

Eastern PA Regional Service Minutes

Date: April 6, 2008

- **2:10 pm - Meeting called to order with the Serenity Prayer by chairperson, Jim M.**

- **12 Traditions read by: Kevin P.**

- **12 Concepts read by: Joshua K.**

- **Roll Call (secretary takes roll call):**

RSC Chair	Jim M. - present
RSC Co-Chair	Todd S. - present
Secretary	Debbie M. - present
Co-Secretary	<i>Position Open</i>
Treasurer	Tim R. – present
Co-Treasurer	<i>Position Open</i>
Literature Review	<i>Position Open</i>
H & I	Jessica F. - present
PI/Helpline	Tom F. - present
Activities	<i>Position Open</i>
Policy	<i>Position Open</i>
Meeting List	<i>Position Open</i>
Regional Delegate	Henry D. – not present...in route...running late...arrived at 2:35 pm.
RD Alt.	Merle H. – not present...in route...running late...arrived at 2:35 pm.
RCM Beehive	Jeff R. - present
RCM Bucks Co.	Paul D. - present
RCM Mont. Co.	Eric P. - present
RCM Pure & Simple	Kevin P. - present

- **Quorum met.**

- **Last regional meeting's minutes read by: Debbie M.**

Motioned to read from New Business Only by : Paul D. 2nd by Jeff R.

Motion to accept by Paul D, 2nd by Jeff R. No objections!

Area Reports:

Beehive Area: RCM: Jeff R., RCM Alt: Joshua K. – First of all I would like to thank you all for being of service to this wonderful program of Narcotics Anonymous. At last region I gave our new Co-Chair some updates for the meetings in the Beehive area. Although I did get a call from him and someone else involved it seems like nothing happened because it was brought up in our next 2 area service meetings. I am sorry I have been out of the loop for the last 2 months but I am sure there are other people that the trusted servants could get in touch with such as my alt. The last few area service meetings we have had a representative from Nar-Anon. He has been looking for some kind of unity between the 2 programs. We talked about how to go about this and stay within the traditions. We all agreed that Literature could not be passed out at meetings and we must make it clear that we are not affiliated nor can we endorse each other. On March 2nd the Beehive area had an ADHOC Committee meeting to look into moving from the EPARNA Region to the Mid-Atlantic region. There were 35 individuals in attendance including the GSR's from 10 area groups. We would like to thank our RD and Alt RD for attending. We also had attendance from serenity in the mountains and the greater steam town area and the RD of the Mid-Atlantic region. During the ADHOC committee there was a show of hands and only about 5% of the attendees had attended meetings within EPARNA and 90% had attended meetings within MARNA. The meeting was very informative. There was a motion on the floor to withhold all donations to EPARNA until the motion on switching regions is voted on. This motion passed so there is no donation to region again from the area. There is however a donation from a group within the area of \$200.00 which I have handed over to the treasurer. In loving service, RCM – Jeff R. & Alt RCM Joshua K.

Bucks County Area: RCM – Paul D. – Hi everyone. All is doing well in bucks county. All positions are filled except for H&I chair. Our chair stepped down, but a past chair has nominated & qualified and will likely be voted in in April. All committees are doing well. PI is working on setting NA literature in local libraries and getting list of municipalities to read information to. Unity Committee held a learning day which also offered phone list training. Only a dozen or so people were on hand. A few speakers were also a no-show. H&I started the women's prison commitment in February. We also had an adhoc committee which went over the four new world service board generated service literature pamphlets. It is obviously up to each group what they want to do with the pamphlets, but our area wanted to take a deeper look at the literature. We also have a newly elected Alt. RCM – Mike O. (pause for applause). I have brought with me our area's CAR report results. 18 groups have submitted their votes. I'll turn these in to our RD, as well as a tally sheet that I did with our area's totals. I also have our area's donation of \$600.00. Upcoming events – Bowling at

Morrisville Lanes 4/4 at 10pm \$13.00 to bowl, \$3.00 to hang out, pizza for all. Battle of the bands – 4/19 at First Baptist Church, Emilie Rd, Levittown, PA at 3 pm. Another bowling night May 2nd. Memorial Day picnic is on May 26th, noon till dusk, at Plantation Grove, Tyler State Park, \$5.00 donation requested. In loving service, Paul D.

Montgomery County Area: RCM – Eric P. – Michelle A and I attended MARLCNA February 8-10, 2008. We also hosted a CAR Workshop on February 16, 2008 at St Cosmos Church in Conshohocken where attendance was poor. I will submit the CAR Report votes from Montco Area Today. Our donation to EPARNA is \$687.28. Eric P.

