

## **April 2012 Midwest Region GSR Teleconference Minutes**

*April 21, 2012*

Called to Order by Luanne. Opened with the Serenity Prayer. Fourth Concept of Service was read.

**Attendees :** Elmhurst, IL  
Homewood, IL  
Naperville, IL  
Springfield, IL  
Munster, IN  
Shawnee, KS  
Maryland Heights, MO  
RSC Members: Donna  
Paula

**Chair's Report.** 1) Chair introduced interim Secretary. GSRs unanimously voted approval. 2) Chair expressed appreciation to all family groups providing additional funds making it possible for Jan to attend the World Service Conference. 3) Call for service. Requested each GSR look at home group in order to identify those willing to serve in some capacity. 4) Chair expressed appreciation to GSRs for timely gathering of info, rationale regarding use of unity prayer for Tawnee should there be a floor vote at the World Service Conference.

### **New Business**

- Proposal for Consideration. Tawnee would like to make a floor motion (if not a regional motion) at World Service Conference amending Tradition #4. It currently states, "each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other Nar-Anon family groups or NA as a whole". It is proposed that the words "or Nar-Anon" be added (ie, "...affecting other Nar-Anon family groups or Nar-Anon or NA as a whole"). Motion was made to vote by Bill and was seconded by Rod. Floor opened for discussion. Group vote: 6 Yea, 1 Abstain. Proposal passed.
- Sharing Group Experience/Homewood, IL. Newcomers are greeted warmly, made to feel comfortable. Each newcomer receives a packet (includes member phone numbers). Steps are kept in mind. If many newcomers in attendance, meeting becomes a first step meeting. Literature is available in racks (most free, with the most expensive pieces available for sale). Sponsorship is discussed but is left as a personal decision. Last 20 minutes of meeting is reserved for newcomer comments. Currently are not utilizing routine outside speakers. 12 steps/12 traditions are reviewed at each meeting.

#### **Comments:**

- Elmhurst: Within home group new members are encouraged to choose a discussion topic and lead the discussion. This helps engage new attendees.
- Springfield: When children are present in home group meeting, they are encouraged to participate in readings and are made to feel included.
- Shawnee: Home group spends lots of time on first step issues due to large number of new members.
- Luanne: Recent home group meeting had 5 new, 5 current members in attendance. All were asked what brought them to Nar-Anon. New attendees were asked why they came while current members were asked what brought them back. Home group discussion was robust, positive.

- Seeing a Meeting as a New Member. A GSR/Alternate recently attended two different home group meetings. Submitted their observations through the eyes of a newcomer. Suggestion summary: 1) signs are needed to direct newcomers to meeting location particularly when held in large, more cumbersome facilities; 2) literature should be displayed and available; 3) newcomers should be warmly welcomed and befriended by a group member; 4) literature could be revised in order to increase impact; 5) 12 steps should be foundational for all meetings. Group discussion among GSRs followed with a focus on signage use and importance of insuring signs and website information are consistent and correct.
- Conventions.
  - Rockford. April 27 – 29. Organizer: Jan. Presence to include literature table. Ruth to help man table.
  - Flight to Freedom. June 15 – 17, Carlyle Lake, Carlyle, IL. Organizer: Seeking a volunteer.
  - Perpetual calendar. Joseph has created this tool. Can be shared among GSRs and will flow seamlessly from year to year. Will include key contact names, contact info, as well as experiences from previous two years for all conventions.
  - Call to Service. Luanne requested a volunteer to set up a spreadsheet tracking current conventions. Goal is to insure Convention Committee and Region are on point with all pre-contact and post-contact for each convention. No volunteer was identified.
- Outreach Committee (Luanne shared on behalf of David). Florida has instituted monthly home group challenges. Their website announces details on the challenge for the 30 day period, calling out the target audience and providing links to appropriate conference-approved brochures to support the challenge. Florida is experiencing larger meetings and greater numbers of meetings which is being attributed in part to the monthly challenges. There is interest in our implementing a similar challenge within the MidWest Region.
- MidWest Region Website. GSRs provided inputs on elements to be included (ie, meeting list (complete with directions, handicap access, signing for deaf), link to NA, link for GSRs to access a shared drive, etc.). Group consensus was to build the website and modify as needed. Call to vote: unanimous approval.
- Next Meeting: May 19<sup>th</sup>, 9am