

Regional Minutes April 2020

June Regional weekend will be hosted via Zoom. Flyer will be sent out ASAP.

Subcommittees meet Saturday **June 13** 11:00 am

RSC meets Sunday **June 14** at 11:00 am

August Regional weekend will be hosted by SEMA. Location TBD.

RCMs: Please let groups know that they need a Rider Binder for special events coverage!!!

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AREA REPORTS

BOSTON-

No report submitted.

CAPE COD-

No report submitted.

CENTRAL MASS-

No report submitted.

GREATER PROVIDENCE-

No report submitted.

GREATER WORCESTER-

No report submitted.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD-

No report submitted.

METRO WEST-

Greetings New England Region, and thank you for making it possible for us to meet virtually since we can't meet in person. The Metrowest area has met twice since our last RSC, once in person and once virtually. We had an average of 12 GSR's in attendance. Our last meeting we discussed how groups have been adapting to meeting virtually and how to best carry our message on the new platform. As most groups in our area are taking 7th tradition through venmo or paypal we decided as an area to accept donations through venmo and paypal as well and our treasurer was willing to use his account for this. We also decided to pause all activity around the ad-hoc committee that was planning an event for around

labor day.. H & I's commitments currently are all on hold but they are trying to work out how to bring one virtually. Our outreach chair composed an email that was sent out to everyone in the area that outlined what we're doing about the treasury, about groups going online, and maintaining relationships with facilities. It also contained a link to a google drive folder that our AD shared with me with information on hosting meetings via zoom and best practices, online meeting formats and the readings; essentially everything you would need to know if you were starting from scratch. Im excited to hear how other areas are doing things so we can continue to grow through this transition period.

In loving service, Rick C

NEMA (Northeast Mass Area)-

NEMA has met once since the last NERSC meeting. We plan on having our NEMA ASC April 26th at 3pm via zoom. In February we had 30% attendance and did not meet in March.

ZOOM ID- 662-715-881

Password- nema

- H&I- Right now NEMA has 2 facilities participating in virtual H&I commitments. Marris Center and CAB Danvers, all commitments at those facilities are covered.
- Convention-
- Public Relations- February- Matt O elected as PI Chair, Matt needs members for the sub committee and more will be provided as the committee is formed.
- Activities- Mike B elected as activities chair.
- ADHOC- Nema ASC ADHOC, was put together to try and find a solution to the lack of attendance by groups at the ASC meeting. The ADHOC also looked into getting an area Zoom account for groups to use.
- Policy- Mike C. Policy chair No Report.

In loving service, Chris G.

SEMA (Southeast Mass Area)-

Good afternoon RSC. The SEMA Area has met twice since our last meeting with 23 of 47 groups represented in February and 15 of 47 groups represented in March virtually. The Area is operating above prudent reserve presently.

As of March 2020 the SEMA ASC and Subcommittees will meet virtually on the Zoom platform until further notice as with some area groups.

Fellowship Services has created and is performing an Area inventory. They will utilize Survey Monkey to complete this task. More will be revealed.

The Alt RCM has submitted 2 motions to the RSC on behalf of the SEMA area.

Open positions are as follows..... Area Vice Chair, RCM

In Loving Service

Alt RCM

Brian R

SOUTH SHORE-

No report submitted.

WESTERN MASS-

No report submitted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CHAIR-

Good Morning Areas,

It is wonderful to see you all here this morning! I just wanted to take a minute and thank you all for your participation in our virtual RSC!

In this past month I have really tried to reach out and support as many of you as I could. I appreciate all the wonderful responses! I have been in touch with many NA members, groups, areas, and members of the NERSC. I have offered my support to many of our areas in an effort to help them get acclimated to facilitating their respective ASCs. It has been such a blessing and a gift to watch the wonderful display of innovation, unity, and perseverance during such a difficult time. My hat goes off to you all.

In addition to this, as you all know through our many correspondences, we started a gathering of the minds to talk about how to continue to address all the difficulties surrounding COVID and its effect on the New England Region. I felt like as a Region we had a responsibility to serve the member area and groups and thought this would be a great starting off point. We have affectionately been referring to this gathering of the minds as the crisis response team. I have asked our Public Relations chair to lead these discussions and am really grateful for all of your hard work, dedication and commitment to the New England Region. Thank you John and all the members that have participated in this for all you have done and continue to do for our NERNA. Please let us know if you would like to join us in our next meetings.

I again want to say thank you to everyone for participating in our meeting today – It is such an honor to serve such a wonderful group of people!

ILS – D’Lanor

VICE CHAIR- OPEN

SECRETARY-

No report submitted.

TREASURER/FINANCE-

Saturday 03/18/2020 & Sunday 03/19/2020 Attendance:

Carrie B.: Finance Chair

Noel D.: Assistant Treasurer

Sammy S.: Member at Large

Brandon W.: Member at Large

Tiffany K.: Member at Large

The entire committee was present for our Zoom session yesterday. All issues with checking the mail have been resolved so the mail has been picked up. Taxes were signed and sent. We will

send a check for the accountant who prepared the taxes which was set aside at the last region.

We received a \$2.99 finance charge on top of the original balance.

The large deposit from the last region was a banking error which was rectified.

As we are checking the PO Box, groups and areas always have the option to snail-mail their donations. We discussed other options for areas and groups to donate to the region. We agreed that using check services through banks such as Zelle is the simplest, cheapest and most anonymous and secure way to send and receive money.

Zelle is compatible with nearly all major banks, and most even have the service integrated into their mobile banking app. Consumers who download Zelle's standalone app must provide a phone number or email and debit card information to be able to receive and send funds. As long as you have a Visa or Mastercard debit card, you can download Zelle and use the application to send money. If your bank already works with Zelle, you'll be directed to your bank's mobile app, as long as you have it downloaded on your device. (information about zelle according to experian, April 2020)

We have \$125 in a set aside for mobile app. Can website/Patrick anyone please clarify if these funds still need to be held aside and their exact purpose?

