

New England Regional Minutes February 2016

The next Regional weekend- on April 9 & 10- 2016

Will be hosted by the South Shore Area

At the First Congregational Church

639 High Street Hanson, MA 02341

The Subcommittees Meet on Saturday 4/9/16 at 12:00 noon

The Regional Service Committee will meet on Sunday 4/10/16 at 11:00am

The RD, RDA Team will be holding a CAR Workshop after the Saturday Subcommittee's meet.

RCM'S: PLEASE LET GROUPS KNOW, THEY NEED A RIDER BINDER FOR SPECIAL EVENTS COVERAGE.

REPORTS

CHAIR- No report

VICE CHAIR- No report

SECRETARY- No report

TREASURER/FINANCE-

We started the meeting at 12:00 pm. Thank you Western Mass for hosting. Present were:

- Michelle M. - Finance Chair
- Dave P. - Treasurer
- Cathie L. - Finance Member at Large

Before business started we had a balance of \$2,000 because it was being held aside until we received further information from the website committee about possible upcoming costs. We received two \$3 service charges for the bank account for the months of December and January.

Group and Area Donations totaling \$6,936.96 were received. RMD Sales were received totaling \$740.89. Miscellaneous Deposits totaled \$15.00 in cash from unused hosting money from December. An insurance check was received from Western Mass for 283.79 (paid in full). Total Deposits = \$7,976.64.

Set Aside Transfers were processed. Customary Expenses in the amount of \$1,060.10 for RMD Postage (\$20.10), RMD Printing (\$680) and Q1 storage fee (\$360) were paid. \$33.13 was paid for Q4 Massachusetts sales tax. \$10.00 was paid for the retail sales permit renewal in Rhode Island. A check for \$500.00 was cut to the South Shore Area to host Region in April.

We are in contact with our Accountant, and will be sending over the information needed to file our 2015 taxes.

4 areas not yet paid in full are receiving invoices for the past year's insurance. Once we receive the

information about the cost of our next policy we will create and distribute invoices for all areas.

I am requesting that all subcommittees and the RD/RDA hand in budget proposals at the April RSC so that we may determine the prudent reserve for the August RSC.

Set Aside Balances are the following:

Website - \$116.50

Travel - \$500.00

RD/RDA - \$5,412.22

Insurance - \$2,425.75

Prudent Reserve is full at \$2972.00

Our opening balance is \$6,246.91. As a reminder this does include the \$2,000 being held aside from possible upcoming website costs.

Sunday February 14, 2016

- Money motion from Ray L., Website Chair, in the amount of \$510 from the money we held aside at the December RSC meeting, to facilitate the transfer and maintenance of nerna.org from Sainly Solutions web hosting to Site Ground web hosting and pay all associated fees with a prepaid Visa or Master card. --PASSED
- Money motion from Cathie L, RCM Western Mass, in the amount of \$48.66 for reimbursement of additional money used to host the RCM meeting this weekend. --PASSED
- Money motion from James P, PR Chair, in the amount of \$30.00 to purchase 300 meeting lists in preparation for Harvard "Treating the Additions" Conference to carry the message to people needing a meeting and inform conference attendees. --PASSED
- Money motion from Ada, RCM Pioneer Valley, in the amount of \$200.00 to purchase a hot spot device to allow RD/RDA to be in contact with the Region during the World Conference, as well as general web access at RSC meetings --TABLED
- Money motion from Debbie L., Convention Chair, in the amount of \$74.53 to reimburse non-funded trusted servants for travel to the February RSC for mileage of 220 miles plus customary travel expenses. - PASSED
- Donation to NAWS of \$4,168.25.

Ending Balance -- \$1,090 (holding for website)

CONVENTION-

We met at noon yesterday with only 9 people in attendance, 7 of which were voting members.

Our starting balance was \$5420.00

Executive committed and Subcommittee Reports were given.

The F&E committee turned in the funds from the Event held on February 6 in Fall River and reported the plan of the next event to be held in North East Mass Area (Malden) on April 30th. Flyers will be available on line as we approved the flyer with edits yesterday.

The logo and theme for NERC XVII was chosen yesterday at lunch time.
We look forward to Hosting, WE, in early 2017.

Prior to the next RSC we will be determining a registration cost and begin the development of our registration flyer.

The programming committee is asking for the areas and individual members of our region to submit any ideas for workshop topics to be used at our convention. Please send these ideas to erinphillips@cox.net. The programming committee asks that you use diversity and creativity when coming up with topics. For example "9th step... keys to resolution, restoration and restitution"

We have a working balance/closing of \$5750.00.

We would like to ask all to, please make announcements in your areas that we will need an assistant Secretary, Arts and Graphics chair, Merchandising and Registration Chair. We will begin meeting monthly on the in May 2016 and the meetings will be at 5 Prober Lane in Fall River, MA on at 1:30 PM on the second Saturdays of the odd months and we will be meeting at noon in the even months on the second Saturday of the Regional meeting.

In Loving Service,
Debbie L

FELLOWSHIP DEVELOPMENT- No Report

H & I-

We had 2 Areas in Attendance

4 people sitting in

2 Areas emailed me their reports

We opened with a moment of silence and followed by reading The Traditions and Concepts

NEMA-

Is having attendance issues because they started holding panel leaders accountable. Some are dropping commitments. They ended their last meeting with 11 open commitments. They are in the process of having a Learning day

Metro West-

They are in the process of having a Leaning Day. 'More Will be Revealed' on the day and time. Their commitments are going well.

The website email address for H&I has been fixed. I was having issues trying to get it working. It has really paid off. I have gotten quite a few emails from facilities looking for commitments. I got an email this morning from a jail in Connecticut, looking for Spanish speaking Commitments.

I got an email from the DOC, Bill Mulhomme; looking for help with Commitments at the jails. I have been in contact with him.

There is a new 28 day women's treatment facility at The Shattuck in Boston. I have Been In Contact With them.

I am doing my best to improve H&I. I have been attending Boston Area H/I, trying to provide guidance ,

A lot is going on. I just received some basic texts from the East Coast Convention. I have not divided them up yet.

ALL RCM's --

Please go back to your Area's and let your H/I Subcommittee know we are strong!

