

NASCONA Business Meeting
May 1, 2005 @ Better Late Than Never

Meeting opened @ 2:17 PM

With Serenity Prayer
Paul read 12 Traditions
Keith read 12 Concepts
Mike read ASC Purpose
Mike read Service Prayer

Roll Call: Positions

Facilitator	AE	David W
Co-Facilitator	O	
Secretary	AE	Lena R
Treasurer	O	
Activities Chair	O	
H&I Chair	P	Marty C
PI Chair	P	Travis I
Literature Chair	O	
RCM 1	P	Mike S
RCM 2	AE	Kim S
Web Servant	P	Mary S

Roll Call: Groups

Better Late Than Never	GSR	P	Mike H
Crossroads	GSR	A	
Hope Without Dope	GSRA	P	Tabitha
Huntsville Group	GSR	P	Keith
New Hope	GSRA	P	Paul
Never Alone Never Again	GSR	A	David
Woodlands Group	GSR	P	David S
	GSRA	A	Jeremy

****NEW GROUP** Nuevo Comienzo** – meets at the same facility as NANA on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 6-8 PM, and Saturdays from 12-2 PM. Contact # 936-443-4532 all meetings are closed and smoking.

Secretary's Report

Read minutes from the last ASC @ Woodlands Group.

Treasurer's Report

See attached report. *NOTE* if you look at the reports for the months of January, February and March, you will see that the total expenses was NOT adding up correctly. It was not including the \$15 per month bank charge. I have taken out the \$45 from the month of April's report and resolved this situation so that it won't happen again.

RCM Report

I just wanted to update everyone about the convention guidelines being updated. Mary and I went to the meeting in San Marcos. The committee is going over pertinent information that is in the guidelines. Nothing was discussed or changed that will directly affect Northside area. Another meeting will be scheduled at the next RSC. I think that it is important that

Northside area be represented at this meeting. I don't know if I will be able to attend or not (depending on the date set). Sorry I am not able to be at area today. I am working near Killeen today. Thanks, Kim

H&I Report

Juvenile probation. 2 probationers are coming regularly, 1 court ordered. Kim and tawny have been doing meetings weekly. Someone from BLTN has been volunteering once or twice a month. Last Tuesday of the month they had a speaker. John from the Woodlands group told his story this past month. They have a very cooperative staff. They choose their own topic and participate and every one of them shares. The inmates came up with a name for their meeting, Forever Free. Talking about doing meeting with death row inmates, but the warden has at this time shot that idea down, but more will be revealed. Estelle unit, Marty has a letter...

Subject: Monday night NA meeting

Director Burns and any concerned,

We have decided to stop participating in the 'Brothers in Recovery' meeting. We discussed the problems amongst ourselves, as well as Volunteer coordinator Mohamed Bay, and it seems as if there are no other solutions. Because we provide our services and literature at our own expense, it isn't practical for us to continue. These are the problems that we have been having:

1. The meeting rarely starts on time. 7-8:30 is the scheduled time
2. shortly after the meeting starts we are interrupted by 'count-time' (previously count was done prior to the meeting)
3. The meetings are interrupted by the staff for 'administrative' or punitive reasons. The clients are sometimes embarrassed or reprimanded on the loudspeaker or intercom
4. the clients start leaving at 7:45 which is another interruption and sometimes the meeting actually ends
5. For the last few meetings we were made to leave @ 8:15 PM. (last night I was told by one of the inmates, 'security wants the volunteers to be in the parking lot by 8:15')
6. We were told last month that we are no longer allowed to hug the inmates. This was the most painful 'interruption'

We have carried the message to TDCJ Maximum Security Facilities and have rarely had this many problems. We have never had problems with Gateway or its very professional staff. The problems seem to be with the TDCJ security staff on Monday night. There are times when we - the volunteers - feel as if we are being punished or disciplined. What we try to do is give the men a new way to live, a chance to 'revolutionize their existence', as it were. I myself hope that each one of these men get the message before they move in to the 'house next door'. Thank you for giving us three years of service.