Income this region is 20% of the prior region. We examined our existing expenses and held aside accounts and listed what we recommend be prioritized expenses during the Covid-19 crisis for a 6 month look ahead and a year look ahead assuming that income will decline. This assumes that the set asides original intent will not be fulfilled unless it is on the list as a prioritized expense. The finance committee is recommending the RSC discuss this and take prudent measures to ensure that finances are available to provide critical services to our membership.

6 months: May to November: 3 RSCs June, Aug, Oct

Insurance (6 mos. @ \$430.25) = \$2581.50

Taxes (2 quarters (June, Sept) @ \$54.45) = \$108.90

Bank Fees (6 months @ \$3) = \$18

Website (\$54) = \$54

TOTAL = \$2,762.40

12 months: May to April: 6 RSCs June, Aug, Oct, Dec, Feb, Apr

Insurance (12 months May to April @ \$430.25) = \$5163

Taxes (4 Quarters June, Sept, Dec, Mar @ \$54.45) = \$217.8

Bank Fees (12 months @ \$3) = \$36

Website (\$54) = \$54

PO Box (2 boxes @ 286 total) \$286

Accountant fee to file taxes = \$350

TOTAL = \$5,874.80

Please see attached for numbers.

For full report, see Appendix A, page 20.

CONVENTION-

The convention committee met yesterday with 14 voting members present. The Fundraising and Entertainment committee reports that its Leap into Recovery Fundraiser held on February 29 th was well attended and a great time was had by all. The next fundraiser is planned for May 2 nd from 3-10 PM virtually on zoom titled "Virtual Recovery Fest Speaker Jam & Open Mic". They are planning to have a link at the meeting where people can donate for the event and register for the convention. The early bird registration price of \$15 is still available until June 14 th . Registration is available online at nerna.org under subcommittees.

Starting in May we will be meeting monthly. The scheduled May meeting at the Seacrest Hotel has been cancelled, we will reschedule as soon as safely possible. Teresa D. was elected Programming chair and the committee still needs an Arts & Graphics chair. Our closing balance was \$5,925.83

The next meeting will be on Saturday May 9th at 11AM via zoom.

With gratitude,
Jim D.

FELLOWSHIP DEVELOPMENT (FD)-

Greetings Regionites,

NERFD met yesterday on 4/18 with 13 members present, including RCMs from three Areas, the Delegate team, a member of our WebTeam, our Recorder, Chair and a handful of interested folks.

We opened with A Vision For NA Service, a moment of silence and our Third Step prayer. We then had brief introductions, which we followed with an overview of what FD is, and where we are in our two year cycle.

Aside from what ongoing support of our Delegate Team that we can offer, our current projects and tasks seem tertiary to the matters at hand brought upon us all by the current climate. To paraphrase what one member phrased it so succinctly; as a Fellowship we have been forced to find a new way to live. The thing we do most, and best, is have our recovery meetings, and we have needed to evolve rapidly and collectively in order to continue to do so.

Some points of interest related to this challenge specifically: The Martha's Vineyard Area has been able to get six out of seven of its Groups meeting virtually, approximately 34 of the Boston Area's meetings are up and running online, and about half of all the meetings in the Region are happening, with 212 listed with relevant day, time and link info on nerna.org and our app.

Perhaps the most frequent conversation around this that local membership is having, is in relation to finding &/or developing guidelines for online & virtual meetings. Many such resources have been and are being developed as we speak. A toolbox banner has been placed on our Regional webpage as a central location for these efforts, and these will be revised and added to as we go.

Looking ahead, we want to find ways to support the eventual transition back to "real world" meetings by encouraging paths toward hybridized gatherings, to be sure no addict is left behind. While it is unclear when we will be able to meet face to face again, it does seem clear that it won't be everyone all at once. If we are able to continue to allow for some remote participation even after the necessity to have only remote participation has passed, shouldn't we do so?

We want to create a truncated menu of workshop services to be offered virtually, and to continue to deliver these to our member Areas.

NESSSNA: meets next week, and we'll be discussing funding and marketing, as well as selecting a theme for the event. We still intend to meet the contract of having the first ever New England States Service

Symposium in May of 2021. As a Regional body it was determined that the relationship with this multi-regional effort be housed within FD, and as a subcommittee we have determined that having a SPOC, or

Single Point of Contact, makes the most sense. Two of our members have expressed willingness and interest in taking this on.

Our Delegate Team has nothing shy of a lot going on right now as is related to the CAR and the WSC, and I'm certain both James & Kris will have detailed reports today so I'll it to them to elaborate on all that. Suffice it to say FD stands at the ready to assist and support them in any way we are able as relates to those efforts. Aside from that, James will be illustrating a proposal to the NEZF from NESSSNA related

to funding today, which we support 100%, and would recommend we second as a Region. We also would like to create a framework for funding RCMs to attend NESSNA, and see if that is feasible as well as desirable.

We are taking on a leadership role in offering a multi-regional, multi-zonal conversation regarding best practices with our virtual presence, across an array of topics. We have scheduled the first such effort for Sunday May 2nd at 10am EST. Our hope is to bring together some universal solutions to a myriad of current challenges including hosting recovery meetings, facilitating service meetings, fund flow and attendee etiquette through discussion, sharing, training and workshops.

The rough draft discussion plan for this meeting: “Our Virtual Presence Best Practices”, in bullet points:

- There needs to be a succinct way to get resources out to people
- Issues are arising with information getting out to people in an effective way
- Updates need to be happening in real time
- Reaching out to the areas to help assist at the group level

Other points of interest from our conversations yesterday:

- Meetings have been removed from the website that are not virtually meetings
- Meetings that are not meeting virtually do not come up in a meeting search
- A Regional Facebook page (If/When) will be a valuable resource to provide information to members
- We as FD will second the notion if PR presents it tomorrow, to develop a Regional Facebook page.
- Website and the need for Depot Banner on Website will be a continued discussion point with FD moving forward
- We need to help to continue to figure out the needs of areas and then we can go from there.
- We need to continue to help the groups
- How can we best help them?

