Tejas Bluebonnet Regional Service Conference Minutes 5-12-12

Alan E., Facilitator opened w serenity prayer - 9:15am

Alan announced copies of his report on back table

Suspended agenda to move to elections for Recorder and Co-treasurer/Co – Facilitator.

Nominations made for Dee Dee W. (Coastal Bend Area) and Leslie R. (Houston Area).

Both qualified themselves.

Discussed previous issue with Recorder...not delivering minutes in a timely manner – policy dictates to deliver minutes within 30 days from the date of the RSC. And to make sure both knew it was a 2 year commitment.

Both candidates agreed to the commitments.

Donna mentioned the minutes sometimes in the past to make corrections to the minutes – previously there was no response from the Recorder and asked to make sure both candidates would check email regularly to make any corrections.

Both candidates were asked to leave the room. Facilitator counted the number of voting members – clarified that both RCM 1 and RCM 2, if here can vote. Voting total is 21.

Vote took place: Dee Dee R. – 9, Leslie R. – number not stated, Facilitator said Leslie won by simple majority.

Facilitator asked if there were any nominations for Co-Facilitator or Co- Treasurer. There were no nominations for either position.

Facilitator asked for the Service Prayer to be read. Jerry M. read the Service Prayer for the group.

Roger S. read the Twelve Concepts.

Area roll call - see attendance record attached.

Facilitator - here

Co - Facilitator - vacant

RD - here

RDA - here

Literature - here

H&I-here

PI - here

Webmaster - ill

AAI – here

CAC - here

TBRCNA 13 - not here (did come in later)

Facilitator spoke to Chair TBRCNA 12 – they did not have a final wrap-up meeting and declined to attend RSC due to conflict on their convention board. Co-F sent directly to Treasurer and had nothing to report, so he opted not to make the drive to Houston from Beaumont.

Facilitator sent a sign-in sheet around for name, phone#, email address in order to ensure communication throughout the region. Leslie asked for those signing list to indicate the area the signees represent so she can familiarize herself with areas and names.

Group asked Recorder for her email - sunshine7302@ymail.com .

Area Reports - see attached reports.

Brazos Valley Area of Narcotics Anonymous, BVANA, Peter G., RCM 1 and Aaron, RCM 2. Written report attached.

Peter introduced Aaron as the new Brazos Valley RCM2. He was welcomed by the group. In addition to the attached report Peter reported there are 3 H&I facilities requesting meetings, but there are not enough members to support the request.

There were no questions from the group. Facilitator asked Peter if there was anything the Region could do to assist Brazos Valley. Peter requested that he be the primary point of contact for all communication to Brazos Valley to avoid any miscommunications to other area members. It is so noted by the group. Peter thanked the Facilitator for support for information and guidance – said he had been "very helpful".

Central Texas Area of Narcotics Anonymous, CTANA, Michael S. RCM 1 and Aaron, RCM 2. Written report attached.

In addition to the submitted report, Michael introduced Aaron as their new RCM 2. He was welcomed to the group.

There were no questions from the group. Facilitator asked if there was anything the Region could do to assist CTANA. Michael said he continues to ask his area the same question and he has not yet received any requests.

Esperanza Area of Narcotics Anonymous, EANA, Roger S., Sr. RCM 1 and Francisco V., RCM 2. Written report attached.

In addition to the submitted report, Roger introduced Francisco as their new RCM 2. He was welcomed to the group.

There were no questions from the group. Facilitator asked if there was anything the Region could do to assist EANA. Roger said there was nothing at this time.

Hill Country Area of Narcotics Anonymous, HCANA, Dickie B., RCM 1. Written report attached. In addition to the submitted report, Dickie added HCANA is donating \$102.64 to the TBRNA.

Questions from the group:

- Roger asked about the new meeting schedule with the inclusion of EANA meetings and suggested it may confuse the newcomers with meetings in San Antonio. Dickie said he will work with their webmaster to correct.
- 2. Aaron asked what ROAR stands for answer Recovery on a River
- 3. James Mc. asked if it is a picnic by the river. Dickie described the event as having tubing available to float, horseshoes, volleyball and 5 speakers. Dickie also added this annual event is the main fundraiser event for HCANA for the year and the area is considering making it a 2-3 day event in the future.

Facilitator asked if there was anything the Region could do to assist HCANA. Dickie asked assistance to distribute flyers for ROAR event.

Houston Area Service Committee of Narcotics Anonymous, HASCONA, James Mc. RCM 2, Steve P., RCM 1. Verbal report.

James Mc. introduced Steve P. as the new RCM 2. He was welcomed to the group.

