

## **May 2014 Midwest Region GSR Teleconference Minutes**

### **May 17, 2014**

Chair opened call at 9:03 a.m. Delegate lead group in recitation of the Serenity Prayer. Chair read Tradition 5 and Concept 5.

Roll Call: Homewood, IL – Bill S  
Rockford, IL (Thurs) – Shannon E  
Indianapolis, IN – Patty B  
Shawnee, KS – Theresa C  
Branson, MO – Christine Z  
Kansas City, MO – Jane  
Maryland Heights, MO – Joseph L  
RSC: Chair – Tonia M  
Vice Chair – Cyndee D  
Treasurer Pro Tem – Rod S  
Secretary Pro Tem – Luanne K  
Delegate – Jan F  
Alternate Delegate – Ruth M  
Outreach Chair – Mike Z  
Mentor – Tawnee

**Teleconference Minutes:** No minutes are available for review.

**Treasurer Report:** Rod S reported that five financial reports have been uploaded to the website ([www.naranonmidwest.org](http://www.naranonmidwest.org)) which includes amended reports from January 2014 and February 2014; February 28, 2014; March 31, 2014 and April 30, 2014. Motion and second made to approve reports. Discussion held concerning costs (\$3200 vs. \$3600) for Delegate and Alternate Delegate to attend 2014 WSC. These reports only contain monies spent; they do not indicate what was approved. Vote 3 in favor; 2 opposed. Financial Reports January 2014 through April 30, 2014 approved.

**Outreach Challenge:** Mike Z reported that the Outreach Committee was finalizing the next Monthly Outreach Challenge.

**Delegate Report:** Jan F and Ruth M each gave brief reports on 2014 Nar-Anon World Service Conference. The theme was “Trust in the Spirit of Unity,” held May 1-May 5, 2014. In attendance were 17 Delegates & Alternates; 12 observers; 11 Trustees and, 9 countries (2012 WSC had six countries represented). All CAT materials were approved. In addition, there were four members of WSO; two WSC Committee members; one regional observer and, one conference facilitator. Most motions passed unanimously or nearly unanimously, which demonstrates great hope for our fellowship. Our region’s motion was tabled until the next World Service Conference in 2016, providing time for amendment(s) or further

consideration. Delegates were asked to prioritize a list of proposed topics by the Literature Committee. From that list, the Literature Committee now has fellowship guidance on processing specific literature pieces. Concerning GSR Joseph L's request for a floor motion (literature piece addressing meeting accessibility), the issue was brought to the Website Chair, Literature Chair and other positions within the service structure. Ruth M has requested that interested members from the Midwest region write shares as a possible 2016 CAT document. A successful floor motion would have brought the issue for vote in 2016 on that motion, delaying this literature another 2-4 years. By writing the piece in our region, it could be added to 2016 CAT materials for final vote (if one is necessary given the literature process adopted). Full reports by our Delegate and Alternate Delegate will be presented at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Purchase of banners has been tabled until June or July.
2. GSR questionnaire has been tabled.
3. The region is still in need of a Secretary and a Convention Committee Chair. Rod S has offered to serve as Treasurer Pro Tem, until the Assembly. Please continue to canvas your home group members for volunteers to fill these open positions.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. How to keep newcomers coming back may be a possible workshop at this Assembly. Chair Tonia M shared her experience of attending New Choices, Marilyn Heights, MO meeting. Kudos to that meeting and the welcoming feeling provided to newcomers. Shannon E, Rockford, IL Thursday, discussed that providing a safe meeting, which follows the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions, and uses CAL (conference-approved literature) is most important to keeping a meeting healthy and newcomers coming back. The Steps and Traditions form the basis for a healthy meeting. Joseph L, New Choices, Maryland Heights, stated that they stress that their meetings are about their members, instead of their qualifiers. They always recommend attending six meetings, to provide time to get past the anger occasioned by addiction. Their group usually has the newcomer share last, reassuring that all can talk openly. Information is provided such as the Blue Book and several pieces of CAL. Christine Z, Branson, MO shared about her new group. Although impacted by the winter weather, they now have a core group of 3-5 members, and attendance is improving.
2. Topics to be added to the agenda for future GSR teleconferences should be emailed to Tonia M Chair ([tonia4moore@yahoo.com](mailto:tonia4moore@yahoo.com)).
3. Nominations for open RSC service positions are now being taken. A nomination form will be emailed to the GSRs for use at their home group meetings. These are 2-year positions, which include Chair, Secretary, Outreach Chair and Convention Chair. Cyndee D, Vice Chair, addressed the issue that the Treasurer position will also be open for nominations, as Rod S is filling the role on a temporary basis. She also spoke on the issue of

