

New England Regional Minutes - October 2015

The next Regional Weekend, on December 12th & 13th

will be hosted by the Greater Providence Area

- *Location: Anchor Recovery Center, 249 Main Street, Pawtucket, RI*
- *Subcommittees will meet on Saturday at 12:00pm*
- *Regional Committee will meet on Sunday at 11:00am*
- *PLEASE SEE THE ATTACHED FLYER FOR ADDITION INFORMATION AND DIRECTIONS*

A Conference Agenda Report Presentation will be held on Saturday @ 3:00pm

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 COMMITTEE-

We started the meeting at 12:30 pm. Thank you Cape Cod Area for hosting. Present were:

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

Before business started we had a negative balance of -\$1,048.25. Our insurance bill was paid twice in the month of August. We had been receiving letters in the mail stating our policy was going to be cancelled for non-payment therefore we logged online to automatically pay the bill. When we opened the August statement, we realized that a check had been sent in the amount of \$1039.25 and cleared our account on 8/25, two days before the online payment was made. We are expecting a check in the mail for \$1039.25, as a credit for the double payment. The additional \$9.00 in the total negative balance was \$3 service charges for the bank account for the months of July, August and September 2015. A transfer of \$1,048.25 was made from our Prudent Reserve to cover the negative balance.

The Opening Balance was \$0.00

Donations, RMD sales income, Insurance Payments and 2 MA DOR checks for double paid sales tax (Q4 2014 & Q1 2015) were processed. Total Deposits = \$4,316.07.

Set aside transfers were processed. Customary expenses in the amount of \$18.82 for postage and PR training copies were paid. A \$500 check was cut to host the next regional weekend. Sales taxes for Q2 (\$10.93) and Q3 (\$60.00), as well as quarterly storage fees in the amount of \$360 were paid.

\$1,245.82 was transferred to Prudent Reserve, totaling the Prudent Reserve at \$2,773.58. We are currently operating \$198.42 under Prudent Reserve. Please keep in mind that we will be receiving \$1,039.25 as repayment for the insurance double payment.

Our starting balance is \$0.00.

In Loving Service,

Michelle M.

CONVENTION-

Good Morning,

We met at noon yesterday with only 4 people in attendance, 3 of which were voting members.

I suggested we participate in the NERCC / NERSC ADHOC Committee meeting after we went through reports and elections.

Steve C was elected to Convention Information chair

We have a working balance/closing of \$6,000.00.

We closed our meeting then joined the ADHOC Committee Meeting Discussions.

We would like to ask all to, please make announcements that we will need help and that we will be meeting on the Saturday of the December Regional meeting at noon.

In Loving Service,

Debbie L

FELLOWSHIP DEVELOPMENT-

The Fellowship Development (FD) subcommittee met October 10, 2015 with +/- 11 members present. The RSC vice-chair presented the current RCM orientation and suggested FD take on the task of updating the orientation packet. Suggestions for updates included:

Presence of outdated NERSC logo (does not include current geographic area).

Length of packet and suggestion to make as concise as feasible.

The committee members chose to provide interim updates to the NERSC vice-chair prior to the next FD meeting. The updated packet will be available for final review at the December FD committee meeting.

The Regional Delegate (RD) and Regional Delegate Alternate (RDA) provided an update of workshops attended at the Western Service Learning Days (WSLD) held October 2-4, 2015 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Ongoing discussions include:

Roles of FD subcommittee

Issue discussion topics (IDTs)

Consensus-based decision making (CBDM)

Service system project (SSP)

Our next meeting will be December 12, 2015. We will likely be discussing the Conference Agenda Report (CAR) at that time as well.

In service,

The FD subcommittee

H & I- No report

INSURANCE-

As of 11/12/2015 there has been Three requests for insurance binders. One binder was for An Area meeting for the Cape Cod Area Service Committee of NA, which will meet from 6:45pm to 9:00pm on the second Wednesday's of every month, at Cape Cod Community College club Room the address is 2240 Lyannough Rd West Barnstable, MA 02668. The second one is for a new meeting that started on September 25 2015 in Sunderland, MA 01375 The meeting goes from 7:00pm to 8:00pm they meet at Maple Ridge Church and Community Center 659 Amherst Rd. The Third binder was for an event held by the North East Mass Area Public Relations & Outreach sub committee. The event will be held on November 21st 2015 at St Paul's Church 26 Washington St Malden, MA 02148 from 4:00pm to 11:30 pm. I also will be getting in touch with the former chair and see how to break down what each area owes for their share of the bill for the insurance. Anyone feel free to contact me [413-204-3256](tel:413-204-3256) or shoot me an email.