41 groups hosting 142 mtgs. Per week. 2 groups closed and 3 new groups opened. New group – AA or Addicts on Asphalt travel to 4-5 meetings per week to support groups in need and create unity. They have created t-shirts

TBRCNA announced – February 1-3, 2013 location at the Houston Hilton in north Houston in the Greenspoint area. Convention rate is \$79 per night. He also announced the Spring Fling event happening tonight immediately following the RSC as the first event to promote and support the convention. Registration and preconvention t-shirts available. Pre-registration is \$20.

Must say TBRCNA to register for a room. James suggested to go to the TBRCNA website for registration.

Monica mentioned that Marty C., convention chair was graduating today and will be here later to provide report.

Gary asked if there was a flyer for the convention yet. Answer –Leslie answered no and mentioned she is the Merchandise Committee Facilitator for the convention and announced there is no Arts and Graphics Facilitator at this time. Updated the status of the convention logo, have a pre-convention logo and t-shirts available. Asked for any artists to submit logo options for the final convention logo. Jason offered that he has a prospective A&G nominee for the next TBRCNA meeting.

Brian asked for a contact number for suggested changes to update the meeting schedule.

There were no questions from the group. Facilitator asked if there was anything the Region could do to assist HASCONA. James responded, nothing at this time.

Northside Area Service Committee of Narcotics Anonymous, NAONA, Don K. RCM 2. Written report attached.

Roger asked about the name of the event – Spring Fling – said there was confusion about the name – as there is another event named Spring Fling.

Facilitator asked if there was anything the Region could do to assist EANA. Roger said there was nothing at this time.

Southeast Texas Area of Narcotics Anonymous, SETANA, Wanette RCM 1. (no written report submitted). Have 9 groups currently and starting a new group in Beaumont. Announced the SETANA convention to be held April 5 – 7, 2013 at the Elegante Hotel in Beaumont. Event being held today – Speaker Round-up. Other fundraisers are being planned.

There were no questions from the group. Facilitator asked if there was anything the Region could do to assist SETANA, she responded nothing at this time.

SW Cactus Country Area of Narcotics Anonymous, SWCCANA – absent, no report submitted.

Facilitator asked if anyone had been in touch with any representatives of the Area – no one had had any contact. Facilitator asked the RD to contact the Area to touch base with them. She said she would.

Texas Tri-County Area of Narcotics Anonymous, TTCANA. Brian D., RCM 1 and Shelby T., RCM 2. Written report attached.

- In addition to the submitted report, Brian introduced Shelby T. as the new RCM 2. He was welcomed to the group.
- James Mc. asked if the event was a combination H&I and PR event. Brian said yes, it is a combined event.
 James also asked if there was a noon meeting prior to the event. Brian said he thought it was a 2pm meeting.

Convention Chair nominated for the Tri-County Convention – scheduled for April 19 – 21st, 2013. Area is still
working to confirm dates not to conflict with any other regional convention and will take the SETANA
convention dates back to his Area. Facilitator asked if there was anything the Region could do to assist
TTCANA, he responded nothing at this time.

Administrative Reports

Facilitator changed the order of reports due to the large presentation from RD and RDA – to complete after lunch.

Facilitator Report – Written report attached.

James Mc. asked if there was anything in "Old Business" referencing the TSC. Alan responded that the proposal from the last RSC, was upheld which negated the new proposal. Minutes not very detailed to address the conversation. Alan asked that when communicating information about the TSC, to represent both sides from an official position as a Regional Representative. He has asked the Chair of TSC to calm down. There is a lot of emotional investment on both sides for parties close to the issues. There were email exchanges in the past and recent information that referenced the RD and RDA that provided inaccurate information. The Facilitator copied both on the last set of email exchanges and stated that when there is communication involving any individual not initially included in the email address, he will include that person or persons to provide transparency of communication — in order to avoid any "triangulation"...and "he said"..." she said".

The information the chair sent out was the information sent out from the February RSC. He included information regarding the Lone Star RD and from the Southern Zonal Forum and included inaccurate information. Dawn asked if Alan had seen any change in the communication following Alan's request to make sure correct and complete information be included in communication. Alan's response was no, he has not seen a change. And Alan said he also asked the Chair to stop the campaign. Alan was then asked if we have regular area meeting. Yes -1st Saturday of every month. No further questions.

Treasurer Report, LeAnn K., Written report attached.

