

Sunday September 07, 2008
Rock River Area Group Service
Held at 3223 North Main Street Rockford, Illinois
Hosted by – The Group
Business Minutes

ATTENDANCE: 31

Eric B., Chris K., Marla M., Mike C., Sterling M., Stefanie H., Scott A., Jeff A., Nancy M., Rich M., Debbie H., Lauren J., Eric D., Rich H., Mark R., Rob K., Patti V., Rachel W., Laurie L., Correnna N., Paula J., Debra W., Tom C., Yvette M., Judy C., George D., Paul B., Lauri M., Renardo W., Bernard & Mark B.

- a.) Co-Facilitator 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.) Co-Facilitator read statement of purpose.
- d.) Welcomed Newcomers. (2)
- e.) Roll call of Trusted Servants and GSRs. (14 of 19 GSRs reporting)
- f.) Recognized new groups.
- g.) Explained voting procedures.
- h.) Reviewed minutes from last month. **MOTION:** To strike from motion #7 intent (New Business) – “Also, fundraising was the only subcommittee to lose money last year.”
Reason: statement is false. Seconded, discussion, **VOTE: FAILED.**
MOTION: To accept as presented, seconded, **VOTE: PASSED.**

OFFICER REPORTS:

Facilitator: (*open*) –

Co – Facilitator: Eric B. (*present*) – In order for us to accomplish everything we need during these Area meetings, it is imperative that we do not have everyone speaking out of turn whenever they wish. In an effort to maintain order during this and future ASC meetings, I would like to request that if anybody wishes to speak, please raise your hand and wait to be recognized by the Co-Facilitator. If it looks like it may be some time before you can be recognized, then I will let you know that I have seen your hand up. Please wait to speak until after you have been recognized. If you have a question about something procedurally, please ask the Policy & Procedure Chairperson quietly off to the side. If you have a question about the topic, please raise your hand, state “point of information” and wait to be recognized by the Co-Facilitator. If you feel that procedure is being violated, please raise your hand, state “point of order” and then wait to be recognized by the Co-Facilitator. From time to time, I will make periodic rulings. Any member in attendance may appeal the ruling of the Co-Facilitator by raising your hand, stating that they appeal the ruling of the Co-Facilitator, and wait to be recognized. Only the person making the motion to appeal and the Co-Facilitator may speak on the issue at this point, but the GSRs will make the final decision to either uphold the Co-Facilitator’s ruling or sustain the motion. I

will do everything I can to ensure that every voice and viewpoint is heard on all discussions. If we could all strive to maintain order, I am sure that we will accomplish all that needs to be accomplished. In addition, if anyone feels that I am out of control or out of line, you can always make a motion of no confidence to remove me for the remainder of this meeting. In addition, as we have many people here today, and there may be heated discussions, please stick to the topic at hand so that we can accomplish all that needs to be accomplished in a timely fashion. In loving service, Eric B.

Secretary: Mark B. (present) – Please turn in your reports to me by the end of the meeting if you want your information and your group’s information to be included in the Area Minutes, as I want your information to be included. GSRs, Trusted Servants, and Subcommittee Chairs; please check the information on the contact listing to make sure it is correct. If it is not correct, please let me know so that I may get your information corrected. In an effort to save RRAGS some money, this month I did the minutes on my printer, instead of getting the minutes done where I usually do. I am normally charged \$0.08 per page. I am charging \$0.05 per page black & white and \$0.08 per page for colored fliers. The cost for copying August’s Minutes and fliers is \$18.10. I have turned a receipt in to the Treasurer and am asking for reimbursement. Don’t forget to sign in on one of the attendance sheets that are going around the room. The attendance sheets assist me in getting an accurate count and ensure that you will be included in the monthly attendance listing. Subcommittee Chairs, as I have been putting information about your monthly Subcommittee Meetings on the monthly announcement flier, please let me know by September 28th of any planned subcommittee meetings for the month of October! I will not be chasing the information down anymore, as it is up to the individual Subcommittee Chairs to get this information to me! Lastly, there are fliers over on the table announcing all planned Subcommittee Meetings and the next Area Service Committee Meeting. GSRs, please take one back to your group. Thankyou for allowing me to be of service to NA. Your Secretary, Mark B. Peace!

