

NAGSC Business Meeting

Date: June 6, 2020

Location: Zoom

1:00 pm - Serenity Prayer

Approval for the minutes from the February meeting.

Motion to accept February minutes – 2nd, Approved

NAGSC Treasurers Report

Saturday, June 6, 2020

Reports Available by Email

- Profit and Loss to date
- Balance Sheet to date
-

Financial Data

- Savings 1253.81
- Checking 17,230.83

The 2nd Warranty of AA's Concept 12 states that "Sufficient operating funds, plus an ample reserve, should be our prudent financial principle." In these uncertain times, we as a body have a responsibility to carefully consider what these terms might mean to us today. We have a surplus of funds due to the cancellation of events for which we budgeted travel expenses that have not been spent. We have also seen a decline in contributions and cannot be certain when groups will be able to recover from their own declines in 7th tradition donations. This body will need to consider what "sufficient operating funds" should now be since what was to be a year with a lot of travel has been reduced to almost no travel. At the same time we also need to carefully consider what our "ample reserve" should be now that we may not be able to depend on contributions from groups for an undetermined period of time. Luckily, we have a dedicated and knowledgeable Finance Committee to give us direction, which met this morning to discuss these matters. I will give the floor to the Finance Committee chair, Lonnie, for the committee's recommendation.

Yours in service today and every day,
Laura

Discussion:

Question - What does the prudent reserve mean currently?

Answer (Treasurer) - We have uncertain times ahead, we don't know when things will go back to normal and we don't know when we will get normal contributions. She is reporting them to us and the finance committee met this morning to discuss this.

Motion to accept Treasurers' report, 2nd, approved

New Business:

Lonnie (Finance Chair) –

During the finance committee meeting they came up with a recommendation. We do have a little surplus of money; they recommend we put \$300 into savings account to get that to \$1546 which is the prudent reserve. They also recommend we don't distribute any money at this point since we don't know what will happen. Area 42 and SAGSC also decided not to do anything with their money. Recommend we hold on to what we have and wait till we know what to do.

NY sent out cry for money, they have 12 million in savings, set aside 3 million for expenses, left with 9 million in savings. A nonprofit can apply for PPP. He thinks they will get a tremendous amount of money

Motion to not distribute any money at this time due to the uncertainties of the pandemic and transfer \$300 to the savings account to meet the prudent reserve amount.

Seconded

Discussion:

Question – are you recommending we wait till the next NAGSC meeting?

Answer from committee - Unless something comes up, it's not forever

Clarification from Treasurer - We need to approve that we are moving the \$300 to the savings account. My understanding is that the annual budget for GSO is 15 million a year. They attempt to keep 12 million in a prudent reserve account which keeps them at 75% of their annual operating costs in case they don't get donations which is what's happening right now. Book sales have also dropped. One of the reasons they are recommending waiting is to see how that plea for help from GSO is affected, how the body responds to it. In normal fashion, the members of AA are pretty good at helping out. I would like to see how their finances improve. I want to mention we are still receiving donations at NAGSC, it's up to each group to make the decision. The Northern Area fund is doing quite well and NNIG is also in pretty good shape. Area is in good shape. GSO seems to be the one most in need.

Question – why are we saving our money if we're in such good shape and GSO is not?

Answer – with the pandemic we don't know what's going to happen, NAGSC is always in short funds, we've never had enough money to do anything, we don't think it's wise to deplete everything we have at this point when we're finding out everyone is in not that bad of shape. In 30 days of GSO is in really bad shape, we can have an emergency finance committee meeting. If the body wants to do something we can do that, this is just our recommendation.

Question (Alt DCM) – I want to thank finance committee for thoughtful consideration and understands what others are saying. In my mind NAGSC has had a lot of trouble with finances for awhile, we haven't gone through a quarter of the pandemic. We may not get very much. The finance committee can have another meeting and we have a meeting in August. I believe GSO has a prudent reserve for a reason. We will absolutely help them. I support this recommendation. Do you need the body's approval to move money to the prudent reserve? I think this is in the guidelines.

Question– Laura did you say you weren't sure what the status was of NNIG?

Answer (Treasurer) – My understanding is that NNIG is doing pretty well.

Clarification from NNIG Liaison – states he is the liaison, the lack of income from events etc they are getting worried and asking for contributions.

