

**Anchorage Area NA
Newsletter
MAY 2012**

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
Staff Writer: Derek W
Distribution: Open

**Never Alone Newsletter
Committee meets Wed at 6pm
at Kaladis on Brayton Drive**

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:

anchorageanewsletter@
yahoo.com



ANCHORAGE AREA MEETING — MAY 7

Secretary Report: Please note that our Secretary has a new email:

AASCNASECRETARY@GMAIL.COM

Treasurer's Report: Regarding funds, there is a \$2,392 bank balance after deducting pending expenses, and which includes the \$1500 prudent reserve.

Items of note at

- Carol K was voted in as Alternate RCM.
- *Empty Chair Group* of NA was welcomed to the Area Committee. *Empty Chair* is a step working meeting that meets on Saturdays from 2 to 3 pm at the Dry Dock.
- David P declined the pro temp appointment to Anchorage Area Web Servant.
- *Life Savers* withdrew their motion to drop our local Help Line and

Since the May Area meeting, Josh, our Area Chair, appointed Shannon D Anchorage Area Web Servant pro temp. Shannon's job will be to help Anne H, Regional PI Chair, post to and maintain the Anchorage Area section of the AKNA.org web page. Shannon has been in touch with Anne and is working out the job scope.

ANCHORAGE AREA ACTION ITEMS:

- *Dynamite brought a Motion that the H&I Subcommittee follow the NA H&I Guidelines*

Intent: This assures that the H&I Subcommittee follows the direction of the Area.

Background: In the last year, one of our H&I Subcommittee members began serving as a panel member on one of our H&I commitments. Since then, some months ago, this panel member's responsibility morphed into "panel leader". Only recently, at the April 26 H&I meeting, the H&I subcommittee took up the question of waiving said member's clean time. The member had 7 months clean at the April meeting. The member had completed orientation and had been effectively fulfilling the weekly commitment. After "20 to 30 minutes" of discussion and deliberation, a large majority of the subcommittee members voted to waive the clean time requirement.

Quoting from the essay on Concept Three — "We often use motions and guidelines to help us apply the Third Concept. We clearly describe each task we want accomplished, and the kind of authority we are delegating to those who will fulfill the task. However even the most exhaustive set of guidelines cannot account for every eventuality. Our Trusted Servants will serve us best when we grant them the freedom to exercise their best judgment in fulfilling the responsibilities we've assigned them. Our services must remain directly accountable to those they serve, yet they must also be given a reasonable degree of discretion in fulfilling their duties. A group, service board, or committee should consult its collective conscience in arriving at its own understanding of the best way to apply this concept."

At the May 17th H&I meeting, Dena was voted panel leader of the subject commitment until the aforesaid member gets a year clean. The aforesaid member is still enthusiastic about the commitment.

World Service Conference 2012 — *Inspired by Our Primary Purpose*

The WSC is a business meeting where the formal business and decision making of the NA World Services (NAWS) is conducted every two years. Fourteen (14) groups (of about 52 groups) from Alaska participated in the CAR (Conference Agenda Report) voting this year, or about 28% of the groups. Actually this was probably better than average participation as determined informally talking to others at the conference. I

In the future I hope to communicate information about workshops, New Business, and the people at the conference. Because of space constraints, this edition is limited to Old Business, the CAR business that we voted on. The CAT business was “new business” at the conference.

In the following, the business motions results are touched on but the motions themselves are not fully transcribed because of space limitations. The official *Summary of Decisions* is posted at AKNA.org under “Region” tab. A tally of our group vote is also posted.

Old Business Vote

Motion #1 — to approve the book *LIVING CLEAN*. **Motion carried unanimously**. Standing ovation. People love this book and project.

Motions #2, #3, and #4 — These were *Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust* motions or motions that might affect literature. All **Approved** (needed 2/3 majority). These were interesting because the motions were amended on the floor. The amendments made these better motions by setting a minimum time of notification for any changes to our literature.

Motion 5 — To hold the World Convention every 3 years alternating North American and non-North American locations starting in 2018. **Approved** (needed 2/3 majority).

The **SERVICE SYSTEM PROJECT RESOLUTIONS** required a simple majority to pass because they do not affect policy but provide “agreement in principle”. There were eight such resolutions.