Alternate Secretary: Stefanie H. (present) – Nothing to report. **Q:** from Co-Facilitator: Are you learning the position, and what it takes to fulfill it? **A:** Yes, the Secretary has given me the information on a disc that I need in case I have to the Secretary’s job.

Treasurer: Debbie H. (present) – Handed out financial figures data packet gathered since the August ASC. The check to WRSO was incorrectly entered, and I only found out when the check cleared the bank, as it was \$0.19 more. The beginning balance this month reflects the change and that is why it does not match up with last month’s ending balance. **MOTION:** To accept report as presented, seconded, no one opposes – accepted. In grateful service, Debbie H.

Alternate Treasurer: (open) –

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Beginning Balance Froms August 03, 2008	\$3,083.17 (corrected)
INCOME	
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,299.94
EXPENSES	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,024.54
CHECKBOOK BALANCE	\$3,358.57
STATEMENT BALANCE	\$3,358.57
PRUDENT RESERVE	\$3,041.20
WORKING FUNDS	\$317.37

TRUSTED SERVANT REPORTS:

Regional Committee Member: Marla M. (present) – Region (WRSC) will be held September 20-21, 2008 in Lacrosse, Wisconsin. I am asking for \$120.00 for gas. The trip will be approximately 450 miles. I am also asking for \$60.00 per diem. Total to attend the WRSC - \$180.00. In loving service, Marla M.

Regional Committee Member Alternate: Nancy M. (present) – Request for \$260.00 for our trip to Region on September 20-21, 2008. Break down for funds: \$200.00 for hotel, \$60.00 for 2 days per diem. In loving service, Nancy M.

Literature Stockpile: Scott A. (present) – Report given at the end of elections in old business.

Literature Stockpile Alternate: (open) – Yvette M. elected at September ASC.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Functions: Marla M. (present) – The Area picnic was held on August 08, 2008. We were disappointed in the low turn out of addicts and the number that brought a dish to pass. \$435.16 was spent for the picnic, 7th Tradition collected was \$115.64, and an addict purchased the leftovers for \$50.00. The total loss was \$269.52. An expense / income form is attached. [Expenses: Facility rent - \$25.00 + Refreshments - \$81.86 + Food - \$328.30 = \$435.16. Income: 7th Tradition - \$115.64 + Unused money - \$304.84 + Purchase of unused items - \$50.00 = \$470.48. Total money given for function \$740.00 – total income of \$470.48 = \$269.52 net loss.] We have been unable to secure a location for the Halloween dance. We need direction as to how much money we want to spend and how early we want to end. Inexpensive locations are available, but we would need to start and end significantly earlier. Pending out come of the motions on the floor today, this committee recommends that RRCNA be allowed to have a Halloween function, if they can set it up. This will reduce our expenses and allow time to explore further options. In loving service, Marla M. **MOTION:** To not have a Halloween function for ASC this year. Discussion – pros and cons. **MOTION:** To postpone until New Business pending out come of motions on the floor. Seconded, **VOTE: PASSED.**

Literature Review: Rich M. (present) – The Literature Review Chair of Region has put together a flyer to do an inventory of all literature. Please take one back to your group. Rich M.

Hospitals & Institutions: Mike C. (present) – On Saturday August 26th @ Noon, H&I and PR had our monthly meeting at Freedom To Grow. We have been approached by Region to have Step Writing to Recovery, which is step writing with prisoners through the mail. Patti V. has agreed to step up and help get it going in our Area. H&I has been contacted by members in Freeport to have a learning day. On Sunday September 18th @ 7 pm, we will have one at Sojourn House. Paul S. and Sterling M. will be speaking. Everyone is welcome. For directions, go to RRAGS website. We need men and women to speak in the jails. If you are interested, please call me at 815-243-0232. In loving service, Mike C.

Public Relations: Eric D. (present) – P.R. activity for the month of August 2008:

1) Mid-Month Subcommittee meeting: A) E-mailed RRCNA Convention Committee Chair our

list of facilities where we are doing H&I service work. **B)** Provided H&I with a potential women's jail panel member.

