

Mid State Unity Area of NA®

Area Minutes for January 13th, 2014

Page 1 of 4

Open: 7:00 the meeting opened with a moment of silence, the Serenity Prayer, 12 Traditions, 12 Concepts and the Service Prayer.

Welcome to all new GSRs, Alternate GSRs and visitors! – Lauren S - Alt GSR for Off The Hook, Brian E – Alt GSR for Living Clean, and Dillon L - Alt GSR for Miracles...WELCOME to ALL!!

Mail: Mail included bank statements for the treasurer, Mail for the retreat, Mail (Reaching Out) for H&I, and the returned check from the Pig Roast which was returned to MSUA by the USPS due to the Pig Roast's P.O. Box being closed. (Spoke with a member who said that the box was reopened and should be ok to send out. Chair is mailing it out.)

Roll Call: 22 out of 25 groups present, all of which currently had voting privileges.

Service Orientation: Two Readings: Description of GSR and Alternate GSR from IP #2 "The Group" pp 7-8, & MSUA Policy Page 10, V. Subcommittee Policies Sections A (General) and B (Activities).

Announcements: **Adam H (Treasurer)** announced that that Conference Agenda Workshops were coming up (flyer available at MSUA). Scheduled dates are: Sat 2/22/2014, 11:30 AM – 4 PM, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 71 River St. Milford; Sat 3/1/2014, 12 Noon – 5 PM, Elmwood Community Church, 26 Newington Rd. West Hartford; and Sat 3/8/2014, 11 AM – 4 PM, North Congregational Church, 11 Main St. North, Woodbury. Attempts are being made to get an additional date in or near Middletown, but there is no guarantee of this, so Adam suggested making plans to attend at least one of the three scheduled workshops if interested. **AI (RCM)** Announced that the 2014 CAR Reports were available at MSUA and that each group present would receive one. *(Confirmation of those groups that received a CAR Report is noted in the group reports section of this document).*

Secretary minutes – All received the minutes. **Adam H (Treasurer)** noted that the financial difficulties reported by **A New Awakening** and their subsequent receipt of free schedules as dictated by MSUA policy were not included in the minutes. **Greg B (Living Clean)** indicated that the minutes did not clarify that **WSR** is a regional subcommittee and not an area subcommittee in the announcements and subcommittee announcements sections of the document. **Brian E (Living Clean)** noted that if one regional subcommittee's (**WSR**) schedule information was given in the MSUA minutes, then for the sake of equanimity the information for all regional subcommittees should be provided as well. Motion to accept made by **Tommy F (After the Weekend)**, 2nd by **Roberto C (Saturday Night Sanity)**. *Minutes accepted 22-0-0*

Treasurer report – **Adam H** gave written/verbal report. Adam also indicated that this was the last report of the year and as such, the report included a recap of expenses and funds. **Gene F (PR)** asked if Holy Trinity Church was going to be paid for the marathon meetings and if the request for funds would come from the activities subcommittee or from MSUA itself this year as activities was without a chair during organization of the marathon meetings this year. Adam indicated that this was a "good catch", and that this would be taken care of. Motion to accept made by **Tommy F (After the Weekend)**, 2nd by **Jim K (A New Awakening)**. *Treasurer's report accepted 22-0-0.*

RCM – **AI W (RCM)** gave written/verbal report. **Steve R (Over the Wall)** asked that the BOD be reminded to file income taxes this year in a timely manner to avoid another penalty for not filing (the IRS did give a full refund of the tax penalty minus interest this year). **AI** clarified that last year only one person had access to the tax information, while this year more than one member of the BOD has access to this information. **WSR Chair OTF, Alt. Web Servant OTF, PR Chair OTF, Secretary OTF, BOD at large OTF, Convention Committee Chair OTF.** Regional minutes can be accessed at **CTNA.org**

Subcommittee Reports:

Activities – **Alicia M.** gave written/verbal report. *Activities listed several functions they were considering (free events such as a game night in a couple of months and a hike in the spring, and a picnic/volleyball tournament in June). The subcommittee asks that GSRs present these ideas to their groups and bring feedback back to next area meeting.* Alicia did have some question for MSUA regarding guidelines and requirements for the chair and vice chair. **Kris V (Off the Hook)** indicated that he would give her information, and **Brian E (Living Clean)** referred to Page 12 of MSUA policy. **Chris H (H&I)** asked if the activities subcommittee needed a treasurer, Kris V indicated that the Activities chair acts as the treasurer. It was also indicated that there is nothing like an activities world service handbook are anything else like this from NAWs. **Vice Chair OTF. Activities meets on the 3rd Saturday of every month at Faith Lutheran church located at 300 Washington St. at 7:30 p.m. prior to the Basically Lit meeting.**

