

## **AASC Minutes for May 2, 2016 (corrected by SD)**

**OPENING OF THE MEETING:** Alan M

**READINGS:**

Service Prayer-

Decorum Statement-

Twelve Traditions-

Twelve Concepts-

**APPROVAL OF LAST MONTH'S MINUTES:**

**ROLL CALL:** (½ plus one = quorum)

**NEW GROUPS TO BE RECOGNIZED:** None

**AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA:**

**ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Reports submitted are included here.

**CHAIR-**Alan M. Verbal Report.

**VICE CHAIR:** Doug P. Absent

**SECRETARY:** Melissa C Please continue to email reports to

[aascnasecretary3@gmail.com](mailto:aascnasecretary3@gmail.com)

In Loving Service, Melissa C.

**TREASURER:**. Reports attached to email

**GROUP REPORTS:** Secretary received reports from the following groups, unless otherwise noted

**CLEAN & SERENE:** Shannon- \$28 Donation

**EAGLE RIVER GROUP-** Zach- Emailed report from Michelle

The Eagle River group of Narcotics

Anonymous meets at Joy Lutheran Church, located at 10111 Eagle River Rd. Eagle River Ak. 99577.

We are back to 4 meetings a week due to a large number of home group members relocating. We now meet Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturdays still 6:30 to 7:30.

Eagle River group has \$20.00 to donate to area.

We have a nomination for Activities Chair and are prepared to vote on all issues.

Blessed To Serve,

Michelle Z

**FROZEN CHOZEN:** Wayne- written report \$30 donation

**GONG SHOW:** Absent emailed report Peter addict,

The gong show meets 6-7p.m. upstairs at the Alano club mon-thurs. We have a text study meeting on Monday, a tag mtg. On Tues. and a popsicle stick mtg. on Wednesdays. Our attendance is averaging 15- 20 with some newcomers regularly. We are stocked up on literature and supplies. Rent is paid and we are ready to vote. We have a \$10 donation this month. That we will bring next month. I was unable to attend area due to work. In

loving service,

Peter P.

**HIGHER GROUND:** Absent

**CLAIM YOUR SEAT:** James addict,

I am the GSR for claim your seat. We meet every day of the week at the Anchorage Alano club. Sunday-Thursday we meet at from 930pm-1030pm and Friday and Saturday we meet from 11pm-12am with game night on Thursday after the meeting. Our business meeting is held on the Wednesday prior to area at the village inn on Spenard at 7pm. Our meeting attendance varies from 10-20 addicts seeing a few newcomers at

most meetings. We currently are stocked up on keytags and have some literature. Ready to vote on all matters. No money to donate at this time

ILS,

James and the claim your seat meeting

**LIFESAVERS** Lifesavers it's a small group of dedicated addicts that meets Monday Wednesday and Friday from 2ish to 3ish, we welcome all newcomers and would love to have additional home group members. Summer months weather permitting, we will meet outside for some recovery in the Sun. We may even BBQ. We are ready to vote on all matters, we have no donation this month but will make up for it next month. In loving service.

Viva

**THE MEETING ON THE CORNER: Mike**

**MORNING AFTER:** Todd \$15 donation-The Morning After Group is looking for a new GSR; Mike L. is leaving for a while; the group will be represented at the next AREA Meeting by Todd, who also attends the OUR GRATITUDE SPEAKS Meeting; it is suggested that if Todd is allowed to vote, he should follow Keith, GSR for OUR GRATITUDE SPEAKS, and vote as he does; he has my proxy. Todd also is caretaking the group's backpack and funds and plans on contributing some \$40 or more to AREA; the Group continues to meet on Sunday at Peggy's, and Mike L. will help keep it going on his return May 20, 2016, at least until he leaves again for a long time in late June--Mike L, GSR

**NA AT THE VA:** Absent

**THE NA WAY:** Charlie No Donation

**OUR GRATITUDE SPEAKS:** Keith \$33 Donation

**OUT AND ABOUT:** Chris- Written report no donation

**ROUNDAABOUT:** Absent

**SISTERS IN THE SOLUTION:** Absent

**UNITY, ACCEPTANCE, ADDICTION:** Rob T- Written Report \$25 Donation

**WALK YOUR TALK** Maike \$50 Donation

We meet Monday through Saturday from 12-1 at First Baptist Church on 27th. Corner of Northern Lights and la Touché. Our attendance has improved ... We have potluck lunch on Wednesday please join us. Bring a dish or just enjoy. We have a donation of \$50.00 to make.

