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**Anchorage Area NA
Newsletter
September 20, 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 it's contributors, not NA as a whole.

Newsletter Committee
Members

Chair/Editor: Doug P
Staff Writer: Derek W
Contributor: Mandie G
Never Alone Newsletter

**Committee meets most Thurs 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 —

Secretary's Email: AASCNASECRETARY@GMAIL.COM

Anchorage Area Service Committee met in regular session on September 10.

Treasurer Report

There was an increase in the AASC bank balance from August to September by \$255.91. The current bank balance is \$2120.08, which is \$620.08 over our prudent reserve threshold.

Old Business

There was the vote to nominate Regional positions:

- Tony L vote for nomination to **Regional Alternate Delegate** PASSED. This will now be taken to the Regional Meeting in October, and the Areas will take this nomination to their groups for approval. The final vote will probably take place at Region in December or January.
- Mandy H from Kenai vote for nomination to **Regional Public Information** PASSED. This will now be taken to the Regional Meeting in October, and the Areas will take this nomination to their groups for approval. The final vote will probably take place at Region in December or January.

There was the Vote for Regional Positions:

- Lou Ann vote for **Regional Literature**—PASSED. Kenai had brought this nomination to the last Regional Meeting. Anchorage Area is now prepared to vote this in October.

New AASC Business

Most of the new business consists of nominations and motions to amend the guidelines because these are voted on semi-annually in April and October, and next month is October.

Nominations for Area Positions:

- **Secretary** — Tami M nominated by *Burning Desire*. Tami meets all service and clean time requirements (over 1 year of service with 6 months at AASC and 2 years clean). Tami is the incumbent Secretary.
- **Alternate Secretary** — Maike H nominated by *Burning Desire*. Maike meets service and clean time requirements (over 6 months of AASC service and 6 months clean).
- **Vice Chair** — Cory C nominated by *Sisters in the Solution*. Cory exceeds all service and clean time requirements (over 2 years of service with 1 year at AASC Service and 4 years clean).
- **Chair** — Sean C nominated by the *NA Way*. Sean exceeds all service and clean time requirements (over 2 years of service with 1 year at AASC Service and 5 years clean). Sean has held the position before.
- **Treasurer** — Josh W nominated by the *NA Way*. Josh exceeds all service and clean time requirements of this position and Josh has held the position before. Josh is the current AASC Chair.
- **Alternate Treasurer** — Terry B nominated by *Morning After*. Terry is the incumbent Treasurer and meets all the service and clean time requirements.

Activities Motion: Clean and Serene made a motion to amend the AASC Guidelines for Activities as follows (the ***Bold Italicized*** print is the amendment). Road to Recovery seconded the motion.

AASC Guidelines, Article X, Section 3, (1) Activities

- (a) Organizes events and functions as requested and voted in by AASC. ***These events should include the following annual activities:***
- i. ***NA in Alaska Anniversary Celebration (January or February)***
 - ii. ***Memorial Day Picnic (on or about Memorial Day)***
 - iii. ***Solstice Campout (on or about Solstice)***
 - iv. ***Unity Day Celebration (synchronized with World Unity Day)***
 - v. ***Halloween Celebration (unless Anchorage is hosting the Regional Convention in October or November)***
 - vi. ***Thanksgiving Narathon***
 - vii. ***Xmas Narathon***

Additionally, it is recommended that:

- ***At least two events per year be fund raising events;***
- ***Activities coordinate with the AASC and other Subcommittees to produce Learning Days and combine it with a fun event;***
- ***And Activities assist with Regional Assembly when it is located in Anchorage (funds provided by Region).***

Activities Subcommittee may plan other events. The Area committee seeks to be advised of additional events in advance though it is understood that because of time constraints this is not always possible. Activities may also come to AASC and advise AASC that it will not produce an event because of some circumstance.

- (b) Manages, maintains, and accounts for \$750.00 seed money to roll forward monthly and any time funds accrued exceed \$1,500; those excess funds are to be turned over to the Area Treasurer with the accountable report and any other funds collected on behalf of AASC.

(c) The main purpose is to facilitate entertainment activities that are consistent with the Twelve Traditions, paying special attention to Tradition One (Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends on NA unity.) and Tradition Five (Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry the message to the addict who still suffers.).

(d) Provides the AASC Treasurer with a monthly written financial report to include all income and expenses prior to disbursement of AASC funds. e.

(e) Maintains written records of activities, expenditures, mailing lists, etc.