whether the Chair position is open for election, given her review of the Amended Assembly minutes. Different members spoke on their understanding of the term length for the last Chair election (4<sup>th</sup> Assembly). Luanne K spoke of her understanding as former regional Chair. Originally, she raised her hand to be of service to the region. She was voted Chair at the 2nd Assembly. The term of years for RSC positions was later amended to be 2 years (from the former 3-year position). It was her personal decision to step down after this 2-year term, freeing up the Chair position for another person to step into service. Service terms should be rotated, giving others an opportunity to be of service to the fellowship at different levels. Even without prior experience, she gained great experience by performing the job, learning as she went. Stepping away from that position has afforded her the opportunity to resume being a sponsor, and to serve the fellowship in other ways. Service work increased her appreciation for our program, and positively influenced her own personal recovery work. Luanne K challenged our members to become one of the 10% of people who make the choice to volunteer their time and efforts in service to this fellowship. After the discussion, returning to the earlier point, Chair Tonia M asked for time to consider her decision.

4. A location for the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly (2015) is being sought. If your home group (or several home groups), is interested in hosting the next Assembly, please contact Chair Tonia M ([tonia4moore@yahoo.com](mailto:tonia4moore@yahoo.com)).
5. Brief discussion was held on the GSR questionnaire. This subject will be covered in upcoming RSC and GSR teleconferences, in an effort to continue to reach out to all home groups in the region.
6. Patty B GSR Indianapolis, IN, introduced her home group, "Our Needs". This group is hosted by Fairbanks Hospital, an inpatient and outpatient treatment center for chemical dependency. They meet on Thursday nights, 7-8 pm, and average about 15-20 members. Because of the treatment facility location, they have a large number of newcomers (4-5 per week) who are referred to their group. They hold a very welcoming meeting, and stick closely to the Steps and Traditions to ensure their members feel safe in the meeting. It is stressed that the meetings are for "us", and not for qualifier talk. There is always a challenge with cross talk. It is explained that cross talk is not helpful and does not contribute to the feeling of safety in the group. There are family members who have been dealing with addiction issues for over 20 years.
7. Jane, GSR Kansas City, MO introduced her home group, "Saving Ourselves". Although this group is relatively new, they have a core group of 8-10 members. Warm weather months tend to lower attendance, due to family commitments. The meeting is well run, welcoming and warm for both newcomers and seasoned members. Many people who return after being away speak about how much they missed the meetings, "I forget how much I loved these meetings until I came back."
8. Christine Z gave a brief update on the upcoming 5<sup>th</sup> Assembly. The Assembly will be held in Branson, MO on October 18, 2014. An initial flyer and one

reminder have gone out to all GSRs/Alternates with details on the 5<sup>th</sup> Assembly. Information is also posted on the regional web site. To date, eight people have registered. A flyer has gone out about basket contributions that can be donated by members and/or groups. All funds raised will go to increasing the region's account, in turn, continuing to support our financial needs. Several groups are assisting in planning and preparation for the Assembly. Checklists and notes from prior Assembly hosts (Mike Z, Joseph L, and Bill S) are located on the website, under Member Services, Assembly. To access this information, please use the same access code. A call for volunteers to assist with certain items for this Assembly will continue in the coming months. If any member is interested in assisting with various needed projects, please email Christine Z ([ozarksnewhorizon@yahoo.com](mailto:ozarksnewhorizon@yahoo.com)).

Having no other business, the teleconference call was adjourned.

Next meeting: Saturday, June 21, 2014, at 9:00 a.m.

Friendly reminder: Please remind your group members to sign up for the *Serenity Connection* (Nar-Anon's newsletter) at: ([www.nar-anon.org](http://www.nar-anon.org)) Member Services. It contains useful information about our fellowship, as well as member shares. Prior issues are available for use. The Serenity Connection is a quarterly publication of the Nar-Anon Family Groups, it is considered "Conference Approved Literature" and therefore you may use the contents in your meetings for literature study. Member written pieces - always welcomed - can be submitted by following the information provided!

Please forward all Midwest Region Donations to:

Rod Seemann  
Treasurer – Midwest Region  
6239 Howe Dr.  
Fairway, KS 66205

Please make checks payable to **Midwest Region Nar-Anon**  
If you have any questions, please call Rod S (913-568-8016)

Respectfully submitted,

Luanne K  
Secretary Pro Tem