

Area of Hope, Area Service Committee Meeting Minutes: January 19, 2013

Meeting was called to order @ 12:30 p.m

Opened with the Serenity Prayer

Service Prayer: Becky R

Welcome/ Introductions

Members in Attendance: 44

GSR's in Attendance: 14

12 Traditions: Mark / 12 Concepts: Angeline

Executive Committee Reports:

Chair: Becky R- Read the following letter:

Welcome to the Area of Hope Service Committee Meeting,

This has been the toughest month of my career as your Chair. As many know, our former treasurer approached me with the news that they have been stealing money from the Area for the past 12 months. Like yourself, I was caught completely off guard by this news.

In the wake of this information, many things have taken place that we usually don't have to do. It has been a learning experience for me and all those involved.

The first priority was to close our current checking account and open a new one. This was done to ensure that she was no longer able to write checks on our account. The treasury box and checkbooks were also collected. Signatures still need to be added to the account. I am hoping to have that done this week. Our current balance is \$120.

When we opened the account with TCF, the Area of Hope did not have an Employer Identification Number, we used my SSN to open it. This has been rectified, for banking purposes only, we now have an EIN and the account is no longer attached to my SSN.

This was followed with a complete audit of the Area of Hope books. This was performed by the Regional chair Jeff S and myself. The ending results were that \$4,597.63 was owed to the Area of Hope. The audit will be addressed by Jeff S.

On January 13, an AdHoc meeting was held between Mark A, Kathy M, and myself. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss options on how to deal with this situation, what we can do to keep it from happening again, and how do we move forward. From this discussion we derived the agenda for the January 26 meeting to address this issue. The implementation of an area audit quarterly was suggested, having bank statements available here at area, and implementing the Executive Committee meeting again. We met today. As always we are open to your suggestions and ideas to keep this from happening again.

We currently have 2 outstanding bills that need to be paid; the storage unit which has a valance of \$304 as of 1/18/2013 and USMO with a balance of \$600.00. Our storage unit is scheduled for auction on February 13, 2013 if not paid in full. The service office is willing to work out a payment plan with us. However until the balance is paid, we will not be able to charge literature to resupply for the area. Groups needing to purchase literature will have to go to Sabathani. Also, our H&I committee will not be able to get what they need for their commitments.

I know that many of us have ill feelings surrounding this issue. I also know that this is a strong area full of love and compassion. I believe that we can, lik the Phoenix, rise from the ashes and recover.

*Thank you for letting me be of service,
Becky R
Area of Hope Chair*

Announcement from Jeff S: special meeting January 26th 12-4 pm at Dayton/ Mackubin Church. Will announce the misappropriation of funds to bring back to groups. Performed the AOH audit on January 6th. As members, it's our responsibility to check bank statements. Not the 1st time this has happened. Bank statements will now be presented at Region. Prudent decision and well within their rights to have an AdHoc meeting to make a meeting to discuss. He has every confidence that trusted servants will keep things safe. Encouraged groups to continue to donate to Area.

Co-Chair: Kim W- Nothing to report.

Secretary: Open

Treasurer: Open. Jeff S did audit. June, Dec-March most of the money was taken. Multiple checks were w/ forged signature (Becky's). Amount owed is \$4597.63. Numbers never added up since June 2011.

RCM: Bruce P- Last week at Region was 2nd annual Online Conference. They approved minutes from last meeting. Donated \$2500 to World Regional Delegate Member and \$1800 to RDM to go to Symposium Workshop. There is approx \$13,000 in Region budget. If anyone needs the Region minutes, Bruce can forward/email them to you.

Sub Committee Reports:

Activities: Rufus- Nothing at this time.

H&I: Suz B- Amy here on behalf of Suz6. Passed out letter that read:

Our last Subcommittee meeting was held on Sunday, January 13, 2013 at 6pm in the community room at The Lodge (address below)

*Hospitals & Institutions service provides NA members with a unique opportunity; we bring the NA message to people who have no other access to NA meetings. Currently, the Area of Hope H&I Subcommittee coordinates five H&I panels in treatment centers and correctional facilities; three of them are weekly, and two are monthly. **The H&I Subcommittee is looking for speakers for all panels. Please spread the word to your groups.***

Requirements for H&I Service:

Addicts with six months or more clean time may participate as panel members by sharing their story, sharing on a topic, or reading NA literature. There is no minimum commitment of time to an H&I panel; addicts may attend on panel one time, or multiple panels as often as they are able.

Addicts with more than one year of clean time may serve as panel leaders or co-panel leaders. Panel leaders take on a six-month long commitment to bring a panel into a facility on a regular basis.

***To volunteer as a potential speaker or panel member, please email our name and contact info via the NA Minnesota website: www.naminnesota.org.** On the home page, click on "Area Service", then select "Area of Hope" from the drop-down menu, and then click on "Contact Us." Please type "H&I panel member" in the "Subject" line.*

If you are interested in being a panel or co-panel leader, or if you would like to know more about H&I service in general, please attend our next Subcommittee meeting (date and time below)

If you arrange to attend a panel, but your plans change and you are not able to attend, please let the panel leader know as soon as possible. For a copy of this report, please email subcommitteechair@yahoo.com. Contact Subcommittee Secretary, Roger W (952-843-3884). Vice Chair Karen E (651-487-5000) and/or me, Suz B (612-432-0770) with questions or comments.

Our next subcommittee meeting will be held on Sunday February 10th, 2012 at 2800 Rice St at 6pm.

*Grateful in recovery and service,
Suz B, Chair, H&I Subcommittee*

Public Information: still open

Literature: Amy- limited on supplies. Filling out orders the best we can. We will have to go to Sabathani until we pay off USMO

RCMA- still open

7th Tradition

Announcements:

- We need all NA members to step up to Area and service positions
- Feb 9th - South Suburban Fireside Area Fundraiser PIG Noon-5 Raffle. 1st Presbyterian Church

Break

Open Forum:

- Statement of the missing funds read:
Some of you may have heard about the mishandling of funds in the Area of Hope. These accusations will be fully addressed at a special meeting scheduled on Saturday, January 26th, 2013 from 12:00 to 4:00 pm at Dayton Avenue Presbyterian Church, 217 Mackubin Street, Saint Paul. The purpose of this meeting is:
 - *To bring the Area of Hope up to date on the actions already taken.*
 - *To make the person responsible for the theft aware of the charges against them.*
 - *To allow the person responsible for the theft an opportunity to respond.*
 - *To allow the fellowship an opportunity to express their feelings and concerns.*
 - *To discuss the recommended course of action.*

This meeting will be facilitated by a representative of the Minnesota Region and done within the spirit of each one's Higher Power and the spirit of the program of Narcotics Anonymous. Our purpose here is to help not to hinder. Your cooperation and input is welcome but let's do it in a way that is conducive to our purpose.

- There was a motion at 2:13 pm to skip ahead to voting in a new treasurer- passed
- There was a motion to extend meeting to finish meeting- passed

After some questions and answer session, Billy was voted in as the new treasurer.

Also, there was a collection for the payment of the balance due at the storage unit that collected: \$170.00.

The next ASC will be on Saturday February 16th @ 12:30 pm. The Executive Committee meets before the ASC @ Nina's Café on the corner of Western and Selby in St Paul @ 11:30am. All are welcome to attend. Thank you for allowing me to be of service to the Area of Hope.