

Anchorage Area NA Newsletter

2012 April (2nd edition)

The purpose of this newsletter is to keep Anchorage Area Narcotics Anonymous members informed of the events and happenings of our fellowship.

Every attempt is made to adhere to NAWS guidelines for newsletters.

The content contained herein expresses the views and knowledge of its contributors, not N.A. as a whole.

Newsletter Committee
Members

Chair/Editor: Doug P

Secretary: Amber

Staff Writer: Derek

Distribution: Open

**Never Alone Newsletter
Committee meets Wed at
6:30pm at Kaladis on
Frontage Road**

Have you got some NA information, news, a recovery related story, or an event you wish to include in next month's newsletter? E-mail: anchoragenanewsletter@yahoo.com



ANCHORAGE AREA MEETING — APRIL 3

Alan M's Vice Chair report touched on his experience at the recent GSR Assembly including the following:

“Some of the main points were the importance of meeting the needs of our groups ... mentoring new trusted servants, education about the service structure, and keeping the focus on the most important work done at the group level -- carrying the message of recovery to the addict who still suffers. I feel it is sometimes difficult at Area to adequately meet the concerns of the groups, new GSRs, and members new to service, and conduct business in a timely manor. The concept and tradition presentations are part of this.

If the GSRs could bring this up at your business meetings and have some suggestions for how the Area could better meet the needs of your group maybe we can work together to better serve our fellowship. “

Treasurer's Report: Regarding funds, there is a \$2,446 bank balance after deducting pending expenses, which means there is \$946 over our \$1500 prudent reserve.

Public Information: This committee completed a mail out last month with only two people – way to go Jack and Joe!

Hospitals and Institutions: Terry H thanked the fellowship for the opportunity to serve as chair last term. She also gave the nod to Henry J for stepping up as chair and Debbie S for stepping into V. Chair.

The Election results are as follows:

- Jack S elected PI Chair (2nd term)
- Henry J elected H&I Chair (1st term)
- Ellsworth elected RCM (2nd term)
- Melissa C elected Activities Chair (1st term)
- Charlotte D elected Literature Chair (1st term)

The proposed Area Guideline amendments failed to garner the 2/3 majority vote to pass.

ANCHORAGE AREA ACTION ITEMS:

• ***The vote for Carol K as Alternate RCM.***

Carol has 2 years clean; she will have 3 years this coming June 10th, thus she has the required clean time. She has been active in her home group and served as GSR for about 2 years thus she meets the minimum 2-year service requirement, one of which must be at the Area level.

The Responsibilities of the Alternate RCM are: (i) works closely with the RCM; (ii) attends all AASC and ARSC meetings; and (iii) assumes the responsibilities of the RCM as required by RCM absence.

• ***Vote on the Motion that AASC cancel the ACS help line and utilize the (Alaska Regional) toll-free statewide help line service.***

Said motion has been tabled for “more information” two months running. Significantly “more information” came in March when the treasurer reported that in June the ACS monthly fee would drop from over \$200 per month to around \$85 a month as the Yellow Page ad and charges drop off. The intent of the Lifesavers motion was to get out from under a monthly bill of over \$200, which exceeds the sum of our PI and H&I budgets combined. Now, the question the groups need to ask themselves is, “Is \$85 per month too much to pay?” Another question might be, “Will the service cost Region more than \$85 per month?” Unknown. However, we do know that the Regional service line will cost about 90 cents per minute. Do we know how many calls the Anchorage Area Help Line gets a month? No. Another more important question might be, “Will the Regional Help Line provide better service than the current Anchorage Help Line service?” The short answer is probably not.

REGARDING THE ANCHORAGE AREA WEB SERVANT POSITION:

The most conspicuous effect of not passing the Area Guideline changes is it leaves our Area without someone to help maintain the Anchorage Area portion of the web page. Last month the Regional Web Servant, aka the Regional PI Chair, could not post our draft guideline amendments because of a snafu with the date on said proposal. An Area web servant could have remedied this and posted the draft guideline changes.