In Loving Service

John F

LITERATURE- No report

POLICY- No report

PR/PHONELINE-

NERSC Public Relations Subcommittee Chairperson's Report

Good morning NERSC! Yesterday, here in Hyannis, the NERSC Public Relations Subcommittee met. Thank you Cape Cod area for hosting. We had 11 members in attendance. After our traditional opening with a MOS, serenity prayer, and introductions, I thanked for their service the long-term-members of the subcommittee who were not present and welcomed the newcomers to the committee. We have two very important unfilled positions : Vice-Chair; and Events Coordinator.

RMD Report: 3,250 RMD's sold to Areas, Groups, and Individuals. 100 Outside Sales. 1,500 Regional PR Committee. Total of 4,850 RMDs. \$512 deposit.

Phone Line Coordinator: Emergency Calls: 4 for South Shore; 3 for NEMA; 2 for SEMA;

Non-Urgent Calls: 21 calls. 7 calls for Central MA. 4 calls from out-of-state: Chicago, Mississippi, Florida, and Connecticut.

There were some issues with the automatic updates to the phone lines and they have not been updated in a significant amount of time now.

Training Coordinator's Report: Central Mass Area of PR had their second Public Relations training. There were five addicts in attendance. This is the third Area that has received both trainings.

On October 18, 2015, the Training Coordinator will attend SEMA's GSU in order to provide an overview of Public Relations as well as give the Public Speaking presentation. CASA, Court Appointed Special Advocates has contacted us once again for our bi-annual presentation which will most likely be held on Saturday, November 7th in Brookline, MA.

We attended the New England Drug Court Conference on September 24th and 25th in Marlborough, MA. We had an approximate total of 75 addicts stop by our booth. An open NA meeting was held on Friday morning with two conference attendees. Over twenty follow-up emails were sent regarding requests for more information or presentations.

We will continue to contact Area's about trainings

Events Coordinator - Vacant

Area Reports: The Secretary explained the new streamlined area report form.

No Reports were received from Boston, Central Ma., Nantucket, NEMA, Martha's Vineyard, and Pioneer Valley

Cape Cod Area held a booth at the Cape Cod Symposium on Addictive Disorders on September 10th-12th. Approximately 10 addicts served. Additionally they also held a flyer-hanging day 7 addicts served. They have been in contact with Cape Cod Community College and have scheduled 2 presentations so far. A member was assigned to contact schools in the area to offer presentations. There will be a PR learning day on November 22nd in Hyannis at the Federated Church at 2pm.

Free Spirit Area and Greater Providence Area's have been working in unison to put on a Narcotics Anonymous Learning day on Sunday, November 1st 2015. From 12:30-4:30 at 124 Legris Ave, West Warwick R.I. There will be presentations from H&I and Corrections, PI and Phone Line, and Outreach. Lunch and refreshments will be provided. They are going to try and make this an annual event for the two areas, and it would be a pleasure to have any support from outside Areas.

Greater Providence Area held a booth at the Rally for Recovery in Providence at the Roger Williams Park. They will be participating in the convention on February 17th-19th at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Warwick.

Metro West Area had participants in the Symposium on Addictive Disorders in Hyannis as well as the Drug Court Conference in Marlborough. They had an opportunity to host a booth at the MBTA/DOT recovery day but were unable to fill it due to members' lack of availability. Literature and meeting lists were left at the booth in our absence. Metro West will be having a flyer-hanging day on October 17th at 10am -meeting in Porter Square, Cambridge, MA for breakfast before going out. They are also developing a literature rack program to go up in several facilities that a few members will be responsible for keeping full.

South East Mass Area has been compiling a list of high schools and have drafted a letter to be sent to each school. They have compiled a list of newspapers, radio and TV stations and are currently making calls to have Public Service Announcements (PSAs) run in the SEMA area. They will be sending Thank You letters to all organizations currently running the PSAs. They have a new email and should be contacted at SEMANAPRcommittee@gmail.com. There will be a flyer-hanging day on November 21st, 2015 at 370 Bay Street, Taunton, MA at 10am for coffee and donuts. They will also be having the Public Relations Training Coordinator come and train the area as a whole on how to give presentations at the GSU at Umass Dartmouth on October 18th.

South Shore Area- We have 16 display racks out in the community. Our webpage contact for NAWS is updating the NAWS and regional webpages along with Trusted servant and group contact info. I have been stretched thin with the regional webpage contact for NAWS duties and area PR chair responsibilities. I hope to have a hand Sunday with a SSA member to collect area meeting directories along with trusted servant update forms etc. We have designed another import link from the regional database to forward to NAWS. This link downloads a file from our database that we forward to NAWS. We hope this works for the updates. We will let you know.