We will be having an off-cycle meeting for FD on Saturday 5/2 at 11am to discuss our current projects which include a revised Regional rotation calendar and a proposal to move Regional general elections from June to August.

So much has happened and is continuing to happen.

I don't believe I am alone in standing in awe of how, as a Fellowship, we have really risen to meet the challenges of the day. NA, as such, is shining in ways that fill me personally with pride, gratitude for my own membership, and deep knowledge of how fortunate we are to have one another in a time like this.

More than anything what I would like to express right now is my love, respect and appreciation for the members who participated in Fellowship Development yesterday. I am deeply moved by the show of devotion to and passion for Narcotics Anonymous that was sharply evident in our conversations, and even more so in our actions. I am humbled to be in such company as I was, and want to say thank you to each and every person who attended for their thoughtful and thought-provoking contributions, for their time, respect, support and perhaps most of all, for their patience with me as their facilitator. Sincerely, thank you all, across the board.

In gratitude an of service,
Jaime V.
NERFDNA Chairperson

HOSPITALS & INSTITUTIONS (H&I) –

H&I met via Zoom yesterday, Saturday April 18th , 2020. All areas were in attendance. DOC

Coordinator had no email requests and stated all volunteer services have been shut down. WSR reported 1 person has contacted her in response to the flyer. Some areas are bringing Zoom meetings into facilities and some are still transitioning into it. The policy writing ADHOC did not meet since the last regional H&I meeting. We discussed the HIPAA compliance for Zoom and have come to the conclusion that it may be the facilities responsibility, not H&I's. No areas have had issues with H&I Zoom commitments being bombed. We discussed the importance of keeping our traditions first and foremost. We have received no H&I email requests or mail. The WSR submitted a money motion to the finance committee to pay out annual post office box fee of \$150.00 and an additional \$20.00 for postage.

In Loving Service,
Riley D.

INSURANCE-

No report submitted.

LITERATURE- OPEN.

POLICY-

No report submitted.

PUBLIC RELATIONS (PR)/PHONLINE –

I would like to start by thanking all parties involved for having this virtual region. It is truly greatly appreciated and does not go unnoticed. I have also never felt a greater sense of pride in my membership in NA as I do currently! Almost overnight we went from over 500 meetings in the region to them all being shut down. The perseverance and dedication along with steadfast work got our fellowship up and running on the virtual platforms. Ensuring that our message was going to be carried regardless of the tragedies happening throughout the world. I for one am inspired and feel more connected than ever before through all of this. When it felt like everything was falling apart everywhere else, we banded together and got to work. JOB WELL DONE

We had 5 areas represented with 12 members in attendance

We as a committee have been meeting virtually for the past 3 weeks. We have developed several letters that were sent out via email. The first was a letter to the Massachusetts substance abuse board and the RI Department of health. All members of the committee were instrumental in developing the letters. The second was a letter regarding our members and adhering to our public relations policy when approached by press and media.

We have also been working hard in passing along accurate meeting info to our website committee. As many of us know this was a tedious process with platform changes overnight requiring passwords and then not requiring them. This still proves to be a challenge as more groups are meeting than are listed on NERNA. We are asking that if groups are meeting please ensure we are updating the info on NERNA. There is another reason this is imperative as we continue to do PR work and reaching out to professionals at facilities we want to be providing the most accurate and up to date information possible.

Our vice chair and I were contacted by a member regarding reaching out to a local news network WPRI. Our vice chair immediately contacted them and within a day we got listed on community resources on

their website with our help line number an a brief snipit. This was another job well done! We also had been contacted by south coast an had a small interview as well which went very well.

We as body are also in strong support of the New England Region having a Facebook page. Based off discussions that were had in Crisis response team developed we feel it is time to move on this. Although folks may feel this is not needed an some do not have social media, this would be a 3 rd way we as a region are able to pass information along. The 3 being emails, slack, an now Facebook. This would be modeled after the SEMA page which is maintained by the PR committee an strictly used to relay info. This would not be a private page an would be open to all. Members would not be able to post only the PR committee an strictly used for information regarding our region. In a time such as we are going through we have seen the need for immediate communication. It is the recommendation the time has come.

We have also begun a 2 phase planning process to offer PR training via the zoom platform. The first phase will be training in regards to covering PR basics, do an donts , what PR is an what we do , along with some education on PR an the member. We will also be working with the CT region on this which we are truly excited about the joint venture in training helping to promote unity between our regions. Phase 2 held on a different date will be focused on PR presentations, public speaking, holding PR panels, an facilitating professionals days etc. We are continuing to meet weekly moving forward as the committee has a lot of work to do, we are more than up for the challenge. The goal is to continue to hold trainings an continue to educate members on PR.

We have also begun talks about developing a PSA based off current locally developed resources. We are looking to do something with information pertaining to folks within the northeast an a little further south. Many folks who end up in our region for treatment come from a good distance away at times. We are hoping to target all these areas. We are in the investigative stage; more will be revealed.

Phoneline has reported high volume at the beginning of the crisis but it has died off with only a few calls. A few members of the committee would like phoneline training an our willing to help on the phoneline.

In closing I cannot express enough how proud I am of us and the work that is an has be done. We will meet again in person, we will preserve, we will keep our message alive

ILS

John N

REGIONAL DELEGATE (RD)-

Greetings New England Region! Thank you, to all the trusted servants who facilitated this virtual meeting.