2) Since mid-month Subcommittee meeting: **A)** I have been working on some substantial additions and updates to the phone line list. **B)** Chair and Secretary sent letter to new contact at Rockford Register Star. **C)** Rock River Times is running a 2-part PSA (Public Service Announcement). The first part came out this week and the second part will be out next week. There was an unfortunate picture of a person doing drugs with a link to a non-NA website inserted into the middle of our PSA in the first part without our knowledge. As soon as I found out, I called our contact at the Rock River Times, and explained to him why we cannot have that there, and asked him not to let it happen again. He explained that it was done by the layout person and is standard procedure, but that he would be careful not to let that happen again. **D)** Secretary has successfully begun the process of getting two (2) 30 second PSAs aired on 1440 WROK (radio). We have a male to do the male script and are in the process of finding a female to do that (the female) script.

3) PR goals / proposed activities (to do list) for the month of September 2008 & forward: **A)** Make list of places that we provide literature and assign people to keep them stocked. **B)** Follow up with Rockford Register Star. **C)** Complete the radio PSAs and get them aired. **D)** Working on obtaining WRSC DBA Privileges. **E)** Working on establishing contact with Salvation Army Women's residential, Rosecrance Eastrock Adolescent Outpatient, and Changes Place. **F)** Finish phone line list changes and have updated list for Nation Wide Inbound.

4) Running list of meeting changes (before next printing): **A)** It Works in Belvidere changed meeting time from 7 pm *to* 7:30 pm. **B)** Anonymous group is closed. **C)** Update Clean group with annex location information (they moved rooms in the same building). **D)** New group in Dixon, Illinois: Second Chance, 2nd Baptist Church 501 West 3rd Street, Friday @ 8 pm. In existence for 1 month as of August ASC, add to schedule after they exist for 3 months. **MOTION:** To include Second Chance on next schedule printing (this printing), after I call and verify they are still going. *Intent:* to be nice to them. **VOTE: PASSED.**

5) Mid-month P.R. Subcommittee monthly meeting: PR Subcommittee meets in conjunction with H&I on the third Saturday of every month at noon. The next combined H&I / PR meeting will be noon on Saturday September 20, 2008 at Freedom To Grow. Unfortunately, I will be on vacation and therefore unable to attend, but because of the fact that we are privileged to have a very high level of participation on PR / H&I Subcommittees, much work will be accomplished.

6) Items coming out of Subcommittee meeting today: **A)** We will be printing more schedules. **B)** Home Group location? Sunny Lane is gone.

MOTION: That we purchase Rock River na.org and point it at ragsna.org. *Intent:* This will make our PR efforts easier in some areas, especially the radio PSAs that we will soon be running. Discussion, Approximate cost - \$11.00 per year. **MOTION:** To refer to Digital Information, Seconded, **VOTE: FAILED.**

NOTE: *Co-Facilitator stepped down in order to comment as the Digital Information Chair and turned the meeting over to the RCM.*

From Digital Information: When we started Digital Information, we stated we were going to try to do this with the least amount of cost. We could be opening up a monster, what's to stop us from buying up other web domains?

NOTE: *The RCM turned the meeting back over to Co-Facilitator.*

Original motion withdrawn by PR Chair. Chair stated he would get with Digital Information Chair and discuss.

Policy & Procedure: Mark B. (present) – The month of August was busy for the Policy & Procedure Subcommittee. Two Subcommittee members and I worked on a motion for quorum. On Wednesday August 27th, we held a last minute impromptu Subcommittee meeting at Freedom To Grow. I sent out e-mails to all GSRs, Trusted Servants, and Subcommittee Chairs of Area announcing this meeting. We

had 8 recovering addicts show up. My subcommittee members and I thought this meeting was necessary to go over several motions with other members of RRAGS to get more input, also to bring up any other discussion or ideas about Policy & Procedure. The refined motions, which passed at the Policy & Procedure Subcommittee meeting, will be presented at the end of this report. I would like to thank all those who showed up on such short notice. We had a discussion on redundancy of subcommittee responsibilities and duties in Area policy. There was also some discussion about RRAGS' tax filing status – more on this next month. There was a couple of other topics touched on briefly – more on these in the next month or two. Our next Policy & Procedure meeting will again be at Freedom To Grow on Wednesday September 24 @ 7:30 pm. The new Literature Stockpile information, which consists of replacement of pages 45 – 48 in the new Policy packet that came out in July, is not done yet. I will get with both the Literature Stockpile Chair and the Literature Review Chair over the next month to make sure all information is correct, and that we have prices for any new literature due out. If you are a GSR or Trusted Servant of RRAGS and did not receive a new Policy packet in July, I have a few on hand and you can get one during the ten-minute break or after the meeting. Like wise, anyone may request a copy and the Digital Information Chair told me that it is available for downloading from the website, www.rragsna.org. Thank you for allowing me to be of service to Narcotics Anonymous, Mark B.