I am looking for contact info for them. Let's get the word out there.

ILS

Michael J

INSURANCE- No Report

LITERATURE- No report

POLICY- No Report

PR/PHONELINE-

NERSC Public Relations Subcommittee Chairperson's Report - February 14, 2015

Greetings New England Region! PR Subcommittee met yesterday with 12 addicts present. Anthony C-NEMA PR Chair, Ada C-Pioneer Valley PR, Jenny G-Metro West PR, Pete C-Pioneer Valley PR Vice-Chair, Chris B-Metro West PR Chair, Tomi-NERSC PR Secretary, Andrew L-South Shore Area PR Chair, Sarah O-NERSC PR Training Coordinator, Christopher M-NERSC PR Regional Meeting Directory Coordinator, James P-NERSC PR Chair, John C-Metro West PR, Tom A-Western Mass PR Chair

We still have two open positions: Vice Chair, Events Coordinator

RMD Report: 6,900 RMD's sold \$1420.89 total deposit. New January Printing Available. To make updates, remove a meeting or add a meeting to the directory: Go to the website (NERNA.org) and register. \$680 being requested for new Printing.

Phone Line Coordinator Report:

- Urgent Calls: 4 for Boston (Robert H); 0 for Central MA (Noel D); 0 for SEMA (Jay P.); 0 for **GPA (Nicole P - welcome new urgent CB volunteer)**, 0 for CCA (Harold); 0 for Nantucket (Beth); 0 for PVA (Rob L); NR for NEMA; NR for SSA (JR); M/West -vacant
- Non-Urgent: 27 calls: - 7 from a patient at the Shattuck Hosp. rest were out of state addicts coming to mass looking for meetings
- I would like to report our successful display of the help line posters for a two week period on the MDMV Televised public information venue

- In the course of this being done the end result is a video version of our help line posters. I would suggest that we approach Neighbor Hood Network to see if they would display them. They are in English and Spanish

Training Coordinator's Report: Modifications to PR Tradition 11 Statement:

Due to an increase of requests by the press for interviews, we would like to repeat our Eleventh Tradition, which says, "Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films." The primary purpose of our public relations effort is to tell the story of Narcotics Anonymous and what our program offers, so that we may better reach the still-suffering addict. We do not give our last names nor allow our image to appear in the media as a member of Narcotics Anonymous. Please direct all media to pr@newenglandna.org or 1-866-NA-HELP-U (1-866-624-3578).

- Planning Basics implementation project continues on odd months via Skype. 1st meeting in January was a success. Next on-line meeting in March.

Website Coordinator - Submitting Separate Report

Area Reports:

Boston-no report; **Cape Cod Area** - No Report; **Free Spirit**- no report; **Free Spirit Area** - No Report; **SEMA** - no report; **Greater Providence** - vacant **Nantucket Area** - vacant ; **Martha's Vineyard** - vacant **Metro West Area** ---Chris B. has taken over as Chair after Tomi U. stepping down. Tomi served for 18 months, and with the help of other addicts, formed a strong and active membership out of a previously non-existent sub-committee. -We have received requests for Small Literature Rack donations from Metro-West groups & we will continue to collect requests for an additional month before ordering. -We will be conducting our own Presentation Training in the upcoming sub-committee meetings prior to our first NA Presentation at UMass Boston since the sub-committee was re-formed. -Metro-West H&I, PR, & Activities sub-committees are planning a NA Workshop. -Rylan V. has taken over as Secretary, John C. has stepped up as Flyer Hanging Lead. Position of Vice-Chair is vacant. Upcoming Events :Flyer Hanging Day, 02/20/16 @ 10 AM, Porter Square, Cambridge MA; NA Presentation, 05/04/16, UMass Boston **NEMA**- (Tony): new vice chair Jackie, around 10-12 addicts regularly in attendance. Used money from recent fundraiser to use as a set aside. Starting to supply literature to new facilities with basic text, pamphlets etc. Doing 3 facilities a month. We have postponed our forum until June 1st in order to help best serve our contacts and make sure the word gets out. We have secured Salem State as the location for the event. We also voted on additional fundraiser sometime in April. More will be revealed at the next ASC.

Pioneer Valley Area and Western Mass Area - PR Subcommittee meeting on a monthly basis; joined the planning basics webmeeting. Mark your calendars; the most epic flyer hanging day event will take place Saturday April 16th 2016. We will launch from two locations, one in Springfield we'll meet at 9:45am at The Immaculate Conception Church located at 25 Parker Street and one in Greenfield location T.B.A. as we work together with the Western Mass Area PI Subcommittee to further our primary purpose! Newcomers are encouraged to attend.

Central Mass - committee is regularly meeting each month with 8-10 addicts present. We are discussing the planning basics process and ways to increase understanding of how NA can contribute to communities and facilities. We are attending high school health fairs throughout the area through March & April. We are considering purchasing our own tabletop banner.

South Shore Area - doing great job with our Display rack Project. We currently have 21 in our local neighborhoods. Continuing collaborative efforts with H&I for behind the walls project and also researching the T2C ad that we discussed months ago. We feel that a ¼ page ad in 3 different city mailings would be a better value than our original presentation of a full page for one month.

Useful Websites:

- 1) To update your groups information on the regional website please visit this link;
<http://www.nerna.org/user/login>
 - 2) To Update NA World Services website please visit this link;
<http://www.na.org/?ID=updateforms-gud-form>
- ❖ **PR Basics-** (12 Pages) http://www.na.org/admin/include/spaw2/uploads/pdf/PR/PR_Basics.pdf

- ❖ Public Relations Handbook-(125 pages)
http://www.na.org/admin/include/spaw2/uploads/pdf/handbooks/PRHB_Final_24Oct06.pdf
- ❖ Naws News: <http://www.na.org/?ID=reports-nawsnews-nawsmain>
- ❖ NA WAY - <http://www.na.org/?ID=subscribe>
- ❖ Also check out <http://na-pr.org/> for more PR related information.

Old Business:

NEMA Convention: March 11-13th, 2016. There will be a PR presentation put on by NEMA.

Boston Convention: March 18-20th, 2016.