Pioneer Valley Area Public Relations 10/10/2015

The PVAPR Subcommittee last met on Monday September 14th, 2015 at Faith Methodist Church, 191 Montcalm Street Chicopee, MA 8 addicts were in attendance.

The phone line did not receive any emergency addict to addict calls this month. Our literature coordinator has volunteers stocking literature and RMD's at various locations that include police stations, walk in recovery centers, and libraries.

The PVAPR Subcommittee has taken on speaking commitments for Learning To Cope Meetings approximately twice a month. This was in response to an email forwarded to PVA PR by Bob R from Marcy at Learn To Cope.

Narcotics Anonymous Public Service Announcements are currently being broadcast on the following radio stations: WARE, WHAI, WACE, WAQY, WLZX and all other Saga Communication stations in Franklin, Hampshire, and Hamden Counties.

Our next Flyer Hanging Day will be October 24th, 2015 we will meet at Rocky's located at 1583 North Main Street Palmer, Ma at 10:00 am (*Event Flyer Attached*)

PVAPR Meets every second Monday @ 5:45 pm at Faith Methodist Church, 191 Montcalm Street Chicopee, MA (*next meeting October 12th, 2015*)

In Service,

Rob L

Western Mass Area PR chair is new and working on awareness of PR and to gain more support. They have gotten several new commitments from addicts to attend the subcommittee. They are participating in two marathon meetings on Thanksgiving, November 26th: one in Greenfield and one in Springfield, locations and times TBD.

Old Business:

We reviewed the "Planning Basics" tool. Which you can find here:

https://www.na.org/admin/include/spaw2/uploads/pdf/handbooks/Planning_Basics.pdf

We covered the 1st stage in August, which was scanning. We reviewed the results of the survey that was completed in August. We decided to continue Scanning.

Some noted issues were:

Website updating and syncing with NAWS

Inclusion of all areas at the Regional PR level needs more communication between regional and area PRs

Filling open positions

Services that are no longer needed or could be combined:

Combine phoneline with RHD and/or website to be more effective with updates

Services that are not being provided.

Transportation was a suggestion as well as a "RSO"

An easy way for an area within the region to coordinate efforts, share in project planning

The region to have a protocol to assist regions with little or no PR presence

We asked today's participants to take the scanning process back to their groups, areas, subcommittees and NA network to give feedback to region about how it can better serve their PR needs. An addict suggested chairs bring the idea of the PR Basics inventory to their area. With some new people to regional PR, it seemed like the scanning process should continue and I suggested continuing the conversation outside of waiting for the regional PR meeting. It was suggested doing this over Skype. Another addict suggested that rather than a single date on skype, we try and have an email discussion of scanning and have a single point of accountability.

Feedback on Tradition 11 announcement at groups was read and discussed:

We are distributing a statement, which is available to all NA groups as a reminder of the traditions regarding the press. Due to the opiate epidemic, the State of Massachusetts has declared a public health emergency. We have already handled multiple requests from Area's and individuals who have had contact from the media. The statement is as follows:

Due to the growing epidemic of opiate addiction and overdose deaths, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts declared a public health emergency. We have since noticed an increase of requests by the press for interviews. Our Eleventh Tradition 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. If members of the press approach you, please direct them to the New England Regional Public Relations Subcommittee, which can be found at <http://www.nerna.org/subcommittees/pr>

The New England Regional Service Committee of Narcotics Anonymous - Public Relations Subcommittee

We can be reached by email at pr@newenglandna.org or by telephone at our toll free number 1-866-624-3578 (1-866-NA-HELP-U). After the main greeting, press 4, and then 2 to page a member of our committee.

Inventory Update - Gary B has table top cover - James P has brought surplus supplies

New Business: Shorten reports (last Region 8 pgs.)

Upcoming Events-

Flyer-Hanging Day: October 17th in Porter Sq, Cambridge at 10am.

Presentation Training I: October 18th at Umass Dartmouth

NA Learning Day: November 1st, 2015, Sunday, at 124 Legris Ave, West Warwick R.I. from 12:30-4:30pm.

Flyer Hanging Day November 21st in Taunton at 10am.

PR learning day November 22nd at Federated Church, Hyannis 2pm.

South Shore Anniversary December 3rd, Brockton.

NA Learning Day FSA/Greater Providence- TBA

Money Motions: \$10.40 for Training Coordinator travel expenses for training in Central Mass.

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

We closed at 3:30 with the 3rd step prayer.

In Loving Service, James P.