In addition to her report, she added:

- 1. She has a few receipts from groups regarding donations. Asked for help to get the receipts back to specific groups as she doesn't have a contact person to get in touch.
- Issue with the convention is that the information was lost from the cash registers. So she is planning a
 training w/Marty for the next convention to avoid this in the future. Not sure why the information was lost
 but will try to fix it going forward.
- 3. Discussion about the mailbox and getting the mail to the Treasurer in a timely manner due to the distance the Treasurer lives from the mailbox. LeAnn said she has a volunteer to pick up the mail and send it to her, but she is not a member of this service body and asked if the committee would pay mileage. Michael offered to pick up the mail and send the info to LeAnn on a monthly basis. LeAnn has her own "Lone Star" express mail account and Michael or whomever would use her account and send the mail to LeAnn. There was discussion regarding whether or not the person picking up the mail needs to be a member of this service body and it was asked if there was anything in the Policy to address this issue. Alan responded there is nothing in the Policy that addresses this question.
- 4. Policy questions regarding expenses and how to define them. Will move these questions to the new business/open discussion portion of this meeting.
- 5. Budgets reviews provided for last 18 months. H&I sub-committee budge was cut last July. The H&I Chair requested to go back to the previous budget amount. LeAnn is uncomfortable with that, due to the "prudent reserve". She is not opposed to having a sub-committee come to her to request a one-time additional expense that would exceed their budget.
- 6. Spreadsheet in her report provided to address these types of questions.
- 7. Questions:

- a. Was the \$6500 from TBRCNA 12 all profit? Yes.
- b. Are the books "closed" from the TBRCNA 12 convention? Yes.
- c. AAI did they pay for 5 books and all 5 were returned? She doesn't know the order of the returned books. Suggestion made to not have books returned, to leave it at the facility. LeAnn suggested we have WSO involved. Someone clarified any mail to a facility has to go to the individual or it will be returned, by law. Discussion about inmates who may be released before the books arrive, those transferred to a different unit. Someone asked if the books were addressed to "in care of" as well as the specific individual maybe that would solve the problem. Other person answered it would not.

10 Minute Break

Meeting called back to order with a moment of silence and continued with Administrative Reports.

Policy Report - Bryan S. Chair was not present. Facilitator presented. Written report attached.

- Michael noticed AAI is not mentioned in the Policy. It was agreed that Policy should be recognized in the Policy document. However, AAI is represented in the agenda and other documents.
- Are Policy Committee meetings announced? Yes, but right now it is a committee of one. Policy is not a
 permanent standing committee. For revisions Chair wants to have a few people as an ad-hoc
 committee.
- LeAnn inserted that we need to know if body approves Jeri W., Registration Facilitator to be added to the signature card for the Convention account. If approved, she will need to know now so she can come to RSC today to sign the signature card. Roger asked if Facilitator and Co-Facilitator were okay with it. Leslie asked if Marty and Bobby would be filling the Treasurer position. LeAnn said this is just for convenience for writing checks. Bobby is not interested in being the Treasurer. Jeri, as Registration Facilitator, will be dealing with most of the money at this time and it seemed to make sense. In addition, Bobby is in Baytown and the PO Box is across town from the PO Box. So, that is the reason Jeri needs to come today to sign it due to convenience.
- Facilitator asked if there were any objections. Jerry asked if the Registration Chair is here to ask
 questions of. Marty just joined the meeting. He said she has 17 years clean and feels very comfortable
 with her being on the account. No other objections were voiced.

Literature Report, Lynn S, Written report attached.

• Lynn requested calls instead of emails as she is having problems with her computer and unable to access emails at this time.

Questions:

- Reference to "Engage the fellowship in a structure evaluation of all existing IP's." what does
 this mean? Lynn responded she wasn't sure. Dawn answered that @ WSC missed a whole
 day of business due to running over on the previous day and that was the day this subject was
 supposed to be covered.
- Reference to #1 what is this in reference to? It is a new service pamphlet blue and white.

H&I Report, Esteban R. Written report – attached.

 Leslie R. asked if the H&I event planned for Houston in September has a date yet. Kerdonna B. answered no, not at this time. Kerdonna B. asked the group for donations of NA memorabilia for auction items for the event.

- Note 5/12/12 is Esteban's 6 year anniversary the group congratulated him.
- Esteban said he will be emailing the report to the Recorder.
- Questions? None.

Public Relations Report, Diana M. Facilitator. Written report attached. email: publicinfo@tbrna.org

- Julie from Hill Country is now the PR Co-Facilitator. There have been issues with the on-line meeting and will try another service.
- Budget question will be discussed in open discussion/new business section.
- Questions? None.

Web Servant - absent, TBRNA Facilitator, Alan E. presented report verbally.

No written report. Alan reported there are a few suggestions to be made in Web servant's absence as he doesn't attend the RSC meetings – he provides his services for \$1.00/yr. Allen will bring them up in the new business/open discussion section of the meeting.

AAI (Adopt an Inmate), Facilitator, Greg P. (written report not received by Recorder).