The first motion is policy housekeeping.

MOTION #1: That RRAGS Prudent Reserve [Policy Section XII (Financial), subsection W] be reduced by \$100.00 from \$3,041.20 *to* \$2,941.20. **Intent:** Due to there no longer being a paper newsletter or a Newsletter Subcommittee, there no longer needs to be \$100.00 set aside to produce the newsletter thereby freeing up additional funds for RRAGS. Discussion, **VOTE: PASSED.**

Motion #2 is policy addition.

MOTION #2: That we add to policy, in section X (Participation / Voting) as subsection G, Quorum is 1 more than 1/2 of the active voting groups: **1)** That quorum is established at the beginning of the meeting. **2)** That quorum is required for any motion to be voted on – except approval of minutes and Treasurer's report. **3)** If there is not a quorum, the only business that can take place is financial housekeeping that does not require a vote. **4)** That all groups in the ASC are considered active until: **A)** They ask to be a non-reporting group. **B)** The group's second absence. **5)** That a group will be considered active again, when they come back to the ASC. **Intent:** To better facilitate RRAGS' ability to conduct business at its monthly meetings as there has been a rise in occurrences where quorum was not met at the beginning of ASC. Discussion – pros and cons. **MOTION:** to stop discussion and decide, **VOTE: PASSED. Back to motion #2: VOTE: Motion #2 PASSED.**

MOTION #3: Per section X (Participation / Voting), subsection G, sub 4 A & B; that the Secretary keep track of and report the number of active groups to the Facilitator / Co-Facilitator before the meeting starts. In addition, the Secretary will also keep track of non-reporting and in-active groups. Moreover, be added to the Secretaries duties in Section XVI (Duties of Area by position), subsection E, as sub 7. Discussion – pros and cons. **MOTION:** to end discussion and decide, **VOTE: PASSED. Back to motion #3: VOTE: Motion #3 PASSED.**

Convention Committee: Correnna N. (present) – Convention Committee met this last Friday September 05, 2008. We made some awesome progress. **1)** Arts & Graphics submitted 3 logos. We voted on all 3, and we now have a logo and a theme. The theme is “When at the End of the Road.” **2)** Funding & Entertainment: On the last 2 functions, Funding & Entertainment has had a profit of \$117 and some change! Both functions were well attended! **3)** In the order of group conscience, we got permission to cover the other fellowship's things on the wall with past convention banners. We also covered the other fellowship's things at the convention committee meeting. **4)** Program is actively listening to tapes and CDs, and will be bringing a list of workshops to the next meeting. They are in need of speaker tapes, so if anyone has any good out of town speakers, they would love to listen to them. **5)** The Treasurer's report was approved as presented with the trust that the list of expenses would be

brought next month. If any GSRs would like that information, I now have it for you to write in on the report I handed out. In loving service, Correnna N. **From Convention Treasurer:** Beginning Balance (08/01/08) \$8,187.76; Income - \$558.00; Expenses - \$2,232.00; Ending Balance - \$6,513.76.

Clarification Statement from RRCNA 18: Per the request of some members the Convention Committee would like to offer the following information as clarification to inaccuracies and allegations made against the convention committee.

The first thing to note is about our \$7,500 Prudent Reserve. This is the same Prudent Reserve that we had the year prior and it has not gone up in several years despite rising expenses. Also of note is that a prudent reserve of \$7,500 is not the entire cost to put on a convention. Last year total expenditures of the convention were \$24,287.24. This is the reason that we continue to do Funding & Entertainment Activities despite having a prudent reserve. If you would like a breakdown of those expenses from last year it will be submitted with this report and included in the minutes.