WEBSITE-

NERSC Webpage contact for NAWS, NEZF

This months report,
Hello NERSC members,
I sent this to the secretary to be read at the meeting:

Webpage contact for NAWS report-

I am continuing to work on keeping the regional and NAWS databases in sync. Any Area reps that have their trusted servant form along with local area meeting lists please hand over to Bernadette and I will retrieve them from her.

We are also looking to add &Group contacts& preferable the GSR for every group in the region. So they can sign up for NA Way magazine, NAWS news etc.

I will add the links when I submit this report to the RSC secretary.

Here is the follow up/rest of the report:

Here is the group update form we are asking RCMs to use to gather new "Group Contact" information for submission to NAWS. This will also provide a good way to check and balance all meeting information for accuracy.

ONLINE:

<http://www.na.org/?ID=updateforms-gud-form>

PAPER FORM:

http://www.na.org/admin/include/spaw2/uploads/pdf/grpform/New-Group-Reg_Update_Form2010.pdf

As you know the website committee has no chairperson. We are also about to lose our service provider. Communication on the Google group seems to be down to 3 members. I will be working with the PR and Regional chair on moving forward with finding a service provider and working out other issues with the website.

Please create a log-in account for you or your group to submit meeting info updates and events. <http://nerna.org/user/login>

You can also create an account with NAWS and receive the following via e-mail-

<http://www.na.org/?ID=subscribe>

Naws News: <http://www.na.org/?ID=reports-nawsnews-nawsmain>

NA WAY - <http://www.na.org/?ID=subscribe>

<http://www.jftna.org/jft-subscription.htm>

Reaching out - <http://na.org/?ID=reaching-out-index>

More will be revealed,

Thanks

Andrew L.

TRADITIONS WORKBOOK PROJECT

Please workshop these worksheets and submit to NERNA or NAWS.

http://www.na.org/?ID=trads_project

Next New England Regional Service Committee

<http://nerna.org/content/next-regional-meeting>

This committee is responsible to update all NERSC meeting information on the regional and world websites as well as the NERSC trusted servant information with NAWS and monitor the NEZF website.

Simple Group Updates/Deletions NAWS :

For single group updates and you are a trusted servant of that group please email (groupupdates@na.org) our Fellowship Services team directly with this updated information. Please make sure that you include the meeting name, time, day or days that it meets, meeting location information with facility name, and the area or region that the group belongs too.

Please keep in mind that when changing group information you MUST change it on two separate websites. www.nerna.org is the second website.

Web Contact for NAWS Process

We have a process in place that allows for an area or regional trusted servant to register with us and update the NAWS database. This new web contact would have access to see all information for their area or region. The meeting information could be updated by

using an import process or by email, while the trusted servant information could be updated directly in the database. To begin the process of becoming a NAWS web contact please contact Web Updates (webupdates@na.org) with your contact information. To see the recent updates we have made to the database please click here. Chapter 10 from the PR Handbook is devoted to Internet Technologies

http://www.na.org/admin/include/spaw2/uploads/pdf/PR/Public_Relations_Handbook.pdf

Also on our website under Locally Developed Resources - there are other service bodies' guidelines for websites.

http://www.na.org/?ID=local_resource_area

Other service body websites are also a valuable resource. It gives you ideas of what other service bodies are doing with their websites. Also it might give some ideas of what you like and don't particularly like.

Please use this website to find other websites.

<http://www.na.org/?ID=phoneline>

What's new? <http://www.na.org/?ID=whatsnew>

WCNA - <http://www.na.org/?ID=wcna-index>

Zonal Website - www.nezf.org

<http://mzssna.org/>

World Service Conference

<http://www.na.org/?ID=conference-index>

Grateful to be able to serve,
Andrew L.

RDA Report

Greetings! The RD & RDA attended the WSLD in Las Vegas, NV last weekend. We were fortunate to have the assistance of a former RD, Andrew L. As a result, we were able to attend more workshops. Often there were 3 different workshops running concurrently. I attended the following workshops:

Carrying the message to those who serve in the military

NarAnon: Cooperation not affiliation

Judges, school board, department of corrections, oh my!

NAWS: Public relations

Addiction & the birth of NA

Who's who in the zoo: Building relationships in service

Fellowship development in our own backyard

Treasurer's toolbox

Utilizing accounting software

NAWS: NA & the medicalization of treatment

NAWS: Illicit literature & the FIPT (Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust)

NAWS update

RD roundtable

It was a great opportunity to gather information and network with other regions about various service models, including planning tools/processes and CBDM.

From *NAWS News*:

World Convention: The WCNA 36 final report is not complete; registrations are still being reconciled. We are already seeing fellowship growth and PR opportunities in Brazil as a result of the event.