Question – has a question related to taking money from the federal government

Answer (Finance Chair) – they offered money to the nonprofits

No minority opinion

MOTION PASSES

Area Conference Committees:

My name is Julie and I am an alcoholic. I have the privilege of serving as your Panel 69 Alternate Delegate. Today I want to talk with you about completing the circle for our Area Conference Committees. We have one more request. After today's meeting, Rhonda will be providing reports from the General Service Conference to all 13 committees (the committees which mirror the 13 committees at the GSC). The members of these committees were the ones who read through the background, made recommendations to Rhonda about which topics for the body to become informed about, prepared thoughtful presentations and lead discussions here or at the southern roundtables and wrote reports for our Delegate on the committee's specific agenda items. And now, we are asking that you review what happened at the General Service Conference and let us know your feelings and responses to how the GSC handled your committee's agenda items. We would like you to review the conference and trustee (when applicable) reports and answer a few questions.

- What do you feel about how your conference committee handled your agenda items?
- Was new information revealed to you, that you hadn't thought of during your committee discussions?
- Was there anything specific that touched you? How did it touch you?
- Was your experience on the Area Conference Committee helpful?
- Do you feel you learned more about the General Service Conference process?
- What would you like changed for next panel?

I will be reaching out to the Area Conference Committee Chairs in the next few weeks. We hope you are able to schedule your final Area Conference Committee meeting in the next month or so. Maybe you could even use Zoom. If there is anyone who wants to join the Area Conference Committee, please let me know via the chat function and give me your contact info. We will decide if we want to continue with the Area Conference Committees later this year for next panel. So, your feedback will be extremely helpful. Thank you for allowing me the honor and privilege to participate on the committees and help to coordinate the information for your committees. Thank you so much to all of you who worked so hard to better inform our Area on the General Service Conference agenda items during Panel 69. You are an inspiration.

Reports

DCM's, Standing Committee Chairs, Officer Reports:

Alt Delegate (Julie C):

My name is Julie and I presently serve as Panel 69, Alternate Delegate. As Alternate Delegate, I was able to participate not only in our virtual pre-conference assembly, but in two other area's assemblies. I participated in Area 05's (SoCal) on Saturday and Area 08's (San Diego) on Sunday without leaving my house. They used the interpretation feature and break-out rooms within Zoom. I am extremely grateful to have been able to observe and participate with other areas as a positive result of the pandemic.

I know many of us are having a difficult time connecting right now. Some of us are comfortable with technology and rushing toward video meetings. Some of us are stretching into the new online meetings. Some of us have older phones and computers which don't support the new video meetings. Some of us are scared and don't want to try video meetings. Some of us are just scared and need help. Thank you to all of you for stepping outside your comfort zone. What are we doing to reach out to the still suffering alcoholic? I worry about the person who is ready to stop drinking and doesn't know how. I worry about the newcomer who doesn't have a phone. I live in NE California and we have limited resources, so where does the newcomer go to get to an online or phone meeting?

Here's what I have observed in the last month. I love technology and have to rein in my desire to run toward. The church where we hold our meetings closed down on March 20th. We held one last meeting on Friday March 19th and were able to get email addresses from our very new newcomers and keep them in the loop. We got a paid Zoom account to share among the groups in the three communities. We created a Lake Almanor Basin Zoom Meeting listing. We

posted the listings along with the number to Central office in Reno/Sparks on the doors of our meeting halls. We provided the listing to nnig.org to post online. We contacted the newspaper with the Zoom information, but they have stopped publishing due to lack of advertising. We reached out to members who we didn't see in the new video meeting and helped them either download the app or call in on the phone. People who weren't comfortable with technology asked others to secretary the meetings for them.

Now, as we take a breath, we are wondering where are the newcomers. So, we have created group emails and group texts. We are asking what more can we do. Some suggestions were to take grapevines to the doctor's offices and the hospital and maybe post the meetings on local social media sites. We don't want our meetings to get "bombed" with hackers, but how can we make sure the still suffering alcoholic knows where to find us? We are having Zoom business meetings. At our last one, we took an informed group conscience not to use social media to post any zoom information. Now, as many are getting antsy to reconnect, we are communicating with our landlords, thinking outside the box, maybe an outdoor firepit meeting. We are having more Zoom business meetings to figure out how to make sure we don't leave anyone behind.

