). Also the dates of April 11, 12, 13 2008. Our next meeting is at 3223 North Main Street in Rockford (The Group) on June 01, 2007 @ 7:00 pm.

MOTION: To hold RRCNA17 at Holiday Inn (Rockford) on April 11, 12, 13 2008.
Discussion. *Vote: Passed.*

Newsletter Committee: Randy S. (*present*) – Requests \$79.83 for costs of printing this months newsletter.

Digital Information: Eric B. (*acting / present*) – Nothing else was accomplished on the website this month. The next Digital Information meeting will be May 19, 2007 at 7910 Scott Lane in Machesney Park, Illinois @ 2:30 pm (2 doors down from 90 IN 90). This is a great opportunity for everyone to learn to use his or her email.

Ten.....Minute.....Break

Open Forum Discussion: Topics: 90 In 90 open to hosting other special meetings (workshops, etc) on Sunday afternoons. Vice-Chair is willing to do a WRSC Rules of Order workshop. We should change Public Information to Public Relations to stay in step with World and Region. PI will print in aprox 1 month, needs your changes. Reminder – Area elections are in June.

OLD BUSINESS:

RRAGS Elections: positions open are – Secretary, Treasurer, Alternate Treasurer, and Digital Information. No RRAGS elections due to yearly elections next month.

Chair reminded everyone of the results of April’s Convention Committee elections.

Results: Chair – Barney W.; Vice Chair – Angie P.; Secretary – Earl P.; Treasurer – Teresa H.; Alternate Treasurer – Judy C.; Registration – Laurie L.; Merchandise – Gary T.; Hotels & Hospitality – Kim P.; Arts & Graphics – Paula T.; Funding & Entertainment – Kisha M.; Program – Kim S.; Serenity Keepers – Correnna N.; and Convention Information – George D.

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION: To change Public Information to Public Relations. Intent is to stay in step with changes at the World and Regional level. Discussion. *Vote: Passed.*

MOTION: That all Subcommittees continue to meet before the monthly ASC meeting with the exception of the Convention Committee. Intent is that the Convention Committee and all of it's Subcommittees meet the Friday before ASC and that it would not be feasible for the Convention Committee to meet one hour before ASC and get it's business completed. Discussion. No one opposes – *Passed.*

GROUP REPORTS:

90 In 90

Reporting member: GSRA – James W. (*present*).

7th Tradition: \$0.00

Literature: \$0.00

Attendance: 15 – 20

Meeting changes: None

Functions/Speaker Meetings: June 1st speaker Eric D.

Report: Group in need of support. Will be holding service workshops in the near future.

Requesting donations for literature, any amount is appreciated.

Anonymous Group

Reporting member: GSR – Randy S. (*present*). No report turned in.

7th Tradition: \$0.00

Literature: \$0.00

Attendance:

Meeting changes:

Functions/Speaker Meetings: We are looking for a speaker for May 25, 2007.

Report:

Awakening

Reporting member: GSR – Kim S. (*had to leave*).

7th Tradition: \$0.00

Literature: \$0.00

Attendance:

Meeting changes:

Functions/Speaker Meetings:

Report: No changes.

Clean

Reporting member: GSR – Teresa H. (*present*).

7th Tradition: \$100.00

Literature: \$91.00

Attendance: T: 6-10; Th: 4-8; F: 6-15

Meeting changes: None

Functions/Speaker Meetings: Hosting a function at Magic Waters on June 15, 2007.

Report: Nothing to report.

Dope to Hope

Reporting member: GSR – Jeff B. (*not present*).

7th Tradition: \$0.00

Literature: \$0.00

Attendance:

Meeting changes:

Functions/Speaker Meetings:

Report:

Freedom to Grow

Reporting member: GSRA – Mark B. (*present*).

7th Tradition: \$244.94

Literature: \$138.15

Attendance: Avg. 10 – 18 & 15 newcomers.

Meeting changes: None.

Speaker Meetings: Tuesday May 27, 2007 @ 7:30 pm – Paul B. from Rockford. Wednesday May 23 @ Noon – Nancy M. from Rockford.

Report: Freedom To Grow would like to continue to be a part of the ASC Rotation for 2007 / 2008. Last month we saw a rise in the number of addicts coming to meetings. We have begun looking at the possibility of a different location for our group, as our lease is up in October. For anyone interested in becoming a Chairperson at Freedom To Grow, there is now a monthly Chairpersons Workshop on the 3rd Saturday of the month at 4:00 pm. Thankyou for allowing me to be of service to Narcotics Anonymous.