In light of last December's overwhelming support of a motion to establish an Anchorage Area "Web Servant", the possibility of appointing an Anchorage Web Servant pro temp was discussed at the April Area meeting. David P's name came up as someone willing and able to do this service. Interestingly, Maike from *Walk Your Talk*, stated that David P had emphasized in their business meeting that the (Anchorage) Web Servant's role would be to maintain the Anchorage Area section of the web page with oversight from the Regional Web Servant. In other words, this position hardly warrants the title "Web Servant" at all. Obviously David has both talked to Anne (Regional PI Chair) and considered what the role would be.

One wonders why we have not created an ad hoc committee to develop guidelines for this Anchorage-helper-of-the-Web-Servant position. We need it. No Anchorage Area Minutes have been posted on the Web Page since May of 2011 – nearly a year ago. In the meantime, the executive committee needs to consider appointing a Web Servant Helper or Anchorage Web Servant or whatever it will be called pro temp.

GROUP NEWS***New Men's Step Study***

Where: Dry Dock

When: 2 pm to 3 pm on Saturdays

Soul to Soul schedule Change

Soul is dropping its Monday meeting for lack of attendance. Soul will continue to meet on Weds at 7 pm at the Leake Temple Annex at 408 N Hoyt. "The Weds meeting may go too if attendance does not pick up". Weds meeting is a Step and Tradition Study group. This is one of the oldest meetings in Anchorage and the only evening meeting in that part of town. (Road to Recovery meets days.)

REGIONAL NEWS**Regional Assembly March 31**

ARSC held its GSR Assembly on 3-31-12. Robert G and Doug P presented 2012 NAWS Conference Agenda information from 1 pm to 5:30 pm. There were about 30 members attending, most of whom stayed through the whole Assembly. Of course, there was Pizza and cake to break it up. Robert said later, "the members and the interaction is what made the event". Groups were very conscientious sending their GSRs.

Most of the groups represented were from Anchorage, though the Clean Machine and Dopeless Hope Fiends from Kenai were present. Golden Heart had a "fellowship wedding" which eclipsed the Assembly. Embracing newlyweds with less than a year in recovery – cannot be bad.

Robert and Doug will carry the Regional conscience to the World Conference April 29 through May 5. They plan to tally group votes prior to departure. Conference activity will be posted periodically.

ARSC Meeting March 31

After the Assembly, the Region conducted a business meeting sans Golden Heart. Highlights include the following:

- Juneau is planning a campout for April 21st and an event around the NAWS *Recovery Cruise* visit in August.
- Kathy W, Charlotte D, and Lou Ann P were voted in as ARSC Chair, Treasurer, and Literature subcommittee chair respectively.
- Anchorage (Elsworth) nominated Dave P as ARSC Secretary.

The vote to (i) add the H&I provisions to the Regional Guidelines and (ii) the vote on Golden Heart's bid to host the 2013 Convention was tabled. Since these had only been introduced at the Regional February 1 meeting, the vote had not come back from the groups to the Areas.

The next Regional meeting is May 22 at 6:30 pm. (i) at Freedom Frog or (ii) call in Toll Free (866)390-5250 followed by Access Code 7488087 # Sign.

PI NEEDS YOU: The PI Committee needs members to tend the NA booth during the Annual School of Addictions scheduled May 7 – 9th. **Contact Jack S @ 717-6961** to get involved. PI meets on the 1st Sunday after Area at Peggy's.

H&I ORIENTATION: H&I is having an orientation for those interested in carrying the message into institutions after the regular H&I Subcommittee meeting. People need 6 months clean to be a panel member with Hospitals and Institutions. .

Where: at Wings & Things in the mall located at 36th and Arctic

When: April 26th at about 7:30 pm

ACTIVITIES: The Activities Committee meets at 6 pm on the 2nd and 4th Weds of each month at Kaladis Coffee Shop on Brayton Drive. Activities is looking for help with the Memorial Day Picnic and the June Campout.

AN INTERVIEW WITH KARA I.

What brought you to NA? Originally? I was looking to get the military off my back. I just wanted to get clean long enough to begin using successfully and get my CO off of my back.

What is your clean date? July 9th, 2010.

What did you find attractive about your first few meetings or when you first came to NA? I really didn't find it attractive until I entered rehab. Slowly I started to hear a message. I began feeling like "they get it" and I started to feel not so alone.

What gave you hope you could stay clean? I was originally doing it out of spite, but slowly began witnessing other people stay clean, seeing them go through things clean that I would have used over. This gave me hope.