Those are my observations. I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the willingness of everyone to help and to take care of each other. There is a sense of urgency which has replaced complacency.

DCM Reports

District 2 (Joel B):

It's been kind of funky, we haven't done much. We have met twice, in April and may. Had 9-12 people. Thanks to billy for putting it together. He found a cool meeting in a backyard at someone's house. Financially the money is trickling in. At the last meeting they voted to make a distribution to GSO and NNIG. Plenty in prudent reserve. Lastly their elections are in August.

District 4 (Dan M): The district has met, none of their groups are meeting in person, only on zoom.

District 6 (Rina H): There has been a big change in District 06 as our DCM resigned from his position on May 26th. Drew is fine, he simply made a conscious decision for his own recovery. As Alternate DCM, I have assumed the position of DCM. We have a Zoom District Meeting scheduled for Sunday, June 7th and will be filling the vacant Alternate DCM position that day. We currently have three individuals interested and standing for the position.

Our District Meetings have been suspended, so I will not have a feel for the health of our district until the day after the NAGSC Meeting.

Grateful to be of service,
Rina H
District 06 DCM

District 8 (Julie D): No Report

District 10a (Julie): Good afternoon everyone. Its Julie up here in Elko. Not a lot to report at this time due to Coronavirus. I lost last district meeting notes, so we just held our meeting today. Our Serenity in The Rubies Campout committee is finalizing details for the campout this year. Everything looks good to go. I'm still in contact with Ed about a Bridging the Gap workshop up here. Details. In our district meeting today we discussed and started planning on an end of summer BBQ blast pot luck. That's about all we have planned at this time, however we elected a new secretary as ours stepped out. Praying everyone is doing well. Looking forward to Tonopah!!

Joe added a recent update – Elko fellowship was authorized to open on may 11th so they've stopped doing the zoom meetings. Had district mtg last Sunday, they are just staying afloat financially.

District 10b, Dark

District 12 (Shelby B): No Report

District 14 (Steve L): Hello everyone, my name is Terri and I am an alcoholic and the Alternate DCM for District 14. Over the last 3 months we have seen insurmountable changes. District 14 is not unique by any means and I am here to say we will survive and personally feel there were many things to be grateful for even in a World pandemic. As a district we had 1 district meeting on Zoom and we completely forgot to have our May meeting which I feel is completely understandable considering what is going on in the world today. We need to talk about our summer Jamboree, and I assume these events will be cancelled this summer.

Fear has gripped our lives! People losing their sobriety because job loss, home loss and economic reasons beyond our control. Us alcoholics do not like change much or not having control. As a district I witnessed some members wanting to stay open even against State wishes. I watched voting take place for the greater good of AA. I witnessed people stepping up to cover Zoom meetings so we could help the suffering alcoholic. I personally got to sit in Zoom meetings all over the country and see old sponsee's etc. It was not so bad. We had 1 in person meeting daily. It was outside and one of our members graciously donated his property. You had to wear a mask and social distance. For the newcomer (and everyone), these meetings were critical. We as a whole stepped up to help each other to stay connected. Staying connected is what I believe saved my sobriety. I want to thank Dave L in our district for setting up ZOOM and being available on your cell phone for anyone having trouble signing on. Financially as a district we are holding our own. This was a perfect time to dip into prudent reserves. I know our rent was paid and the groups have a chance to build up their prudent reserves again. One of our groups the Kings Beach Golden Group has voted to open with a 10-person limit, (that was an issue turning away the 11th person), wearing masks. This was meant with some disapproval, but you do have the option of sticking with ZOOM meetings at least for a while. There are meetings 2 times a day as of now.

I am so happy I am in General Service. I hope we get to meet in Tonopah this fall. Please stay healthy and sober my fellow recovery brothers and sisters. United, we can get through anything!

Love and service,
Terri M
Alternate DCM
District 14

District 16 (Andrea B): No Report

District 20 (Jay S):

Zoomers are mad at the groups who are still meeting and the groups meeting are mad at the zoomers. I want to put out the word that Alcoholics Anonymous is Alcoholics Anonymous. I hope they can come together for the good of AA and have an open mind. The district 20 campout will be cancelled.