Secondly there has been concern that Area or the Current Convention Committee is holding back money from being forwarded to Region. Unfortunately this is not the case. Although we did take in more money last year than we have in previous years, we also spent more than in previous years. Total Hotel Costs for RRCNA 16 were \$1499.69. This was for the banquets that were sold and we did not pay for the rooms, per our agreement with the hotel. As long as we filled up the block of rooms set aside we got the meeting rooms at no charge. However Hotel Costs for RRCNA 17 were \$8063.13 plus \$250 of a deposit to another hotel was not returned. That means we spent \$6813.44 more than the previous year. That is nearly \$7000 more that could have been sent back to area and eventually forwarded to Region. To be fair there were extenuating circumstances that led to such a disparity in hotel costs. The negotiations with the original hotel broke down and the committee had to find another hotel that was unfamiliar with us at the last minute. Had the committee had more time to negotiate a better arrangement could have been obtained. We are grateful that last years convention committee put on such a wonderful convention despite less than ideal conditions.

Next, the accusation that Funding & Entertainment was the only subcommittee that lost money is just not true. Arts & Graphics has no income only expenses, Convention information same thing, and Program same thing. Some committees have very little income versus their expenses, such as Hotels and Hospitality. There committee bears the expense of the hotel but Registration takes in and gets the credit for the money.

Lastly the accusation that Funding and Entertainment should be canceled because it loses money is not considering the bigger picture. For Funding & Entertainment, there is more that just what is collected at the door. Without Funding and Entertainment, Hotels and Hospitality could not sell pop and water at events leading up to the convention. Without Funding and Entertainment early registrations could not be sold by the registration committee. Without Funding and Entertainment we could not bridge the gap between our \$7,500 prudent reserve and total convention expenses exceeding \$20,000. It is important when evaluating any one subcommittee at convention to remember how each and every subcommittee interact with and depend on each other. We hope that this clarifies some misconceptions. In Loving Service, RRCNA 18

NOTE: The Co-Facilitator stepped down in order to give the Digital Information report and turned the Co-Facilitator duties over to the RCM.

Digital Information: Eric B. (present) – No report turned in! The next Digital Information Subcommittee meeting will be Thursday September 25, 2008 @ 7:30 pm at Freedom To Grow.

NOTE: The RCM turned the Co-Facilitator's duties back over to the Co-Facilitator.

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

Meeting reconvened with the Co-Facilitator asking for a moment of silence.

Open Forum Discussion: 15 Minutes – RCM opened: Topics: 1) As Treasurer – the motion to pay ahead on our phone bills has worked as we now have a small credit. 2) Concerns about flyers not having the “NA” symbol some where on the flyers. When flyers are mailed to us, we do not know whether to post them or not because of this. 3) Concerns about reaching out to groups who do not show, members who do not show. We did have an outreach at one time – no longer do! We no longer seem to see what groups need. Active – road trips to groups, bring flyers, pool money for gas when traveling to Area, etc. 4) **Q:** What happened in the past with RRAGS becoming its own Region? **A:** From an addict included in the process: We explored whether to become our own Region or become part of another Region to further and support the service structure. Went to World to ask to be seated as a Region – we were recognized, and then the Region we were a part of deemed it detrimental to them surviving if we left. We sought guidance from those there, we redressed, and we were not seated.

RCM closed Open Forum.

OLD BUSINESS:

On-going RRAGS Elections: Positions open: Facilitator, Vice-Treasurer and Alternate Literature Stockpile. (14 GSRs present)

1) **Alternate Literature Stockpile:** Nominee Yvette M. accepts; stated qualifications; questions or concerns were asked; nominee left room; additional concerns. **VOTE:** Yvette M elected.

Elections closed.

MOTION: To extend business 1 more hour. No one opposed – **PASSED.**

Literature Stockpile: This month’s sales - \$754.15; Reorder - \$806.83; H&I / PR order - \$27.56; Total Reorder - \$834.39. Thanks for allowing me to serve, Scott A.

Back to Old Business:

MOTION: [2008-08-02-1]: *That went back to groups:*

That RRAGS and it’s Committees shall not hold “fundraisers” at the Alano Club.

Intent: According to the Basic Text Tradition 6, a related facility is any place that involves NA members. It might be a halfway house, a detox center, a counseling center, “a clubhouse”, or any number of such places. The Alano Club is a clubhouse. As long as “any” group has a problem holding functions at the Alano Club, and we have many options, why would we entertain the idea?

VOTE: FAILED.

MOTION: [2008-08-07-1]: *That went back to groups:*

That RRCNA cease fundraising activities, other than the actual convention.

Intent: With the current Prudent Reserve at \$7,500.00, we no longer need to raise funds to hold the convention. Also, the RRCNA fundraisers drain resources and unity from our ASC. Also, fundraising was the only subcommittee to lose money last year. **VOTE: FAILED.**

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION #1 [2008-09-01-1]: To not have a Halloween function for ASC this year. Discussion,
VOTE: PASSED.

