

Mid State Unity Area of NA®

Area Minutes for June 9th, 2014

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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! – **Janice** - GSR for **Working the Steps**, **Shane C** - Alt GSR for **Came to Believe**, **Matt R** – Alt GSR for **Miracles on Oak**, **Justin Z** – **Vice Chair of Activities**, and **Ryan B** – Alt GSR for **Stepping Free ...WELCOME to ALL!!**

Mail: Mail included bank statements for the treasurer and Mail for the retreat.

Roll Call: 19 out of 25 groups present, 18 of which currently had voting privileges. Quorum of 2/3 (17) met. During Roll Call **Adam H (Treasurer)** asked about the **After Lunch Bunch** which had not sent representation to Area for an extended period of time, and is in the schedule at an address which is closed. He mentioned the need to take it out of the schedule and roll call. This was further discussed in the sharing session.

Service Orientation: MSUA Policy Page 20, Addendum B – Commonly Used Motions (Rules of Order). H (Commit or Refer to Committee), I (Division of Question), & J (Limit or Extend Debate).

Announcements: **Colin H (Stepping Free)** announced that their group voted to make the “GSSR” a permanent position and for the next six months they voted to send a member to the PR subcommittee.

Secretary minutes – All received the minutes. **Brian E (Living Clean)** noted that motions in the minutes should be numbered and dated from this point forward in order to have easy reference to them should the need arise. **Gene F (PR)** noted one error in the transcribed Activities budget for the volleyball tournament, where the cost for renting the park should have read “\$25” rather than “\$20”. Motion to accept made by **Tommy F (After the Weekend)**, 2nd by **Lennie S (Surrender to Win)**. **Minutes accepted 18-0-0**

Treasurer report – **Adam H** gave written/verbal report. Motion to accept made by **Gerry P (Stepping Through it All)**, 2nd by **Janice (Working the Steps)**. **Treasurer’s report accepted 18-0-0.**

RCM – **Al W (RCM)** gave written/verbal report. **Brian E (Living Clean)** asked when the new regional policy was going to be available. Al was not yet certain. **Gary M (Saturday Night Sanity)** asked if the next Region meeting would be a “B” meeting. The answer was that it was. Region will continue be held in the Midstate Unity Area in the months of June and July 2014 at 300 Washington Street, Middletown Ct. The next Regional Meeting is on Saturday June 21st at 2 PM.

Subcommittee Reports:

Activities – **Alicia M.** Prepared a written report which was read by **Justin Z.** **Al W (RCM)** reminded Activities to make it clear to participants that they would not be covered by the area’s insurance policy at the volleyball event. When **Chris H (H&I)** asked if MSUA had a blanket waiver form it was revealed that they do not. However, **Gerry P (Stepping through it all)** indicated that the **Greater Waterbury Area** has a waiver for their basketball event which has worked well for some time and that this form could be used for events in MSUA. **Tommy F (After the Weekend)** brought up that technically MSUA has rights to the park both days (the date of the event and the rain date), and should the event go on as scheduled on Saturday 8/23/14, MSUA could hold an informal activity on Sunday 8/24/14 as well. **Gene F (PR)** mentioned that his name was on the actual form renting and reserving the park, so any those wishing to hold any informal event on the rain date should check with him first. **Activities meets on the 3rd Saturday of every month at Faith Lutheran church located at 300 Washington St. at 6:30 p.m. prior to the Basically Lit meeting.**

H&I – **Chris H. (Chair)** gave written/verbal report. **Matt R (miracles on Oak)** asked about the actual requirements to serve on H&I. The answer was that MSUA policy requires participants to have 6 months clean to go into a facility and 9 months to chair a meeting. However, any addict may be oriented to H&I and may attend the monthly H&I subcommittee meetings regardless of clean time. **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. **MSUA Literature meets at the Portland Senior Center prior to the ASC meeting at 6:15, all are welcome.**

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Public Relations – Gene F (Chair) gave written / verbal report. Tommy F (After the Weekend) asked when the Central Ct Area monthly presentation for Rushford was, and if it was open to addicts who are Oriented to MSUA PR. Gene was unsure but said he would find out. **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 – Jen K (Chair) gave a verbal report. No changes were reported, and the subcommittee itself does not meet during the summer months.