Respectfully yours, Benjamin Colon, Marshall Corley H&I Chairperson

PI Report

Talked to one of the social workers at St. Luke's hospital and gave them one of our business cards. He said that we were basically it. I have received 2 referrals from him. Went to tri county mental health, put up posters and gave him business cards. He sent someone this past month. Heather Thomas wants us to come and do a presentation. Spoke with Ben and Jerry and are planning presentation there. 1 at the right step in the woodlands, the counselor would like us to come in and do a present every 7 weeks. Jerry will talk with HASCONA about that. The other presentation was at Cheyenne center. They have 2 sets of groups going on. Mr. Rose, their contact is not employed there anymore. I have gotten in contact with the new counselor and will try to get something going on this next week. Spoke to a lady from Ajam here in town. She has offered meeting space for a group to come in and meet. Talked to a minister at 1st Methodist church in Willis and will be getting back with him ASAP. I was unable to get the pager to the other group last month. So I held on to it. BLTN had a poster day, but because their information was wrong they used the generic area PI posters. Do the groups want their individual phone numbers on the posters or just the pager number? Would like 250 business cards in Spanish, 750 English, and posters 50 in Spanish and 50 in English. PI learning day, Alice came from San Antonio, our regional PI facilitator and talked about TV and

radio psa's. The PI booth that they brought is the regions and anyone can use. She talked about what they do there, help days. She gave us information about that. She did suggest that we get everything together and that we should have all information in both Spanish and English.

Activities Report

(This report has been revised to be a report and not the actual minutes from the sub-committee meeting which were presented)

Supplies we are in need of for the campout are: cream, sugar, meat, foil, aluminum pans, copies of the agenda and the scavenger hunt. Plan to charge \$1 for kids and \$2 for adults for the fishing tournament – not in stone yet – will decide by the next activities meeting. Scavenger hunt is FREE. We are pre-selling Tank tops @ \$15 each. You must get with Lena to pay/order your shirt as she is the one keeping track of the sizes. Email: lrobertson@bisonbuilding.com or 281-636-6860. Remember, we are limited to the number of sizes that we will have. I would like the area to purchase \$10 in drinks for the volleyball tournament and also to donate \$25 to Peggy for the use of her facility on Texas Hold'em night. I will bring this up in new business. Mike S will bring last years' T-shirts to the campout to be handed out to the newcomers. We made \$162.75 from the Texas Hold'em Night with about 30-35 people show up – it was awesome! Thank you to all those that came and participated! Paul Z from New Hope was the winner of the plaque! Congratulations High Roller!!! Next meeting is Saturday, May 7 at 9 AM at the Denny's on Research Forest Drive and I-45 in the Woodlands. The meeting following will be on May 19th, at 6 PM at I-Hop on FM 1314 and HWY 59 in Porter.

Literature Report

Interim chair has emailed his report to the secretary, but since Mary did the minutes she did not have them to send out. If you wish to review them, please check the website in a few days and it will be posted.

Web Servant Report

There is nothing new to report. We did have some issues regarding the website, the schedule wasn't working correctly. Steve and I have resolved this issue and it is up and running and CURRENT.

Break @ 3:10 PM

Resumed @ 3:20 with Serenity Prayer

Group Reports

BLTN – Karaoke night was a big success, we raised \$328.00. Breakdown as follows: \$100 to the DJ, \$30 to Conroe Club, \$20 to Coffee Bar Attendant which left \$178.00 for BLTN. \$108 brought in at the door and \$71 raffle. Karaoke will be every 3rd Saturday of the month. We are making arrangements to change the helpline pager number on the Conroe Clubs answering machine.

Hw/oD – our previous GSR has stepped down from service work, Tabitha is the new GSR. Yea!!!! Congratulations! We are changing our 2nd Thursday of the month speaker meeting to a literature study. And we will be holding a speaker meeting on a Thursday quarterly. Will have more information at the next ASC. We need more support on our Wednesday night meeting. Upcoming b-day celebrants: Cathy – 1 year.