Pure and Simple Area: RCM – Kevin P. – General Information – The area chairperson, Damion B, made a comment at the February ASC that he sees the need for an annual inventory process due to growth within our area. An area inventory is being discussed within some homegroups within the area and, within the next coming months, there may be a motion brought to the area floor. The area has approved the creation of an area unity committee. The Unity Committee met for the first time last month and is currently developing policy. There was discussion about how to appropriate funds for the unity committee but no solution was agreed upon. The unity committee will be seeking direction from other unity committees within the region on how they allocate funds for their unity committees in an attempt to set a policy for our area. We continue to receive much support at the area level. Only four positions were open after all area positions rolled over in March. At least three of these positions area already called for but could not be filled due to the person not physically being in the building at the time of the election. New Meetings – Sharing Solutions meets Monday Nights from 7:30-8:45 pm, 25 Beulah Rd, New Britain, PA. Group News – Our area is growing, but there is still need for experienced homegroup members throughout the area. There are five groups within the area asking for this type of support. CAR Workshop – The conference agenda report workshop went very well. We had a great turn-out. There were 19 homegroups in attendance, two of which weren't even from this area. If you were not able to attend the CAR Workshop, there are still some packets of notes available. I will also include my notes in the area minutes this month. Motions - #1 There was a motion set forth to change the policy of the treasurer's requirements. This was a controversial motion because of three reasons: 1) It outlined a detailed method for calling upon previous treasurers to serve in a treasurer's absence. 2) Specified in an amendment, A treasurer and vice treasurer, or substitute, can not reside in the same house together. 3) Specified in an amendment, A treasurer has completed a term as a group level treasurer. There was much debate surrounding this motion. The amendment to the motion and the motion were eventually voted down in favor of our current area's policy on the requirements of a treasurer. #2 Motion to bring back a previous policy which required the area treasurer to provide a detailed treasurer's report in the area minutes each month. This motion was voted in. #3 The duties and requirements of the unity chairperson were voted in. #4 We reallocated the \$400 ad-hoc fund to a \$400 unity fund then created a \$200 ad-hoc fund. This was done to create funding for the unity committee already approved by the area.

Regional Delegate Report: RD – Henry D., RD alt – Merle H. – Hello everyone! We are getting ready for the Conference, but first, a report of our regional activities. After attending MARLCNA, we found ourselves trying to help people understand we still can ask one of several regions to motion our region for seating while at the conference. Unfortunately, the push for the moratorium is gaining momentum in some places. Regardless of what people may be hearing, nothing is set in stone either way! Right now, we plan on attending and doing our best to help people understand our needs and what we will bring to the World Service Conference if seated.

Also attended all areas to explain the seating situation and missed representation with reports. Most groups had little problem with the current situation and are more focused on the situations within their group structure. We also were able to attend Bucks, Montco and Pure & Simple CAR workshops to help explain the motions. Beehive did not hold a formal workshop on the CAR although they were informed Merle and I will be taking their motions to Philly.

On March 2nd, there was a meeting in the Beehive area to discuss plans of moving to Mid Atlantic Regional services. Merle and I attended along with the Mid Atlantic RD to answer questions the groups had on what services both regions were offering. We were given last minute breakdowns of what was felt to be the average donations/expenditures of Beehive ASC when represented within both regions. Unfortunately, our annual EPARNA debits were off by 50% and were not caught until after the fact. Needless to say, most of the discussion centered on the addict involvement between area and region. They will come to a decision at their next meeting on April 20th, which we plan to attend. We will support them in whatever happens.

We are meeting with the Greater Phila Regional Service Committee before our RSC and will forward a report as an addendum to this. Our mission is to continue to foster relations since they will be carrying our vote at WSC. Per the RD and Alternate, whatever the differences between votes of the two regions, our voice will be heard. We will be meeting with their delegates a week before the conference to tally up the votes. Please make sure your groups finish their ballots by April 15. We will accommodate last minute votes as best we can.

The report WSC asked of us is very generic and is included with this report.

Still in Loving Service,
Henry D.
& Merle H.
April 6, 2008

Addendum A: EPARNA report to WSC 2008.

Addendum B: Summary of our attendance at GPRSC before EPARSC today.