From the WSO email March 15, 2020:

The Board met online today and decided it is not practical or responsible to try to hold the WSC in person at the end of April. We have already had 25 cancellations from participants, and many of our Board members are finding travel increasingly difficult or impossible. One Board member was in quarantine after our last Board meeting (he is out of quarantine and fine now). Another has been unable to return home because all flights into his country have been cancelled. The CDC has recommended gatherings of more than 50 be cancelled for the next eight weeks. In sum, given the increasing challenges for travelers and the mandated and suggested meeting limitations, a face-to-face international meeting doesn't seem possible at present.

From the WSO email March 23, 2020:

“Currently, all branches of NA World Services are closed. Staff have been furloughed, laid off, or had their hours reduced to 20 hours per week. We have made provisions through April 3rd and will be taking further steps next week. We are looking into ways to maintain minimal business operations, which includes shipping the reduced orders we have received, and we will keep you posted as we learn more...”

“The WSC and NA World Services operate under policies established in A Guide to World Services in NA (GWSNA) and the Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust (FIPT). The policies in GWSNA can be changed by any decision of the WSC but the policies in the FIPT are more involved and cannot be changed quickly. The FIPT states that our responsibility as the trustee is to produce “A budget and project description for Trustee activities planned for the coming conference cycle.” That means that in order to remain compliant with our duties as the trustee, the Conference needs to at least adopt a budget and projects. In addition, the moratorium on the FIPT Operational Rules expires at the close of WSC 2020, whenever that takes place and we need some action to move forward.

The FIPT describes: The Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous, as given voice by its groups through their regional delegates at the World Service Conference, is the Settlor and the Trustor. We are working with our attorneys on language for a motion to adopt at the start of ‘business’ to address this requirement - redefining what “at the WSC” means for WSC 2020, if we choose to proceed with a virtualized WSC.

We have doubts about what a realistic budget can even look like now, but we still need to work through this all together. Elections are another potentially urgent item of business, but we had several Board members who questioned bringing any new trusted servants into the system at this time. Again, this is all subject to your discussion and direction. What the World Board is committed to is seeking your direction and moving forward together.”

From the WSO email March 31, 2020: [Contribute Link](#)

We emailed you all just over ten days ago to let you know that we had reduced office hours and were struggling financially. Since then, we’ve been forced to close the office entirely due to state order in response to COVID-19. And as so many meetings have gone online around the world, literature orders have been reduced to a trickle.

We have set up an easy contribution button www.na.org/contribute, and we hope you will consider pitching in to help World Services stay afloat. Many of us on the Board have set up a monthly recurring contribution in the amount of our clean time and have encouraged our friends and sponsees to do the same. Thank you to those who have already answered the call! Together we can.

Literature

As more and more meetings go online in response to the global pandemic, we wanted to remind you that recovery pamphlets and booklets are available in 53 languages at www.na.org/ips . In addition, we are doing what we can to get physical shipments of literature out as we receive orders.

From the WSO email April 15, 2020: Annual Report

We have posted the 2018-2019 Annual Report www.na.org/ar . We do not have immediate plans to produce the Annual Report in Brief, but we hope you take the time to read the AR, which captures some of what has taken place last year at NA World Services. There are some great charts and graphs included.

Partial, Virtual, World Service Conference (WSC) Schedule

The partial, virtual WSC schedule is:

Two sessions per day scheduled from 2-4 pm & 5-7pm Eastern Daylight Time

Friday – Sunday 24-26 April

Wednesday 29 April

Saturday-Sunday 2-3 May

On the closing weekend, participants will have to decide whether or not to leave WSC 2020 open until a future date (of their determination) for CAR motions, most CAT motions including seating, and other issues.

Our initial outline is:

24 April Friday

- Orientation to a virtual WSC
- Business and/or agreements needed to engage in a partial virtual WSC

25 and 26 April Saturday and Sunday

- NAWS Report
- Emergency budget and project plans
- FIPT inspection clause moratorium
- These are times allotted for presentation and discussion. Polling for decisions will follow the close of the Sunday session. It will take us some time to finalize the poll and have it translated into Portuguese and Spanish. Participants will have a deadline to vote and then results will be discussed when we reconvene Wednesday.

29 April Wednesday

- Polling results
- HRP report and preparation for elections
- The ballot for elections will be sent out following the last Wednesday session.

2-3 May Saturday and Sunday

- Recap of decisions made, announce elections results
- Where we go from here and questions emailed to the World Board during the week

WSC Observers

Conference participants have prioritized some of the work of the World Service Conference to accomplish online because we are unable to meet in person. Sessions are scheduled for 11 am-1 pm and 2 pm-4 pm, Pacific Daylight Time, on 24-26 April, 29 April, and 2-3 May.

Interested members will be able to observe the partial, virtual WSC via a YouTube live feed of the Zoo meeting. The link to that meeting will change for each session, and will be posted at the top of the WSC 2020 Virtual Materials page <https://www.na.org/?ID=wsc2020virt> shortly before each session is scheduled to begin. If you lose the link, just remember the Conference page – www.na.org/conference – and then look for the link WSC 2020 Virtual Materials. The YouTube link will be posted at the top of that page before each session. If you do plan to observe, we ask that you not make recordings, take screen shots, or post pictures on social media. Please respect the anonymity of trusted servants.

New England States Service Symposium of Narcotics Anonymous NESSNA

- Northern New England Region Proposal to NEZF – has asked us to second the proposal to Request seed funding from other Regions in the zone
- Northern New England Region – is requesting a set-aside for \$500 additional seed money
- Northern New England Region – is requesting a set-aside for funds x 2 room nights x #areas in their region

We are not making that request currently. However, would like to ask finance to consider this in June Please click the link to the NESSNA Theme Google Form to vote on your favorite theme for

NESSNA.

North East Zonal Forum

We have voted to postpone the NEZF to June altogether. However, keep in mind that the NEZF PR still meets monthly on the 3rd Tuesday at 9PM. I am sure the committee would love to answer requests for discussion or help in that meeting. Meeting ID is 263 708 316 . Next NEZF meeting will be June 28th @ 3PM

Miscellaneous

The delegate team is not able to submit a spending plan currently. There is not enough information about the possible future WSC meeting. We will have a temporary/provisional spending plan report in June.