District 22 (Tony A): There has been no impact or changes, only 2 of 12 groups closed

Continue to respect the groups, if people show up late they aren't allowed in.

Ironically finances is doing better than ever. No money issues right now. First time in its history that the group has been self-supporting for the last year and a half.

Chair Reports

Chairperson (Chris S):

Area 42 Chair (Paul E): Hi I'm Paul your alcoholic Area Chair person. I hope everyone is doing well and staying safe. At our Area 42 preconference assembly on March 28th I was tasked with forming two Ad-Hoc committees. 1 to look into the feasibility of combining the three treasuries (Area 42, NAGSC, & SAGSC) in to one treasury and 2 to create an Area YPAA committee. So far I have received 6 responses to serve on the Treasury Ad-Hoc committee and 4 responses to serve on the YPAA Ad-Hoc committee. I would like to have some more for each of these committees from the North. Anyone interested in volunteering please contact me.

Also at the Area assembly it was approved that the Area have a Translation committee and I need volunteers to step up for this much needed work for the Area. So far I have only had 4 (Diana M., Tony S., Colleen D., & Caroline T-J) volunteer. They are willing to work with anyone that wants to be a part of this committee the more the better. This is a vital committee to keep our Area inclusive and not exclusive for all of us in the Area. Anyone interested in volunteering please contact me.

I'm asking for help for our Area so please step up for any of these committees and be part of the solution to help make our Area better. Thanks for allowing me to serve, Paul

Secretary (Noel C): No Report

Archivist (Lyle C): No Report

Public Information (Andrea B): No Report

Treatment/Bridging the Gap (Ed S):

Hi NAGSC fellows. My name is Ed, and I am an alcoholic. It is said in the rooms, including Zoom rooms, that no one gets to a meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous by mistake. I whole-heartedly believe that. It is a great pleasure to live as a sober member of A.A. and to carry our society's message of sobriety and recovery to alcoholics.

Since early March, Covid-19's spread forced Treatment Facilities to suspend visits by A.A. members throughout northern Nevada and eastern California. For me, this brought most of my A.A. activity to a screeching halt. However, like everyone else, A.A. members were learning how to cope with the pandemic and all the changes in everyday activities. The fear of getting the virus and passing it on was nearly all encompassing for what has seemed a long while. Still, my mind kept keeps, filling with ideas about how to connect A.A.s 12th Step volunteers to alcoholics in and leaving treatment. Fortunately, the limited communication I had with A.A. volunteers and with treatment facility staff showed me beyond a doubt that this was a time to focus on staying safe myself and with family members.

With changes in guidelines for safe keeping from Covid-19, we may be nearing a resumption in A.A. services to alcoholics in treatment facilities. Recent activities:

- This last week in May, the treatment committee got a request from Behavioral Health Services in Carson City to resume A.A.'s 12th Step service work with patients as soon as we are ready. At BHS, A.A. volunteers had been holding several treatment facility inside meetings, making Bridging the Gap presentations bi-weekly, coordinating temporary A.A. contacts with patients leaving treatment, and holding Orientation to A.A. sessions weekly.
- A treatment committee meeting is scheduled May 31, Sunday, 5 p.m. on Zoom. The Zoom meeting I.D. is 463 774 7771 (no password). Some A.A. volunteers will and some will not feel ready to resume with inside meetings and presentations. The BHS Coordinator has let us know what are their necessary practices to reduce risk of Covid-19 infection. We will discuss how we can effectively carry the message to patients in BHS given the circumstances. The Care Coordinator for BHS plans to join the Zoom meeting.
- During the "shut down," information was passed to staff at the treatment facilities about Zoom meeting schedules listed at nnig.org and aa.org. This includes a number of meetings throughout Northern Area 42. We also supplied pamphlets for the racks inside for patients, and provided direction to patients obtaining A.A. literature on-line at aa.org and at Central Office. Temporary contact program was suspended, so newcomers from treatment facilities have been a rarity in the regular recovery meetings I attend.

- The District 16 committee, at their May meeting on Zoom, hosted a presentation at about the ways A.A. gets to carry the message of sobriety into treatment facilities in northern Nevada. Thank you for the opportunity to share and for your hospitality. I was so glad to have preparation for the presentation to occupy my attention.