Traditions Project: The review-and-input period for Traditions Seven through Ten ended on 31 August, and input for Traditions Eleven and Twelve and the closing section is due by 30 September 2015. We are in the process of putting the book together for the *CAR* and are thankful to members who participated in the process.

Decision Making at the WSC workgroup: We will be offering tools and resources to assist the WSC Cofacilitators, along with electronic voting for the WSC. The workgroup is also discussing processes for better discussing ideas at the WSC and for forwarding input to the NAWS Strategic Plan. Surveys in the *CAR* will be used to gather information from the fellowship.

Planning Our Future workgroup: The Role of Zones workshop is available at www.na.org/idt. We encourage zones to participate and send your input to us. We have compiled some basic information about each zone and will be sharing that soon. We also aim to have a presentation about the sustainability of the WSC created by the time the *CAR* is released.

Delegates Sharing workgroup: The workgroup sent a survey to conference participants to help frame the Delegate Sharing session at the next WSC and to create workshops for the Saturday before the WSC opens.

WSC Seating workgroup: Eight regions applied for seating at WSC 2016. The workgroup is considering each application and will submit recommendations to the World Board. The workgroup and board reports will be published as part of the CAT material in January 2016.

Service System Project: We held two web meetings to provide an overview of the project ideas and to discuss local implementation efforts, and are planning to hold more. We hope to draft Service System Basics, Local Service Basics, and Group Support Basics this cycle. We are also planning to post locally developed tools and material from the webinars online at www.na.org/servicesystem.

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.

Service Pamphlets: We are highlighting this valuable resource for groups and members—available online here: www.na.org/?ID=servicemat-svc-pamphlets.

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.

Noel and I will be attending the NEZF in Jamaica, NY at the end of this month and will attend MRLE the first week in December right after the release of the CAR. We are looking forward to presenting the information to the RSC on Saturday of the December and February RSCs from 3-6 p.m. Please let your Areas know of these times for maximum participation from the New England Region.

I have submitted money motions for expenses incurred last weekend for the WSLD as well as for the upcoming NEZF and MRLE.

Peace,
Brenda

BOD/CONVENTION CORP-BOD-

The board has met twice since our last regional meeting. The primary focus of our discussion has been revolving around the monetary discrepancy that was reported at the close of NERC XVI and the motion presented by the South Shore Area to suspend the current convention. Having served as the assistant treasurer of that committee I can attest to the fact that all of the monies received were deposited into our account- the check book always balanced. Unfortunately, I did not check the spreadsheet that the treasurer had been keeping during the course of the convention cycle. Once the discrepancy was discovered, I spent approximately ten hours over two days reviewing the check book, bank statements and spreadsheets as well as all the receipts from the F&E committee with the treasurer and yet we were unable to locate the discrepancy. At our last board meeting I asked Damon W. to review the same information in the hopes that fresh eyes could locate the problem. Our former treasurer is also continuing to determine the cause of the discrepancy. Once we pinpoint the problem we will pass it on to the RSC.

We are waiting until after today to send out the Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for the next convention in the hopes that we will have a treasurer in place to add to the RFP.

An additional \$1000 of the misappropriated funds has been repaid since our last report and keeping to this schedule, we should be made whole by January of 2016. We have \$16,275.06 currently in our account. \$6,000 of this belongs to the convention committee. I mentioned the area's concerns about what should be done with the money as it is returned to our attorney. She felt that the "cleanest" thing to do would be to have the

corporation hold on to the money and use it for the next convention's seed money. This is not in line with our current policy and the board will look further into this issue at our next meeting which is scheduled for December 12th @ 10:00 at 249 Main Street, Pawtucket, RI

Our Annual Report has been filed with the Secretary of State and we have now secured the necessary bank statements to file our taxes for FY '13 FY'14 FY'15.

We will be opening a corporation meeting later solely for the purpose of electing a treasurer and I will further attempt to explain the necessity of the separate corporation at that time.

In grateful service - Jim D. - BOD

New England Regional Convention Corporation

Meeting Minutes

10/11/15

320 Main St. Hyannis, Ma.

Meeting Opened: 12:15 pm

Attendance: Jim-D. President, Steve-C. Clerk, Brenda-V. Treasurer, Rachel-G. BOD member, Damon-W. BOD member RCM North East area, Deb-L. BOD member, Bob-T. RCM Free Spirit area, Dyan-B. RCM South East Mass area, Maria-C ALT RCM South East area, Bill-H. RCM Martha's Vineyard area, Bernie-N. RCM South Shore area, Bridget RCM Cape Cod area, Michelle-M. RCM Central Mass area, Jonathan-K RCM Boston area, Cathie-L RCM Western Mass area, Tiffany-L RCM Metro West area, Ada-C RCM Pioneer Valley area, Melissa-G ALT. RCM Greater Providence area,

Jim-D: Explained the separation of the RSC from the Corporation. We physically moved away from the RSC tables.

