

Northern Area General Service Committee  
Meeting Minutes — February 23, 2013  
*First Congregational Church, Reno, NV*

- The meeting was called to order by NAGSC chair Phil W. at 11:10 a.m.
- Following welcoming remarks by chair Phil W., all in attendance introduced themselves. There were 87 members and guests present.
- Will read the Preamble. Ed read the 1st Concept for World Service (short form).
- Delegate Sophie K. welcomed participants,
- The minutes of our Dec. 1, 2012 meeting were approved with no corrections or changes.
- Treasurer Julie R. gave her report. There is \$11,121 in the NAGSC checking account. Our prudent reserve is at \$1,250. So far this year \$1,500 has been received from various groups and entities. She reminded group treasurers to include their group name and GSO number on all checks.
- Phil announced the following chair and liaison choices: Samantha G. (Public Information), Mike L. (NNIG Liaison), and Chris S. (GSR Survival Trainer). The selections were approved. He noted in the past few years NAGSC has had a second GSR survival trainer who had nothing to do, as the trainer in and around Reno conducted with workshops with GSRs. He said there have been requests for DCM workshops at the Area 42 and NAGSC levels. In the past there have been meetings of the Chairs and DCMs before the regular NAGSC meeting, but that became redundant with reports having to be given twice. He proposed we bring back the DCM and Committee Chair meetings (workshops) facilitated by a trainer who will lead a discussion between the DCMs and Committee Chairs on matters that might be on their minds for the upcoming several months. He asked for a one-year trial with Lonnie M., a past GSR trainer and past DCM serving as facilitator, and that we not have a second GSR trainer. Lonnie will also help at the Assembly. Phil asked that Lonnie be a voting and funded member in this temporary position and if the plan works, at the December meeting a Guideline change could be added to the NAGSC Guidelines. The proposal passed unanimously.
- Julie presented a proposed amendment to NAGSC Guidelines, and as it was a first reading, the only discussion was for clarification.

Discussion will take place at the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading (the next NAASC meeting). The proposal amends Section 4.0 F the NAGSC Guidelines, defining the purpose of NAGSC standing committees and the roles and duties of standing committee chairs.

It currently reads:

#### 4.0 F CPC, Treatment Facilities, Correctional Facilities and PI Chairpersons

1. Coordinate with the corresponding Northern Nevada Intergroup Chairpersons to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Proposal to amend section 4.0 as follows:

#### 4.0 F Northern Area Standing Committees

The purpose of the NAGSC standing committees is to inform the membership about the committees' roles in carrying the A.A. message and to encourage members to participate in that general service work in their groups and districts. Additionally, standing committees serve as a resource for district, ANNYPAA and Intergroup committees by sharing information from GSO and other areas through workshops and presentations.

The standing committees include:

Public Information (PI)  
Corrections/Bridging the Gap  
Treatment Facilities /Bridging the Gap      Special  
Needs/Remote  
Communities  
Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC)  
Grapevine

1) The duties of the committee chairs include:

- a) To create a standing committee with membership representing all of Northern Area, by inviting members throughout the Northern Area to participate on the committee;
- b) To facilitate and support the General Service activities of the standing committee members, including participation from districts and local groups;
- c) To conduct committee meetings at least three times per year;
  - l) At the beginning of the rotation coordinate a

training for committee members on how to support local members in their efforts to be active in the committee's work; using AA Guidelines, Box 459, AAWS quarterly reports, and committee service material including kits, workbooks and newsletters;

II) Keep standing committee members informed about committee-related issues in Districts, NAGSC, SAGSC and Area 42 as well as General Service Conference agenda items that relate to the committee;

III) Invite Intergroup Chair of corresponding committee to at least one NAGSC committee meeting per year for the purpose of fostering and maintaining communication between the standing committees of NAGSC and their counterparts in NNIG;

d) To organize committee members to present relevant agenda items at the NAGSC Pre-Conference Roundtables;

e) Attend each NAGSC meeting and Area 42 assembly with a report of the committees activities; f) In the spirit of cooperation be the conduit of communication between the districts, the standing committee chairs and their counter parts in NNIG to keep all informed on how AA's message of recovery and hope is being shared throughout Northern Nevada Area 42.

***(Note: none of the funding language changes)***

#### Grapevine Chair

I am just getting my feet wet learning about the Grapevine and my position as chair. I tried to have a table set up at the International Women's Convention in Reno, February 14 – 17 but the logistics did not work out. I am looking forward to spreading the word about the Grapevine. Thank you for allowing me to serve, Paul E.

- All other business and reports were postponed until the Tonopah Assembly so there would be more time for Roundtable discussion of six agenda items that will be discussed in committee at the A.A. General Service Conference.
- Attendees then broke into six separate groups, including one for Spanish-speaking participants. Following is a

summary of the Roundtable discussions:

Corrections Item C & D

1. Inform groups about Bridging the Gap program and update Bridging the Gap info, postcards, etc.
2. Let potential corrections committee members in the home group know about the benefits of this service work by relaying stories of jail visits and other corrections experiences.
3. Use your Area Corrections Chair (Contact info below) & GSO to locate information on corrections servicework.
4. Support the "Pink Can"
5. Make more literature available for prison meetings.
6. Groups need info on how to work 4<sup>th</sup> steps inventories with inmates.