- Submitted 5 books that were returned. When there are returned books (Basic Text), he contacts volunteer services in Huntsville to see if they have another address and if he can, he will submit for reapproval. The books have been credited to the account. There were 12 requests for books. Accounting information for totals, etc. are in the Treasurer's report. Current balance for AAI is \$84 which takes into account the 12 book order. AAI receives a budget of \$400 per quarter. At this time, AAI is above budget with the balance of \$84.
- Aaron asked what AAI is. Greg explained AAI defined in the financial policy section the budget is outlined. Inmates write to NA and LeAnn forwards to Greg, Greg sends the request to WSO and TNBRNA pays WSO for the books @ \$11 each + postage.
- Roger asked if there are any facilities refusing to allow books in. Answer Greg has sent 20-30 flyers to
 the facilities in our Region. We receive most requests from certain units. Flyers are sent to the Chaplins.
 Kyle unit asked for Basic texts, Roger said he does H&I at Kyle and the inmates say they have ordered
 and have not received any books. Greg said he needs more details and he will check on that with the
 unit. LeAnn said the Regional address changed a year ago, but Greg said they have updated that
 information with the facilities.
- Kerdonna was not aware of this Regional program. Many Harris County inmates want Basic Texts but
 are not allowed to receive them unless they come from the publisher, in this case, WSO. Houston AAI
 has no funds, so they can't fulfill the requests and she asked for the Regional address to provide to
 Harris County inmates.
- No other questions for AAI.

Convention Advisory Committee (CAC) Report – Dickie B. (no written report received by Recorder)

- This is a committee created to build a template for creating a blueprint for the annual regional convention – TBRCNA. Term served is 5 years.
- Met 4/27 on-line. Discussed timelines and guidelines and are in contact with TBRCNA 13 Committee.
 They will be making recommendations for the 2014 convention soon. Insurance information will need
 to be updated. The next meeting is scheduled for 5/29 at 9:30pm through Meetings to Go. Flyer sent out
 to notify of meetings on monthly basis last Tuesday of the month.
- Diana mentioned the 2012 convention chair was taken out of the loop, since his email was deleted as the new convention chair was elected.
- Allen said the previous chair is now on the CAC and should be in the loop on that list. Diana said he
 wasn't receiving any emails. She made a suggestion that there should be overlap in the email addresses
 from the previous to the new convention chair to ensure consistency.

Dawn asked if a contract has been signed for 2014 in Corpus Christi – no.

Break for lunch – approximately 12:15pm

Reconvened at approximately 1:20pm

Regional Delegate Report, Dawn E., Written report attached. dawnedwr@yahoo.com

Presented photo presentation from the WSC and video from Iran.

- Literature is published in Iran due to the political issues in delivering WSO literature into the country. Their last
 donation to the Asia Pacific Forum was \$10K. They publish their meeting schedules in the newspaper and
 advertise on buses.
- WSO helps delegates in politically sensitive areas in order to attend WSC.
- The Serenity Prayer is available in each language and is available at NAWS.
- Dawn reviewed her written report.
- Reviewed the decisions over motions, resolutions, proposals and straw polls page 7 of the WSC packet.
 - Proposal C amended but it did have strong support didn't pass as a motion, but it is going forward.
 This is the only proposal that had strong support.
 - o Living Clean the Journey Continues was approved.
 - O Reviewed Motion page 3 of the WSC report **Motion #2**: It was M/C World Board To allow the World Board to make non-substantive corrections to Fellowship Approved literature which do not impact the original meaning of the Fellowship Approved text and which fix typographical errors, obsolete references, references to outdated literature, and other similar corrections. The World Board will announce such corrections not less than 120 days in advance of publication. Intent: To allow corrections to literature that do not impact the original meaning of the Fellowship Approved text to be made without necessitating a fellowshipwide vote. Any corrections of this type to be made in Fellowship Approved literature would be announced in advance. Carried, as amended, by 2/3 standing vote: 90-19-1 (yes-no-abstain)
- Dawn submitted proposal (Proposal P) to eliminate some wording but it did not have the support of the body.
- Question how does the World Board operate do they approve or disapprove proposals?
 - There were other proposals that were being made also addressed her proposal so the Board did not support it – but the Board didn't have a problem with removing/changing the wording. They have no intent to change that is of value.
 - The "body" (of delegates) does NOT vote in old business or any proposals to change Old Business. But the body said they did want the 120 days for review. This is not literature review – but addresses only the social media.
 - Further explanation delegates understand the 120 days to "say no", but the wording isn't the same as
 the literature
 - The wording of the proposal is specifically designed to avoid any potential legal problems regarding the review period.
- Reviewed Motion #3
 - To allow the World Board to bundle, excerpt, and repackage Fellowship Approved literature without changes to the texts themselves. The World Board will announce these actions not less than 120 days in advance of publication. Intent: This would allow literature or portions of literature to be combined so that members who were interested in a particular topic could more easily access all of the material on that topic in one place. Carried, as amended, by 2/3 standing vote: 89-22-1 (yes-no-abstain)
 - o The word "announce" is the legal verbiage that allows us to change anything we don't like.
- Reviewed Motion #4

To allow the World Board the ability to create and approve enhanced electronic or digital versions of texts that include supplemental materials or connections to other NA materials. The World Board will announce such enhancements not less than 120 days in advance of publication.