Setting up Zoom meetings for my home group and assisting others has kept me occupied during the pandemic shutdown. It was incredibly frustrating at first. I was desperate for meetings and service work. Fortunately, A.A. taught me perseverance, to learn through trial and error. Many group members swore no Zoom meetings ever. Some joined us, some did not.

Intergroup Liaison (Pat S):

My job as NAGSC/NNIG Liaison entails attending the meetings of both entities and reporting to the other. NNIG meets monthly, and, yes, their meetings have been via Zoom.

The last NNIG (Tuesday June 2) was held on ZOOM. Members spent most of the time debating where and how the July meeting will be held. Elections had been scheduled. It was decided the next meeting will be July 7, at the usual time (6:30 p.m.). It will be exclusively for elections. The meeting will be held both at the Sparks Alano Club and on Zoom.

At the May NNIG meeting was also held online. We were reminded that group contributions can still be made to NNIG by mailing them to the Central Office at 436 Rock Blvd, Sparks 89431 or through the contributions link at nnig.org. Purchases, thus income, are down because of the pandemic. The office, however, is open for business Monday through Friday. Merchandise can also be mailed for cost plus postage. For more information, call the Central Office at (775) 355-1151.

Founder's Day at Bowers Mansion has been cancelled this year.

The June 13 Speaker meeting will be held at the Silver Legacy as originally scheduled, but will be limited to 50 actual attendance. It will also be on Zoom.

Since all jail and prison meetings were cancelled, it was suggested AA members can still participate in the correspondence program. Go to aa.org and click on the corrections button for an application. I personally do this and after a couple of false starts (the inmate either lost interest or was released) I find it most rewarding.

Yours in service,

Pat S. (NAGSC/NNIG Liaison)

GSR Survival Manual/Trainer (Tinna O):

Cooperation with the Professional Community (Ed L):

Hi Every one my name is Ed and I am an alcoholic and current CPC chair of for the north. I haven't been able to do much of anything the past few months as we all know everything is

closed. I do have a situation that I would like to discuss and that is I am not getting any communication. I talked to Debbie at a district 12 business meeting and we tried to rectify the inability to send messages to Hotmail. If it wasn't for the fact that I talked to Dan M this morning while on a 6:45 am zoom meeting I wouldn't have known about today's meeting or the code and password. I have given Noel my email address a number of times and get nothing there either. I am not pointing fingers or blaming anyone just asking for some help in finding a solution.

Due to the Covid lock down I have not received the CPC packet from the GSO so I'm kind of in the dark about what my actual position requires or more importantly what I should and shouldn't do. When leaving a position I give all of the information to the person taking over so that they can get started right away and not have to wait until they get their packet from GSO.

I would like to send out my appreciation to all of our members who took the initiative to start online zoom meetings before everything closed down. Your love and dedication has saved many lives I'm sure of it. I'm sure that I speak for everyone here when I say **YOU ROCK**. I look forward to meeting in person in October as the hugs at the online meetings just aren't the same and many of us are suffering for the lack thereof.

Take Care Be Good To Yourselves Always

Yours In Loving Service

Ed L

Registrar (Tony A): No Report

Finance Chair (Lonnie):

On June 6, 2020 we had a finance meeting to discuss our finances.

We would like to recommend to the body that we not distribute any money at this time, due to the uncertainties do to the pandemic.

Back round information.

Area 42 has not done any destitutions at this time and SAGSC has voted to wait before doing any distributions.

Thank You

Lonnie M

NAGSC Finance Chair

Corrections (Pat B):

In April, GSO Staff Corrections Coordinator Brenda B. sent out a letter to Delegates, Corrections Chairs, and Bridging The Gap Chairs advising the Fellowship of a critical need for male Corrections Correspondence Service volunteers. This means incarcerated alcoholics have reached out for help but have been put on a waiting list due to the need for additional volunteers. The only requirement for participating as a volunteer Corrections Correspondent is the willingness to share recovery experience, strength, and hope through the mail; on average, one letter per month. While influenced by the current environment, the shortage of male volunteers for this service is a perennial issue, so additional volunteers are always needed. I

have forwarded additional information on the Corrections Correspondence Service to all NAGSC officers and DCM's via email.