Resolution #1 — the service system includes structure, process, people, and resources. **Approved** with strong support by voice vote.

Resolution #2 — the service system is group-focused and includes a local-level body dedicated exclusively to addressing group concerns. **Approved** with strong support by voice vote.

Resolution #3 — Training and mentoring of trusted servants are essential functions of the service system. **Approved** with Strong Support by voice vote.

Resolution #4 — Service bodies are purpose- and vision-driven. **Approved** with strong support by voice vote

Resolution #5 — Service bodies work together to utilize planning processes to organize and coordinate their efforts. **Approved** with strong support by voice vote.

Resolution #6 — Service bodies make decisions by consensus. **Approved** by standing vote: 77-31-1-2 (yes-no-abstain-present not voting).

Resolution #7 — The service structure includes local service bodies, state/nation/province service bodies, and intermediate bodies if needed. Service bodies follow established geographic boundaries. They are not self-determined, but are formed, based on need, through a collaborative planning process and agreement with other affected service bodies at the next level of service. **Approved** by standing vote: 61-44-2-4 (yes-no-abstain-present not voting)

Resolution #8 — State/national/province boundaries are the primary criterion for seating consideration at the World Service Conference. **Approved** by standing vote: 60-46-1-3 (yes-no-abstain-present not voting)

The Motions above are pretty straight forward.. Eighty percent of the fellowship are confident about the FIPT motions.

Resolutions 1 through 5 passed with a voice vote of strong support (like who can argue with some of this stuff). Now, at Resolution 6—regarding Consensus Based Decision Making (CBDM) — the majority is not so strong, and the facilitators resorted to a standing count of yes, no, abstain, and present but not voting to ascertain the results. The CBDM resolution 6 passed with just 2 or 3 votes more than 2/3. It only needed a simple majority to pass. It would have been a squeaker if this were a policy change.

Resolutions 7 and 8 were closer yet and passed with about a 55% majority. Going forward, the fellowship will need better consensus on two key issues: (1) that local service areas (Areas) are not self-determined, but are formed

through collaboration with other affected service bodies and the next level of service, and (2) re-unification of regions within states having multiple regions. Without a 2/3 majority, nothing will come of these.

More will be revealed in the coming months.

Doug P, ARD.

AREA SUBCOMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS:

PI: You are invited to help with a routine mail out at PI's next meeting on **June 10th at Peggys at 6:30 pm** (a Sunday).

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 H&I.

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

Next Meeting: June 21 at about 7:00 pm

ACTIVITIES: The Activities Committee meets at **6:30 pm on the 2nd and 4th Weds of each month** at Kaladis Coffee Shop on Brayton Drive.

GROUP NEWS

New Empty Chair NA Meeting

Where: Dry Dock

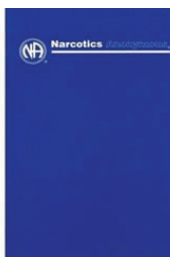
When: 2 pm to 3 pm on Saturdays

Style: work the Steps Study

Soul to Soul schedule Change — Soul 2 Soul meets on Weds evenings at 7 pm at the Leake Temple Annex at 408 N Hoyt. The Weds meeting is a Step and Tradition Study group. Soul no longer meets on Mondays. This is an important meeting for North Mountain View. See you there.

THE POINT

It's suggested in our program that we get a book, read the book and ask someone who we can relate to sponsor us. Go to meetings and work the steps; not just work the steps on paper but work them into and live them in our lives on a daily basis. And of course don't use, no matter what. Go to any lengths to stay clean, just for today. The basic text is a great tool and reference guide for all of these suggestions. Not exactly a novel meant to be read cover to cover, but an intermeshing of recovery direction, knowledge, practical application and wisdom, all compressed into what we call our Basic Text.



Lately I've been spending time reading and re-reading chapters like Just for Today – living the program, Relapse and Recovery and We Do Recover. I also like to mark the page of whatever step I'm working so I can pick up my book and get right into it. The basic text is never too far away from wherever I happen to be standing and I make a point of leaving it out in the open to stumble upon, and when seeing it, pick it up for a quick read. Sometimes reading an entire chapter or personal story out of the back of the book, sometimes only a paragraph or two. Reading the basic text alone gives me the same inner peace that I experience when I attend meetings. Just for a bit I'm able to get out of my own head and stop my thought process, which if you're like me can create its

own insanity without effort.