Intent: To allow supplemental material such as sound files, historical images or texts, and hyperlinks to other NA materials, to be included within an electronic or digital version of a text with clear labeling indicating what is Fellowship Approved and the source of any additional material.

Carried, as amended, by 2/3 standing vote: 87-23-1 (yes-no-abstain)

The word "announce" is the legal verbiage that allows us to change anything we don't like.

Reviewed Motion #5

To hold the World Convention of NA every three years, beginning 2018, alternating North American and non-North American locations, as follows and contained in the revised World Convention Map contained in Addendum C.

Intent: Considering the trend of decreasing attendance and a changing global economy, to decrease the frequency of the World Convention of NA, thereby making it a more special event.

Carried by voice vote

- o This does not affect the convention in 2013 in Philadelphia.
- All of the resolutions passed with a lot of discussion.

Questions:

- Regarding the ..."120 days"...what was deleted or added? Answer there were no changes.
- Is voting consensus based? No but they are not changing policy, when policy changes are made, it must carry by 2/3rds vote. Currently there is no single model of consensus based structure that has been adopted. They had a lot of frustration because of the confusion of trying to run the WSC delegate discussion portion by consensus in a Robert's Rules construct that is used by WSO.
- Resolutions did stand as motions. But they were motions to be considered as direction to the Board essentially communicating to the Board support to move forward or not on actions suggested by the motions. They say "We like the idea and this is the direction we want you (the Board) to go in." It communicates to the Board information from the fellowship that if something doesn't receive support or strong support, then the Board has more work to do to change/alter in order to gain a higher majority of support by the fellowship (delegates).
- Observation resolutions were done first...then motions came after?? Answer in "old business" there was open discussion and the delegates review and discuss about every item that will be on the agenda in the formal business session so when the formal business session adjourns, we already know how we will vote.
- They will no longer have work groups, but focus groups trying to save money.
- Resolution 7 page 5 from the World Board

To Approve in Principle: The service structure includes local service bodies, state/nation/province service bodies, and intermediate bodies if needed. Service bodies follow established geographic boundaries. They are not self-determined, but are formed, based on need, through a collaborative planning process and agreement with other affected service bodies at the next level of service. Carried by standing vote: 61-44-2-4 (yes-no-abstain-present not voting).

Resolutions are like motions, but proposals are just proposals – asking/requesting changes.

Question – what is the difference between "opposition" and "strong opposition"?

Answer – At the last conference they weren't consistent in recording the responses. So they decided to institute 4 ways to respond to proposals: Strong support, support, opposition, strong opposition.

Question – are there plans to develop one model for meeting structure?

Answer – there was a straw poll about how to carry out our business and found there are some things we like and other we don't about consensus. It was confusing to everyone. In consensus – certain members needed to share on every topic so a rule was put in place to limit the number of times a delegate could share. At the next conference they will need to decide whether to go by the Guidelines or move toward the Consensus based model.

Question - will Proposal C go forward?

Answer - Yes, but it doesn't have a binding vote yet World will implement it at the next printing. Question – what does "seating" mean?

Answer – It allows additional delegates/people from other Regions to participate. Further discussion about the reasons 15 Regions were not "seated" at this WSC; however, all Regions continue to receive support from WSO.

 Reviewed and discussed the elected representatives from the list of candidates on page 22 and the winners on page 23 and the terms/length of service as well as which were re-elected. This is the first time we have a full Board.

Question: WSC has a Facilitator and Co-Facilitator, the body, is the World Board a different set of people?

Answer: Yes, the Facilitator and Co-Facilitator only direct the business of World Service Conferences.

The World Board is responsible for putting on the World Conventions, and oversee the WSO, NA World Services.

Question: Does the Board attend WSC?

Answer: Yes, they have to attend the WSC, they hold fellowship events, they are available to do other service as requested. However, their ability to respond to requests has been limited to do limited funding. Many members fund themselves to attend events. It is very time-consuming – can count on spending 6+ weeks per year doing the business of NA.