New Business:

Jim-D: Read the responsibilities of Treasurer.

Deb-L: Nominated Brenda-V for Treasurer. 2nd by Bill-H. Brenda accepted.

Brenda-V. Elected as Treasurer of the New England Regional Convention Corporation.

Old Business:

Bernie-N: Can we vote on the South Shore Motion?

We had open discussion and recommendations, the Consensus was to move the motion to the RSC.

Meeting Closed:

12:40pm with Serenity Prayer.

In Loving Service,

Steve-C. Clerk

NERCC/NERSC Ad Hoc-

We met again yesterday with around 10 addicts present, including members of the convention and corporation. We talked about the major themes that have run through the committee in the course of our work. As reported last time, we were hoping to try to wrap up the committee's work with some policy recommendations, and a report containing a few ideas to be implemented in the future. I hope this report can serve as a summary of our work to date as well as a description of the work to follow.

This committee was formed partly in response to the theft of convention funds that occurred last year. We were charged to thoroughly review existing policies and procedures to see if they were falling short and would lead to continued liability. We thought might also be able to add some safeguards. To that end we found a couple areas where specific policy changes will be presented. We also have found that we have quite a bit of sound existing policy that, if better followed, would help in a number of ways.

But this reality also exists: we choose our trusted servants because we trust them. Doing so often does put them in a position to cause some harm, regardless of almost any financial safeguards, should they decide.

Perhaps the biggest takeaway from all our discussions is the need for input from the areas we serve regarding any future conventions. Any time a committee is formed to carry the message there are always risks and rewards we need to consider. When we allocate the resources of Narcotics Anonymous at any level, it is incumbent upon us to consider the impact. This seems to be especially true for conventions. We feel a vote of confidence from the Areas should be required at the start of every convention planning cycle. Included in that request should be a carefully considered list of pros and cons to putting on the event. Given the timing of the NERC, this would best occur in June of every odd numbered year. Some of the pros and cons we have discovered will be seen as the rest of this report continues.

The NERC has an extensive history of failing to file documents, or file them on time, as required of the Corporation by the Secretary of the State of MA and the DOR. These include Annual reports, sales tax forms and filings, etc. This lack of compliance regularly puts us in jeopardy of losing our 501c3 tax status, and faces us with late fees and fines. This is not an indictment of any past or current trusted servant or their efforts. In fact, some of our most experienced and trusted servants struggle with these types of complicated and seemingly esoteric aspects of incorporation and tax exemption. There seems to be something in the nature of addicts and incorporation that don't mix well. But it is a well-documented challenge that needs to be very seriously considered going forward.

There exists what looks like a structural problem with having a convention committee as well as a convention corporation, whose duties seem to overlap at times. Again, regardless of who has been involved over the 25+ years of the convention an adversarial relationship has often, if not always developed between them. This might just be a perceived problem, given the common goal, however, it seems inevitable that setting up two different entities with overlapping and unclear policies and goals is bound to create tension, at best. Our recommendation, which was endorsed by the special worker/insurance/lawyer/addict we met with in August, is to combine the two, but keeping our corporate status.

If communication/input from areas was our biggest takeaway then the roles of insurances and incorporation was clearly the most complicated, most discussed and presenting of the most difficult challenges we encountered. I believe it is fair to say, based on conversations with the special worker and among ourselves that the protections offered by incorporation, in conjunction with appropriate insurance is the most responsible way to protect the members serving on the convention/corporation. And yet the problems created by incorporating are great enough that we suspect they leave us in direct opposition to the principles that guide Narcotics Anonymous.

We plan to provide a description of convention/corporation-related roles and responsibilities for RCM's. This document will be given to all areas and then included in the RCM orientation package given to every new (or old) RCM. Relatedly, we feel it imperative that RCM's understand the difference between the RSC meeting and the Corporation meeting. As such, there will be captured in policy and in practice, a clear delineation between the two meetings.

All Convention/Corporation Bylaws, Policies, Procedures, Internal and External Guidelines should, at minimum, be updated for clarity and possibly be entirely replaced when the committee and corporation are combined.

A quarterly corporate financial audit and annual Finance committee financial audit of the corporation/committee income and expenses should be completed with the results being given directly to RCM's as well as the RSC. These audits should be held by "non-signers" on the checking account.

In closing, I want to sincerely thank all of the many addicts who participated in the work of this committee.

