

January 2013 Midwest Region GSR Teleconference Minutes

January 19, 2013

Chair opened call. Jan F lead in unison recitation of Serenity Prayer. Chair read Tradition 1 and Concept 1.

Attendees: Homewood IL
Naperville IL
Springfield IL
Bloomington IN
Shawnee KS
Kansas City "First Call" MO
Maryland Heights MO
RSC Members: Chair
Vice Chair
Delegate
Treasurer
Outreach Committee Chair
MidWest Regional Mentor

Teleconference Minutes. Teleconference minutes from December were approved as submitted (with one spelling correction).

Treasurer Reports.

- Balance as of December 15, 2012 was \$1156.76. The ending balance of \$1224.76 was reported. The Treasurers Report was unanimously approved as submitted.
- Since the Treasurer's Report was completed, additional funds have been received. Proceeds from the 3rd Annual Assembly were \$853.26 and will be reflected in the next issue of the report.

OUTREACH

Review of Kansas City Freedom to Change Convention. Provided by Rod S. Attendance and participation was more modest than last year due to weather, host hotel and challenging parking situation. All three KC Groups supported with member attendance. A literature table was available for the duration of the conference, providing outreach materials to attendees.

Review of Chicagoland Regional Convention. Provided by Donna D and Mike Z. Held on Saturday, Jan 5. Had a literature table on Friday and Saturday and a reserved room on Saturday. Two group meetings were held in the reserved room. The meetings had a total of 21 attendees of which 8 were newcomers. Additionally the group was approached by a Counselor who asked for Nar-Anon to be present at future group meetings with family members of clients.

Outreach Committee Update.

- January Monthly Challenge. Placement of posters on public notice boards throughout the communities. The posters include tearable-tabs for date/time/location of area meetings. Groups are encouraged to order sufficient posters from WSO to meet their individual outreach goals.
- Solicitation was made to secure additional members for the Outreach Committee. GSRs were asked to put the question before their home groups and then funnel names of interested parties back to Mike Z.

- Kansas City groups have found that outreach efforts do not provide immediate response but definitely do influence attendance by newcomers in future months.

Upcoming NA Conventions.

- Cabin Fever, Lake of the Ozarks Feb 1 - 3
 - Largest NA Meeting in MO; over 1000 NA members attended in 2012.
- Indiana State NA Convention, South Bend
 - Is a good convention and is well attended. This meeting does move from year to year, changing location in order to increase access to convention resources throughout the state.
 - Planning for a literature table a minimum of 1 day (possibly more).
- Philadelphia Nar-Anon Conference March
 - Good meeting. Break out sessions and guest speakers provide excellent content.
 - Historically attended by approximately 200 – 300 Nar-Anon members.
- RRCNA, Rockford Apr 26 - 28
- Kentuckiana, Evansville, IN
 - Has not been attended by any GSR or RSC Member on call.
- World Convention for NA and NarAnon, Philadelphia Aug 29 – Sept 1
 - NA Registration opened in December
 - Nar-Anon opened in February (hotel space is going quickly); registration is available through the NA website. The website provides information on registration, travel and hotels.
- St Louis Area Convention for Narcotics Anonymous, St Louis November

Serenity Connection. Chair asked all GSRs to encourage their family home group members sign up. This Nar-Anon Newsletter is published quarterly. It is available through the WSO website or can also be ordered in hard copy for a nominal fee. There will no longer be an eMail push of the newsletter. If members wish to receive this information-packed newsletter, GSRs should direct them to complete the easy and simple signup on-line.

UNITY

Planning for 4th Annual Assembly. This meeting will be held on October 19, 2013. A voice vote was taken during earlier calls supporting the next Assembly be held in the Chicago Area, hosted by one or more home groups. Chair asked that GSRs approach their groups (with focus on those in the Chicagoland) to determine willingness to act as host/co-host.

Assembly Participation. The question was asked of the Chair as to whether followup had been completed with the groups that did not support the 3rd Annual Assembly with their attendance. Chair advised this is an ongoing work stream and as feedback is received, it will be shared with all GSRs.

Showcasing MidWest Region Home Groups. “Saving Ourselves” Kansas City MO. Provided by Rod S. Group was formed in Jan, 2012. The discussion leader of the group is passed around the group with the goal of increasing participation. They began trying to have Step discussion during each meeting. Found that they were chronically ‘stuck’ on step 1 – so now taking on a new approach to step work allowing those with more time in recovery the additional support they need. Initially the group had attendance of 10 – 12. Attendance has fluctuated greatly dependent upon season. There is a basic core group that has been faithfully attending. Outside the core group, there have been some who come for only 3 to 4 meetings and then stop. There has been some disappointment in attendance – but there is a commitment by the group to continue the meetings for 2 years and then determine the future of this group. Naperville IL shared similar startup experiences had been seen in their group. Maryland Heights MO shared this was their experience at the beginning as well. Words of encouragement were shared by many – don’t give up. It will catch on. It is worth”... keeping the lights on...” for the newcomer who may come through the door.

Regional Website. Contacts to be made between two MidWest Regional volunteers. Once set up, each GSR will have the opportunity to direct and grow the site. This will be an excellent resource in getting the word out. If GSRs have the opportunity, please visit the KC MO (naranonkc.org) site. Please provide feedback on the site navigation and content.

Nar-Anon 36. A guide for Step Work is now available for the first 3 steps. These can be purchased from the naranon.org website at a cost of \$6 ea. These can directly support step work and can also be dissected and used as a discussion topic for family home group meetings.

ACTION ITEMS

- As groups need literature, please review Regional Literature Inventory to determine if pieces can be purchased from Region as opposed to from WSO. Please help the MidWest Region deplete the literature on hand.
- GSRs are asked to solicit family home group members with a passion for outreach for the Outreach Committee. Any interested member's contact information should be sent directly to Mike Z.
- GSRs are asked to direct family home group members to the Nar-Anon website for the purpose of subscribing to the Serenity Connection. This quarterly newsletter will no longer be pushed out to members via the RSC on eMail. Members need to subscribe to insure uninterrupted access to this resource.
- Chicagoland GSRs are asked to talk with their home groups about potential interest in hosting or co-hosting the next Annual Assembly. The date has already been set: October 19, 2013. Volunteer groups are needed!!
- GSRs are asked to visit the KCMO website (naranonkc.org) and provide feedback. This feedback will be shared with those leading the development of the regional website. Your comments are valued!!