Question: What is NAWS?

Answer: Narcotics Anonymous World Services – it is what the Board oversees. The office and services they provide. Information provided at the mini-assembly – that was provided there as well.

- It was suggested that all NA members read The NA Way to keep up to date on news that affects the fellowship.
- Dawn showed pictures and identified the Administrative Office employees of NAWS.
- They have not received a raise in 4 years.
- Top salaries are in the financials, but the other salaries will not be published due to confidentiality purposes and protected by labor laws.
- Dawn completed her PowerPoint presentation.
- Discussion resumed back to RD written report.
 - Facebook "push" page. There will be no opportunity to post to the site it will only be used for information available to the fellowship. There are ways to edit privacy to keep your "friends" from seeing the NA postings to your page.
 - In 2010 fellowship said "no" to this but the privacy settings have changed and now the fellowship has voted to try it.
 - Comments:
 - Several groups have their own Facebook page now.
 - Members will continue to communicate by email. Any postings to Facebook will be sent by email.
 - Anonymity is still primary in this effort.
- Showed the new NA Facebook page will look like.
- Will be announcing an NA Iphone Meeting Finder application which makes it imperative to keep our meeting locations current and up to date. Expect it to be available in 60-90 days. Setting up software to route through Regional website first, but the World website is most used.
 - Question a couple of meetings ago you provided a list of our Regional meetings (about a year ago)
 with updated information. Was that information used for World website?
 - Answer yes it was used for World website. We need to update the list again and needs to be sent to World.
 - Stopped at 4:16:11
- Returned to PowerPoint presentation and continued.

- PDF versions of the full text of Basic Text, HIWW and Step Working Guide were removed from the NAWS website due to copyright infringement issues. 3.8 million downloads were completed during that time and it was discovered they were used for commercial purposes.
- Other literature will still be available in full text.
- PDF of full text literature will be posted back on the site in the near future for sale.
- Resolution 8 passed "as a fellowship, we are in favor of going back to the States being a Region" this
 is how the fellowship voted this is not a change initiated by World.
- 10 15 Regions will apply for seating at the World Conference. No new seating until 2014.
- O Questions:
 - State Region Service Structure (Proposal 8) how will this work?
 - Answer nothing has been directed, but we have been discussing service system proposals but WSC had 220 people. Completing business can be difficult to complete. RDA's in Texas have been discussing how it will work. Will be communicating with the other RD's/RDA's in Texas opening lines of communication and how we can move to the State arrangement. Could make a "Texas" website vs. the regional websites. Possibly where the RD's and RDA's will rotate attendance to the WSC. State seating was passed by the body. This was also passed in 1997, but the change did not occur. This would reduce the number of people to attend WSC, making it more manageable. RD's/RDA's are not a decision making body, so no decision can be made.
 - If we move to State structure, US has 50, Iran 80+.
 - Answer some US states don't want to be split, Iran has voted not to be represented by the state structure. States like NY and CA have 5-6 regions, FL has 2, KY has 2, NJ has 2.
- Proposal made by Missouri to share the minutes to Board meetings. page 15. Minutes are available now, all a member needs to do is to call and request them. Some work groups don't take minutes.
 World only meets 2-3 times/year minutes are approved closely before the next meeting...so timely review is challenging.
 - Much information shared in meetings is confidential or at least parts of them.
 - NAWS News is the cleaned up version of the Board minutes summarized without all of the he/she said x.
- Suggestion made to table the rest of the RD report until the next RSC. One member objected it was pointed out that the report is available as written. Financial portion and two other bullet points that haven't been covered on her written report. Dawn is available to discuss any portion of her report with any member. Facilitator asked for group conscience to determine if they will read the materials and if you have questions, to contact Dawn individually. No objections so contact Dawn or Gary directly for answers to your questions.
- Question about the Financials regarding why are Iran's financials broken out of the gross totals?
 - Answer the money is there, but NAWS cannot receive the money due to the political issues with Iran. They have hired an audit team to audit their financials. In the spirit of being accountable and transparent, we are accounting for it. The donations from Iran are sent to the Asia-Pacific Forum and the amounts allowed by the Iranian government are limited.

5 Minute Break

RDA Report – Gary M., Written report attached. gmbruinfan58@yahoo.com

If there is an activity coming up that someone would like to sell copies of these reports...fundraising...laminate them, number them, etc. Gary thanked Dawn for giving him the "cool" part of the WSC report.

- Has sent it to the Recorder to distribute.
- Showed his expense report to the group: \$1335, gave him \$1500, will give return check to LeAnn of difference.
- Planning basics discussion of resistance to planning. But we do plan and in doing so it releases our creativity. Creativity can be utilized to achieve what we need to do.