Huntsville – this will be Keith's last ASC for a while. Him and his wife are considering moving out of Huntsville and if they do that, isn't sure what will happen to the group but so far, no one has stepped up to take the GSR position.

New Hope – only plans are to carry the message to the addict who still suffers and keep the doors open. No upcoming b-day celebrants.

Woodlands – we have dropped the move adhoc. Next group activities sub-committee meeting will be Friday, May 6, @ 6:30 PM. No more Saturday noon meeting. We have also changed all our meetings to open due to not enforcing what a closed meeting is. Working on

changing how we list the b-day celebrants so that we will be able to inform you at the area meetings.

7th Tradition

Collected \$16.00 for BLTN which was donated back to the area

Sharing Session

One thing that was discussed yesterday, an idea used at another area to get more posters out was to hold a pizza party with a contest. It was suggested that this idea would be a lot of fun.

The thing with the pager is that the bill will be coming up soon. It is in the area's name. We need to get this helpline companion book together. Has everything together that he wants in it. We talked about this in the PI meeting today. We are right now kind of making referrals with a disclaimer that we are not affiliated with that other organization. At the most, this companion book will be 12 pages front and back. Wants to bring this up that we really need to have this for the groups/people carrying the pager. They talk about this in the PI handbook that before we do any substantial work, we need a helpline phone number. We need to have a function to train these people who carry the pager. We need a list of people who want to be volunteers for a 12 step call list. He is asking, that to save this from taking anymore time, he would like to just go on with this handbook. Mary stated that all he needs to do is send her the information and she can print it out for the GSR's to review at the next ASC. He also wanted to bring up changing the message on the pager to English and Spanish. Please take this back to your groups and see if they want to do this. Do we want each group's phone number on the pager? Suggested that we see if we have that option to choose 1 for English and 2 for Spanish, but maybe just leaving the pager message, short of the option in Spanish, the way that it is. Is there someone to contact that will return these phone calls that speaks Spanish. Mary's suggestion is to have the Spanish contact number on the helpline book rather than on the area pager and added that we should have multiple Spanish contact numbers for the people carrying the pager to reach.

Brought up that just for information, the reason it is taking so long for the web site to be changed is because we are going thru a 'Spanish teacher' to get the translation rather than from a group member that speaks Spanish. Discussion about the language barrier and the difference in the different variations of Spanish that there are. Also noted that if any of us read proper English we would understand, but we don't always understand the street lingo. The Spanish speaking community will understand Castilian Spanish but they may not understand each others slang version.

Old Business

Only old business is that the literature stamp was still tabled due to the fact that we had no money.

Issue of are we going to have the fliers scanned for the minutes or not? We know that we discussed this, but not sure if this was voted on or not. The question is do we want the 'secretary' to find a way to scan the necessary documents into the minutes at no charge, or do we just say that anything that goes in the minutes, flyers etc. must be emailed to the secretary. One suggestion - feels that if the group wants something put into the minutes that it should be up to them to email it to her or find someone who can. Controversy over why the secretary cannot just use the option offered to her in getting the papers scanned. Noted - that it seems to me that there is bad blood in here over personalities. This is not a place to try to tear somebody down. Restated again that this is not about the individual people. Simply stated, do we expect the secretary to find a way if possible to scan documents to put in the minutes or do we just say if you can't email it to her then it doesn't go in the minutes. Keep in mind that if we go by the latter decision, and the literature chair doesn't have email access, then if they can't email her the report the report will not be in there. What is being asked is to define the responsibilities of the secretary in regards to what gets put in the minutes.

Opinion from the previous conversation that maybe the literature position requirements should be re looked at as well. That they should be required to find a way to get their report on email format to be emailed to the secretary. Keep in mind that the only position that requires a computer is the web servants. What we are trying to do is go paperless in an effort to speed up our lines of communication while at the same time greatly reducing our costs so that the money can go where it is needed.