On behalf of Monday Night Prime Time Group of Narcotics Anonymous we present the following critique as intent to the motion that will follow. It is a growing trend in the Rock River Area and its member groups, that the groups are holding entertainment and fundraising activities. We feel this is in violation of the 7th and 9th Traditions. As such violating these traditions further violates our 1st and 4th Traditions. Groups are selling products, food and providing entertainment, which detracts from the group's primary purpose which is to carry the message, hence the violation of the 7th Tradition. These sorts of activities according to the 9th Tradition should be conducted by our established service committees, i.e. the Functions Subcommittee at the Rock River Area Group Services (RRAGS) Area Service Committee. When the groups are holding these sorts of activities it undermines the purpose of the Functions Subcommittee at RRAGS. It also puts groups in competition with RRAGS and the other member groups. Groups that cannot support such activities cannot, not should not have to, compete in such manner; hence it violates the 4th Tradition in that it "*affects other groups and NA as a whole*". This creates disunity in our community with groups in competition with each other and is hence a violation of the 1st Tradition. Monday Night Prime Time does not recognize speaker meetings as entertainment activities since speaker meetings are in furtherance of a group's primary purpose. However when they are promoted along with entertainment such as outlined previously we feel that would constitute Tradition violation. As such Monday Night Prime Time does not hold speaker meetings in violation of any traditions so long as they are not promoted in conjunction with entertainment and/or fundraising activities. Monday Night Prime Time is also concerned that some of the fund raising activities of its member groups may not be in accordance with local and state laws, regulations and ordinances. A group potluck dinner where food and/or drinks are not sold is exempt from state and local health department regulations, but events where food and/or drinks **are** sold are not exempt. When the RRAGS Functions Subcommittee and the Convention Funding & Entertainment Subcommittee hold such events they have been conducted through a licensed facility, such as the Alano Club kitchen and the Millennium Center kitchen with those facilities permission. These are just two previous examples. If a member contracts a food borne illness as a result of food that was sold to them, is not the Area partly responsible for having promoting such activities? Our Region carries insurance, and when event flyers are submitted to our region in a timely fashion our events can be covered under Region's insurance, however that insurance does not extend to any Area or Group activity where food is served. Monday Night Prime Time recognizes that each group is Autonomous, and as such, the Rock River Area Group Services (RRAGS) Area Services Committee cannot dictate to the groups what they can and cannot do. However, RRAGS does not have to condone or participate in furtherance of such tradition violating or illegal activities. If the groups decided to hold these activities they should be geared towards serving the membership of their own group not serving the membership of the AREA and should be done in compliance with local ordinances. Following our proposed motion is Narcotics Anonymous literature documentation to support our position. Given these concerns Monday Night Prime Time is resolved to the following policy motion:

MOTION #2 [2008-09-02-1]: That neither the RRASC (Rock River Area Service Committee) nor its resources be used to promote group entertainment activities. This shall include: **1)** Distribution of Area Group Flyers at RRAGS promoting such activities. **2)** Distribution of Regional Group Flyers at RRAGS promoting such activities. **3)** Posting of Area or Regional Flyers promoting such activities anywhere on the website – www.rragsna.org. **4)** Use of RRAGS e-mail accounts for broadcasting such activities.

NA documentation to support Motion #2: From 7th Tradition –

“‘Alright,’ we say, ‘our group has made a commitment to become fully self-supporting. But what if the money we collect from passing the hat still isn’t sufficient to meet our needs? What if we sold some T-

shirts or jewelry to raise some cash or held a dinner and asked for a donation at the door? Perhaps the energy our members put into such activities could be turned into the money we need to pay our bills.’

On the face of it, there doesn’t seem to be any contradiction between the Seventh Tradition and these kinds of money-raising activities. Before engaging in such activities, however, the group might want to ask itself some questions. First, of course is the question of need. For what purpose does the group seek these funds? We might also ask ourselves whether such activities, intended to raise money to help our group carry the message might end up diverting us from carrying the message. Money-raising activities usually take a good bit of time to manage, time that might be better spent in fulfilling our primary purpose more directly. If fundraising activities are successful, bringing in more money than the group needs to meet its obligations, controversy over control of that money may well arise, distracting the group from its primary purpose. A group may also want to consider whether the atmosphere created by selling goods and services at its meetings might detract from the free, open atmosphere so conducive to recovery.