Facts about Eastern Pennsylvania Region (EPARNA)

Regional Delegate Henry Dietz
Have you attended a WSC before? Yes
Alternate Delegate Merle Hughes
Have you attended a WSC before? Yes
How many areas are in the region? Four
How many groups are in the region? 110
How many meetings take place each week in the region? 138
How many H&I panels take place each week in the region? 42

Donations and Literature

What was the total amt of money contributed to region by groups/areas in 2007? \$19,380.00
What were the total annual expenses for your region in 2007? \$9650.00
Where do you purchase your literature—your region's service office, NA World Services, or another source? Various purchase options are used by each ASC. RSC does not sell/distribute.
How much literature does the region distribute to H & I annually (in US dollars)? \$12,000.00

Your Regional Service Structure

Does your region participate in a zonal forum? Yes
If you answered "yes" above, which zonal forum? Autonomy Zonal Forum
Does your region have a regional office? No
Does your region have a regional convention? No
If you answered "yes" above, what is the average attendance? N/A
Do any areas in your region hold conventions? Yes
If you answered "yes" above, how many per year? 2
If you answered "yes" above, what is the average attendance at each? 400/600 respectively
Is there a corporation or an entity with legal status that is a part of your regional structure N/A.
If yes, what is the type of legal registration? N/A
If yes, did your regional corporation have to pay any taxes or duties last year? N/A
Do you have tax-exempt or duty-free status? N/A
Is your region insured? Yes
Has your region held discussions about any of the issue discussion topics over the past conference cycle? Yes, at a Regional Assembly & various ASC functions.
What can you share about the type of workshop or your experience with these efforts? We discussed issues, which had previously been taboo. We became more unified, and showed the newcomers about unity and service.
Has your region participated in any public relations efforts? YES
What can you share about the different types of efforts in which your region participated, or about your experience with these efforts? At each function, we were able to interact with the general public as well as select officials involved with potential new membership in our Fellowship. Most of these interactions have been followed up by PI presentations for the facilities these attendees are connected to.
Does the region have any type of NA phone line or a helpline?. Yes, we have a regional phone line. What can you share about your experience with these efforts? (See below)
Do all areas have their own phone line or helpline? No, we all use the regional helpline.
What can you share about your experience with these efforts? We found this more economical, unifying and effective overall.
Has your region hosted CAR workshops? We have facilitated three CAR workshops to go over the 2008 CAR motions and issue discussion questions.
If yes, did you workshop the discussion questions in addition to the motions? Yes, we workshoped the discussion questions and explained the procedure inputting the information.
Is there anything that you can share about your experience with these efforts? Many groups/GSRs were unaware of some of the tools, including the Area Planning Tool and the Building Strong Home group's worksheet. The exposure and discussion questions may lead some of these groups to incorporate these tools into their meeting.
Has the number of members in your region been growing, shrinking, or staying the same since WSC 2006? Since WSC 2006, there has been growth. Each of our areas has experienced a number of new groups.

Innovations and Challenges

What subject generated the most interest and discussion in your region over the past conference cycle? Local service structure, Public Relations issues, Medication in recovery and Methadone maintenance and other substances.
Please share some solutions to challenges your region has faced since WSC 2006. Some of our Areas had some Unity controversies in which we participated in with solutions. Being proactive with fund flow between RSC/WSC biannually.

Please share some highlights or successes your region has experienced since WSC 2006.

We finally found Group Insurance which suited our needs and have had insurance coverage since August 2007. Also, coordinated with parent region in a multi-regional meeting list.

What additional information would you like to share with other conference participants?

Conference Input

Is there anything in particular you want to discuss at the conference? We would like to see a forum for open discussion about the “proposed moratorium” and include the voices of “un-seated” regions.

Delegate Experience

What has worked well and what challenges have you experienced in your role as regional delegate?

Here is the report from our visit to the Greater Philly RSC on April 6, 2008.

We arrived in time to hear the beginning reports from the Philly Convention and RSO. It seemed very positive with their financial responsibility to the RSC. The Convention appeared successful but stated needing to renegotiate for better facilities handling from the hotel/convention center.

As far as Merle and I, we received a warm welcome from the regional committee. We introduced ourselves, thanked them for the support so far and look forward to working with their RDs at WSC 2008 on CAR motions. We opened the floor up for questions at the request of the RSC chair. One question was from someone who was a new RCM and wanted to know our history and the reasons for the split. In short, we explained the geographic need to unify the suburban areas and it seemed the time to do so, which appeared to be an acceptable answer.