New Business

Issue of www.iwantrecovery.com to post our schedule on the web site instead of having a link to our website. I propose that we go with the agreement that Robert and I have come up with and that is for the area web servant to email a current schedule quarterly or it will not be posted. Seems that it is no different than keeping updated meeting schedules on the literature rack. Another opinion is that these are just 2 individuals that could go back out. He doesn't know if this would violate any traditions. Asked if we are endorsing this web site and it was stated that no we are not, because we are not putting a link to them on ours. – **PASSED**

Requesting that the area print more schedules than we have been. Treasurer's opinion is that they are the area schedules and they should be printing enough schedules for each group to last the quarter. Right now each group, H&I, PI, RCM each get 50 a piece and that runs about \$90 each quarter. Instead of putting another \$90 out to print twice as much, that the groups should have more copies printed themselves. No proposal was made. Dropped that the groups should make the effort to try to get more schedules printed than the area paying more money that they don't even have.

Proposal for 1000 business cards, 250 in Spanish, 100 PI posters, 50 in Spanish. A lot of discussion on whether or not to pay the extra money to have business cards also printed in Spanish. Asked the question if we could even change our area name since it is our proper name. Opinion not to spend the money to change 2 words on the business cards. Changed proposal to just 1000 business cards and 100 PI posters, 50 in Spanish. – **PASSES**

Proposal for reimbursement on the food that Marty purchased for the H&I learning day. One case of sodas was stolen out of the back of his truck. Total of \$20.05 - **PASSED**

Proposal to have Chuye translate the pager message to say what it already does but in English first and then Spanish. – **PASSED**

Proposal to fund the RCM to the next convention guidelines meeting in the event that it is held before the next ASC – **PASSED**

Elections

Co-facilitator, treasurer, activities chair and literature chair are all open. Please take this back to your groups. Interim literature chair is expressing his wish for someone to please step up as literature chair because come this summer he may not be able to do it anymore. Please, please announce this at your groups.

Announcements

Region is Saturday, May 14 in Austin

Dances every Saturday night thru the summer at Never Alone Never Again

Speaker meeting this Friday at New Hope - Toni k.

3rd Saturday is karaoke at BLTN

Next ASC

Next ASC is @ Never Alone Never Again on June 12 @ 2 PM with subcommittees beginning at 1 PM

Meeting Closed @ 5:06

NASCONA TREASURER'S REPORT

April 2005

BEGINNING BALANCE	\$1,551.40
TOTAL DEPOSITS	\$915.06
TOTAL WITHDRAWALS	(\$1,708.50)
ENDING BALANCE	\$757.96
Less Prudent and Travel Reserves	(\$757.96)
General Fund Total	\$0.00

Prudent Reserve	\$600.00
To zero out general fund total	(\$103.95)
Travel Reserve	\$320.00
<i>Travel paid out see below</i>	(\$58.09)
Total Balance of Reserves	\$757.96

Income

Better Late Than Never	\$55.00	
Crossroads	\$4.20	
Hope Without Dope		
Huntsville Group		
New Hope		
Never Alone Never Again		
The Woodlands Group	\$45.00	
7th Tradition basket	\$8.00	
Literature Sold	\$691.36	
Activities Volleyball proceeds	\$104.50	
NACNA merchandise sales	\$7.00	
Total Cash Income		\$915.06

Expenditures

Bank Service charge for above month	\$15.00	
LITERATURE subcommittee order for April	\$57.50	
Check # 1362 to NAWS for March literature order	\$615.59	
Check # 1263 to NAWS for April literature order	\$749.36	
Check # 1264 to Mary for travel exp. \$58.09		
Check Jan, Feb & March report and the \$15 service charge was not being deducted from the expenditures	\$45.00	
Check # 1265 to World for Q.D. (\$63.14) March (\$12.21) April	\$75.35	
Check # 1266 to Region for Q.D. (\$63.14) March (\$12.21) April	\$75.35	
Check # 1267 to AAI for Q.D. (\$63.14) March (\$12.21) April	\$75.35	
Total Expenditures		\$1,708.50

Activities running total for FBTL

Volleyball cost (-45.00) income (104.50) \$59.50

TOTAL \$59.50