Mid State Unity Area of NA®

Area Minutes for January 13th, 2014

Page 2 of 4

H&I – Chris H. (Chair) gave written/verbal report. **Alicia M (Activities)** asked in what circumstances addicts serving H&I get removed from their positions. Chris indicated that this is done according to policies and guidelines in place regarding behavior. **H&I meets the third Monday of every month at Holy Trinity Church, 381 Main St. Middletown. New member orientation begins at 6:30 followed by the regularly scheduled subcommittee meeting at 7:00.**

Literature – Dana R (Chair) gave written / verbal report. Hard copies of the new literature prices were made available. **Michael L (MSUA Vice Chair)** brought up the matter that Dana would be absent for a month as of March 6th and the subcommittee does not have a vice chair. A discussion followed. It was revealed that current MSUA policy sets the clean time requirement for the Literature vice chair at 6 months. Concerns were raised that in the absence of a chair, the vice chair would handle a substantial amount of money. While it was clarified that all monies actually go through the MSUA Treasurer, it was also brought up that the literature chair or vice chair is responsible for the handling, storage, and transport of the literature, medallions, and key tags, the sum total of which has a substantial dollar value. During the discussion it was also revealed that **Billy L (Basically Lit)** had volunteered to take over for the month of Dana's absence, and in fact had been the only person showing up to help with literature. While it was clarified that the Literature subcommittee does not have an orientation, Billy indicated that he would be willing to become a member of the subcommittee and he also qualified for the position and had the desire and willingness to serve. While it was felt by some that Billy should to be approved by the MSUA as a whole, it was also mentioned that according to MSUA policy, appointment of responsibility within a subcommittee is an internal affair. It was also brought up that for the month of Dana's absence; the MSUA vice chair is ultimately responsible for covering chair functions of the subcommittees without a chair. During the discussion **Jill F (Where we are going)** brought up that her group did not have a copy of the MSUA policy. The MSUA chair indicated that he would get her a copy of policy. **MSUA Literature meets at the Portland Senior Center prior to the ASC meeting at 6:15, all are welcome.**

Public Relations – Gene F (Chair) gave written / verbal report. **Vice Chair, phone line coordinator, and Spanish phone line coordinator are OTF. Public Relations meets on the 4th Sunday of every month at Holy Trinity, 381 Main St. 5:00pm is new member orientation followed by the regularly scheduled subcommittee meeting.**

Retreat – Briana L. (Chair) gave written / verbal report. The retreat committee met at 6:45 PM, January 13th, 2014 prior to the MSUA meeting. 2 addicts were in attendance. The expense report and budget were reviewed and there was no old business. Eight packages have been sold to date.

Beginning Balance: \$1794.89	Expenses: \$0.00
2 New Registrations: \$330.00	Current Balance: \$2124.89

Group Reports

Note: All Groups except After Lunch Bunch received copies of the CAR Report. Surrender to Win's copy was given to Michael S. (New Freedom), and The Other 23's copy was given to Ivan P. (MSUA Secretary) for transfer to those groups as their GSRs were absent.

20 out of 25 groups

A New Awakening- Jim K – AIW	Off the Hook Freedom Book- Kris V. – AIW
After Lunch Bunch- Absent	Saturday Night Sanity – Roberto C - GSR, Alt GSR OTF, Addict support
After the Weekend – Tommy F - Alt GSR OTF - EVENT	Serenity Check – Maureen F – Possible need to find alternate site.
All About Change- Doming – Addict support	Stepping Free – Sean - AIW
Basically Lit – Billy - EVENT	Stepping Into the Weekend – Tonia C - Alt GSR OTF
Came To Believe –Katie - AIW	Stepping Thru it All – Gerry P – Sec OTF
Coming Alive- Greg P – Addict support-(new trusted servants, \$)	Stepping Up –Orlando R – Alt GSR
Living Clean- Greg B– AIW	Straight Lace –Kristine M - AIW
Miracles – Dillon L - GSR OTF, Addict Support	Surrender to Win- Absent
New Freedom –Michael S – AIW	The Other 23 - Absent
New Perspectives – Maribel O - Alt GSR OTF	Where We are Going – Jill F – Sec, Alt GSR OTF, Addict Support - EVENT
No Joke on Oak – Jim R - Alt GSR OTF, Addict support	Whole Lava Love – JRob C – Addict Support
Over the wall- Steve- Alt GSR OTF	

Mid State Unity Area of NA®

Area Minutes for January 13th, 2014

Page 3 of 4

Break for 15 minutes

Roll Call II: 22 out of 25 groups present

Sharing Session:

Marc L. (Chair) – If anyone is confused about what the Conference Agenda Report is they should go to one of the workshops if they can. There are also videos available to watch. **Maureen F (Serenity Check)** also mentioned that those inexperienced with the Conference Agenda Report could ask any of those members who have been around for a while for more information and clarity.