Greater Providence Area Convention: Sarah suggested Steven C (Free Spirit PR Chair) contact Greater Providence convention in having a PR presentation

Harvard Health Fair: Friday, 7am-5pm March 4th & Saturday, 7am-3pm March 5th. Need volunteers to run just for today meeting from 12-1pm. Bob R noted that the health fair doesn't contact NA PR and that we have to reach out to them in order to get signed up for the event. Regional PR should sign up at the beginning of the year. Need 300 meeting lists for Harvard Health Fair and Introduction to NA Meetings (50 -100).

New Business: Shorten reports (last Region 4 pgs.)

- A. Reaching non-participating areas - **RCM's Support is needed**
 - Have the RCM make an announcement at areas to get PR chairs to attend.
 - In instances where PR chair doesn't attend or exist, have RCM come to PR committee.
 - Areas in close proximity team up (Western Mass-Pioneer valley, Metrowest-Boston, etc).
 - Have Regional PR provide training and learning days to areas so all subcommittee chairs at area know it is customary for the chair or vice-chair to attend the regional subcommittee meetings.
- B. Money Motions and Literature Order:
 - James still has an excess of pamphlets and asked other members to take literature for their own areas if needed. - Money motion for 300 meeting lists
- C. James and Tomi discussed making two separate reports from region. One would be for the regional service committee and one would be for regional PR and area PR members to share amongst themselves.
- D. There was a letter received by H&I from Nashua St. Jail.
 - Billy V explained that there is an NA member that has a commitment at the Nashua Street Jail and using the position in a variety of ways that violate NA traditions and concepts. This is the second member in the last several years at this facility that has been in violation of several traditions. Billy would like to have a presentation for the Nashua Street Jail. The member has been contacted by members of the regional H&I body and has been resistant to behaving differently.
- E. James suggested PR learning day or possibly a Regional Service Slam which was discussed

Elections: Vice Chair - No Nominations; Events Coordinator- No Nominations;

We closed at 3:10 with the 3rd step prayer.

In Loving Service,
James P.

WEBSITE-

Thank you Western Mass Area for hosting us today. Please note that the website committee has not submitted a full report or had a chairperson since June though Andrew did submit a brief statement about the website committee operations in October. I apologize in advance for the length of this report.

I would like to report several items to this body for review, consideration and action. First and foremost I would like to thank the NERNA/NERSC website committee for their diligent and often over looked talent and commitment to this region. In this day and age it is often expected that everything has a website and

that said website is both up-to-date and accessible of which the NERSC website committee has done excellently long before my election to the position of website chair this past December (2015).

The website committee communicates daily on line through our Google group, phone calls, emails and other electronic means. All decisions and actions are often put up for review within the committee several times to include all committee members as best as possible for consensus action. We were unable to meet on Saturday February 13, though as all ready noted we communicate on a daily basis through several electronic means so not meeting in person does not affect our ability to perform our tasks and obligations.

Recent updates and changes made to the website that are spelled out in the NERSC website guidelines about providing updated and accurate information include the description of the areas covered by NERNA. The old version stated that New England region was the Boston, Eastern Mass areas and Rode Island. This was changed to include most of Massachusetts, Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket, and Rode Island (See attached screen captures for reference). The updated CAR, CAT, literature survey, and NA Way have been placed into the literature committee page. Several other updates to meetings and NA information have been made as well, if any one notices anything that seems incorrect or needs to be updated please contact me at info@newenglandna.org and we will make the appropriate changes as soon as we can.

In keeping that the region and its areas are providing as up to date information as possible the website committee has been asked for each RCM and NERNA/NERSC to fill out a new Area Service Committee Registration/Update forms. This form is available at

(http://www.na.org/admin/include/spaw2/uploads/pdf/grpform/ASC-Reg_Form2010.pdf) for areas and

(http://www.na.org/admin/include/spaw2/uploads/pdf/grpform/RSC-Reg_Form2010.pdf) for the region.

This is also on the nerna.org website under, "Subcommittees / Regional Information / Trusted Servants" scroll down the page to the bottom of the list and a pdf is posted there. These can be returned in a pdf,

adobe or word file to info@newenglandna.org or to me by regular post mail if necessary. Please ensure that all copies are typed and legible. I can provide my mailing address upon request. We are asking that these be filled out and returned to the info account soon as possible and hopefully before the next regional service committee meeting. I can be contacted via the email info@newenglandna.org. No information about individual members will be posted to the nerna.org without the permission of that individual as a result of Registration/Update forms though this information will be used to update nerna.org and also NAWS at na.org to provide the most accurate information for addicts, professionals, and the public to reach out to areas and the region and to better serve addicts seeking recovery.

We are also asking that each RCM provide the website chair/committee with the most recent and accurate copy of their areas meeting list. This can be done today in person or by sending a copy to the above listed email. All RCM are also encouraged and reminded that they or other NA members can create an account with nerna.org to add area events or issue changes to meeting places, times, and formats to be reviewed by the NERNA website committee so that the appropriate changes can be updated.

In addition to this request the website committee also asks that each trusted servant who is in current control of any account that is within the @newenglandna.org address please respond from that account to info@newenglandna.org with who you are, your current NERSC trusted service position, and a contact phone number. An email was sent to each account in the @newenglandna.org system between January 17th & 18th from the info account (a total of 20 accounts, 17 accounts that are not connected to plug-ins or modules). As of the time of the writing of this report 15 of those accounts have been confirmed (15 out of 17). Thank you to all those who already have responded. The remaining 2 accounts have been forwarded to the info account until those NERSC members that those accounts are meant for are able to either have those forwarded or access those accounts. All accounts need to be checked on a weekly basis as NERC website committee guidelines. These accounts are to be managed by the chair-people or committee they are meant to go to, with the ability to answer or forward questions, requests, and information to the proper chair people within the NERSC as well as to better serve the region and its areas. If a trusted servant does not have access to an account that is associated with their position please contact me so that we can resolve this. Also if any trusted servant has a @newenglandna.org email account that does not have access to the internet or know how to use the account please also

contact me, my phone number should be available in the updated NERSC contact list as well as from me personally.

