

RECYCLE THIS NEWSLETTER
After reading, return it to the Rack

**Anchorage Area NA
Newsletter
July 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
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**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:

anchoragenanewsletter@yahoo.com



ANCHORAGE AREA MEETING — JULY 2

Secretary's Email: AASCNASECRETARY@GMAIL.COM

Anchorage Area Service Committee met in regular session July 2. News includes:

- Area welcomed the *Women's Basic Text Study* group, which meets Sunday evenings from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm at the Dry Dock. Members of *Second to NoMan* elected to change its name of this new women's literature meeting.
- Treasurer reported an AASC available bank balance of \$1257. This is down \$6 from the June bank balance.
- H&I news – Henry reported that Debbie's persistence with the McLaughlin Youth Center has opened a door there for an H&I panel. H&I continues to hold monthly orientation immediately following the monthly H&I meeting.
- The NA Way group suggested formation of an ad hoc committee to develop AASC web servant guidelines. After some discussion, Rick M volunteered/was appointed as chair of the web-servant-guidelines-development ad hoc subcommittee. Rick scheduled the first ad hoc committee meeting for Saturday, July 7. See "Web Servant" further in the newsletter.
- Standing on the 10th Concept, one of our members aired a grievance she had with the AASC H&I committee for taking her off the Genesis House panel. Said member had been the sole Genesis House panel member/leader for "nine months" and was recently transferred to help with the Akeela House commitment.
- PI Subcommittee published its bi-monthly schedule.

10th Concept: *Any member of a service body can petition that body for the redress of a personal grievance, without fear of reprisal.*

AASC Action Items

- Vote to confirm Rick M as nominee for Regional H&I. Rick has the required Clean Time and Service requirements.

ALASKA REGIONAL SERVICE COMMITTEE — STILL LOOKING FOR A FEW TRUSTED SERVANTS

Region needs nominations for Public Information, Literature, Alternate Regional Delegate, and Vice Chair. Note that H&I is not on this list — that is because Anchorage Area has got a candidate going back to the groups for nomination approval. Per the guidelines, elections for the standing subcommittee chair positions and ARD are scheduled for the Regional meeting in October, which will be held at the Regional Convention this year. The Vice Chair position is also vacant.

The qualifications are as follows:

- PI, H&I & Literature – 5 years of clean time and 2 years of Area level service.
- Alternate Delegate – 7 years clean time and 2 years of Regional level service.
- Vice Chair – 7 years clean and 1 year of Regional level service.

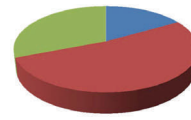
Per the 4th Concept, it is important to pick our leaders carefully, but, in any case, let's pick them.

World Service Conference

Prior to the World Service Conference, Regional Delegates and Alternates fill out a survey about their Regions. In light of the inventory that the Alaska Region is conducting, it is important for you, the member, to consider what you want from Region. The following is part of the delegate survey results.

1. How effectively do you think your RSC functions?:

Almost 1/3 of delegates/alternates answering this question said their RSC needs improvement, and less than 20% said it was outstanding. While about half of those who answered the question said it was “satisfactory” – *is “satisfactory” good enough where our primary purpose is concerned?*

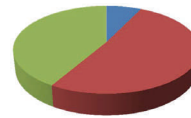


17% — Outstanding
52% — Satisfactory
31% — needs improvement

Many of the comments reiterated the struggles that have been heard for years. Not enough trusted servants, service positions not being filled and services not being delivered, poor communication, dominant personalities and bullying, lack of planning, not enough experience, trouble serving all of the areas—particularly rural ones

2. How effectively do you think the areas in your region function?

Again about half of the delegates responded that the Area function was “satisfactory,” but less than 10% felt the Areas functioned in an “outstanding” way and 42% think the areas need improvement.



7% — Outstanding
51% — Satisfactory
42% — Needs Improvement

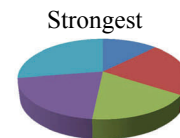
Many responses indicated that some areas in their region function well and others need improvement—inconsistency.

The comments focused on many of the same issues: apathy, not enough trusted servants, poor communication, no planning or collaboration, rural areas feeling isolated and not well served.

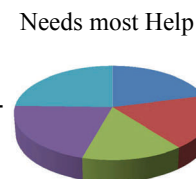
3. Which of the 5 foundational principles do you feel your RSC is strongest in or needs the most help?

Purpose-driven was both the principle that was most frequently mentioned as strongest and also the principle most often in need of improvement.

Strategic planning and taking an inventory of the region were both identified as helping develop a sense of purpose. Communication was one of the most frequently mentioned challenges standing in the way of realizing these 5 principles.