The delegate team is interested in discussing in Open Forum:

1) How can we more effectively get a regional conscience (we had a very low number of submission to the CAR motions) due to the COVID-19 interference and generally; also up for discussion is 2) when would you like to see us discuss the CAR motions with the WSC? Also, 3) We are also interested in the conscience of the body regarding Kris R. and me remaining as the delegate team should this conference remain open past June elections? 4) Do we postpone elections for the delegate team? 5) Do we run for another term?

In Loving Service, James P., RD jgpbos@me.com 617-314-4048

ALTERNATE DELEGATE (AD)-

Aloha New England Region and thank you to Zoom for hosting us this weekend (NA is not affiliated with Zoom in any way).

Where do I begin?! This has been a very busy and exciting two months for me as your Alternate Delegate. Everything we knew about the NA service structure disappeared within days and it allowed us to create! Let's start there and work backwards:

NA and the Firestorm known as COVID-19:

Our entire service structure disappeared within days. Many of us went into panic mode while a few of us went into work mode. Those of us familiar with online platforms such as Zoom, BlueJeans, Skype, GoToMeeting, and Discord started training as many people as we could, as fast as we could. We then went into creation of training tools such as videos for groups and service bodies. I feel that our Fellowship has unified and stepped up to this crisis to a point where the world is paying attention, I have never been prouder to be a member of NA!

This crisis has also created more service opportunities for newer and younger members than ever before. When we talk about "bridging the gap" it's normally about the more experienced member reaching out to the less experienced member. In this case, our less experienced members with service and NA were more comfortable with virtual meetings than our experienced members and we got to witness a type of collaboration that gave birth to the next generation having a real "ownership" within NA.

I really hope that this fire continues after this crisis passes and many of those members choose to be involved, we need them they are our future.

North East Zonal Forum (NEZF):

Normally the NEZF would meet in person at the World Service Conference (WSC), however that will not be possible this year. A survey that went out containing two real questions

1. Of the following current business, what do you feel needs to stay on the April Agenda (if any)?
2. An idea has been brought up to have our PR committee and our Ad-Hoc FD

Workgroup each host a virtual webinar dedicated to Virtual Services. For PR it would be Virtual PR and H&I, for FD it would be Virtual Services and Facilitation.

Do you support tasking those committees with this ASAP, or would you rather this wait for our official business session to vote?

We, the New England Region answer to question 1: FD proposals, Proposal to create the Zonal Rep positions, PR chair nomination, and the NJ Regional Convention Service Track. All of these were going to be discussed when we met anyway, so nothing was changed.

We also answered for question two: Task PR and FD ASAP. These were posted on Slack and I had asked for input on these as well.

The results of the survey are that half of the NEZF participants voted not to meet in April and to just meet in June, so that's what we're doing as a 2/3 majority was not met. Also, for question two half the participants voted not to task PR and FD with hosting these conversations about virtual services.

It is my feeling that when we meet in June this will hopefully be over or close to it and the conversation with PR and FD will not be as beneficial to our member Regions as it could be right now. It is my recommendation that our Fellowship Development (FD) host this conversation as well as our Public Relations (PR) for our region and any interested Regions. As a region as can really lead these conversations in order to provide tangible services to our Area's and Groups. I do not believe waiting until June is the right move.

World Service Conference (WSC):

As you may have heard by now the WSC will be meeting virtually on April 25 th – 26 th , April 29 th , and on May 2 nd – 3 rd . We will only be discussing an Emergency budget and Project Plans outlined in the Conference Approval Track (CAT), the FIPT inspection clause and moratorium and elections. All Conference Agenda Report (CAR) motions will not be discussed during this time. We are still unsure how we will proceed with CAR motions and when they will take place. This will be a conversation that will occur at the WSC on May 2 nd - 3 rd . What I would like to know from this body is the following:

1. How can we go about receiving a regional conscience with such a poor number of submissions to the CAR motions due to the COVID-19 interference? What methods can we use to do this, and how soon can we do this?
2. When would you like to see us discuss the CAR motions with the WSC? This will be used to guide our conversation at the WSC.
3. How do you feel if both James P. and I remain as a delegate team should this conference remain open past June elections? If in favor, how long do we postpone elections for the delegate team, is there a cut off?

I also want to include that the travel agent that was used to book my travel to and from the WSC has informed me that the flight has been cancelled. What was offered was a non-transferable and non-

refundable flight voucher. This means, in short, I can't refund the regions money or transfer this ticket another member. We have 12 months to use this voucher or we lose all its value.

The following has been taken from the World Services email directly:

WSC Observers

Conference participants have prioritized some of the work of the World Service Conference to accomplish online because we are unable to meet in person. Sessions are scheduled for 11 am-1 pm and 2 pm-4 pm, Pacific Daylight Time, on 24-26 April, 29 April, and 2-3 May. Interested members will be able to observe the partial, virtual WSC via a YouTube live feed of the Zoom meeting. The link to that meeting will change for each session, and will be posted at the top of the WSC 2020 Virtual Materials page <https://www.na.org/?ID=wsc2020virt> shortly before each session is scheduled to begin. If you lose the link, just remember the Conference page – www.na.org/conference – and then look for the link WSC 2020 Virtual Materials. The YouTube link will be posted at the top of that page before each session. If you do plan to observe, we ask that you not make recordings, take screen shots, or post pictures on social media. Please respect the anonymity of trusted servants.