By and large, our groups have found that the simplest, straightest path to full self-support is through the voluntary contributions of their own members. For this reason, we discourage groups from engaging in fundraising activities. If a group is unable to provide for its own needs from the contributions of its members, perhaps group members will want to consider increasing their contributions.”

It Works: How and Why, Book Two: The Twelve Traditions, Chapter: 7th Tradition, Pgs 178-179 (Emphasis Added)

INTRODUCTION

“Workhorse” of the service structure—maybe that’s the best way to describe the area service committee. Most of the hands-on work of delivering NA services to the groups and the community occurs at the area level. NA groups support meetings where addicts can share their recovery with one another. Only minimal organization is necessary to hold those meetings. But there are lots more that can be done to further the aims of Narcotics Anonymous:

- NA panel presentations at addiction treatment centers and correctional facilities can reach addicts particularly in need of what we have to offer.
- Public information presentations to schools and community groups, mailings to addiction treatment professionals, meeting notices in newspapers, and public service announcements on local radio and television stations can help direct people to NA.
- Directories showing where and when NA groups in the area hold their recovery meetings can help addicts and others find nearby meetings being conducted at times convenient to them.
- A phonenumber service can help addicts seeking recovery find a meeting in their area. It can also provide information about NA to interested community members.
- A ready supply of NA books and pamphlets can make it easier for groups to stock their literature tables.
- **Social activities can help addicts feel more comfortable in their local NA community and increase unity and camaraderie among area members.**

All of these services require a certain degree of organization, the complexity of which could easily divert NA groups from the week-in, week-out task of conducting Narcotics Anonymous meetings for their members. Most of these services also require more money and manpower than any single group could possibly muster. How do groups stay focused on their primary purpose and still see that these other services are developed and maintained? **In the words of NA’s Ninth Tradition, they “create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.” And the service committee closest to home, the committee best situated to provide the most direct service to the groups and the community, is the area service committee.**

A Guide to Local Services in Narcotics Anonymous, 2005, Pgs 45-46 (Emphasis Added)

Discussion – pros and cons. Concerns about game night – game night is OK, so long as not charging for food. What’s the spirit of the event? Does it promote unity at Area? This Area (that at one time supported an annual spiritual retreat) will not support a spiritual retreat! Other group’s picnics were well attended this summer, but RRAGS picnic was not!

MOTION: To take previous motion back to groups to collect consensus. **VOTE: PASSED.**

Q: Are we donating to Region this month? **A:** No, we are into Prudent Reserve.

GROUP REPORTS:

90 In 90

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

7th Tradition: \$20.00

Literature: \$59.50

Attendance: 5 – 25

Meeting changes: None.
speaker TBA.

Speaker Meetings: 1st Friday every month @ 7:30 pm. October

Functions: None.

Report: Our picnic yesterday (Sept 6th) was well attended and went well. Our Alternate GSR is Carroll Y., Secretary is Randy S., and Serenity Keeper is Dave E.

Awakening

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

7th Tradition: \$0.00

Literature: \$0.00

Attendance: Avg. 25

Meeting changes: None.

Functions: None.

Speaker Meetings: None.

Report: Nothing else to report.

A Way Out

Reporting member: GSR – Brett L. (**not present**).

7th Tradition: \$0.00

Literature: \$0.00

Attendance: –

Meeting changes: None.

Functions: None.

Speaker Meetings: None.

Report:

Clean

Reporting member: GSR – Tom C. (**present**).

7th Tradition: \$50.00 (sent to P.O. Box) **Literature:** \$0.00

Attendance:

Meeting changes: None.

Functions: None.

Speaker Meetings: None.

Report: \$100.00 Regional donation sent to Region. Moved to new room in the same building. New meeting space is in the annex nearest the Rockford Ave. entrance and parking area.

Q: from an addict: What is the suite number? **A:** Don’t know.

Dope to Hope

Reporting member: GSRA – Jim. (**not present**).

Freedom To Grow

Reporting member: GSR – Nancy M. (**present**).

7th Tradition: \$74.95

Literature: ?

Attendance: Avg. 10 addicts per meeting.

Meeting changes: None.