The most critical point that has come up is that our current hosting provider would appreciate if we moved on to another provider hosting service. Saintly Solutions has been an above and beyond provider often not being properly compensated for all the services they have provided and very patiently waiting financial compensation for their services that other providers would not be so understanding and willing to continue to provide under such circumstances. Understanding business transactions in the real world and also keeping to our seventh and eighth traditions the website committee understands this request and hopes that the region understands and respects this request and moves on as timely as possible. This being said we are currently on a month to month plan in order to keep the nerna.org website live and operating. Attached is the receipt for December (invoice # 0001051 for \$17.50) and January (invoice # 0001088 for \$27.50) bills that has been paid by NERSC. We currently have a \$57.50 credit on our account for February and hopefully March payments (attached account statement as of 2/7/16).

It should also be noted that no other website hosting provider known to this committee would have accepted a delayed payment or payment by check. It is often a current practice of most hosting providers to receive payment by credit card, Google wallet, or Pay Pal in advance; very few business establishments of this type receive payment by check in this day and age (also noted in the June 2015 website committee report as well as in a statement from the website committee in October 2015). No service providers will allow us to function and operate as we have with Saintly Solutions. Almost all hosting providers expect payment in advance. In many cases if this is not done websites are disconnected from their host servers and information can be lost costing extra money, time, and other resources. This problem can be eliminated by conducting business with web host providers like any other business entity and buying blocks of service in one, two, or three year increments to be renewed and paid before the previous agreement expires. As an individual who has previously owned a website I do not understand how or why we were ever able to get such an arrangements with Saintly Solutions other than as a personal favor to recovering addicts (see original contracts with Saintly Solutions from 11/2012 attached).

After much investigation and searching through several website hosting providers it is currently the recommendation of the website committee to move our website hosting from Saintly Solutions to the hosting provider Site Ground (<https://www.siteground.com/web-hosting.htm>) using their "Grow Big" package at a regular cost of \$14.95 per month/ \$179.40 per year, there is also an initial start up/transfer fee of \$24.95. Securing this website host for two years actually reduces this price considerably and securing this website host for three years (the longest available agreement) brings the service fee to less than \$300 (currently \$286.20 / \$298.20 w/tx). This breaks down to \$8.29 per month if prepaid in a three year contract. There are some additional fees that may be incurred for site maintenance and security but the majority of those are included in the web hosting service. Due to the way the web hosting requires payment to be set up via credit card I will be requesting a total of \$510 for the initial website hosting transfer to occur. This is to secure a prepaid Visa or Master Card so that the purchase of a three year hosting and the initial transfer fee can be paid. All receipts will be brought back to region upon securing the new web host and transfer of the site.

Additionally to prevent down time and inaccessibility to everyone its is the recommendation that we continue nerna.org with Saintly Solutions until April while creating an account and transferring our website to the Site Ground service starting as soon as possible. To do this we will also need to acquire a test domain that will eventually be merged with the nerna.org domain upon completion. This will ensure that the website committee is properly moving the website, is able to run operational tests, and ensure that everything is running correctly and make changes and updates to our programming. Please be mindful that all members of the website committee do this work when they are able to and that all of us have jobs, families, sponcesees, and other responsibilities and without our website committee doing this work the cost of this endeavor would greatly increase so the duplication of websites in the short term is well worth the other expenses that could be incurred doing this transfer and site migration without duplications. These are time sensitive requests that have previously been brought to NERSC (June and October 2015 website committee reports) with the understanding that multiple host servers would be considered for a vote. Since that initial recommendation in June three more cycles of NERNA/NERSC occurred without

any forward movement on this matter due to a lack of a website chair. Continued lack of movement in this matter would leave the NERNA/NERC without a website as our time with Sainly Solutions is very limited. The NERSC website committee hopes as a body of trusted servants that NERNA/NERSC has faith in the NERSC website committee to have streamlined this process and weighed several options in the meantime. I will mention that there were several other website hosting providers that were considered such as such as:

**Blue Host (<https://www.bluehost.com/shared>) with \$23.95 per month fee and start up fees that can range from \$20-\$300 dependant on what supports are needed.*

**Dave's computer solutions(<http://daves-computer-solutions.com/>) was also suggested though hosting fees are not listed on this website and customer support/updates fee out at \$30 per hour.*

**Go Daddy (<https://www.godaddy.com>) which is comparable in price and services to Site Ground and also holds our purchase of domain name, though switchover/site builder fees range from \$300 to \$1,000.*

There were some other service providers in addition to these listed considered. Due to the range of services and fees offered we feel that Site Ground is the most cost effective with the most integrated services at this time. We hope that NERNA/NERSC agrees with our findings and we are able to move forward with this change over in a timely matter due to the importance of maintaining a web presence. We will also explore the use of up to date content management system throughout our change and switch over. We have used Drupal, an open source (free) content management system used by many other websites. The downside of this content management system is that it involves a great level of skill, care, security measures and sub-contracted labor to maintain this content management system. Keeping in mind the New England Website Committee Guidelines (#s 2,3,4 & 5) we will be testing and exploring other content management systems such as Word Press or Joombla. like Drupal many of these content management systems are low cost or free but easier to manage and maintain. These possible future changes could enhance the overall sight appearance though the current basic setup has its appeal, function, and simplicity.

There is a possibility that during the site switchover that nerna.org could be down for about 72 hour or longer. This is why incurring a switchover fee and a second domain are necessary expenses as without it the down time of the website could be much longer.

It is also important to know that from Dec 30 until Jan. 3 all websites hosted by Sainly Solutions experienced interruptions of service and denial of service attacks. This was not singled out to nerna.org but did effect some addicts ability to look up meetings and events on line during that time.

Future Projects:

Moving past the website hosting and looking towards future goals the website committee also recommends looking into phone.com to address some of our current problems occurring within our phone and call back system, and also keeping in mind that there are possibilities of linking the phone service to our website to better assist addicts and the public with information about NERNA and their local areas.

Also with the acquisition of video PSA's the website committee would consider placement of those PSA's on the website to be viewed there. This may involve the creation of a YouTube account to support and imbed the video's on the site for playback. This process will be looked into after the website server has been changed.