The GPRSC Convention chair asked if we could possibly coordinate activities between the regions as an ongoing “cooperative effort”. We all agreed this would be our next mission in helping foster unity in both regions. We said we did not presently have a Regional Activities Committee or Chair but will present this to the Areas in working towards some multi-regional events in the near future.

Our overall feeling was the GPRSC visit was very well received and they look forward to mutual visits when our regional days are not conflicting. Unfortunately, Greater Philly meets the “first full” weekend on the Sunday of every even month. Since we meet the “first” Sunday, this leaves open only two or three times a year our reps could attend each other’s RSC meetings without conflict. Merle and I felt this very doable and will continue to do so as part of our duties to help unity.

Still in Loving Service,
Henry D.
& Merle H.
April 6, 2008

Subcommittee Reports:

H&I: Jessica F. – chair – We met today and all four area chair people were present. We are working on compiling an updated list of all H&I meetings in the region. There are currently 43 H&I meetings per week in our region. We are happy to announce we have a new co-chair, Tina E., and also a new secretary, Frank M. Next month we will schedule a date for our next Regional Learning Day. In loving service, Jessica F.

Meeting Lists: no chair, no report. Todd S. requested that all changes for area meetings be given to him, his email is on our directory listing as well as his phone number.

PI: Tom F – chair – We meet today without Pure & Simple, Montco or Beehive. We worked on website and updating phonenumber. More to follow on next months about these subjects. In loving service, Tom F.

Old Business:

None

B R E A K

Treasurer Report: Tim R. See attachment to minutes. See motion under new business. Also note....Tim is redoing signature cards at our bank to get new chairs name on and old chairs name off. Tim also discussed his Quicken computer software program which he is willing to sell to the region to continue to be used by any treasurer in the future....no discussion and no discussion was made regarding this software.

New Business from Areas:

Beehive: no new business.

Bucks County: no new business.

Montco: no new business.

Pure & Simple: no new business.

New Business from RD:

Unity Sub-Committee. To date we have not had a Unity Sub-Committee since the very beginning. We now have Unity Chair people in each area and now may be an ideal time to have a Regional Unity Sub-Committee chair person. In Bucks area the Co-Chair fills in in the absence of a chair person. That is also regional policy. If the Unity Chairs contact Todd S. and want to have a regional committee meeting then he will come. P&S RCM would like to see this happen since their Unity Committee is now being formed. Considering we may throw cooperative efforts with Philadelphia in the mix, maybe it would be good to consider our regional Unity Committee meeting in the even months obviously using Todd. Policy states that sub-committees meet every month. Per Todd....he will send around a piece of paper and if each area will write down their Unity Committee chairpersons information he will follow up with each chair personally and consider having meetings with them. He is not willing to pursue this if no area chairs are interested in showing up, but is willing if the chairs of the areas have willingness.

Area Planning Tool. It might be a good idea to consider an inventory for our region. This is just a suggestion. We can use the area planning tool and adapt it to a regional need. No further discussion.

New Business from Subcommittees:

H&I: no new business.

PI: no new business.

Meeting List: no new business.

Treasurer: Motion submitted:

Motion: To be reimbursed \$116.90 for treasurer supplies. These supplies include ink for the printer and a new storage case for bank statements, receipts, and miscellaneous documents.

Intent: To follow NA fund flow and financial responsibility.

Vote: 3 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention. Motion passes.

Nominations/Qualifications/Elections:

Current EPARNA Positions Open for Nominations at next regional meeting: **Co-Secretary, Co-Treasurer, Literature Review Chair, Unity Committee Chair, Newsletter Chair, Policy Chair, Meeting List Chair.**

**Please Note: Elections for a new RD & new RD Alt. will be coming up at June, 2008 Regional Meeting!!!
- 2 year commitment for both positions.**

Please bring nominations &/or volunteers to our next regional meeting for election into any open positions.

Open Forum:

Todd S. – totals for all areas motions being tallied for our region to take to Philadelphia 1-8 passed 9, 10 and 11 failed and #12 passed.

Meeting closed with the Serenity Prayer @ 3:30 pm.

Upcoming Regional Meeting Dates:

Regional Services	Subcommittees
June 1 st at 2pm	May 4 th and June 1 st at 1pm
August 3 rd at 2pm	July 6 th and August 3 rd at 1pm
October 5 th at 2pm	September 7 th and October 5 th at 1pm
December 7 th at 2pm	November 2 nd and December 7 th at 1pm

**Dates and times are subject to change.*

Upcoming Regional Events:

See Bucks County RCM's report above.