We are ready to vote. In grateful service, Maike

**907 RECOVERY:** Absent

**BETTER LIFE GROUP:** Absent

**NO MORE BENT BLINDS:** Absent

**VALLEY GSF:** Absent

**1/8<sup>th</sup> of Hope:** Absent

Meetings that need to be verified

No More Bent Blinds

Better Life Group

1/8 Hope

**SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:** All submitted reports are included.

**NEWSLETTER: POSITION OPEN**

**PUBLIC INFORMATION:** Chris M. Hello My Name is Chris and I am an addict Public Information still meets the Sunday after area at 4pm. We will not be meeting this Sunday due to it being mothers day. We will meet on may 15<sup>th</sup>. We currently have a booth at schools on addiction being held at The Sheraton Hotel. We have an NA meeting being held 5/2 and 5/3 from 7-8pm in room 315. We hope to see some support from our fellowship. Please get all schedule changes to PI prior to the next cycle of schedules coming out. Thanks, in loving service, Chris M.

**HOSPITALS AND INSTITUTIONS:** Susan- Verbal Report

**ACTIVITIES:** Rob T. See please attached report.

**LITERATURE:** Erik M (written report was read by Alan M and not handed back to secretary tsk tsk)

**CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT:** Dave L. Not Present

**RCM REPORT:** Arlene L -verbal report not received by secretary- will forward if emailed

Open Regional Positions

Vice Chair

Secretary

Treasurer

PI

Literature

Kenai Women's Retreat had 55 women

**Sharing Session**

GSF Report: No Report Draft Motion attached to email  
2017 Convention Chair Absent

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Susan for Regional Secretary 6 in favor 5 abstain 0 no

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Keith move to waive Area Committee service requirement for Nick and Victorious Nick Pro-tem into position until next month.
- Mike L presented motion from GSF please see motion attached to email.

Invitation for Sub Committee Nominations

Alt Secretary- Open

Alt Treasurer- Open

Recap of Action Items:

Waiving area service requirements for Nick B and Victorious  
Motion from GSF

Announcements

ADHOC Committee Sunday May 22<sup>nd</sup> @630pm at Peggy's.  
Marie Suggests Alano Club as alternate place

Next Area meeting June 6<sup>th</sup> Peggy's 630pm  
Anchorage GSF meets May 21 @ 540pm

Motion to close

May 2, 2016

TO: Anchorage Area NA Group

FROM: Frank Z.

RE: May Treasurer's Report

This past month, I balanced our books; I paid phone service 82.40, and the rent for our storage unit of 92.00. We have a Bank Balance of \$3003.16.

Frank Z



Notes for GSF 4-23-16

We opened by reading the Serenity Prayer and *Vision for NA Service Statement*.

1. Discussion topic was *alternating the Area Service meeting with the Group Support Forum*. Currently both of these meetings are held monthly. See agenda (attached).

2. Promptly it was posed, "is there consensus here (at the GSF meeting) to alternate GSF and Area meetings?" There was not because there are too many potential issues associated with such a change.

3. **Background Discussion:** We digressed into a discussion about the NAWS (NA World Services) *Service System Project (SSP)* because some of us at the GSF were not very familiar with it. A link to the *2014 CAR Service System Essay* is included at the end for anyone who wants a detailed overview of the SSP.

The SSP grew out of observations of apathy, poor atmosphere of recovery, too few members doing service, etc. in our service system. The *Vision for NA Service* grew out of the project (WSC 2010). At the 2014 WSC strong majorities approved moving in a direction of a service system that included the *Group Support Forum*, a *Local Service Conference*, and a *Local Service Board*.

The *Local Service Conference (LSC)* is basically "Area", which includes the GSRs, the executive committee (chair, v chair, secretary, and treasurer), and the subcommittee chairs. The *Local Service Board (LSB)* is a subset of the LSC, and consists of the executive committee and the subcommittee chairs.

One of the "foundational principles" of the SSP is *Flexibility*. (Other principles include *Purpose Driven*, *Group Focused* and *Collaborative*.) Flexibility allows us to adopt what works for us. However it may benefit us to look at the SSP model in so far as NAWS spent 3 conference cycles (6 years) and numerous workshops developing it.

In the SSP "model", Area (or LSC) meets every three months and the GSF meets in between. In the SSP, the Area is dedicated to strThe LSB continues to meet every month (to avoid interruptions in the delivery of H&I, PR, and other services). From a SSP Webinar, the Dallas Area service system rotates through GSF, Area, and a planning meeting in turn.