In closing, I want to thank you all for the creativity many of us have been allowed to express freely. I have never felt more of service than I do now, and it has no relation to my position but the ability to serve where I was needed at the time I was needed. Thank you all for giving that to me, I am very grateful to have been able to serve in a time like this and I look forward to continuing to do so. I am going to send a separate set of links to a Google Drive which contains training tools that our Fellowship Development Committee can use to help further this conversation, as well as a resource for groups regarding the online meeting etiquette. I have also been doing a lot of Virtual Fellowship Development as a member and not as a representative of this service body too, one of the things I will be presenting on will include these resources that have been developed along with a conversation about our 7 th Tradition in the virtual world on May 1 st for the Western States Zonal Forum. The flyer has been posted in Slack.

Thank you for allowing me to serve,

Kris R., Alternate Delegate

(508) 572-7616

Resources

This Google Drive contains training videos for Groups, Service Bodies, and Subcommittees.

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1bOkNC6W0LZS-ma7lboxipbV-HSOgm5FI1>

This link contains resources for on na.org including Our Virtual Presence Bulletin that addresses Meeting Etiquette and Traditions within the online meetings.

https://na.org/?ID=virtual_meetings

This link contains resources for on na.org including Our Virtual Presence Bulletin that addresses Meeting Etiquette and Traditions within the online meetings.

REGIONAL MEETING DIRECTORIES (RMD)-

No report submitted.

WEBSITE-

Covid-19 and Its Response by New England Regional Website

It was only February that the RSC last met but it feels like a lot longer has elapsed.

In March NA members began to appreciate how big the Covid-19 pandemic really is. For example, on March 7 I went to my home group and hugged other group members. By March 14 I chose not to go to the meeting at all even though I had committed to chair it for the month. The awareness of how serious the problem is becoming was dawning on all of us. Indeed, the PR chair called a meeting using Zoom of what he called the Crisis Response Team for April 1. I attended that meeting where I heard several people express the desire to have the website provide information about the crisis and our response to it. I had to leave to attend another online meeting but I left thinking of what the website could do. What that response should be was complicated by the rapidly changing situation. More and more venues were closing and some groups were responding by going online, almost always using Zoom. We use Basic Meeting List Toolbox (BMLT) to hold our meeting information, a software tool to display them on a web page, and another software tool to put them into a printable file. We need fields in the entry for each meeting to hold the virtual meeting information. At first we use the field designated for train lines, as that was rarely used. Then Patrick coded two fields specifically for virtual meeting information. We had to create custom templates to display them. Then BMLT team modified the software to put the virtual meeting fields in a the location section and make them a standard part of BMLT. They also added two format codes: TC for Temporary Closure and VM for Virtual Meeting. We use TC to mean that the VENUE is closed, not that the MEETING is closed. Patrick wrote software to display temporary closures and made a page to display only virtual meetings.

I was kept quite busy entering the updates for meetings that flooded in, both meetings that were temporarily suspended and those that were meeting online. During the first week in April, while that was in full swing, a new phenomenon reared its ugly head known as Zoom Bombing. The evil people who do it are known as trolls. They take over the screen and show really vile pornography, utter racial epithets, and send hurtful chats to individuals. As soon as they are kicked out, they come right back. I have a friend who was in a really good meeting that was Zoom Bombed. He told me it really made him feel bad. I was gathering information on how groups can set their Settings to defend against trolls, and things you can do once the meeting starts to make it more secure. I sent this to the regional secretary to send out and included in it the request that each person who receives it forward it to their friends. I had gotten the Zoom info entered in the database when on April 3, Zoom sent an email saying they were making passwords mandatory as of April 5. I had to decide what to do about that but first I had to figure the rules Zoom was imposing, and it was difficult because they were sending out confusing and inconsistent information which didn't match what their software actually did. I put together a page on Zoom meetings, mandatory passwords, and settings to defend your meeting. I sent it out to the website committee for review and suggested that the best thing to do was to add a third button on the Home Page to the two Patrick had already added to link to temporary closures and virtual meetings. I decided the best thing was to include the password in the meeting information and groups were just getting started with that and I was getting the new information entered when on April 6, Zoom just as suddenly and arbitrarily pulled the floor out from under us again and made the passwords the default but allowed hosts to turn them off if they wanted to. At this point, Patrick had added a button to the Home Page that linked to my Covid-19 Info page. I had to edit it to reflect the fact that the passwords were no longer mandatory but other than that it was complete for now. At first, I was flooded with new meeting data to enter but as the days passed it has slowed down to a manageable level.

Meeting Appeared in Two Areas

The same meeting appeared in Southeast Mass Area and Greater Providence Area. In the SEMA section, it is named "Newport NA – Grow or Go (Online)" and in the GPA section it is named "Grow or Go". They both are listed with the street address 200 Turner Road, Middleton, RI (Newport), 02842, and the

same time: Monday at 7:30 pm. The SEMA entry is Online but the GPA entry was not. I called John F who works on the GPA website and we agreed to remove it from the GPA listing in BMLT.

Donations to Region

I received a Feedback Form submission from someone who wanted to donate to Region on our website using a Venmo account. At that time, I was not aware of a Venmo or PayPal account or similar that people could use to donate to Region. I emailed back to him that I would bring it up when the full Regional Service Committee meets on Sunday, if someone hasn't already brought it up. During the website committee on Saturday, Patrick and D'Lanor and I discussed several options. The website committee feels that PayPal is the best option, because a person does not have to have a PayPal account to donate via PayPal and they can use their debit or credit card. From a security point of view, all the person's billing information is processed on the PayPal site, not our site. D'Lanor said people have mentioned Zell, but Patrick pointed out that not all banks support Zell, so that would limit who can donate.

Problem with Greater Providence Area Website

John F, who works on the GPA website, brought a problem to my attention with displaying meetings. They are using BMLT, as we are, and drawing on the same data although not in exactly the same way. Patrick and I went over it on Saturday and Patrick showed me a workaround. He will contact John about it.

Policy Uploaded

Policy chair Kyle C emailed me the policy document with the changes from February 2020 and I uploaded it to the website.