PI Item D

1. FACEBOOK puts you in the public domain
2. FACEBOOK too easily links to other sites.
3. Could be good to reach those who do not know of AA's existence.
4. Might attract younger members.
5. Social media is too new, not understood and breaks most traditions.
6. No control over the affiliation.
7. Page administrator would have to make sure it is translated into all languages.
8. Web history is too easily tracked by FACEBOOK.
9. Personal info is often sold by FACEBOOK
10. Pop up ads may break our tradition concerning affiliation.
11. FACEBOOK changes its policies at will.
12. AA's website is controlled by the membership, a FACEBOOK page

- would not.
13. Conflicts with AA's policy of "Attraction, not promotion"
  14. Can't quit FACEBOOK, can only deactivate the account.
  15. Conflicts with AA's tradition of anonymity at the level of press, radio, film...
  16. Is this "Promotion" or is it just "Carrying the message"?
  17. Is social media a way to attract new members that may not have any other way of hearing about AA?
  18. Does the GSO conference have Internet guidelines?
  19. An "information only page" would protect anonymity.
  20. If FACEBOOK has its own privacy policy, does it correspond to AA's policy?
  21. Keep it simple.
  22. We have better things to take care of like "Carrying the Message"
  23. We should continue discussing this issue.
  24. Continue to educate the body.

International Conventions Item B & CPC Item A

1. Will the phrase "each group is autonomous" be a bullet point or part of the paragraph?
2. \$60,000 is a lot of money for 21 non-AA guests.
3. If they were AA members, it would cost the same \$60,000.
4. We already have non-AA trustees that attend the conference.
5. Can we spend money on non-AA's?
6. Changing the working in the CPC pamphlets would be minimal.
7. There is concern about members signing court cards, the pamphlet change may help professional better understand these issues.

8. We need more communication between AA and court officers.
9. This is a referral problem, should groups be refusing court ordered members?
10. Should we be signing court cards?

#### Archives Item B & C

1. Is the book going to be exactly the same?
2. Would this book be copyrighted? The original is not.
3. Is this profit driven?
4. Please consider in the future always printing with a Spanish version available.
5. Many members said they would like to purchase this.
6. Would it be possible to set up a preorder so GSO knows how many to print?
7. Will audio recordings complete with book sales?
8. Will members be able to access the recording for free?
9. Will AA rotate the tape selections?
10. Will the recording be grouped by subject matter?
11. Will there be anonymity issues for those recorded?
12. What is the cost to add the recording to the website?
13. Will the speakers be deceased, living or both?

#### Literature D

1. With many court ordered members, it is good to have guidelines on open & closed meetings.
2. Is this directed at the non-alcoholic sharing?
3. Some colleges send students who could benefit from this type of guidance.
4. This may encourage more non-AA members to attend AA meetings.

5. Big Book says AA is for alcoholics and if you are not alcoholic this program may not work for you.
6. Non-alcoholics are observers unless a group conscience is taken to allow some different format.
7. A story was related about how comments from an addict negatively affected another member.
8. We should have compassion for dual-addicted members.
9. Some members are court ordered into AA even if they are not alcoholic.
10. Limit shares to 3 – 5 minutes.
11. Some non-alcoholics want to share in meetings and it is helpful to read the Blue Card.

#### Treatment/Special Needs Item E & F

1. Rewrite guidelines like we are doing now
2. Email address for group to contact Special Needs Chair
3. List meeting accessibility on schedules
4. Workshops for groups
5. Group discussion on topic
6. When moving or starting a new meeting/group look for ways to make sure those with special needs can get into the meeting (ramps, wider doors, restrooms with room to move around, elevators)
7. Create list of ADA requirements
8. Help people to understand what wheelchair accessible means
9. Help people understand where to find ADA requirements for buildings.
10. Make Districts aware of Special Needs
11. Have someone with Special needs on the Committee
12. Communication is key

1. Provide literature for those in meetings (Braille, large print)
  2. Provide tapes, cd's, and videos with ASL in meeting halls
  3. Reserve seating closer to the speaker for those that are Deaf/Hard ofHearing
  4. Stand up and talk clear, or a little louder, look at the people when you talk, if you have a microphone use it, get rid of the background noise
  5. Workshops
  6. Email list for Special Needs contact
  7. Rewrite Guidelines like we are currently doing
  8. Have someone with Special needs on the Committee
  9. Make Districts aware of Special Needs
  10. Group discussion
  11. Communication is key
- The 7<sup>th</sup> tradition was \$179.00.
  - It was decided our next meeting (after Tonopah) will be June 1 in Winnemucca, hosted by District 10-B.
  - The meeting was closed with the Responsibility Statement.

Area 42 Website <http://nevadaarea42.org>  
ANNYPAA Website <http://annypaa.org>  
Reno Central office <http://www.nnig.org>