4. It was acknowledged that while our earlier GSF agendas had focused on *group* topics ("Unity and Apathy", "Holding Effective Meetings", or "How can we train our GSRs?" etc.), topics in the last year had migrated to *Area Service* topics (including "Prioritizing Activities", "Communication", and "Finances" among others). Mike L had asked a couple of times, "I thought this was a *group support* meeting?" Indeed. Notwithstanding, we had rationalized that since Area essentially consists of the groups, then Area business is group business.

Generally the GSF topics have come from a list of priorities established by members at the June 2015 GSF. However, we have picked up topics along the way when those are

Attending:

|           |                       |
|-----------|-----------------------|
| Michael L | Morning After         |
| Zach      | Eagle River           |
| Lou Ann P | Round About           |
| Joe L     | Mtg on the Corner     |
| Mike,     | GSR Mtg on the Corner |
| Rob T     | UAA Group             |
| Doug P    | Clean & Serene        |
| Susan S   | NA Way                |
| Darren    | Mtg on the Corner     |
| Doug      | Clean and Serene      |

what participating members wanted to talk about. It has been a bit of an epiphany that topics about area service fall into a “planning” genre.

**The takeaway here is we should not lose the group focus while seeking to improve Area service delivery.**

5. We addressed the question, “What do the Area and GSF meetings do?” or “What distinguishes the GSF meeting from the Area meeting?”
  - a. Area conducts service delivery including H&I, Public Relations (or PI), planning Activities, printing schedules, etc. Area has a treasurer and finances that funds these services on behalf of the groups. These servants and subcommittees are responsible to the groups and take direction from the groups, and that constitutes the business that is Area.
  - b. The GSF is a “discussion” based platform. “Better” consensus is reached at the GSF than is typical at Area because members take more time to listen and speak to issues than is possible during the Area sharing session. The Area sharing session has to be brief.

Even so, the Valley GSF provides essential services that, because of geographic challenges, the Anchorage Area fails to provide effectively. These include Rally planning, outreach to support struggling groups, and H&I training.

6. Finally, “What does Area lose by meeting every other month?”
  - a. The first reservation raised was that we lose “7<sup>th</sup> Tradition”. As a result of Area not meeting in August 2015 (GSF met instead) and not collecting the 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition funds from groups, Area Treasury fell below the prudent reserve. This interrupted funds to H&I, PI, and Literature. However, a look at the financial record shows that Area did not lose funds, but rather suffered a cash flow issue in August. From the financial record, groups saved and donated their August donation in September.

Area treasury was low in 2015, which contributed to the problem. Area should not suffer a cash flow problem this year because the groups have stepped up, providing Area with an Activities committee.

There was suggestion about collecting 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition at the GSF. Indeed we could. See below on the discussion about who should attend the GSF.
  - b. What about accountability – the H&I, PR, Activities, and Literature service committees are accountable to the groups? What do the groups lose by not meeting with the subcommittee chairs and other Area servants every other month (or quarterly for that matter)?

This is a problem of communication. For instance, the PI subcommittee is planning to man a booth at the school of addictions and needs volunteers; such an announcement would need to have been made 2-mos in advance at Area meeting if we were meeting bi-monthly.



Could we improve communication between the subcommittees and the groups and meet every other month? It was mentioned that groups should send somebody to the service subcommittee meetings. If groups sent someone to each subcommittee meeting, the service committee info would get trickle back to the groups.

In any case, Area could improve communication. Forming a virtual group such as Google Groups would help. Such a platform streamlines disbursement of reports and notices. It also maintains email anonymity of members, which has been a complaint of some members lately.

- c. "Who goes to the GSF?" Should *any trusted servants* be required to go to the GSF? Most present felt "yes".

- i. Generally it was felt that GSRs should attend the GSF. This way the group knows what is happening at the GSF and contributes to the discussion. If not the GSR, then some other person from the group should attend the GSF.

Using the Area quorum list could encourage attendance. Three absences from Area removes a group from the quorum list – in this case absence from the GSF would count too. There was some discussion about how effectively Area manages this – they are not 100% but they manage it.

- ii. What of the Executive Committee or the subcommittee chairs? Should they attend GSF?

As was brought up earlier, it might be practical to have a Treasurer at the meeting. On the other hand, the case is not strong that we need to collect 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition, which requires a treasurer. There is more to explore here.

One of the members stated that the Chair and V. Chair should go to know what is going on. They are leaders that draft the Area agenda and should "have their ear to the ground" as it were.

