

Mid State Unity Area of NA®

Area Minutes for May 12th, 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! – Van G.- Alt GSR for Stepping Through it All, Sol R.- Alt GSR for Over The Wall, and Dillon L - GSR for Miracles on Oak ...WELCOME to ALL!!

Mail: Mail included bank statements for the treasurer, Mail for the retreat, “Reaching Out”, and NA Way magazines for the groups.

Roll Call: 18 out of 24 groups present, 17 of which currently had voting privileges. Quorum of 2/3 (16) met.

Service Orientation: MSUA Policy Page 20, Addendum B – Commonly Used Motions (Rules of Order). A (Adjourn), F (Amend), & G (Appeal the Facilitator).

Announcements: None.

Secretary minutes – All received the minutes. **Ivan P (Secretary)** noted two errors in the minutes, both made by the Area Secretary. The first was that the Retreat Subcommittee Chair should have appeared as OTF for 30 days in the elections portion of the minutes. The second was a ten dollar error in the retreat budget in terms of actual monies taken in and spent. “Cost of Paid Packages – Last Year’s \$800 Deposit” should have read “9400 rather than \$9410, “Expenses Subtotal” should have read \$10,880.56 rather than \$10,890.56, “Donations” should have read \$10 rather than \$20, and finally “Income Subtotal” should have read \$10430.00 rather than 10,440.00. Motion to accept made by **Gerry P (Stepping Through it All)**, 2nd by **Lisa S (New Freedom)**. **Minutes accepted 15-0-0**

Treasurer report – **Adam H** gave written/verbal report. Motion to accept made by **Gerry P (Stepping Through it All)**, 2nd by **Jill F (Where We Are Going)**. **Treasurer’s report accepted 18-0-0.**

RCM – **Al W (RCM)** gave written/verbal report. **The Regional proposal to financially commit to the North East Zonal Forum must be brought back to the groups to be voted upon, and the results should be brought back to Area in June. See Sharing Session for details.** Region will be held in the Midstate Unity Area in the months of May, June, and July 2014. All will be held at 300 Washington Street, Middletown Ct, with the first being Saturday May 17th at 2 PM, with a Policy Ad Hoc at 1 PM.

Subcommittee Reports:

Activities – **Alicia M.** gave written/verbal report. A budget was also submitted for the proposed Volleyball Tournament /Picnic on Saturday August 23rd. **This must be voted upon by groups and the results brought back to Area in June. See New Business for details.** **Kris V (Off The Hook)** asked what the cost of a trophy would be. Alicia indicated that this was estimated to be about \$30 and that this was to be generated by team registrations. It was felt by some that this ought to be included as a line item in the budget. **Billy L (Basically Lit)** asked if there were plans to have a Grand Slam picnic. Alicia indicated that there were not, but encouraged anyone interested in specific activities to get involved with the subcommittee. **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. When asked, Chris confirmed that the Pig Roast Operating Committee was aware of H&I’s intent to sell T-Shirts, and Chris also clarified that Merritt Hall Panels tend to be one or two people. **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. Dana indicated that the NAWS literature order shipped May 3rd but had not arrived yet. NAWS has invoice information but no Tracking #. Area schedules were made available at the break and Dana Offered to get with GSRs when literature arrived to get it to the groups if needed. **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. Gene Reiterated the request from a Pastor in Moodus to have an NA meeting there and that it would take at least 3 addicts to commit to the meeting for a year. **Note: PR will be meeting at May 18th in May instead of the 4th Sunday due to Memorial Day weekend. 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.**

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Retreat – Kim L (Subcommittee member) gave verbal report. No Changes were reported, and the subcommittee brought a formal recommendation of Jen K. to be the new Retreat Chair.

Group Reports

19 out of 24 groups

A New Awakening- Jim K – AIW	Over the wall- Sol R – AIW
After Lunch Bunch- Absent	Off the Hook Freedom Book - Kris V. – Addict Support, EVENT
After the Weekend – Tommy F - AIW	Saturday Night Sanity – Gary M - Alt GSR OTF
All About Change– Absent	Serenity Check – Absent
Basically Lit – Billy L – AIW EVENT	Stepping Free – Colin H - AIW
Came To Believe –Katie C - Alt GSR OTF	Stepping Into the Weekend – Absent
Coming Alive- Mary H – AIW	Stepping Thru it All – Gerry P – AIW
Living Clean- Brian E – Alt GSR OTF	Stepping Up –Orlando R – Alt GSR OTF
Miracles – Dillon L – GSR OTF, Addict Support	Straight Lace –Absent
New Freedom – Lisa S – Alt GSR OTF	Surrender to Win- Ray C - Alt GSR OTF, EVENT
New Perspectives – Maribel O - Alt GSR OTF	Where We are Going – Jill F – GSR, Alt GSR OTF, Addict Support
No Joke on Oak – Jim R - GSR, Alt GSR OTF, EVENT	Whole Lava Love – JRob C - AIW

Break for 15 minutes

Roll Call II: 22 out of 24 groups present

Sharing Session:

AI W (RCM) – Reminded groups that **the Regional proposal to financially commit to the North East Zonal Forum must be brought back to the groups to be voted upon, and the results should be brought back to Area in June.** Detailed information on the North East Zonal Forum (NEZF) can be found at NEZF.org. Included in the RCM report was the following brief explanation of the NEZF – *“We, the NA regions of the Northeastern states, have joined together to discuss issues of mutual concern, address common needs, exchange ideas, and share experiences, in order to further our primary purpose. As a clearinghouse for the discussion of common problems and their solutions, we complement the existing service structure of NA by addressing out own specific needs through unity, cooperation, and communication.”* In the discussion at MSUA it was clarified that the Ct region is one of 12 regions which attend the NEZF, and that the NEZF is held every six months. As such, CT generally hosts the NEZF every six years, with the last two times being in 2001 and 2008. The Regional proposal is to financially commit to hosting the January 2015 NEZF for an estimated cost of no more than \$2000. This money is primarily to rent hotel conference room space for Friday night, Saturday, and Sunday AM. The money is also to provide continental breakfast on Saturday and Sunday, some light refreshment for the participants during the workshops, and reimbursement for secretarial expenses (the latter not to exceed \$200). During the discussion it was indicated that this should have been included in the 2014-2015 regional budgets voted upon by groups, but this was left out as an oversight as it is only a part of the budget every six years.

Kim L. (Retreat) - announced an Ad Hoc for a possible new meeting where participants would write on step questions for the first half and then have a discussion the second half. The ad hoc would begin meeting the Monday after Area (Monday May 19th) at 6 PM at “The Emporium” in Middletown.

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Sharing Session (continued):

Adam H (Treasurer) – Posed the question “How can we make Area better?” Several participated in the discussion. There was one suggestion to have refreshments and to start earlier. Another suggestion was to stick to two pros and two cons and vote rather than spending a long time on topics or disagreements. The idea of meeting every other month and/or having an “A month” and a “B month” like region rather than the entire body meeting every month was also brought up. An additional point that GSRs and other area participants were not representing themselves but their groups, and that they had a responsibility to convey information to the best of their ability, as well as to not project a negative image of area service. The longest part of the discussion was had regarding the fact that area service can be confusing to new participants. Some suggested sitting next to and asking for help from those who knew what was going on. A suggestion to have a cheat sheet to area was brought up. The guide to local service was also mentioned, as was the existence of other service literature. Taking notes based on the area format was also encouraged. Several people mentioned that a workshop or other orientation for new participants would help, and it was revealed that area policy already has provisions for new member orientation before each area at 6:30 PM.

Old business: The Regional Literature budget was brought to a vote. The result was 18-0-0. This will be brought to region by the RCM.

Elections: The Retreat subcommittee brought a recommendation for **Jen K.** as **MSUA Retreat Chair.** **Kim L (Retreat)** – Nominated **Jen K** for Retreat Chair. **2nd** by **Tommy F (After the weekend).** Jen accepted, qualified, and answered questions. Brought to a vote. **Congrats Jen!**

New Business: Activities had a motion “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” The intent was “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).** Budget as follows.

Expenses		
Rent	\$50	\$20 for booking day of event, \$25 for booking rain date
Food	\$125	Burgers, Hot dogs, Salads, etc...
Beverages	\$50	Soda, Water
Plates/Utensils	\$20	Plates, Forks, Spoons. etc
Tickets	\$30	Printing of event tickets
Trophy	\$30	Trophy for winner – (amended from original budget)
Total Expenses	\$305	
Income		
Ticket Sales	\$300	\$5 a ticket, estimate of 60 people
Team Registration	\$40	\$5 a team / team of 5 people / 8 teams / money to be used directly to buy trophy
Old T-Shirt Sales	\$200	40 – 50 old activities events shirts \$5 each
Total Income	\$540	

A discussion was had. MSUA Policy requires any unbudgeted item over \$150 to go to the groups to be voted on so the budget was unable to be passed. **GSRs Must Have their groups vote on this and bring results back to Area in June.** A vote was held to approve \$50 in order to hold the date was held with results of 18-0-0. Activities expressed discomfort for the restrictions of having to have all events approved by the Area as a whole and having no line item in their operating budget for events. It was also mentioned that this was the first activities committee trying out the new method of operating in the MSUA, so this would be a learning experience.

A motion “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)” with an intent “to better inform groups and GSRs on the NA service structure” was made by **Brian E (Living Clean)** and seconded by **Katie C (Came to Believe).** **GSRs Must Have their groups vote on this and bring results back to Area in June.**

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

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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.

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:

Off the Hook Freedom Book will be celebrating the anniversaries of two home group members on Wednesday May 28th at Church of the holy trinity, 381 main street Middletown CT. Food fun and fellowship start at 8:30.

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

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).

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 6:30 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 4th Tuesday of the month at Portland United Methodist Church following the over the wall group (after 8:30 PM).

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.

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.