- Gary used an analogy of a group deciding on a "Bowling Night"...and pointed out how inefficient it would be if planning didn't plan.
- Time required for individuals would be reduced when more people get involved. Gary walked through a
 planning scenario with participation from the RSC members. Then reviewed the importance of delegating and
 the improved efficiency as a result. 5:08:18
- Bottom line with more people involved and with planning less effort is required by one or two
 people....thereby making service work more appealing.
 - Issue discussion topics:
 - Principles before Personalities
 - Collaboration
 - Profiles for these topics on www.na.org
 - Planning opportunities planning basics pamphlet.
 - Go back to groups for top 5 area within each groups that are of most importance to the areas of what the RSC can do to serve the areas.
 - Email to Gary and he will create a spreadsheet for the areas addressing them.
 - RD's want RCM's would like to present them to each of the areas and want to "plan" it.
 - Have RSC Sub-committee Facilitators attend more area meetings...how can that happen? Don't know but if we want to do it, let's plan it.
 - What is the possibility of using internet, skype, etc. to get some things to make improvements of RSC service to the areas?

Open Discussion

- 1) IT observations Regional email he is concerned with the amount of emails stored on the server. Wanted to ask if can come up with a time limit for storage.
- 2) How would we feel about adding to our Regional email list each Area's Facilitator and the Facilitator of the Texas State Convention to improve communication. The idea is that if an RCM can't make it or if an RCM has resigned, then the Area would receive the information on the RSC. This would ensure correspondence between Region and Area. This is no reflection on the service provided by the RCM. It would help improve the communication.
- 3) Q RCM example Chair receives the information, RCM brings back the information and if the RCM misses something and is corrected by the Area Chair.
- 4) Q RCM example an RCM was not available for the last RSC and is in favor of this idea.
- 5) Comment good idea to improve communication.
- 6) Comment ok w/Area Facilitators, but not the Texas State Convention Facilitator.
- 7) Comment if there is no representation from that Area, to send Regional information to the Area.
- 8) Q What information would get sent? Minutes? Or all emails "All @", but supports sending the minutes to the Area Chair/Facilitators.
- 9) Q Instead of adding them to "All @" set them up as a group for specific correspondence only, not for all communication.
- 10) Comments post the minutes to TBRNA website. Response The minutes already are posted on our website.
- 11) Comment sometimes having a second set of eyes and can bring info to attention of others that may be missed.
- 12) Comment suggest to Chair of the area only...."ChairofTTCNA", not a Chair's personal email. Response that is what is planned.
- 13) Comment anyone interested in our work can go to the website and review the minutes.
- 14) Comment If I forgot something or miss something, I'm ok with my Chair or anyone else bringing it to my attention.
- 15) Q Would sub-committee send out their reports to the areas? No, use the website.
- 16) Comment I don't see where it would hurt to get the information out to the Area Chairs.
- 17) Final agreement to send minutes only to the Area's Chair/Facilitator yes. Allen will ask Web Servant to create a group for Area chair/facilitator.
- 18) Audio Recordings of workshops or open discussions available on the Regional website for a certain length of time. These would be downloadable files...we don't have the capability to stream.