Secretary was deemed more essential. GSF needs a note keeper, and while it need not be the Secretary, GSF needs a note keeper.

Generally it was held that the subcommittee chairs *need not* be required to attend. They attend their own stand alone monthly meeting anyway. They should attend if the agenda item was relevant to the subcommittee.

Overall, the jury is still out on who should attend the GSF and this discussion is incomplete. In the SSP model of the GSF, anyone is invited to the GSF but no one is required to go. Also, in the case that a GSF sends a proxy on behalf of some or all of the participating groups, then those groups should have gone to the GSF.

Just having the GSF on Mondays would guarantee more participation.

- d. Elections: How would that work?

If the Area Nominations for executive committee were brought in September (as usual), the elections would be delayed one month until November. The

incumbent of the current Area system would serve an extra month but after that the system works out that the executive committee holds their offices for 12 months, from the end of the November meeting through the following November meeting.

The same holds for subcommittee chairs elected in April. Under the modified system, the subcommittee chairs would be nominated in March and elected in May.

**Follow Up:**

1. Discuss the Local Service Board (executive committee and Subcommittee chairs) meeting separately from the GSF when the Area does not meet. This is so in the NAWS “SSP model”. Provisionally, this is included in the draft motion to alternate GSF and Area (attached).
2. Do we collect 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition at the GSF? If so then the Treasurer needs to go to the GSF.
3. Continue discussion about who should go to the GSF.
  - a. Should Anchorage GSRs go to the Anchorage GSF? Should an Anchorage GSF representative go to the Valley GSF?
  - b. Valley GSRs should go to the Valley GSF. Should the Valley GSF representative to Area go to the Anchorage GSF?
  - c. Should Area V. Chair or Chair go to the Anchorage GSF? And to the Valley GSF?
  - d. Should RCM go to the GSF?
4. How do we separate the “Service Improvement” (herein called “planning”) meetings from the “Group Support” topics? Area improvement is fertile ground for growth, but we neglect group support at our peril. “Building Strong Home groups” is important to anyone who belongs to a group, particularly any that are struggling, and there are a number of those.
5. Next meeting is May 21<sup>st</sup>.
6. A motion to take back to the groups is attached.

Link to the Service System Project for anyone wanting to know more about it:  
[http://www.na.org/admin/include/spaw2/uploads/pdf/servsys/Service\\_System\\_Project\\_Background.pdf](http://www.na.org/admin/include/spaw2/uploads/pdf/servsys/Service_System_Project_Background.pdf)

## **A motion to alternate GSF and Area meeting for a year trial.**

*That Area and the Anchorage GSF meet on alternating first Monday of the months, which may encourage more groups to participate in the monthly Group Support Forum (GSF).*

*That the Area executive committee and standing subcommittee chairs meet separately on the GSF months to support the service subcommittee chairs, respond to committee requests, and/or whatever business can be accomplished without the full decision making body (GSRs) present.*

*While attendance is optional, Anchorage GSRs (or somebody from each Anchorage group) is encouraged to attend. (Any member of the fellowship is encouraged to attend.)*

*Valley GSRs are encouraged to attend the Valley GSF. Area encourages the Valley GSF representative to attend. Area will send someone to attend the Valley GSF.*

### **Intent of the Motion**

- To fine tune guidelines for alternating the GSF and Area meetings. GSF is in the midst of discussing how this can best serve our Area. At the same time, it does not appear that it will detract from our Area mission to routinely alternate GSF and Area meetings.
- That more groups participate in the GSF. While the primary purpose of the GSF (among other things) is to address group issues, the GSF has also evolved into a discussion forum to improve local service. Ideas from the GSF may be brought to the Area business meeting. In this respect, it benefits the Area to have more groups participate at the GSF.
- That Area meetings become more meaningful and purpose driven.
- Reducing the frequency of the Area meeting is consistent with the NAWS Service System project. In the SSP, the Area executive committee, the standing subcommittee chairs, and the GSRs, referred to collectively as the *Local Service Conference*, meet quarterly. This motion is a less radical departure from current practice, while we are moving in the same direction. There may be good reason for Area to meet quarterly, rotating in turn with a GSF and a service improvement “planning” meeting, but it is believed that most of the groups are comfortable meeting every other month at this time.
- Area elected officers would hold a separate monthly meeting to discuss issues and challenges facing the service subcommittees including human and financial resource issues. This separate meeting would be

### **The financial impact of the Motion**

We do not believe there is financial impact. It is believed that the