INTENT OF THE MOTION

The intent of this motion is to provide guidance to the Activities Subcommittee. AASC activities are a series of projects which requires a lot of planning, coordination and human and financial resources to be successful. With a list of events, Activities can plan and put on the events instead of spending energy deciding what events to host. The balance between the 2nd and 3rd concepts is about giving the subcommittee the authority it needs to carry out the task assigned to it while at the same time giving it enough direction to satisfy the groups. Several years ago the AASC groups decided what events they wanted and save for Unity Day, this is the list.

Secondly, the motion is intended to help AASC sustain services. Having two fundraisers per year is one of the recommendations of the 2011 ad-hoc budget subcommittee. This provision ensures that Area Activities is self sustaining (not a drag on our 7th Tradition) and may help subsidize other essential services – H&I, PI, or Storage, which do not lend themselves to fund raising.

It is intended that Activities Subcommittee play a support role in Learning Days. AASC or the other subcommittees should drive it and Activities support it.

This motion is not intended to stifle creativity. The activities committee is encouraged to put on other events or activities that it deems the AASC fellowship wants. However, it should inform the AASC of its plans ahead of time. This is consistent with principles of accountability and communication outlined in our Concepts.

Unity

The First Tradition states that “Our Common Welfare Should Come First, Personal Recovery Depends on NA Unity”. Lately, there has been some significant differences between members of the Anchorage Area and the Convention Committee regarding the policy, “the Convention is an Adult Event”.

First “Unity is a must in NA”. And though there are

disagreements and conflicts, “we can disagree without being disagreeable”. (Basic Text on Tradition 1).

What is the nature of our disagreement? On the one hand, the Convention Committee policy is that the Convention is an adult event. Consistent with that, children and non-addict spouses of addicts are charged the full \$40 each, which is the same registration fee as addicts. The fee serves as a “deterrent” from members bringing their chil-

dren. Notwithstanding, the committee has given Charlotte, the Convention Registration Chair, latitude to waive the fee for children and non-addicts (spouses).



On the other hand, some members wonder why this is necessarily an adult event. Why is a celebration of recovery not a family event? Also some of our members think that charging children and non-addicts violates the 7th Tradition.

We honor the Convention Committee. All of the subcommittees have and continue to work very hard. All members were part of the decision making process in open discussion at a regularly convened Committee meeting. And one could add most are parents. Part of this decision was based on precedent; non-addict spouses and children have been charged the registration fee during past conventions.

In light of the 9th Concept all of our committees should

actively seek out all available viewpoints”. Here is an alternative:

The Convention Committee amends the registration guidelines as follows:

- The registration fee for children 14 and under will be waived, but they will be charged for the meals, and half price for the dance.
- Non-addict spouses and dependents above 14 will be charged a special \$10 registration fee, which would pay for coffee, tea, or snack provided gratis at the convention, and full price for other paid events.

Such a policy amendment would ensure that (i) parents with children are welcome and that (ii) we are self supporting through our own contributions. (iii) It might also help registration do its job.

When the fellowship has been assured that the Convention Committee has carefully considered all “viewpoints”, then it is time to move into acceptance. Now that is Unity.

Untitled Poem

Where the two met, only God knows, with all the stops and go's...
a dark road, dust driven and brown, chopped up river washed gravels around
 the side road they said....they said so many things
 they said I'd be dead come twenty one, sure a the sun rises at the end of this god forsaken gravelly, gritty road-way

Many gray clouds whisking against the northern wind, in the eyes but out of reach
 Colorless blue, meaningless blue, off shaded and separated, tucked between
 Striding boots crunching underfoot sounded like kids walking on corn chips,
 Dancing rows of corn and warm rays on shoulders, burning away at that cultivated black heart of his

A turkey gobbled off somewhere to the left, some hollow and hidden venue beyond sight
 Again, its guttural speech blending emotional, healing variations of tonic impulses
 The sun beat down.....on the ground....the dusted ground
 Like so many times....
he walked on

“Oh praayyyyy little lady, for me todayyyyy”....he sang
 “And then be on your wayyyyyyy” he laughed and he continued singing
 “forever I'll be....a criminal you seeeeee”

“and tomorrow will come, as sure as the sunnnnn”..