Strongest
13% — Collaborative
22% — Defined by Geographic Boundaries
17% — Flexible
21% — Group Focused
27% — Purpose Driven



Needs most Help
21% — Collaborative
18% — Defined by Geographic Boundaries
15% — Flexible
21% — Group Focused
26% — Purpose Driven

Some surveyed talked about how it was challenging to choose a single principle. Some respondents mentioned obstacles in the way of realizing some of these principles:

- Conflict and dissent
- Poor communication
- Areas and trusted servants not working together
- Lack of planning
- No sense of purpose
- Challenges using geographic boundaries to determine service body boundaries.

What is the take away from this? We need to discover what is “Collaborative”, “Purpose Driven”, and “Group Focused” and how do we go there. On a practical level, what do we want from Region? How are we missing the mark at Area? Are we responsible to carry the message?

Singleness of Purpose

Jack, our PI Chair, in an address on the 5th Tradition at the May Area service meeting, quoted from a piece by AA founder Bill Wilson, “We cannot give AA membership to non-alcoholic narcotics-addicts. AA members who are so inclined should be encourage to band together in groups to deal with sedative and drug problems. But they ought to refrain from calling themselves AA groups.”

And so NA was formed. Our 5th Tradition states, “Each Group has but one primary purpose — to carry the message to the *addict* who still suffers.” Narcotics Anonymous substituted “addict” for the AA’s “alcoholic”.

“Addict” is more inclusive, an umbrella term extending to those with problems related to alcohol, narcotics, and/or any mind or mood altering substance.

Thanks Jack.

Solstice Success

Well it turns out that one of the nicest, sunniest, warm breeziest and serenest days was set aside for the NA Solstice Campout out in Eklutna this June 2012. Ask anyone who was there. Many people showed up to the Canyon site and we had a true unobstructed NA venue with lots of fellowshiping and recovery.

With a number of wooden bench tables and steel fire pits available group sites started transforming and solidifying as people turned up, with the main function fire pit and meeting place just past the last bridge and to the left.

Special thanks go out to our activities chairwoman Melissa and her committee...Sage, the Mouse and Crystal

for the organization and for putting on this event. Also thank you Burning Desire for the treats before the *resentment-burning* meeting and holding the resentment bonfire.

There are two special acknowledgements that go out to Stan and Alan H. Stan had specially cut the lumber we used to scribe our resentments onto, with some exceptionally larger 2x12 cuts for those of us ready to let go of our checklist of resentments and some marginally smaller pieces for those of us who've made a bit of progress. Forward thinking Alan H prepped beetle-killed spruce with a chainsaw and that firewood salvaged the totally lame fire during the resentment burning and post meeting social afterward. **Thank you all!!!**

Area Web Servant

Currently Shannon D is serving as AASC Web Servant Pro Temp. At the July Area meeting, AASC created an ad hoc *Web Servant Guideline Development* subcommittee to provide a framework and guidance for this position.

For sometime, Anne H, the Regional Public Information Subcommittee Chair has sought help from the Areas to maintain Area information on the regional web page. With some help, AASC notices including flyers, schedule changes, newsletters could be posted in a more timely manner.

In December, AASC overwhelmingly approved a motion (brought by Dynamite Thursday Nite) to "add a position of Area Web Servant to facilitate timely updates of Anchorage news, schedules and events, on AKNA.org". Any action on the motion stalled because there was no position guideline.

After a web servant amendment to the guidelines (brought by Dynamite) failed in April, Josh, our AASC Chair, appointed Shannon D as the Web Servant pro temp. Guidelines or no, there was work to be done.

Shannon promptly got with Anne and they are working together beautifully — AASC information is being posted in a very timely manner indeed. Minutes and newsletters are all there.

After doing the web service for a month, Shannon developed an Area job description. The key elements of this are as follows:

1. **Description** (responsibility): The Area Web Servant updates the Anchorage Area portion of the Regional website, ensuring that the most current information is available to our fellowship.
2. **Qualifications:**
 - Six months of continuous abstinence from all drugs
 - An understanding of Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts of NA Service
 - Adopts an attitude to promote unity within AASC and throughout the service area
3. **Technical Qualifications:**
 - Has internet access and email

- Ability to use a computer, Microsoft Office, Adobe Reader, web designer tools
- Knowledge of web design in Front Page, Adobe Dreamweaver or GoLive CS, or other web development tools
- Ability to use file transfer tools to upload files to the web server

Rick M kicked off the web servant guidelines ad hoc subcommittee with a meeting on July 7. It was agreed that Shannon's job description was good but that the 6-month clean time requirement was not adequate.

The web servant would be the single point of accountability but to whom: the full AASC committee or the Public Information subcommittee. At Region the web servant is within PI. The thought at the meeting seemed to be that the web servant would be more accountable if it were its own standing subcommittee subject directly to the AASC groups.