Old business: A vote was conducted on the **Retreat** budget. Votes were 22-0-0. 2014 budget passed.

Elections:

MSUA Treasurer was put out to the Fellowship for 30 days. **Tommy F (After the Weekend)** – Nominated **Adam H** for a second term as Treasurer. 2nd by **Steve R (Over the Wall)**. Adam accepted, qualified, and answered questions. Brought to a vote. **Congrats Adam!**

New Business:

Motion #1- A motion “That MSUA only accepts contributions from groups and/or committees within MSUA” was made by **Greg B** and seconded by **Orlando R**. The intent was “Cohesiveness with the 7th Tradition”. The Wording of the motion was changed to “That MSUA only accepts ***financial*** contributions from groups and/or committees within MSUA” following the discussion that ensued. It was pointed out that currently MSUA policy page 5, section D 4 specifies that the MSUA will not accept money from the Connecticut regional convention committee. The expanded motion would extend this to other outside groups such as the Pig Roast. It was also indicated that at any time MSUA could elect to suspend policy to accept a contribution. It was pointed out that if the motion did not explicitly limit itself to financial contributions, then in theory MSUA could not accept any contributions of any sort (time, labor, etc.). There was some disagreement as to the application of the 7th tradition in this case. Some felt that the area itself should be fully self supporting and not beholden to anyone, while others felt that “NA was NA”, and as long as the contributions were from within the fellowship, the MSUA should be free to accept them. A motion to table discussion for 30 days to allow GSRs to bring the matter to their groups was made by **Steve R** and seconded by **Gerry P**. This motion to table discussion for 30 days passed 18-0-3.

Motion #2-A motion to “Change Literature Vice Chair Position to have 1 year clean time requirement (Policy VI: Literature, line 5 on page 16)” was made by **Al W** and seconded by **Roberto C**. The stated intent was “To require more clean time when handling MSUA literature”. In the discussion that followed it was revealed that each subcommittee has the clean time and other requirements for the chair of the subcommittee dictated by MSUA, but that clean time and other requirements for vice chair and any other positions were decided internally by each subcommittee, and that the stated requirements of the vice chairs as indicated in MSUA policy are simply those requirements submitted to MSUA by the subcommittees themselves. However, if MSUA as a whole feels that the subcommittee ought to reconsider the clean time requirements for the vice chair, they may do so. There was some disagreement about the appropriateness of the limitation of the powers of the MSUA in this matter. The motion was committed to the Literature Subcommittee for 30 days for their consideration.

Mid State Unity Area of NA®

Area Minutes for January 13th, 2014

Page 4 of 4

Upcoming Events / Changes

Group level changes:

None at this time - **Adam H** indicated that if any group changed their meeting location or times that they should submit those changes ASAP. (See below)

Upcoming Events:

Stepping Through It All has had it confirmed by Wesleyan University that they will continue to be able to meet at the Woodhead Lounge in the Exley Science Center this semester as listed in the current schedule.

After The Weekend is celebrating the group's 19th anniversary on February 17th, 2014. Food fun and fellowship start at 6:30 and the meeting ends at 9:30 PM. Bethlehem Lutheran Church at the corner of West High (66) and Main – East Hampton.

Where We Are Going has an 8th Year anniversary party for the group coming up in April 2014. More will be revealed.

Basically Lit is hosting the 2014 History of NA conference - Sept 12-14 2014 at the Sheraton Stamford in Stamford. Ad Hoc meets the 4th Saturday of the month at 7:30 PM at 300 Washington St, Middletown. Registration meets the 3rd Monday of the month at 7:00 PM at 130 Marlborough St, Portland. Programming Meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at Portland United Methodist Church following the over the wall group (after 8:30 PM).

Conference Agenda Workshops scheduled dates are: Sat 2/22/2014, 11:30 AM – 4 PM, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 71 River St. Milford; Sat 3/1/2014, 12 Noon – 5 PM, Elmwood Community Church, 26 Newington Rd. West Hartford; and Sat 3/8/2014, 11 AM – 4 PM, North Congregational Church, 11 Main St. North, Woodbury and Sun 3/9/2014, 11:30AM-5PM, 300 Washington Street, Middletown.

Subcommittee Announcements:

None at this time

The most efficient way to convey meeting changes to region is to visit regional website "ctna.org", then proceed to "service subcommittees" (on left side of the page), click on the "CTRSC" link. Go to "RSC Forms" then click on the "Ct. Regional Schedule Meeting Information Form". Please fill out form and at the bottom of the page it will say; "Choose Area to Send". Once the MSUA has been chosen the information will be sent directly to our RCM.