Additionally looking forward the website committee would like to review implementing the BMLT (basic meeting list toolkit) once changes have been made to the website hosting. Interest and feedback from areas is greatly appreciated on these and possible future changes to the website to better serve NERNA, addicts, professionals, and the public with information.

A request of \$510 will be made to NERNA to cover the expenses of :

- 1) acquiring a prepaid visa/master card (between \$5-\$10)
- 2) 3 years of web hosting through Site Ground with a one year SSL certificate the current cost is \$298.20 (as of 2/7/16)
- 3) Site transfer fee of \$30.00 (currently waived but this may change as of 2/7/16)
- 4) possible service/tek support fees in this process ** (currently undetermined amount)
- 5) to make possible additional payments to Sainly Solutions as month to month needs require
- 6) The fee for acquiring a second domain name possibly \$12.00

In addition to this we will request that NERNA continues to hold \$1,490 for a website budget that is still under consideration for possible additional website maintenance and troubleshooting fees in the future. Both the \$510 and the holding of the \$1,490 are part of the \$2000 that was held aside for consideration at the Dec. 2015 NERSC.

Thank you,
In Loving Service
Ray L.

RD Report-

Greetings and thank you to the Western Mass area for hosting. Since our last meeting the delegate team attended the Mid-Atlantic Regional Learning Conference of Narcotics Anonymous (MARLCNA) in Lancaster, PA. At this event there were World Board members available to answer questions about the recently released Conference Approval Track (CAT). Some notes from that event are found below.

I have received copies of the CAT ordered for each region and have them with me today. Please remember that there is one hard copy per region. The CAR (Conference Agenda Report) and the CAT can be downloaded at na.org/conference.

The delegate team is requesting that home group responses to the literature survey be submitted to the RD by our next session in April. The CAR tally sheets can be submitted up to the time that we depart for California. I am also finishing and submitting the regional report today (I am still waiting for the number of commitments from H&I).

The NEZF (North East Zonal Forum) will have a virtual meeting on February 21, 2016 at 2pm. Our next meeting will be at the World Service Conference in April.

Yesterday, I reviewed the CAT with members of the Fellowship Development subcommittee and the delegate team hosted a car workshop with 12 addicts in attendance.

ILS,
Noel D.

MARLCNA
NAWS Update
Friday, February 5, 2016

- IP #29: An Introduction too NA
- Approval draft of Traditions work book
- Work groups
- IDT's: Group Support, Planning, Welcoming all Members, The Role of Zones
- SSP is still ongoing
- PR events have been revived after four (2-4) years
- Fellowship support and development and copyright protection (a world wide issue)
- Step ten app
- Fellowship Development - one third of resources are devoted to FD
- PR efforts continue -there is a PR pamphlet up for 90day review
- Webinars (seven are available at na.org)

WCNA 36 Brazil: \$384k loss (NAWS is attributing a lot of changes to the convention but that is speculation)

NA Meeting Growth: there are new meeting and the numbers will be available after WSC 2016

Book distribution

2014 Basic text in different languages

Hungarian and another already out with Icelandic heading to print

NA speaks 80 languages and is translated into 47 and Ethiopia has an IP in Emeric(sp?)

2014 Net Income and Contributions: 91% from literature sales and 9% from membership contributions (1 million dollars last year and \$600,000 so far this year)

Fellowship Support Cost/Meeting (US/Canada): Actual is \$23.26 / need is \$164.56 (\$13.72 per month)

Planning Basics are available at www.na.org

E-Subscribe: several things available

WWW.na.org & apps: including new "Recovery Companion" also, new NA material is available as well

February 15, 2016: Regional Reports are due

Q&A

Planning Our Future Session
Small Group Discussion

Discussion of the World Service Conference has been ongoing for 30 years.

- 116 seated regions and 16 board members (18 per GTWS)
- 2014 cost was \$465,000 - NAWs paid \$300,000 with \$165,000 paid by Regions
- 2008 -2012 seating moratorium which ended in 2014 and a seating work group was formed. State/national/province boundaries are still being pushed by the World Board
- If all unseated regions were seated 217 delegates, 217 alternates, 18 WB members

Questions:

- How would Zones be defined?
- Do we need a WSC?
- Weighting of votes (number of meeting as the weighting factor)

Saturday, February 6, 2012
Car Surveys; Motions 1 & 2

Surveys (Fellowship survey on literature) - Top two in each category

Motion 1: To approve Traditions Book (all contributors must be members of the fellowship). There was a 15 person work group.

Motion 2: Reduce the size of the board from 18 to 15 and to eliminate the shortened random staggered terms. And clearly limit board members to a total of two terms period. Discuss each of the three points in case they get split at the conference. Would a reduction create a reduction in diversity?

Regional Motions

Motion 3: To create an IP that addresses mental illness

The board felt it should be added to the literature survey so that the fellowship could make the decision. Would this require that a medical professional give an opinion that could place his/her license in jeopardy?

Would it even be appropriate to solicit the opinion in the first place? (Specific to addressing mind and mood altering substances).

Motion 4: All Board minutes be posted on na.org
Minutes are only in English. There could potentially be litigation issues related to the minutes. The minutes on line would be redacted to meet the legal minimum.

Motion 5: That all financial reporting for the World Convention be provided in a detailed line item format. The board's response is that they are unclear what additional information is requested. Suggested, that people look at the detailed audited report in the annual report. You can also email worldboard@na.org to ask more specific questions.

Motion 6: All face to face world board meetings are open to any interested member as space allows (unless it needs to be closed for legal reasons).
Response from the board: all meetings in one locale and only accessible to limited geographic region; Limited space; things can be taken out of context; people sending out misinformation nor posting on social media. Could we stream the meetings? Response: possibly having one of the informational meeting that is available via technology. Is there a trend of the board creating hurdles to transparency? Response: unfortunately communication is a weakness. Most of the fellowship is ill-informed and at times, misinformed. Would people be required to sit in silence and would there be a confidentiality statement? Has the concept of "mistrust" been applied to any level of service other than the world board?