Would it though? It seems that a web servant working under PI would better encourage collaboration and consultation between PI and web servant. Web servant, as a standing subcommittee, might not receive active oversight except in the case of a complaint.

It was suggested that the position have "5 years" clean. The only positions at Anchorage Area that require five years clean are treasurer and chair. The other sub-committee chair positions require two years and the vice chair four years. Is it necessary for the web servant to have five?

Do we want to elect the web servant? Bob R helped Christine and Doug maintain the Regional web page for 5 years — if he had been elected he would have termed out long before. And some members might not want to go to the Area meeting and associated reporting — they just want to help. Possibly the qualifications as drafted by Shannon are adequate.

These are the things that the groups need to consider: (i) Do we make web servant its own standing subcommittee or an executive committee member, or (ii) if not, do we put it under PI, and (iii) in either case how much clean time should we require, and (iv) do we even want to elect the web servant?

Activities Sub-committee

Activities has been busy recently hosting the Memorial Day picnic and the Solstice Campout, by all accounts very satisfying events. What did these cost ?

By way of preface, Activities is entrusted with a \$750 seed account. At the beginning of the term in April, the Activities fee was topped off to \$750.

- (1) Memorial Day Picnic: \$750 - \$85 (Ruth Arcand Park fee) - \$289 (food/propane) + \$167 income (split pot, 7th) = \$543 seed balance. Picnic cost was \$207.
- (2) Solstice Camp Out: \$543- \$100 (Eklutna fee) -\$104 (breakfast cost) + \$282 income (split pot, 7th, etc.) = \$621 seed balance. Solstice cleared \$78.

It was particularly gratifying to gather this information because Melissa readily had the information. Tracking the money demonstrates prudence.

Looking for a late night meeting? Try

- *Back To Basics*, Mon thru Thurs, 10 pm to 11:15 pm, or
- *Burning Desire* on Friday and Saturday from 11 pm to 12:15 pm.

MARK YOUR CALENDER — EVENTS

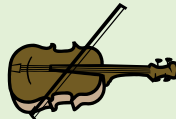
KENAI CAMPVENTION

- **Date:** July 27 – 29
- **Place:** the Alaska Christian Retreat facility. Very low cost accommodations.
- Kenai hosting Public Relations, H&I, and Traditions **Workshops**.
- Fun, Speakers, Food, and RECOVERY.
- For **directions** contact AKNA.org /events.



Bluegrass Ho Down (Convention Fundraiser)

- **August 11**, doors open 6 pm, @ St Patrick's Church on Muldoon
- **Speaker Mtg kicks off @ 6:30 pm ish.**
- **Dinner @ 7:30 pm ish,**
- **Live Music Kicks Off @ 8 to 8:30 pm**



Juneau NA CRUISE SHIP SPEAKER MEEING

The Juneau Fellowship is hosting a speaker meeting of members visiting from points down south on the NA Cruise ship. Speakers will be from the Cruise Ship

- When: **AUGUST 28th, Tuesday**
- Juneau Arts and Humanities Council
- Time: 7:30 to 9 pm (tentative)
- Contact Robert G—907.957.4318



NA JULY BIRTHDAYS

Thanks to the following for showing us that it works:

- Kara I — 2 years (July 9)
- Ann — 3 years, (July 12)
- Maike H — 1 year (July 24)
- Lori H — 10 years (July 25)
- Mary K — 13 years
- Jack S — 3 years (July 29)
- Amanda M — 1 year (July 20)



Want to post a Clean Time Birthday — email Anchorage newsletter@yahoo.com or contact Mandy — 764-0569. Never Alone posts 1-year or more.

The July 14th NA *Gone Crazy* was a 1st rate event. Excellent food thanks to Geoff, Maike, Mike, and Joubert. The *Gone Crazy* live music had 'em up and dancing. Thanks to Kenai Mandy for a wonderful message of recovery! And thanks to Catelyn, Convention Committee, and all who pitched in any way. !

UNITY DAY — SEPTEMBER 3

Celebration is planned
UNITY MINUTE in Alaska is 9 am — sounds like breakfast is in the works.
MORE TO BE REVEALED.

Convention Committee REGISTRATION RAFFLE

Convention entertainment is raffling a full Registration Package at **\$5 per chance**. Get your tickets from any Convention Committee member — Rick M, Terri H, Kathy W, Catelyn, and DJ to name a few. Drawing is August 12 — need not be present to win.



The Convention Committee meets next **on July 30 at 6:30 pm, a Monday, at Peggy's Café.**

CONVENTION DATE:

Date: October 26, 27, and 28th
Where: Millennium Hotel in Anchorage