

MINUTES FROM FIRST MEETING ON 3/8/03

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CH, BETHLEHEMPIKE, AMBLER, PA

AREAS REPRESENTED

BEEHIVE AD-HOC COMMITTEE

BUCKS AD-HOC COMMITTEE

MONICO AD-HOC COMMITTEE

CLEAN ACRES

PURE & SIMPLE

DISCLAIMER STATEMENT:

[THESE NOTES WERE TAKEN FROM TAPES OF THIS MEETING IF THERE IS ANYTHING THAT SOMEONE FINDS INACCURATELY QUOTED OR MISAPPROPRIATELY PARAPHRASED, A CORRECTION CAN BE MADE AT THE NEXT MEETING. WE APOLOGIZE IF SOMETHING WAS MISSED YOU FEEL WAS INHERENTLY NEEDED TO BE INCLUDED. THERE WERE POINTS ON THE RECORDING UNINTELLIGIBLE, THEREFORE POSSIBLY LEFT OUT. PLEASE INFORM ME IMMEDIATELY IF THERE IS NEED. REMEMBER, THESE MINUTES SHOULD ONLY BE USED AS A REFERENCE.]

- 1) We opened the meeting with a moment of silence and a reading of the Twelve Traditions of NA @ 1:20pm
- 2) Introductions were made around the room
(names/positions/addresses are Addendum 'A').
- 3) A donation was taken for the meeting space (\$36.00 was given).
- 4) Henry D chaired with no objection from the floor.
- 5) The meeting was opened with a statement of purpose.
(Addendum 'B' was the starting format)

Henry D - asked if we can keep the focus on solutions. I invited addicts around the Greater Phila Region (GPR) to attend this meeting out of a concern from several areas, including my home area, that we may not be receiving enough services to support our area groups. Please express concerns on topics and solutions, without personalities, keeping the controversy to a minimum. Several Area Service Committees (ASC's) have appointed ad-hoc committees to look into the possibility of forming a 'new region'. This meeting is designed primarily as an informational forum with no set agenda. He stated some 'FAST FACTS' from Ad 'B' and presented a map of existing GPRSC geographical boundaries.

Much discussion centered around the need for another service structure to support the services outside the 'Philadelphia Metro Area'.

Henry - stated that Montco has been sending donations earmarked for the GPR Phonline for the past year or so.

John H - the GPR Phonline committee personally never sees these earmarked monies.

Hadi - read a personal statement (Addendum 'C').

Nick—[re: Discussion Topic #1] apparently there is a need for a ‘new region’, that’s why people have showed up today, so we need to move on to #2.

Dick—creating something new will be doing a service to the groups.

Mike E —our area has been actively searching for another region since Beehive has not ever been able to receive support from the GPR and probably never will. Mainly as a result of distance. Drive time from Beehive ASC to GPRSO and today’s meeting 2 ½ plus and 1 ½ hours respectively.

Hadi —with the size of the present RSC, it becomes long and tedious and work still does not get accomplished. We are unable to complete business in a timely fashion.

Dave—it appears to be a trust factor. Too many things are not being addressed and our area has a lot of questions about the region.

Mike S —I’ve shown up at regional committee meetings and no one supports them cause they are fed up with behaviors at this level. A new thing might possibly breath some life into the “old/former” members of service. Too much trust has been placed on a few people doing more work than they can handle. Does it serve the newcomer?

Nick—We have nothing to lose unless we stay where we’re at. We do stand to gain a new focus, an importance of service work. We need to promote service in a positive light.

Tim—several years ago, Bucks decided to purchase literature from the WSO and again possibly leave the GPRSC. They recently returned to GPRSO for literature.

Jim—we need to focus on how much our services can better support each with suburban concerns. The GPRSC has too many groups to service; maybe its time to split things to a more manageable size.

John—we now look at the RSC as a business. The “new region” cannot be looked at as a business, not with a concern of money or politics. Is Public Information being serviced; is there shared services between Hospitals & Institutions? Literature does not need to be sold at a profit. Our services do not need to be profit-motivated. Most people just don’t want to be participants in the present regional service structure. Our service meetings don’t discuss issues like literature development or Public Information services. We should look into issues like, how other RSC’s deal with group insurance. The RSO has been financially self-sustaining which is why areas don’t get much attention. We have to create something that attracts a newcomer to service!

Brian—do people right here get involved with the present RSC? Are people here willing to get involved with the new RSC and still be able to have a stable home ASC?

Hadi —after my involvement, I found the GPRSC couldn’t support services to the newcomer.

Nick—we now agree to start fresh and smaller. We don't need anything fancy, we need a helpline, a place to buy literature and Public Information services.

Ameen—I don't feel the acceptance in services as it is now. No one wants to participate, and whoever is left, takes "control" of the commitment. There is no rotation of service. Most of these issues should be addressed at group level.

Hadi—people will show up when needed, it always works! If we trust in God, all will fall into place. We need to grow something that's attractive.

Henry—I have been in touch with the webmaster and GPRSC Phoneline chair. They gave us full cooperation if needed for the new region. And there are others willing to be involved in a "new region".

Jim—if we look around the room today, there is enough people in this room to start a new region. Last year I brought this topic up in my area and people turned up and said they were interested to get involved! Some former RSC servants even showed up curious to hear about the new region concept.

Mike E —our area sits on monies since they don't feel trusting of GPRSC. We won't have problems with buying literature. We will also keep trying to help form a new region, even if this doesn't go.

Discussion turned to how can we give our areas/groups adequate time to make an informed decision with this idea.

We took an "all-inclusive" vote to meet on 4/12/03 @ the same place/time. This meeting will then determine how to proceed in forming this "new region". It was unanimously agreed upon all points.

Requests were made of several members to gather their experience for the next meeting for a possible presentation. The following were:

- John H, information on " *Group Insurance* ", and " *Literature Purchasing* ".
- Nancy O, experience on "Hospitals & Institutions Handbook".
- Mike S, experience on "Literature Review Handbook".
- Tim R, experience with "Public Information/Phoneline".

Meeting closed 3:35pm with the Serenity Prayer.