ILS - Bill H

AREA REPORTS

BOSTON- No report

CAPE COD- No report_

CENTRAL MASS-

Central Mass is doing well. We've met twice since our last region meeting. We currently have an Ad Hoc committee working on transitioning the area into a CBDM format, policy will be revised as needed. The Campout was successfully held the weekend of September 11th. There has been some concern that a couple groups have been misappropriating group funds -- question as to where the 7th tradition money is going. We have entrusted our Outreach Subcommittee to attend business meetings to see what they can do to help. More will be revealed. H&I is in need of addict support. We are operating at Prudent Reserve, although group donations have significantly dropped as of late. Thank you to the Cape Cod area for hosting.

ILS,

Michelle M.

FREE SPIRIT- No report_

GREATER PROVIDENCE-

Thanks to the Cape Cod area for hosting this weekend.

The Greater Providence Area has met twice since our last regional meeting. Attendance at our area meetings is still very low with an average of 10 groups out of 51 sending

GSRs. Our Area will be holding elections for the executive committee in October and for Subcommittee chairs in November.

Our convention is scheduled for February 19-21, 2016 and fliers are now available. Please register and join our celebration of recovery!

GPA is looking forward to hosting region in December and the meetings will be held at 249 Main Street-Pawtucket, RI.

Our next area meeting will be held on Sunday, October 25th at 249 Main Street Pawtucket, RI

I'd like to welcome our newly elected GPA Alternate RCM, Melissa G. to the regional body and look forward to serving with her on behalf of our area.

In grateful service,

Jim D.- RCM GPA

MARTHAS VINEYARD- No report

METRO WEST- No report_

NANTUCKET- No report

NEMA- No report_

PIONEER VALLEY-

Greetings from the Pioneer Valley,

Pioneer Valley is alive and vibrant with addicts in recovery. Thank you to Cape Cod Area for hosting our Region this weekend.

Our Area has met twice since our last Regional meeting; 7 out of 10 and 8 out of 10 groups were present respectively. One group has fallen off the active rolls due to missing 3 consecutive meetings and are being visited by the Executive Committee with assistance. One new group has joined our Area. Our next meeting is tomorrow night 7 pm at 191 Montcalm Street in Chicopee.

Our Public Relations Committee is active and vibrant. On Saturday Oct. 24th we will have our next Flyer Hanging Day, we are meeting 10 am at Rocky's Plaza Main Street

(route 20) in Palmer. We are hoping for a good turn out of addicts who want to serve the fellowship. Many local informational presentations were made and events with a display were also attended.

H & I is being well attended and supported, we are filling a commitment for Western Mass at one location, though we do have the first Friday of the month at one location open. We now have an Event Chair and Committee for the first time ever. They will officially meet for the first time tomorrow night before our Area meeting. Our Policy Committee has been going over our Policy with a fine tooth comb and suggesting changes where needed. The groups in our Area have been making necessary changes to fill needs and for policy to better reflect our monthly business.

Our new Prudent Reserve has been determined with budgets made to better reflect actual spending and need. We have found a workable way to make the increase to our Prudent Reserve by adding 10% any excess monies donated each month. The Event Committee's activities should help more money come into our Area's account. At least one other Group is ready to join our Area tomorrow and we have purchased extra group start up kits consisting of a Basic Text, the Readings, and an assortment of Informational Pamphlets. To better serve the Groups our Board of Trustees will be meeting 3 times a year, in reflection of the ideas within Planning Basics.

We look forward to our collective Higher Powers' continued blessing on our service.

In Loving Service,

Ada C.

SEMA- No report

SOUTH SHORE-

Thank you Cape Cod Area for hosting this weekend. The SSA is alive and kicking with 4 new GSR's in the last 3 months. Our H&I sub-committee elected a new chair and they are red hot to continue to carry the message and serve our primary purpose. They will be hosting a learning day on Saturday, December 5th from 10am to 2pm in Plymouth. Our PR committee will be having a workshop/information event at the same location. Both events are not a part of our 30th Anniversary Celebration but are conveniently being held at the same location. Speaking of our 30th Anniversary Celebration; our Activities Committee is preparing to 'hit it out of the park' in honor of the 30th birthday of the SSA. Please see the link on the NERNA website for the flyer. It promises to be an amazing event! I look forward to attending the NEZF CAR Workshop on Saturday and Sunday that weekend. (No sweat, I won't be attending the Celebration but I'm a nerd anyway.) I'm looking forward to preparing the SSA GSR's to participate in the upcoming Conference Agenda Report.

In loving service, Bernie

WESTERN MA-

Thank you Cape Cod Area for hosting us. Our convention had a good attendance and it went off successfully. If you could attend, thank you for supporting us.