Group Reports

19 out of 24 groups

A New Awakening- Absent	Over the wall - Dave W – AIW
After Lunch Bunch- Absent	Off the Hook Freedom Book - Absent
After the Weekend – Tommy F - AIW	Saturday Night Sanity – Gary M - Alt GSR OTF
All About Change– Absent	Serenity Check – Maureen F - Addict Support
Basically Lit – Billy L – AIW, EVENT	Stepping Free – Colin H - AIW, EVENT
Came To Believe –Katie C – AIW	Stepping Into the Weekend – Absent
Coming Alive- Greg P – Addict Support	Stepping Thru it All – Gerry P – AIW
Living Clean- Brian E – AIW	Stepping Up –Orlando R – Alt GSR OTF, Policy ad hoc starting 6/11
Miracles – Matt R – GSR OTF, EVENT	Straight Lace – Kristine M - Alt GSR OTF
New Freedom – Lisa S – Alt GSR OTF	Surrender to Win- Lennie S - GSR, Alt GSR OTF, Addict Support , EVENT
New Perspectives – Absent - Alt GSR OTF, Addict Support	Where We are Going – Jill F – Addict Support
No Joke on Oak – Absent - GSR, Alt GSR OTF, EVENT	Whole Lava Love – JRob C - Alt GSR OTF
	Working the Steps – Janice – New Meeting , AIW - Flyer Available

Break for 15 minutes

Roll Call II: 19 out of 25 groups present, 18 of which currently had voting privileges. Quorum of 2/3 (17) met.

Sharing Session:

Brian E (Living Clean) brought up the issues of meetings that are closed temporarily such as when a facility has booked a special event or is closed for any other reason. He recalled that in the past it was suggested that GSRs use the c.c. E-mail List to notify all other GSRs when a meeting becomes closed temporarily in order to “get the word out”. However, he suggested that the MSUA minutes include a protocol for GSRs or other trusted servants of a group to use to notify the fellowship when such a need arises. This has been included in the MSUA minutes.

Chris H (H&I) Brought up the idea of GSRs becoming involved in subcommittees as suggested in “**The Group**” IP. A discussion followed. **Kristine M (Straight Lace)** suggested that her group had a “GSSR” attending a subcommittee and that perhaps MSUA should highlight which subcommittees were in the most need. **Adam H (Treasurer)** reiterated the problem of only a small minority of addicts serving, suggesting that most NA members assume that “someone else will take care of it”. He stated that he continues to serve to ensure that NA will stay around for him and others that need it.

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Sharing Session (continued):

Chris H (H&I) Brought up the fact that the H&I policy as written requires the subcommittee to have a learning day. He wanted to know if an H&I presentation at an NA event could qualify as a learning day. In the discussion that followed it was indicated that MSUA learning days for H&I and other subcommittees are generally only attended by those who are already serving. Most participating in the discussion felt that would be a good idea for H&I and other subcommittees to participate in other NA events and make presentations and/or orient people there. However, some felt that such activities would not fulfill the requirements of an actual learning day as such. It was also brought up that members of H&I and other subcommittees could orient people to the subcommittees in question anywhere, and they did not have to wait for their monthly meeting or a learning day to do so. Mention was made of another area which had a chili cook-off which turned into an informal (but well attended) "learning day" as all of the area's subcommittees were present and all of the speakers at the event were representatives of the subcommittees and spoke about how service had impacted their recovery.

Adam H (Treasurer) brought up the fact that in MSUA policy that when a group does not show up to area a member of the administrative body was supposed to try to make contact with them. **Marc L (Chair)** indicated that he would attempt to make contact with the **After Lunch Bunch**.

Old business: Votes were conducted on the three motions from last month after they had been voted on by the various groups in the Midstate Unity Area.

Motion #1 - (5/12/2014) – This was Motion #1 (4/19/2014) from Region made by **Adam H (RD)** and Seconded by **Howard O (USA)**. "For the CT region to commit to hosting the January 2015 North East Zonal Forum Meeting. Estimated cost of no more than \$2,000." Intent: "To host the NEZF". The motion passed with a vote of 16-0-1.

Motion #2 - (5/12/2014) – "For activities to throw an event on August 23rd, 2014. The event is a volleyball tournament / picnic. Expenses for event total \$275 (changed to \$305 during discussion). This money will be put in special reserve by area over the next three months". Intent: "To have a MSUA activities event to promote unity and fellowshiping through a fun summer event." Made by **Alicia M (Activities)** and seconded by **Gerry P (Stepping Through it all)**. The motion passed with a vote of 16-0-1.

Motion #3 – (5/12/2014) – "For MSUASC to purchase a guide to local service for each participating group in the MSUA at a cost of \$7.05 each (total cost \$169.20)". Intent: "to better inform groups and GSRs on the NA service structure". Made by **Brian E (Living Clean)** and seconded by **Katie C (Came to Believe)**. The motion passed with a vote of 13-3-1.

