

RCM Report
March 28 2015

Dear members of the northern lights area,

On February 14 Marvella and myself headed down to St. Peter Minnesota for creating our common welfare. We had a wonderful time with over 30 addicts in attendance, and it was great to see so much passion in service and so many awesome things going on around the state of Minnesota. Here is our RCMA report.

We began with a discussion about our area has responsibilities. There was a very large discussion about directing addicts to NAMinnesota.org. There were a few interesting things expressed about this website noted here.

- The website is available in over 58 languages.
- you can login as a registered user to use more functions on the site.
- there is a smart phone meeting finder app.
- you can print off posters for use in facilities or in the public.
- we may request insurance for upcoming events.
- and a reminder that we can order literature and other items from the upper Midwest service office at Sabbathany.

Next was the discussion about the various project updates around the state of Minnesota.

Social media: there has been a lot more hits to our Facebook page and other social media. Jay has been creating video fliers for various events on Facebook and you can speak to him for guidelines about what is appropriate to post and not post. They would love more engagement online.

Bridging the gap: A reminder that you may sign up online under help wanted and it is a six-month clean time requirement.

The helpline: we have a major need for help! Into 2014 alone there were over 744 calls from addicts or loved ones to speak to volunteers. There were over 323 addicts calling to hear a recording in 2014 the grand total of 1067 calls in 2014. There is a one hour orientation over the phone to learn how to answer calls our area is asked to participate. I myself called the helpline when I was looking for meeting and found it very helpful and loving.

Sponsorship behind the walls: is looking for men to help sponsor!

The speaker directory: is for institutions or groups to find a speaker throughout the state of Minnesota. You may register to be a speaker at naMinnesota.org

Meeting lists: we need to let Joel know not to post naranon meetings on our NA meeting list online.

Transition fair is: volunteers are needed to bring and a materials on April 14 from 8 to 2 in Shakopee.

Next we were engaged in a discussion about money. It was stated that in our beginning one dollar was given, today could we give two dollars to the seventh tradition. These funds are used to further our primary purpose and what was good in the beginning is not exactly helping us to stay afloat today. It

was also stated that groups and members can donate directly to area and I believe also directly to region. There has been a huge increase in member we discussed budget versus cash flow. The question was, how big does our prudent reserve need to be before it gets dangerous or unnecessary. For region, anything beyond a prudent reserve is sent to NAWs quarterly. Lastly we looked up online registrations. We found out that Vermilion has the second highest registration online for Minnesota events just below MNNAC21!

Next Kit gave a report on progress not process. He pointed out that in a can often struggle with action versus talking about action. Minnesota region has been featured for three quarters in a row for the NA way magazine because of its "Minnoventions" regarding taking action for service in our region. It was stated that we may have overprotected NA with process. When does it keep us from carrying the message, when do we find ourselves in gridlock? Kit used an example about the metro Detroit area which has 19 areas in Detroit alone. In these 19 areas there are 19 help lines, addicts don't know where to turn to find a meeting in their area. Metro Detroit has been working on this problem for four years with no solution. Gridlock! When does process like this intimidate the newcomer from being of service. At region we seek creative ideas and we want everyone (not just service members) to be able to vote so that we have a large and loving group conscience. How can we streamline service in our area? Should we do away with quorum?

Then began a discussion about transitioning to a new service structure. Some areas in our region have transitioned to a group support for him, local service board, and local service conference structure. This structure of service would mean letting go of current NA service titles to make this new structure happen. Challenges around this have been bringing up personalities, fear of change, and that many addicts still don't understand what it would mean. This new structure has been implemented in various areas around the world. Does northern lights want to look at a new option for service? Or if it ain't broke don't fix it? The structure allows an addict with any amount of clean time to have a voice, though I'm not sure how this differs for us. There was not A push to join the service structure, just an interest in letting us know that some areas in our region are trying out and finding it to be very successful.

Lastly we closed with wouldn't it be cool if? Among the topics brought up at this discussion were the fact that our area plays capture the banner. We suggested wouldn't it be cool if we did a state wide version somehow? Since that discussion two areas have contacted me regarding starting capture the banner in their own areas. For further ideas brought up please check out NAMinnesota.org.

Thank you so much for sending us down to stay overnight. We had a wonderful time together and it was really cool to get to meet other members of service around the state. I would encourage more members to join us for the next regional service meeting. How cool would it be to show that Northern lights wants to have a say in what happens in our Minnesota region. Thank you for the opportunity to be of service!

Lovingly,
Marvella D. &
Matthew W.