Motion 7: If the WSC participants' board continues, it be made accessible for any interested member to view.
Board's response: the decision was made by the conference not the board. The board can be anti-service and about 90% of the conversations are from about 10 people. The board was created closed and the straw poll in 2014 that kept it closed was done with no discussion at the end of business.

Motion 8: Direct NAWS to produce a low-cost paperback version of the 1st book of the Basic Text.
Board response: 91% of our services are funded by the sale of literature - primarily the Basic Text. Why is literature a part of the 7th tradition rather than the 5th?

Motion 9: Direct World Board to post pdf of all translations of the Basic Text on na.org.
Board response: It was available and was downloaded just under 4 million times. Our copy-right is jeopardized and it impacts literature sales which unfortunately funds most of our services. It was also taken down in anticipation of the e-book becoming available. There are two organizations that have used our literature (without) permission to create their literature.

Motion 10: Hold every other WSC outside of the US starting with the Western Russian region (maker of the motion).
Board response: the value stated in the rationale is legitimate but we can also encourage other areas to help out. The planning of this would be a "monumental task". There are 30+ delegates outside of the US and 70 in the US. Would we need to consider national restrictions if this motion were to pass?

Motion 11: To allow a delegate from any Zonal forum to be seated as a non-voting participant. The cost would be the responsibility of the Zonal forum.
Board response: make it a one time trial in 2018 and get a better definition of "zone".

Can't a zone elect an already seated region to speak for them or bring the information back? They would be allowed to participate in the discussion.

Motion 12: Add "What is NA Service" card created by maker of the motion to the readings.
Board response: Current reading come from fellowship approved literature. Groups can innovate their format. Would it have to be presented "as is" including the grammar errors?

Motion 13: World board may make motions but they have a single vote (made by the chair) rather than having each board member hold a vote.

Board response: this isn't the first time this has come up. The board brings a global perspective. Why can't the board share their perspective without the need for a vote? Then current voting policy does not reflect the way votes are done in most regions (the executive body has no vote). If new business is meant to come to a group conscience why are alternate RD's not allowed a voice along with the world board members (question was put forth by a former world board member). How do we address the broader underlying issues such as trust and communication?

Motion 14: The board and its members not make motions or proposals at the WSC.

Boards' response: We're not sure how we would function if this motion were to pass. This would prevent the board being able to even put forth motions necessary for conducting business - such as presenting the budget as a motion. Why do the WB responses not include both a pro and a con position? Why would we not want to hear from members who have been tasked with gauging the pulse of our world-wide fellowship? Why do WB motions not require a second?

CAT
Conference Approval Track
(CAT material is considered new business of the WSC)

Strategic Plan & Proposed Project Plans

- There are 10 proposal with 6 project plans
- Objective 1) Develop new recovery literature and/or revise existing literature .
- Objective 2) Service Tools: develop concise, accessible, relevant, adaptable tools in service efforts
- Objective 3) Collaboration: WB and RD's
- Objective 4) Future of the WSC
- Objective 8) Social Media -- frame a discussion about social media with the fellowship and the conference for WSC 2018
- Objective 5)
- Objective 6)
- Objective 9) Fellowship Communication
- Objective 10) Financial Contributions

Proposed Budget & Cover

- For the 2016 - 2018 cycle

Proposed Rules & Tools for WSC Decision-making

- There will be electronic voting at WSC 2016

WSC Seating Report

-

Regional Ideas Submitted for WSC Consideration

RDA Report-

Greetings! The RD & RDA attended MARLCNA along with Jim and Deb last weekend. The CAR and CAT material was presented by World Board members.

We will provide another CAR workshop for the Regional Committee Members (RCMs) and other interested NA members at the April RSC on Saturday from 3-6 p.m. We will be collecting CAR tally sheets whenever they are available. Please send them to me rda@newenglandna.org.

From *NAWS News*:

- ❖ The 2016 *Conference Agenda Report (CAR)* is available at www.na.org/conference, or from the WSO at \$15.00, including tax and shipping. Videos that summarize the contents are also available. You can order additional copies of the CAR or any other NA literature online at <https://www.na.org/?ID=OrderLiteratureOnline-NAW>
- ❖ Traditions Project: The approval form of the Traditions workbook, “Guiding Principles—The Spirit of Our Traditions,” is available as part of the *CAR* on the Conference webpage.
- ❖ Surveys in the *CAR* will be used to gather information from the Fellowship on what recovery literature and service material they want and their ideas for Issue Discussion Topics for the next cycle. Additionally, we will be offering the survey online on the Conference webpage. Provide your input for future literature, service material, and Issue Discussion Topics (IDTs) at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CAR2016>
- ❖ Planning Our Future packet: This includes the results from the Role of Zones workshops, a snapshot of data for zones today in NA, and a narrated PowerPoint on the future of the WSC. These materials will be available online at www.na.org/future or by a link on the Conference webpage.
- ❖ 2016 Conference Approval Track (CAT): The CAT is now available. It contains the NAWS Strategic Plan, budget, project plans, and WSC seating recommendations and applications. It will be available online on the Conference webpage or from the WSO at \$11.00, including tax and shipping. It also includes proposed tools and resources to assist the WSC co-facilitators, along with proposals for better discussing ideas at the WSC and for forwarding input to the NAWS Strategic Plan.
- ❖ PR Pamphlet: We anticipate that a draft of this resource focused on providing information for professionals regarding the medicalization of addiction treatment and the NA Third Tradition will be available in the next couple of months for a 90-day review by Conference participants. An e-blast will be sent when the pamphlet is ready. (I did not receive an e-blast, but did find this through a Google search at http://www.calmidstatena.org/index_htm_files/PR%20Pamphlet_CP%20Review%20-%20001-23-16.pdf)
- ❖ Web Meetings: If you would like to join us and discuss issues and solutions in service efforts, please send your name, trusted servant position, and region and/or area to events@na.org for conventions, HandI@na.org for H&I and Inmate Step Writing committees, PR@na.org for PR/PI trusted servants, and servicesystem@na.org for Service System.
- ❖ Financials: Fellowship contributions exceeded \$1 million in the fiscal year ending 30 June 2015 for the first time in our history. We continue to encourage members to participate in the work of NA World Services to make recovery available to addicts globally and our Vision a reality by contributing financially through our portal at www.na.org/contribute. \$164.56/group.