We are actively preparing for our next convention. I was asked by the area at our last meeting to help us on area planning and who to go to on it. We met twice since our last regional meeting with about 25 groups in attendance. Our new location is working out very well (45 Maple Street, Springfield, MA). H&I has had about 10 in attendance in

our business meetings. We have a few openings still but have some who are pending to start and a few we hope to get people to step up since we had a change of address at a facility and some could no longer get there. We in dire need to help the POLICY chair . Our ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE and it's activities are going well. We are making plans for our 24 hour marathon meetings and looking to have two locations as it makes it easier for travel purposes for some as our area is spread out about a hour apart from border to border. PUBLIC RELATIONS still needs more bodies to help and when we can we merge together with Pioneer Valley so we can do more for it's primary purpose. We have two new meetings ; Thursday at 5:30 - 6:30 at the Hope For Holyoke Recover Center on Suffolk Street, Holyoke , MA and on Friday from 6:00 - 7:00 in Sunderland/Amherst border line (church across from Bub's BBQ). There was no treasure report from the convention as well as our area's treasure report in the minutes. I will be asking about that at the next area meeting.

Thank you , I.L.S., Cathie L. , WMA RCM

NEW BUSINESS

NON MONEY MOTION #1

Voting members: 12 Simple majority: 7 2/3: 8

Presented by: RD/RDA Team

Motion: To provide time & room for RD/RDA to present CAR related information at the December, February, April and June Saturday RSC meetings, 3pm - 6pm.

Intent: To allow RD/RDA to present CAR/CAT related information

PASSED

NON MONEY MOTION # 2

Presented by: Bernie RCM, SSA

Seconded by: Cathy L. RCM, Western MA

Motion: To suspend the New England Regional Convention Committee from moving forward on the next convention until all money "missing" since NERC , March 2015 is paid back and resolved.

Intent: To find out what happened to the missing \$2,386.80.

IN FAVOR: 1 OPPOSED: 8 ABSTAINED: 3

MONEY MOTION #1

Presented by: James P.

Motion: To reimburse the training coordinator for transportation expenses to deliver training #2 in Central MA

Gas \$8.00 + Tolls \$2.40 = \$10.40 Make check payable to Sarah O.

Intent: To further spread the message of recovery by training Area with effective tools necessary to learn how to put on a public relations presentation.

IN FAVOR: 12 OPPOSED: 0 ABSTAINED: 0

Hotel: Per Diem:

Mileage (RD only) =

Make check payable to:

Intent:

MONEY MOTION #2

Presented by: RDA

Seconded by: Cathy L.

Motion: To reimburse RDA for travel / lodging to WSLD \$228.16

10/1/15 lodging \$78.40

Mileage (312×2×0.24=) \$149.76

Intent: To reimburse expenses related to RDA role

IN FAVOR: OPPOSED: ABSTAINED:

MONEY MOTION # 3

Presented by: RDA

Seconded by: Cathy L.

Motion: To provide funding to RDA for NEZF October 23rd - 25th 2015

(RD/RDA Set aside)

Mileage: $221 \times 2 \times .24 = \106.08

Parking: $\$18.00 \times 3 \text{ days} = \$54.$

$\$160.08$ Make check payable to Brenda V.

Intent: Provide funding to RDA to fulfill responsibilities of role.

IN FAVOR: 12 OPPOSED: 0 ABSTAINED: 0

MONEY MOTION # 4

Presented by: RDA

Seconded by: Cathy L.

Motion: To provide funding to RDA for MRLE (CAR preparation) in the amount of \$275.20

(RD/RDA Set aside)

Registration \$120.00

Mileage: $115 \times 2 \times .24 = \55.20

Per diem: \$100.00

Make check payable to Brenda V.

Intent: Provide funding to RDA to fulfill responsibilities of role.

IN FAVOR: 12 OPPOSED: 0 ABSTAINED: 0

MONEY MOTION # 5

Presented by: RDA/RDA Team

Seconded by: Cathy L.

Motion: To provide funding to RDA for MRLE in the amount of \$191.24

(RD/RDA Set aside)

Registration: \$75.00

Mileage: $138 \times 2 \times .24 = \66.24

Per diem, 1 day: \$50.00

Make check payable to Noel D.

Intent: Provide funding to RD/RDA to fulfill responsibilities of role.

IN FAVOR: 12 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	Nick F.
PR CHAIR	James P
RMD	Bring back to groups open
WEBSITE CHAIR	Bring back to groups open
INSURANCE CHAIR	John F.
FINANCE CHAIR	Michelle M.

FINANCE MEMBER AT LARGE

Cathy L.

FINANCE MEMBER AT LARGE

Bring back to groups open

FINANCE MEMBER AT LARGE

Bring back to groups open