Theme License Key

I logged into our website Saturday and saw a message that our theme needed to be activated. Patrick and I both remembered that we had paid extra for a lifetime license. I looked on my computer and found a screen shot of the purchase I had made. It led me to our website admin email where I found the email they had sent us with the license key. I entered it and reactivated the theme.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeremy F, NE Regional Web Chair

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BOD)-

Good Morning,

We will not be holding the Annual Meeting of the Corporation today and it will be postponed until the June RSC. We do a full complement of Directors and are hoping that the officers that were elected Pro term to April will consider reelection in June. There is no penalty for us to postponing the Annual meeting.

The Seacrest Hotel is closed until May 22 so the meeting we had scheduled in May will have to be postponed. Since our next Scheduled meeting is at the ASC in June, I would like to suggest that we try to schedule a visit If possible, prior to that meeting in June just for a tour and not a formal Committee meeting. Otherwise we could try to set our meeting in August at the hotel. Not sure if that would be wise considering the summer rush on the Cape. With the Pandemic everything we do may look very different than what we are used to.

I guess as we have been known to say More will be revealed.

We met yesterday and much discussion took place regarding the use of Venmo. And wish to discuss this in Open Forum to see if we are setting up guidelines for using this platform to collect and distribute

funds in fundraisers and reimbursement. With the F&E committee holding a virtual fundraiser on May 2 via Zoom that subcommittee is wanting to use Zoom but we have the link to the Square site and can accept payment directly on that platform but they feel that this is might be too confusing.

The other thing we discussed was the Citizens bank website access. I will be contacting the bank next week to make sure we get the access rights adjusted so that the treasurer and BOD President as well as the Convention Chair has full access to the online account. We are also looking to give view access to the Assistant Treasurer and RSC Finance Chairperson.

The balance in the in the BOD Account as of the end of the February RSC was \$3585.38. We will be meeting immediately following this meeting.

ILS,
Debbie L

NERNA CRISIS RESPONSE TEAM-

First off this has been an amazing experience for me personally. We have had members pull together an have some great discussions an resource gathering through the direction of our chair developing this team. This report will be slightly different as I will be going through topics discussed an some action we did take .

Our first meeting was on April 1st an here were the topics discussed

- Website Content & COVID-19 Response
 - Do we want a COVID-19 response info statement on the front of the Regional/Area website?
 - Do we want to make region be the main source of information for website data vs area websites?
- Virtual-NA.Org
- PR Issues with COVID-19
- Regional Facebook Page

Based off of the first meeting we did have our website committee add a covid19 statement on our web page.

We also as a team began the Facebook page discussion an although we had on member not in favor we had strong support for an additional information stream We also discussed some of the amazing locally developed resources that have been coming available an how useful they are in this time of need. I will have attached in my report several of those items. I am also sending the minutes along with this report from every meeting that took place for full transparency.

We met again on the 8th

Topics Discussed:

- Zoom Updates / Password Requirements
- Whether or not it would be helpful to have a place to consolidate daily information / updates
- From our PR regional meeting last week: Zoom 2020 Training
- PR in times of crisis
- Forward thinking: Where do we go from here - Hybrid Meetings

We have had some absolutely amazing discussions about ideas an how we as a fellowship have pulled together during these times. We made the decision to ask all RCMs an interested member what date an time would be best for all to have more involvement. We did not meet this past week as we were wanted to wait until after this meeting an having as much participation as possible.

Again I cannot stress enough the sense of pride that I feel in my membership in NA right now. So many people all working together toward solutions an ensuring our message is carried. I am truly moved by our dedication to the fellowship

ILS, John N

AREA CONCERNS/ OPEN FORUM

1. GPA – Concern with a check they donated in December check not being deposited as of third week in March. Finance committee explained process and frequency of checking the PO box and depositing checks, and also reasoning behind delay in the check being deposited.

2. NEMA Concern, lack of communication from subcommittees to groups and areas ... solutions to improve with communication? Communication works both ways, hold subcommittees accountable to those they serve, asking subcommittees to directly contact areas, giving those who want information access to passwords and information.

3. Discussion regarding “gathering of the minds”/NERNA Crisis Response Team. John N gave report (see attached). Have been meeting nights Wednesday @ 7PM. What days and times? No consensus, one member suggested later weekday times and weekends. Send out Google Doodle to ask for interested members availability. Positive feedback, no overlap between FD and response team. Task force able to handle matters more quickly and concentrated efforts. RCMS take back to areas that this is going to be happening and give them info they want to contribute.

4. Virtual payment methods? Paypal anyone can contribute – don’t need an account, don’t need a debit or credit card, can just use bank account. Also, PayPal can be integrated into the Website. Paypal has a fee. Venmo and cashapp meant for person to person. Zell can’t be integrated on the website. Member suggested we can have both Zell and Paypal on the website. Finance committee prefer Paypal, anonymous, doesn’t charge a fee, simple. Option for members can make a direct transfer from person account to regional account. PayPal with a button on website seems to be consensus.

5. Topics for RD & AD. Question 1: Asking people to reach out to groups and engaging people to participate in voting on CAR motions. Very low participation and response from the region as a whole. What does the region want to do with the CAR motions, regional conscious? A member mentioned abstaining due to only have 12 tally sheets when there is over 500 meetings. Patrick offered to help create online voting forum for groups. Jeremy offered to obtain contact information from tally sheets that have been previously sent. Support for continuing to have RD/AD to continue to serve during the conference and complete the task Agreement that RD/AD to continue to serve through the extended conference cycle and revisit in June. Get conscious to RD/AD by May 2.

6. Financially support North Star Group’s phone line? You text this number and it provides you with the information for meetings in your time zone in the next 30 min. Does the area want to financially support this? Consensus was to not financially support this group.