Thank you for the privilege of serving the New England Region.

Peace, Brenda

BOD Report-

The board met yesterday with 7 board members in attendance. We are still owed \$1,000 of the misappropriated funds and our attorney will be sending a letter this week on our behalf for prompt payment.

We discussed the discrepancy discovered at the April Annual meeting and decided to ask the Regional Finance Committee to look over the figures and see if they would be able to assist in resolving the accounting error.

We reviewed the bids submitted for hosting NERC XVII and came up with our top three choices which we will be presenting later at the full corporation meeting.

A change of address was filed with the IRS and once that has been confirmed our taxes for FY '13, '14 and '15 will be filed. We are still in need of convention committee meeting minutes from NERC XV for more accurate filing and 2 board members will be checking our archives (in storage) to see if they are located there.

We are still attempting to get our contact information changed with the MA DOR. Since we now have online access, with several bod members checking the bank account regularly, it was determined that the treasurer's position is now able to hold the checkbook for more easily doing their job.

We are in the process of reviewing our internal/external guidelines and are seeking support from the convention committee as well as the regional policy committee chair. In April we will be having our annual corporate meeting and will have 3 open board member positions open for election.

Our next board meeting will be held at 10:00 on the Saturday of the April regional weekend.

In grateful service - Jim D. - BOD

AREA REPORTS

BOSTON- No report

CAPE COD- No report

CENTRAL MASS- No report

FREE SPIRIT- No report

-

GREATER PROVIDENCE

A special thanks to the Western Mass area for coordinating a date change for the February regional weekend so that as many people as possible can relax, enjoy and celebrate with us at the Greater Providence Area convention this coming weekend beginning at 4PM! Our convention is being held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel - 801 Greenwich Ave.- Warwick, RI

Attendance at our area meetings is still low and we continue to discuss ways of attracting more participation. We elected a PI chair in January and still are in need of a vice chair and an assistant secretary.

Our joint H&I subcommittee with the Free Spirit Area has been going very smoothly with increased participation at the January meeting. Here are some of the points our H&I chair reported in December:

- Only 12 out of 35 commitments this month were taken by groups.
- Reports were given by the panel leaders in attendance and all but one seem to be doing fine.
- We had discussion about the continuing problem at one commitment where the patients were not gathered for the commitment on time and it starts 10-15 late. Not sure what more we can do but we will make one more attempt to contact the facility and see if something can be done.
- Two reports were given prior to the meeting by two panel leaders that could not attend and those are doing well.
- I was re-elected H&I Chair of the Greater Providence Area.

- I attended the last region H&I meeting and brought back some other options for filling commitments. We will continue to explore more options in an attempt to increase attendance from more of the fellowship.
- It was pointed out that we were supposed to have Panel Leader elections but due to very low attendance we vote to put it off one more month and we will all announce it at meetings over the upcoming month.
- At the last meeting a motion was made to make it mandatory for a Group H&I rep's to be present at the H&I joint committee meeting in order to bring back a commitment to their groups. This passed.
- This needs to be added to H&I policy created by the committee.
- I gave a check of \$150.00 to cover the 3 months of H&I literature used by the H&I committee.
- The panel leaders that were present divided the literature.
- In loving service GPA H&I Chair John F.
- We are operating above our prudent reserve which is \$1,700 and an insurance prudent reserve of \$1,284.
- Our next area meeting will be held on Sunday, February 28, 2016 at 3:30 at 249 Main Street Pawtucket, RI

In grateful service,
Jim D. GPA RCM

GREATER WORCESTER-

Moke Addict: the Greater Worcester Area is up and running with alive spirit. The Alternate RCM is Corey B. Greater Worcester started on January 5th 2015. We held elections for the Executive Committee and Sub-Committees on January 19th 2016. We filled all the Trusted Servant positions, with the exception of Treasurer, Policy and P.R. (which is being served by the Vice Chair of Greater Worcester. We would like to thank the RD for his service and guidance to the Greater Worcester Area.

Greater Worcester has 6 Groups which are active in our area.

- **Something New Group**
Meets Monday-Friday, 12:00 noon - 1:30pm
44 Temple Street Worcester, MA
- **Come As You Are**
Sunday 7:00-8:30pm
11 Sycamore Street Worcester, MA
- **Together We Can**
Monday 7:00-8:30pm
36 Wall Street Worcester, MA
- **Today We Have a Choice**
2nd, 3rd and 4th Tuesday of each month and if there is a 5th Tuesday
48 Vernon Street Worcester MA
- **She Believed She Could, So She Did**-Women's Meeting
Wednesday 7:00pm-8:30pm
48 Vernon Street Worcester MA
- **Miracles in a Can**
Wednesday 7:00-8:30pm

25 Pleasant Street Worcester, MA

The Greater Worcester Area Service Committee meets at 6:00pm, every 1st Tuesday of the month at 48 Vernon Street Worcester, MA. The mailing address is: P.O. Box 2506 Worcester, MA 01613
The contact people are: Todd A (Chair) and Noel D (Vice Chair)

The Greater Worcester Area has a bank account and subcommittee bank account in the Greater Worcester Area name with trusted servants being signers on the bank account.

The Greater Worcester Area is working hand-in-hand with the Central Mass Area on H&I and P.R.

The Greater Worcester Area attended the Central Mass Area Service Committee meeting to discuss working together with meeting lists and also to inquire about literature sales tax and Massachusetts state taxes.

In Loving Service,
Moke A.

MARTHAS VINEYARD- No report

METRO WEST- No report

NANTUCKET- No report

NEMA- No report

PIONEER VALLEY-

Greetings from the Pioneer Valley,

Thank you Western Mass Area for hosting us this weekend. The Pioneer Valley Area Service Committee has met three times since this Committee last met, the most recent was this last Monday though it was an informal meeting due to lack of a quorum because of snow. We meet on the second Monday of the month, 7 pm at 191 Montcalm St. in Chicopee. We are addressing concerns as to our tax filing dates, and making sure we meet all obligations.