Let me tell you about my favorite story out of the basic text. It's called 'The Point'. The story is set in Illinois and since I'm from the mid-west and have been to Chicago more times than I care to admit I can relate to the cold winter wind he talks about in the story. I can see Lake Michigan and know what it's like to swim in it. And though our stories are not the same and the drugs we used not the same I can relate to the ugliness and despair that he felt during his moment of clarity and that wave of awareness when God crept into my own life. And the powerlessness of being a drug addict with no way out. It's a powerful story for me on a very personal level. When his Higher Power guided him (I won't give away too much of the story in case you haven't read it) down a particular street, and cared for him and carried him through his personal process his emotions were running deep and mine also, like I was right there with him. I know those feelings are ok to have today. There's no need to run anymore. A great gift that many of us receive by getting clean in NA is that we get to feel those feelings and live our lives in peace and with dignity, and allow the past to be the past and to live free in today.

My experience of reading the personal stories out of the basic text and just the entire book in general is very much like being in a meeting of Narcotics Anonymous. If there's no meeting going on and you feel like you need one, pick up that dark blue book and start reading. The life you save may be your own. And that's the point.

Written by DW



MARK YOUR CALENDER — EVENTS



Anchorage MEMORIAL WEEKEND PICNIC on SUNDAY, MAY 27th

Where: Ruth Arcand Park

When: Noon to 5 pm

GROUPS: Bring a Side Dish:

- Clean bringing Potatoe Salad.
- Soul Bringing 50 buns (need 150 more)
- Basics bringing condiments (could use more)



What is your Group Bringing?
Chips? Desert? Relish?

Games, Good Times, and Recovery for all.

BRING YOU AND YOURS MOST OF ALL!

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 SUMMER SOLSTICE CAMPOUT

Where: Eklutna Lake (ampitheater on the right before the public camping area)

When: June 23 to 24 (Saturday and Sunday).

Contact: **Activities Committee** for more info



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.

KENAI CAMPVENTION

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

GOLDEN HEART BLOWOUT

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

PI — THE FACE OF NA.

PI committee recently held down a booth at School of Addictions — Joe and Jack planned, lined up funds from Region for the effort, and coordinated the booth. Jack, the chair, extended big kudos to *Little Girls Grow Up*, “They committed to having someone there during all three days and did just that”. Lori, Casey, and Kaycee were among those pitching in. Thanks all for helping to fulfill the vision that:

“NA HAS UNIVERSAL RECOGNITION AND RESPECT AS A VIABLE PROGRAM OF RECOVERY”

Convention Committee News

THE PROGRAMMING SUBCOMMITTEE

Lori is the Programming Chair and her subcommittee members are Casey, Kaycee, Jo Bear, Alan, Elsworth, and Summer (if we missed anyone — apologies).

The *Programming* subcommittee is busy. The deadline for speaker tape submittals is June 1 and the subcommittee is listening to a bunch of tapes. Alan related a story of a young man. The guy was hanging out at Tami and Alan’s house for lack of any place to go. Alan had him read “Who is an Addict” out of the *Basic Text* — like maybe addiction was a factor in his homelessness. Then, probably so Alan could go to bed, he had the young man listen to one of the speaker tapes he had in the queue for *programming* review. As fortune would have it, the young man is both off Alan’s couch and going to meetings. Just a little slosh and spill from the cup of service.

The Programming Subcommittee meets monthly; *next*

meeting is June 16th at 11:15 at Crosspoint Church.

Besides Speakers, *Programming* is currently planning the workshops. They requested suggestions from the fellowship and have over 30 ideas. They will also invite speakers to conduct workshops on their personal service passion. Cool!

And it is looking promising that the committee will be able to pipe the Saturday night speaker meeting into Alaska State correctional facilities. Elsworth, acting on behalf of the subcommittee, has got verbal assent from authority within DOC (Dept. of Corrections) to make this happen. The subcommittee is currently preparing a “proposal in writing”.

Go programming!!

CONVENTION DATE:

Date: October 27, 28, and 29th

Where: Millennium Hotel in Anchorage