Home Group

Reporting member: GSR – Tara J. (*present*).

7th Tradition: \$56.75

Literature: \$0.00

Attendance: 3 – 20

Meeting changes: Business meeting – 3rd Friday 6pm-6:45pm.

Functions/Speaker Meetings: Function; 20th Anniversary campout September 14 – 16 flyer was distributed. Need speakers, male and female.

Report: All positions filled.

It Works

Reporting member: GSR – Eric D. (*present*).

7th Tradition: \$5.00

Literature: \$20.00

Attendance: Average 6

Meeting changes: None.

Functions/Speaker Meetings: Speaker meeting every Sunday @ 6 pm, dinosaurs are here.

Tonight – Patty C.

Report: We are going to begin to try and get the message to Belvidere are to increase attendance.

Just For Today

Reporting member: GSR – Paul B. (*not present*).

7th Tradition: \$0.00

Literature: \$0.00

Attendance:

Meeting changes:

Functions/Speaker Meetings:

Report:

Keep It Simple

Reporting member: GSR – Jane S. (*present*).

7th Tradition: \$0.00

Literature: \$0.00

Attendance: 10

Meeting changes:

Functions/Speaker Meetings: 5-20-07 speaker Tom B.

Report: Friday @ 8 pm, Saturday @ 2:30 & 8 pm, and Sunday @ 8 pm are our only meetings.

Monday Night Prime Time

Reporting member: GSR – Katrina K. (*present*).

7th Tradition: \$20.00

Literature: \$0.00

Attendance:

Meeting changes: None.

Functions/Speaker Meetings: None.

Report: Nothing to report.

New You

Reporting member: GSR – Chris K. (*not present*).

7th Tradition: \$0.00

Literature: \$0.00
Attendance:
Meeting changes:
Functions/ Speaker Meetings:
Report:

Reality Check

Reporting member: GSR – Sandra A. (*present*).
7th Tradition: \$50.00
Literature: \$109.60
Attendance: 7 – 15
Meeting changes: None.
Functions/Speaker Meetings: None.
Report: Our dance last night was fun and Denise H. was very powerful. Thankyou for allowing me to be of service!!

Road to Recovery

Reporting member: GSR – Laurie L. (*not present*).
7th Tradition: \$0.00
Literature: \$0.00
Attendance:
Meeting changes:
Functions/Speaker Meetings:
Report:

The Group

Reporting member: GSR – Steve R. (*present*).
7th Tradition: \$20.00
Literature: \$50.15
Attendance: Average 15 – 18
Meeting changes: All 5:30 meetings, as of 5-6-07, are non-smoking. Last Saturday of the month is a speaker at 8:00. 1st & 3rd Sunday 8:00, lead in speaker.
Functions/Speaker Meetings: Saturday 5-26-07 8 pm speaker Rob K. Functions: Cookout 5-19 (Sat), bring your own meat and or a dish to pass. 5-18 (Fri), game night, 9 pm-12 am.
Report: Nothing else to report.

There Is Hope

Reporting member: GSR – Bill N. (*present*).
7th Tradition: \$0.00
Literature: \$11.20
Attendance: 5 – 7
Meeting changes: None.
Functions/Speaker Meetings: None.

Report: We meet at 6:00 pm Fridays, Rochelle Community Hospital (in the basement next to the cafeteria) Rochelle, Illinois.

Westside Family

Reporting member: GSR – Linda F. (*present*).

7th Tradition: \$20.00

Literature: \$58.25

Attendance: Avg. 14

Meeting changes: Friday night Game Night after the 8 pm meeting (at aprox 9:30). Bring snacks, cards, dominoes, etc. Kids welcome. Clean music. Expect big fun.

Functions/Speaker Meetings: May is women month. Speakers: 5/6 – Heather; 5/13 – Dee H.; 5/20 – Brena T.; and 5/27 – Alice L.

Report: Struggling with committed chair people. Next cleanup date – 5/26/07 @ 11am. Next chairperson workshop – 5/26/07 @ 2pm. Next Business meeting – 5/07 (date?).

Announcement: RRAGS elections to be held at the next ASC, Sunday June 03, 2007.

The next RRAGS business / service meeting will be on Sunday June 03, 2007 @ 12:00 pm at 90 IN 90, 7914 Scott Lane in Machesney Park, Illinois.

Motion: To close, seconded.
The Area Service Meeting closed with a group hug and the 12th Tradition.