Elections: None

New Business:

Motion #1 - (6/9/2014) "To increase the line item "RCM host Region" under administrative officers from \$150 to \$250" - Intent: "To have sufficient funds to host Region for the next two months" Was made by **Al W (RCM)** and seconded by **Lennie S (Surrender to Win)**. Al explained that the cost of hosting Region (rent for three months and refreshments) had already approached the \$150 limit and he required more funds to host for the next two months. **Brian E (Living Clean)** expressed concern over MSUA's intake vs. expenses as MSUA had already voted to approve the Volleyball tournament and the purchase of a guide to local service for all of the groups. As the Budget increase was under \$150 the motion was brought to a vote. The motion passed with a vote of 15-1-1.

Closed with a moment of silence followed by the serenity prayer.

Emergency or Temporary Group Cancellation or Relocation: *In the event that your group has to cancel or relocate on an emergency or temporary basis, as a GSR or other trusted servant you should make the effort to inform the fellowship. GSRs should use the Area c.c. E-Mail list to send a group E-mail with the cancellation or relocation information to all other GSRs who should then inform members of their various groups. GSRs or other trusted servants may also contact the MSUA secretary at (203)-435-2222 with the information, and the secretary will then use the MSUA Email and telephone lists to disseminate the details as soon as possible.*

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Upcoming Events / Changes

Group level changes: The “**Basically Lit**” Group which meets on Saturdays at Faith Lutheran church located at 300 Washington St., Middletown CT has changed the time they meet from 9:00 Pm to 8:00 PM. The Meeting will run from 8:00 PM to 9:15 PM starting on May 3rd, 2014.

“**Stepping Through it All**” received confirmation that they will be able to continue to meet at the Woodhead Lounge in the Exley Science Center at Wesleyan for the year of June 2014 – June 2015 with only December 24th and December 31st 2014 unavailable. The Group expressed a desire to hold their meeting at the beginning of the MSUA marathon meetings on those dates.

“**Working the Steps**” is a new closed meeting which meets Mondays at 6:45 – 8:00 PM at the Portland United Methodist Church, 381 Main St. Portland Ct. The format is writing on your personal step work for the first half of the meeting, and a discussion on one of the readings in the “Just for Today” book which highlights one of the steps for the second half of the meeting. Those with no step work may read the literature or meditate for the first half. The Meeting Starts officially on Monday, June 16th, 2014.

Subcommittee Announcements: **Activities** has changed the time that they meet from 7:30 PM to 6:30 PM. Activities meets on the 3rd Saturday of every month at Faith Lutheran church located at 300 Washington St. at 6:30 p.m. prior to the Basically Lit meeting.

Upcoming Events:

Surrender to Win is hosting its annual Independence Day picnic on Saturday July 12th, 2014 (Rain date July 13th) at Veteran’s Memorial Park in Middletown. Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$7 at the gate. Children 12 and under are free and there are free t-shirts for the first 50 kids.

Miracles on Oak is celebrating their 30th anniversary on Monday July 21st. Food Fun and Fellowship begins at 6:00 PM at open door missionary Baptist church. 47 Oak Street Middletown CT.

Basically Lit is hosting its 6th annual group event celebration on July 26, 2014 at Christ Lutheran Church, 300 Washington St. in Middletown. Tickets can be purchased for **\$5** pre-event and **\$10** the day of the event (cookout, speaker meeting, dance).

No Joke on Oak will be celebrating their 6th anniversary on Thursday July 31st. Food Fun and Fellowship begins at 5:30 PM at open door missionary Baptist church. 47 Oak Street Middletown CT. Food donations welcome!

Stepping Free is celebrating their 8th Anniversary on Monday August 18th. St James Church Parish Hall, 501 Killingworth Road, Higganum CT at the corner of Route 81 and Little City road. Food, fun, and fellowship start at 6:30 PM, followed by a “surprise topic” meeting at 8 PM.

MSUA Activities presents the **Summer Volleyball Tournament and Picnic**. Saturday August 23rd (rain date Sunday August 24th), at McCutcheon Park, Crystal Lake, Middletown CT. 12:00 to 6:00 PM. Food is provided but donations welcome. Tickets are \$5 and teams of five players can register for \$5 per team. Contact Alicia (860-575-3206), or Gene (860-770-7667) to register teams.

Basically Lit is hosting the 2014 History of NA conference - Sept 12-14 2014 at the Sheraton Stamford in Stamford. Ad Hoc meets the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month at 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM at 300 Washington St, Middletown. **(Ad Hoc will not meet July 26th.)** Registration meets the 3rd Monday of the month at 7:00 PM at 130 Marlborough St, Portland. Programming meets the 4th Tuesday of the month at Portland United Methodist Church following the over the wall group (after 8:30 PM).

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.