Did you go to 90 meetings in 90 days? I missed one meeting (out of 90). That was because the base shut down after 9/11 and I wasn't able to leave. (Kara had been clean previously for 8 ½ years before moving to Anchorage from Wisconsin and Colorado)

What meetings did you go to in your early recovery? The women's meeting was a big one. The noon Roundabout meeting at the Alano and Frozen Chosen.

What meetings do you go to now? Walk Your Talk, The Burning Desire and Dynamite Thursday Night.

Do you have a home group? Yes. The Burning Desire.

Do you have a sponsor? What role has your sponsor had in your recovery? Yeah I have a sponsor. She's been pivotal in my recovery. I definitely wouldn't be where I'm at without her. She walked through a lot of what I have walked through. She's given me a lot of hope.

What was the most important factor to you to stay clean in your early recovery? My son. I had lost custody of my son and the only way I would get that back was by staying clean. You know, I had to do it for me, but he was a big part of why I was clean.

Have you worked any steps? Yeah. I worked a full set of steps. I'm currently on my second set of steps.

What's your experience with the first set of steps compared to the second set? I don't know how to word it. It's not that the 2nd set isn't honest; it's that the first set was brutally honest. This second set I'm covering a different level.

What has been the most difficult part of your time in early recovery? Coming here and coming to a new fellowship. Having to reach out to people I didn't know.

What service position(s) do you hold? I'm on the merchandising committee for the convention. I do great one on one with another addict.

"Thank you Kara!" from all of us at the newsletter sub-committee, for giving this interview and for your presence and participation in the fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous. Most of us know who Kara is but if you don't and are wondering.....she's the one with the purple hair!

Interview by D.W.

MARK YOUR CALENDER — EVENTS

**Frozen Chosen
Annual PROM NIGHT**

When: Saturday, April 28th

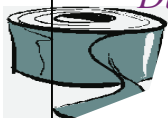
Time: 6 pm to whenever

Where: Viking Hall (above the Dry Dock)



Duct Tape Ball for those who Stick and Stay!

Dinner, Speaker, and a Dance!



VALDEZ

6TH ANNUAL IN-TENTS CAMPOUT

Where: at the Glacier campground in Valdez
(The same camp ground as last year).

Date: June 1, 2, and 3



If anyone one wants to pre-order hoodies, or has any thoughts, suggestions, or questions, call or text.

Thanks all, Chris K

Chris K 255-2641 or 835-2641

**Anchorage MEMORIAL WEEKEND PICNIC on
SUNDAY, MAY 27th**

Where: Ruth Arcand Park

When: Noon to 5 pm Games, Good Times,
(set up is 10 am to noon, and Recovery for all.
cleanup is 5 pm to 6 pm)

KENAI CAMPVENTION

- **Date:** July 27 – 29
- **Place:** the Alaska Christian Retreat facility.

The Campvention Logo contest is open until April 30.

RALLY IN THE VALLEY

The Valley Fellowship is hosting the 4th annual Rally in the Valley:

When: JULY 6, 7, and 8.

Where: Matanuska River Park, Mile 17 Old Glenn Highway. Camping fee is \$10. \$15 for power hook up.

GOLDEN HEART BLOWOUT

- **Date:** July 20 to 22
- **Place:** Chena Lakes Recreation Area, North Pole

SERVICE ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

The Convention Fund Raiser on April 30 was attended by about 30 paying members — which was a little disappointing by some accounts — and a couple of treatment centers. Thanks for Casey P for sharing! A big thanks go to Allen and Ashe for shearing Mohawk and Dreadlocks to the highest bidder. Also way to go Kitchen Crew! Suzanne, Micah, Joe Bar, Jeff V, Morgan, and Jay (sorry if we missed anyone). Also way to go Isaac for drumming up the treatment center clients.

CONVENTION COMMITTEE NEWS

Convention Committee selected the 2012 Theme and Logo at its April 1 meeting. Dave L. created the winning submittal. How many times is that Dave?

Convention will be held:

Date: October 27, 28, and 29th

Where: Millennium Hotel in Anchorage

Convention Committee encourages members to get involved by helping the various subcommittees. Subcommittees chairs are as follows:

- Registration: Charlotte D. 268-7730
- Information: Isaac H. 717-5766
- Programming, Lori W. 529-7723
- Entertainment, Catelyn 744-0774