Things are quite lively in the Pioneer Valley. PR is vigorous and vital, H & I is fulling all commitments and creating a list of speakers. The new Activities Committee will be holding their first event on Saturday Feb. 27 in conjunction with Saturday Night Live's anniversary meeting. A Potluck at 5:30, leading into a Speaker Meeting at 7, then a band will play and there will be an open mike. All are invited to attend and help us celebrate and raise some funds for our area.

There is an Ad-Hoc Committee looking into potential Reunification with Western Mass Area. They reported and then requested a straw poll from Home Groups as to whether any further actions were

desired. The night answers were to come back they asked for a different straw poll, this one of individuals within groups without any discussion together and requesting votes from non-group members as well.

There is another Ad-Hoc Committee working on hosting Region in August. At one of the meetings a member of Western Mass's Convention Committee member attended and suggested we pass on hosting since the regional weekend is the same weekend as the Western Mass Convention. This same person later attended the Pioneer Valley Area Service Committee, where he is also a Trusted Servant and suggested that we request a date change of the Regional Weekend. We move forward in serving under existing conditions and dates.

In response to the question about an Activities Chair, if we wanted one and what we wanted them to do; the night answers were to come back is the night we had snow. The Homegroups that were present indicated that they do want an Activities Chair, this person should deal with the calendar and help oversee events in our Areas to prevent overlap of conflicting events. Having this person also put on activities might be nice, but isn't as necessary.

In Loving Service,

Ada C.

Pioneer Valley Area Regional Service Committee Member

SEMA-

Good morning, my name is Dyan and I am an addict.

We would like to thank the Western ma area for hosting this weekend. SEMA has held area 2 times since last region. Our average attendance is 26 groups out of 46. We are currently working above prudent reserve. PI has held some successful flyer hanging days and plans to continue holding more flyer hanging days in more cities in our area. Outreach continues to hold conference calls on the first Monday of every month, they are currently collecting information on financial impact starting a web site would be and asked the area to go back to the groups to see how they feel towards having a website for our area. Our literature development is doing well and offered help to groups with any questions on the draft for the traditions book. The convention committee for SEMA convention is holding their next full body meeting on February 28th at 4pm at the Old Somerset hall, and they still have an open position for Assistant

Secretary. Sisters in spirit's registration flyers are now out. All else is going well with activities, Campout and Literature Distribution. Man Up is holding their 7th annual Men's gathering on May 21st. We do need an insurance binder for this event and hope region could help assist us with this. In our December area we voted in new chairs for Area Chair and Vice Chair, Policy, PI, and Literature Development. As of January area we voted in a treasurer for Sisters in spirit and all positions are now filled. Our next area will be held on February 22nd at UMass Dartmouth, the groups voted on having a workshop for CAR report. Thank you.

ILS, Dyan B.

SOUTH SHORE - No Report

WESTERN MASS- No Report

NEW BUSINESS 2/14/16

MONEY MOTION #1

Voting members: 11 Simple Majority: 6 2/3: 8

Presented by: Website Chair- Ray L.

To make a check payable to Ray L. for \$910.00 from the set aside for the website committee

Purpose:

- 1) Acquiring a prepaid Visa/Mastercard (between\$5.-\$10.)
- 2) 3 years of web hosting through Site Ground with a 1 year SSL certificate. The current cost is \$298.20 (as of 2/7/16.)
- 3) Site transfer fee of \$30.00 (currently waived but this may change as of 2/7/16.)
- 4) Possible serve/tech support fees in this process **(currently undetermined amount.)
- 5) To make possible additional payments to Sainly Solutions as month to month needs requires
- 6) The need for acquiring a second domain name, possibly \$12.00

Intent: To facilitate the transfer and maintenance of nerna.org from Sainly Solutions web hosting to Site Ground web hosting and pay all associated fees with a prepaid Visa or Mastercard.

IN FAVOR: 11 OPPOSED: 0 ABSTAINED: 0

MONEY MOTION #2

Presented by: Cathie L., Western Mass

Seconded by: Ada C. Pioneer Vally

Motion: Money towards hosting Regional Weekend additional costs of \$48.66

Intent: To reimburse Cathie L for supplies & food

INFAVOR: 11 OPPOSED: 0 ABSTAINED: 0

MONEY MOTION #3

Presented by: James P. P.R. Chair

Motion: \$30.00 for the purchase of 300 meeting lists for Harvard "Treating the Addictions" Conference

Intent: To carry the message to people needing a meeting and inform conference attendees.

IN FAVOR: 11 OPPOSED: 0 ABSTAINED: 0

MONEY MOTON #4

Presented By: Ada C., Pioneer Valley

Seconded by: Cape Cod Area

Motion: Cut a check for \$200.00 for Regional 'Hot Spot' web access

Intent: To allow RD/RDA Team to be in contact with Region and allow web access at all Regional meetings. Allow use by Committee (RR) on an 'as needed' basis.

Tabled

MONEY MOTION # 5

Presented by: Debby L. Convention Chair

Seconded by: Jim D

Motion: To reimburse non-funded trusted servants for travel to February RSC, for mileage of 220 miles plus customary travel expenses. Mileage: \$2.20 x .24=\$52.80 Hotel: \$21.73 Total: \$74.53

Intent: To fund non funded Trusted Servant to travel to Region in February 2016

IN FAVOR: 11 OPPOSED: 0 ABSTAINED: 0

ELECTIONS

CHAIRPERSON	Bill H.
VICE-CHAIRPERSON	Rachel G.
SECRETARY	Bernie N.
Assistant SEC.	Tiffany L.
TREASURER	Dave A.
ASSISTANT TREAS.	Cathy L
ACTIVITIES CHAIR	Bring back to groups open
H&I CHAIR	Mike C.

LITERATURE CHAIR Kevin H.
POLICY CHAIR Open- bring back to groups
PR CHAIR James P.
RMD Chris M
WEBSITE CHAIR Ray L.
INSURANCE CHAIR John F.
FINANCE CHAIR Michelle M
FINANCE MEMBER AT LARGE Cathy L.
FINANCE MEMBER AT LARGE Open- bring back to groups
FINANCE MEMBER AT LARGE Open- bring back to groups
THE BOD ALSO HAS 2 OPEN POSITIONS Bring back to groups