Functions: None.

Speaker Meetings: Will have a

speaker meeting on 9/23 @ 6:00 pm & 9/24 @ Noon. Speakers TBA.

Report: We are doing OK doors are open.

Home Group

Reporting member: Acting GSR – Marcie M. (**not present**). George D. (**present**).

7th Tradition: \$92.49

Literature: aprox. \$30.00

Attendance: Avg.

Meeting changes: None.

Functions: None.

Speaker Meetings: None.

Report: GSR is sick.

It Works

Reporting member: GSR – Bernard N. (**present**).

7th Tradition: \$11.00

Literature: \$0.00

Attendance: Last meeting we had 8.

Meeting changes: Meeting time now 7:30 pm. **Functions:** None.

Speaker Meetings: None.

Report: The doors will remain open.

Just For Today

Reporting member: GSR – Paul B. (**present**).

7th Tradition: \$0.00

Literature: \$0.00

Attendance: Avg. 60

Meeting changes: None.

Speaker Meetings: Last Saturday – TBA.

Report: We now meet in 3815 Harrison Ave. – kitchen.

Monday Night Prime Time

Reporting member: GSR – Sterling M. (**present**).

7th Tradition: \$30.00

Literature: \$0.00

Attendance: 6 – 11

Meeting changes: None.

Functions: None.

Speaker Meetings: None.

Report: Motion handout to be sent out to GSRs.

New Beginnings

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

7th Tradition: \$25.00

Literature: \$0.00

Attendance: 4 – 15

Meeting changes: Added Sunday 6 – 7 pm. **Functions:** None.

Speaker Meetings: None.

Report: Nothing else to report.

New You

Reporting member: GSR – Jeff A. (**present**).

7th Tradition: \$10.00

Literature: \$33.50

Attendance: Avg. 28

Meeting changes: None.

Functions: None.

Speaker Meetings: None.

Report: Nothing to report.

Pride

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

7th Tradition: \$0.00

Literature: \$0.00

Attendance: 3 – 4

Meeting changes: None.

Functions: None.

Speaker Meetings: None.

Report: We are growing, we are here.

Reality Check

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

7th Tradition: \$15.00

Literature: \$36.40

Attendance: Ranges are erratic: Noon attendance better – 5 to 10, pm meetings – 0 to 8.
Meeting changes: None.

Functions: 4th Sunday potluck. (Note: not last Sunday if it is the 5th Sunday.)

Speaker Meetings: 4th Sunday. (Same note as above.)

Report: We had a 5th Anniversary speaker and potluck picnic at Sterling Park, which was a big success. Phil C. from Chicago spoke. Attendance has been low and struggling with 7th Tradition (rent, utilities, etc). Been doing lots of H&I work.

Road to Recovery

Reporting member: GSR – Laurie L. (**present**).

7th Tradition: \$0.00

Literature: \$61.50

Attendance: 10 – 20

Meeting changes: None.

Functions: None.

Speaker Meetings: None.

Report: The meetings are growing – recovery is alive and well. We will be holding group elections at our next business meeting. In loving service, Laurie L.

The Group

Reporting member: GSR – Rich H. (**present**) & GSRA – Mark R. (**present**).

7th Tradition: \$20.00

Literature: \$39.25

Attendance: 10 – 25

Meeting changes: None

Speaker Meetings: 9/27/08 @ 5:30 – Brett L. from Dekalb, IL.

Report: Next business meeting 09/27 @ 4 pm. Nothing new to report.

There Is Hope

Reporting member: (?) – **Non-Reporting**.

Westside Family

Reporting member: GSR – Linda F. (**not present**) & GSRA Renardo W. (**present**).

7th Tradition: \$0.00

Literature: \$41.50

Attendance: 3 – 51

Meeting changes: None.

Speaker Meetings: 1st and 3rd Sunday.

Functions: None.

Report: We thank Area for its services.

Announcement: *From Treasurer:* There was \$26.32 collected in 7th Tradition today that goes to The Group.

Announcement: The next RRAGS business meeting will be on Sunday October 05, 2008 @ 12:00 pm at Reality Check, 2300 West LeFevre Road in Sterling, Illinois.

Announcement: *From Public Relations Chair:* I will not be at October's ASC. I will be on vacation.

Motion: To close, seconded.

The Area Service Meeting closed with a group hug and the 12th Tradition.