7. Should NERNA buy our own Zoom account? Several members offered their own. Members mentioned that due to the infrequency that the account would be used its not prudent with to use our funds at this time. Member mentioned being fully self-supporting and the discomfort with using members’ personal zoom accounts. Several members for and several against. No consensus on whether to get it or not, bring back to area to discuss. Discussion for a later time.

OLD BUSINESS

I. February 2020 MINUTES- Accepted after following amendment: the following excerpt was removed due to being added to the Policy report in error.

"Kyle (Revision of Carrie's ASC Document adjusted for RSC):

Any subcommittee, executive committee, ad-hoc committee requesting set aside funds shall submit a spending plan for those funds. The plan should include at a minimum the amount of funds, the intended use for the funds, the breakdown (if known) of when the funds will be needed for use and plan type (seed money or annual). The finance committee (treasurer and chair if no finance committee) will review the spending plan and submit to the RSC for approval. Each April a new plan must be submitted to finance for review to be voted on in June (the outgoing chairperson who holds the experience is best equipped to set the spending plan for the upcoming cycle). If no plan is received any unspent set aside funds will be returned to the general account. Spending plans can be changed by motion at any time, they are a planning tool the new motion goes again to the finance committee first for review (treasurer and chair in the absence of finance) and then the RSC for approval. In keeping with the 11th concept the RSC should keep in mind when approving set aside funds the balance between setting aside monies to meet the local fellowships financial obligations and provide services vs not allowing funds to bottleneck at any point in our structure. The treasurer is to make a full accounting every RSC of what is currently in each set aside account. Seed money = single use (event or activity. Self-replenishing) The requested amount will be set aside (as available from the general fund until fully funded at the discretion of the treasurer) for use by approved motions and returned to the set aside following the stated use. Account is not replenished from the general fund unless funds are not recovered and a motion is approved to do so.

Annual = Plan for the year. If approved, account is funded from the general account at the discretion of the treasurer. For smaller amounts it may be easy to fund in one meeting. For larger amounts or if several funds are being set aside simultaneously a % may be set aside at each RSC until fully funded. Motions are required for use of funds.

..\NERSC-Policy-Dec-2019.docx"

(7 RCMS PRESENT)

OLD BUSINESS NON-MONEY MOTION #1

Presented by Boston Area

Motion: To hold June RSC via Zoom.

Intent: To remain in accordance COVID-19 quarantine/social distancing regulations.

In Favor: 7 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0 Unopposed: 0

OLD BUSINESS NON-MONEY MOTION #2

Presented by SEMA

Motion: For SEMA to host RSC in August.

Intent: To provide space and location to hold the RSC the second full weekend in August.

In Favor: 7 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0 Unopposed: 0

ELECTIONS

VICE CHAIR: **POSITION VACANT, BRING BACK TO GROUPS!**

RMD: **POSITION VACANT, BRING BACK TO GROUPS!**

LITERATURE: **POSITION VACANT, BRING BACK TO GROUPS!**

ASSISTANT TREASURER: **Sammy was elected!**

NEW BUSINESS

Set Quorum:5 Voting RCMS: 8 Simple Majority: 5 2/3: 6

(8 RCMS PRESENT)

THERE WERE NO MONEY MOTIONS FOR APRIL 2020 RSC

NON-MONEY MOTION #1:

Presented by: SEMA Alt RCM Policy 2nd: None

Motion: To motion the RSC in April to have all proposed spending plans sent back to areas for review and approval.

Intent: To more directly involved the input of a power greater than ourselves in our decision making process. (Concept 6)

Vote: In favor: 3 Opposed: 4 Abstained: 1 Unopposed: 0

NON-MONEY MOTION #2

Presented by: South Shore Area RCM 2nd: None

Motion: To replace the current NERC Logo because it is not in accordance with tradition 6 by endorsing a specific spiritual practice and the copyrighted NA Logo has been altered and not in accordance with guidelines in Bulletin 1.

Intent: To adhere to our 12 Traditions and follow the guidance provided in Bulletin 1 regarding NA Intellectual Property.

Vote: In favor: 1 Opposed: 6 Abstained: 1 Unopposed: 0

NON-MONEY MOTION #3

Presented by: Finance Area Policy 2nd: None

Motion: For finance to obtain PayPal account and for Website Chair to add contribute button to nerna.org. Finance committee will coordinate with Website to add additional donation options (i.e. Zell) to make it as easy as possible for the fellowship to make contributions on different viable platforms. This will have no financial impact.

Intent: To allow fund flow to continue in a responsible manner.

Vote: In favor: 8 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0 Unopposed: 0

April Finance Report				
Item	Memo	Deposits	Withdrawals	
Opening Balance		\$0.00		
EXPENSES				
Service Charges			-\$6.00	
Jones & Matthews	finance charge		-\$2.99	
Taxes	quarterly taxes		-\$54.45	
H&I/WSR PO Box			-\$150.00	
Region PO Box			-\$136.00	
Transfers to Set Asides				Set Aside Totals:
RD/AD	Expendable		-\$1,049.00	\$3,848.55
FD	Expendable		-\$242.00	\$1,272.36
Insurance	Priority		-\$860.50	\$5,163.00
Prudent Reserve	Use for its intended purpose			\$2,512.00
Mobile App	Unknown			\$125.00
Public Relations				\$0.00
Travel	Expendable			\$500.00
				total set asides: \$13,420.91
INCOME				
Group & Area Donations		\$726.38		
Massachusetts DoR tax return		\$107.19		
RMD Sales		\$18.30		
Misc. Deposits	Area donation	\$22.80		
	Other donations	\$254.00		
				total income \$1,128.67
TWERKING BALANCE		-\$1,372.27		Working balance with MV and RMD sales: \$683.38
Money Motions	from General Funds		\$0.00	455.65
Donation to NAWS			\$0.00	1600
BALANCE		-\$1,372.27		

Report is listed above.

Report is listed above.

Regional Meeting Directory Report

No report submitted.