....silence now, save the wind and beating yellowness, the bended wavy corn stalks and rolled out hilly ranges of the middle of nowhere Iowan back road



An iceberg thought, cold and revealing set his straightened mind but temporarily

An awakening and dooming page turn, un-wielding and relentless

A goodness, a graciousness, a goodness graciousness, Musing now, infusing....rewired for understanding in a moment of char-coaled clarity

Smiling, unwiring....unwinding finally into a tooth filed creature, un-hunkered by the sunny landscaped dust driven roadway and fields

...and as the clouds meandered by

The lonesome train whistles distant cry...
 Be-known in a moments tempered bewilderment

A truth of feathers, bound bundled and soft

Like green light from a forests edge

And red light of a suns ocean plunge

The feelings, the awareness, sticking to his sweaty hatless head

Penetrating finally, that ricochet bears skull in a moment,

That moment, he would realize, was his moment

Sometimes God does get involved.....

.....personally

DW



MARK YOUR CALENDER — EVENTS



UNITY DAY CELEBRATION AND LEARNING DAYS

On September 1, we celebrated Unity Day with addicts around the world with breakfast and Learning Days. About 40 of our members turned out to the Freedom Frog Hall for the morning celebration. It kicked off with the moment of silence at 9 am straight up, then an NA meeting for most of an hour, followed by a fine breakfast skillet (thank you Ash and Viva).

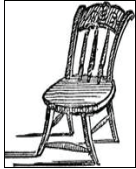
We want to acknowledge the effort it took to make this event happen: Kudos and thanks go to the Activities committee and its Chair Melissa and to Ash and Viva for cooking that fine breakfast (and w/o utensils to start). Big thanks to Amanda, Tami, and Alan for breakfast donations. Also thank you to Cory C and Tami M for sharing the joy and chaos of previous Unity Days.

Learning days was very cool. Not as well attended as Unity Day, our AASC Standing Subcommittee Chairs each presented what and why they do what they do. Henry gave the full H&I orientation. Joe C elaborated PI basics and phone line fundamentals, Doug detailed the Newsletter, Charlotte enlightened us on literature and Crystal presented a description of Activities prepared by Melissa. We passed the basket for pizza. There was a definite sense of Unity by end of Day. Nice.

Eagle River Group

Happen to be in Eagle River about 6:30 pm on a Friday night? The *Eagle River* group located at 10111 Eagle River Loop (Joy Lutheran) invites you to drop on in. 1st Friday of the month is meal and a speaker.

Empty Chair Group



Want to meet and write? The *Empty Chair Group* of NA is a men's writing-the-steps meeting every Saturday at 2 to 3 pm at 8141 Briarwood off of the Old Seward Highway.

Convention Committee REGISTRATION

Convention Subcommittee is urging members to register. On line registration is available at the Convention page of AKNA.org, where it is easy to pay with "Pay Pal". Or contact Charlotte 268-7730 (or anyone else on the Committee) for a package.

Members are encouraged to reserve their room at the Millennium Hotel. "ARSCC" or "Convention" will get you the Convention block rate, which is \$95.20.

CONVENTION COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Want to help out? The Convention Committee meets **next Monday, September 24th at 6:30 pm at Peggy's Café. After that the committee meets every two weeks.** Come on down — convention will find you a job.

NA SEPTEMBER BIRTH-DAYS

Thanks for showing us that it works!



- Samantha W.— Sept 1, 2 yrs
- Tony L — Sept 13, 20 yrs
- Tressa R — Sept 13, 3 yrs
- Terry S — Sept 18, 21 yrs

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

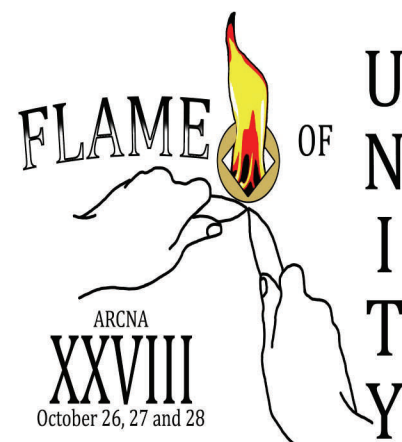
Sisters In Solution Celebration

Sisters in Solution is celebrating 3 years at 9:30 am on **October 6th** at 1920 W Diamond Blvd (Crosspoint), with a breakfast extravaganza.



We Have Arrived Group

The *We Have Arrived (Women's)* group of NA is holding a TEXT STUDY workshop on **September 30th** at 5:30 pm. This workshop promises to draw straight from our literature.



CONVENTION DATE:

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