Lovelock State Prison Update: Our initial meeting with the Warden at Lovelock was in November; a two hour meeting during which the Warden emphasized the need and desire for an A.A. presence at Lovelock. By April 11th, our inaugural A.A. meeting behind the walls at Lovelock was scheduled to take place. Volunteers were identified and completed the security clearance and training requirements. A.A. literature was sent in to support the meeting. One week prior to our scheduled first meeting, the State of Nevada suspended all volunteer programs. We are prepared to start when we get the approval. We are seeking additional volunteers to support this meeting which will take place on Saturdays from 9:30AM - 10:30AM. Our goal is a once per month commitment per volunteer. It is important to note, and this makes Corrections different than any other Service Committee, that ultimately, the State of Nevada selects our Corrections Committee volunteers regardless of where ever they may reside. Some approved volunteers are willing to travel significant distances in order to carry our message behind the prison walls. The round trip from Battle Mountain to Lovelock is 250 miles; Reno to Lovelock is 186 miles.

Since we last presented NAGSC Committee Reports, I had the privilege of attending the 3rd Annual A.A. National Corrections Conference in Houston. We heard from Corrections Professionals and the Chairman of the Texas House of Representatives Corrections Committee. They all praised A.A. for our Service and provided profound support of our presence behind the walls of correctional facilities. Perhaps of most significance, we heard from a panel of past offenders who spoke of finding and adopting A.A. while incarcerated. Most were repeat offenders who reappeared in prison behind continued drinking. Their message was unified and the message was "I was turned loose many times, but I was never set free!" "My freedom ultimately came through my participation in A.A."

The NAGSC 's Corrections Committee has begun to publish a newsletter called "The Link". The purpose of the publication is to "connect members interested in corrections service with news and shared experience throughout Northern Nevada. The initial email distribution went out to 76 interested members. Anyone interested in receiving "The Link" can contact me. We have received the first notification of a correctional facility opening to outside volunteer programs. Joe H. of Battle Mt. reports that he will resume the A.A. meeting conducted behind the walls of the Lander County Jail.

Back in February I was pleased to have the pleasure of participating in meetings at District 12 and District 2 where I made presentations on Corrections service opportunities. I look forward to participating in additional District meetings when permitted to do so.

As continually noted in this Chair's reports and announcements, "having experience being incarcerated is Not a requirement for A.A. Corrections Service". Inmates already know the path to prison; we show them the path to Freedom".

Respectfully submitted,
Pat B

NAGSC Corrections Chair

DCM Coordinator (Anne Y):

We did not meet since we did not have a regular assembly and are not meeting at this meeting. From what I am seeing there is a lot of participation with zoom meetings and I know that some of the districts have had their meetings by zoom. I am very grateful that we are able to do things via zoom.

Accessibilities/ Remote Communities (Emma E): No Report

Grapevine: (Elise F): doesn't have much to report, haven't had any events planned, but did get a phone call from GSO office and she felt like that was a great outreach from GSO and was proud that the grapevine has made everything available at no cost during this time.

Area 42 Newsletter editor (Gabe S): No Report

Area 42 Webmaster (Mike L): Hello everyone my name Mike L I am an alcoholic serving as your area web servant. Like everyone else I have been challenged by events forcing me to adjust how we serve. It has forcing me to learn some valuable new skills such as Zoom which become our default application to keep us connected. The website itself is not very flexible to announce quickly changing events but I managed to post all the cancellations and announcements in both Spanish and English. The site traffic web peaked at the beginning of the pandemic when most announcements and cancellations were taking place, making the website a valuable tool for the Area. We are all in this together. It is a great honor to be able to serve.

RENVYPAA Liaison (Rein P): The link is posted on RENVYPAA fb page for the upcoming campout, they have a couple emails for chair Joanna and cochair Amanda, if you need that I can post it in the chat. Because of COVID campout was cancelled, instead they will be doing an online workshop June 19-21 via zoom. This information can be found on the website: <https://renvypaa.org/>

7th Tradition

Motion to close, 2nd, approved

Discussion if next meeting will be held over Zoom, Chris S said we will see what the current state is with COVID as we get closer to the date but it will most likely be over Zoom in order to have higher attendance.

Closed meeting with Responsibility Statement