- 19) No extra costs
- 20) Comment concern expressed website is for public do we want the public to hear these trainings, discussions. Need an "internal" website. Response: Effectively we have that now as you need to register on the website to access certain areas. That said, anyone can register. This was initially developed for "Podcasts".
- 21) Comment on audio recordings voices can be identifiable, and we should be concerned about anonymity, supports idea with some sort of security.
- 22) Comment like a convention, anyone can access a workshop, understands privacy and security isn't it the same thing. Shouldn't we be more open?
- 23) Comment these are "trainings" like Regional Learning Days, etc. RSC's are 2 days. November is the next 2 day RSC. Response November and May are the two RSC's that are scheduled to be 2 days. But this scheduled was changed due to the need to complete the CAR in February which was a two day event. Next two day RSC will be in November.
- 24) Final body agrees ok w/security or control for workshops/Learning Days only.
- 25) Allen will get with Tom to see what security controls can be put in place and that will not be open to the public.
- 26) Comment isn't in favor of deleting emails after a certain time limit. Some contact information is needed to stay permanently in the email strings. Response web servant may be able to create system where you can flag those emails that can be either deleted or needed to be saved.
- 27) Q can files be archived? Compression is not needed it's more about clearing out emails that are not deleted, but that have been read and no longer needed. Comment Can also provide a password to access any archives. Allen will also ask him about this as well.
- 28) Sub-committee Increase Budget item:
- 29) LeAnn suggested the sub-committee budget amounts stay the same, but if a Chair knows they will have a particularly busy quarter and will need extra funds, to let her know. RD suggested if that is the case, the members should discuss that.
- 30) LeAnn asked why is H&I \$100 more than PI budget. Why don't we make both the same budget?
- 31) LeAnn suggested she made the budget she advances them their \$\$ because she doesn't want to put a servant in a position where we can't pay for expenses. If there are any \$\$\$ left at the end of their term, it is returned.
- 32) Comment this is a policy change we are discussing.
- 33) Comment if you are a Sub-Committee Facilitator and are planning other events...and since elections are to be held today, hopefully you will be re-elected. If not re-elected you come prepared to return the \$\$.
- 34) Comment look at it like this to expect a sub-committee to attend areas for education with the current budget, and we are looking at \$400 expense for Basic Texts which is set aside in the budget. It doesn't make sense.
- 35) Facilitator we are looking at a policy change to increase PI budget by \$100 per quarter to make it the same as H&I.
- 36) Then we need to discuss to reimburse PI chair for an additional \$66 spent that went over the budget. There were 3 quarters where PI was under budget. PI Facilitator will make better effort to plan with areas in order to stay in budget.
- 37) PI budget was cut because there was not a lot of activity in that Sub-committee.
- 38) Comment why not budget more \$\$ during the winter months or when there is an anticipation for more activities.
- 39) PI knows there are 5 Areas that have requested PI assistance. Allen suggested we increase the budget to \$400 and if she needs more we provide it.
- 40) Comment was the additional \$60 managed responsibly? Response: we agreed at the last RSC to support the Learning Day Speakers for materials for the event.
- 41) Every ASC received a copy of the PI Learning Day Speaker CD
- 42) RD said she specifically remembers directing PI and H&I to write policy for themselves what the \$\$ can be spent for as a result of a discussion regarding purchasing drinks for some Learning Day down in the Valley. In Corpus 3 4 years ago and requested that information be brought back to this body for approval. However, we don't have minutes.
- 43) Comment it all reverts back to the RSC;
- 44) Facilitator there was a policy determined to spend money only on travel, facilities and materials/supplies only. Not for refreshments.

- 45) Comment Areas believe the budget includes refreshments.
- 46) Comment it has not been put into the policy and if it hasn't been put into the policy, let's put it into the policy.
- 47) Comment Treasurer policy doesn't specifically state per diem does or doesn't come out of the budget.
- 48) Comment sub-committee needs a policy and they need to bring back to the body.
- 49) Facilitator before we write policy, let's get back to a proposal:
- 50) To increase PI Sub-committee budget to \$400 and they can request additional funds if needed (per quarter).
- 51) Currently, no means to address if there are overages on their budget.
- 52) TBRNA Policy says, page 10: "Basic travel includes gasoline, plane fare, car rental, and/or motel up to the amount approved in this policy. Basic travel to TBRSC meetings is \$200 which is allocated to standing Administrative Committee Members (Facilitator, Co-Facilitator, Recorder, Treasurer, Co-Treasurer, Regional Delegate, Alternate Regional Delegate, Policy Facilitator and Archives Facilitator) and Subcommittee Facilitators, CAC (Convention, Hospitals & Institutions, Public Information and Web Master).
- 53) Treasurer interprets this to mean travel expenses come out of a sub-committee budget.
- 54) Discussion regarding whether travel expenses are a part of their budget or not.
- 55) Comment let's get to the solution and proposal.
- 56) Treasurer nothing states what is included in a budget.
- 57) Comment RCM suggesting the next Facilitator sets up a proposed budget for the next year and proposes to the group and treasurer and should be covered.
- 58) Comment There is really only one "piece" of money...makes sense why it was set up the way it was. We have to put limits on the cap of what we spend. Suggest it goes back to the way it was -- \$600 and to make it clear that it includes all travel.
- 59) Comment made the policy was written to allow travel to areas by RSC members.
- 60) Comment until this RSC we have been using our prudent reserves. We have to be cognizant of the \$\$\$ coming in to Region. There are other activities we support zonal forums, distributing materials, AAI. At some point we should discuss how our \$\$ should be spent.
- 61) Comment not all trips are the same can't apply the same mechanism to all. Yet, the Area should plan and help the Region provide services.
- 62) A written proposal was made by Brian: "Increase PR cap back to \$600. Sub-committees' budget would include travel and per diem of \$25. PR & H&I can request additional funds at any RSC if needed and approved by the body at the RSC budget amounts do not "accrue". Intent: to further our primary purpose."
- 63) Treasurer asked for clarification regarding definition of food in/out of region. So the proposal was amended as indicated above.
- 64) Comment why are we paid for food? Just curious we eat whenever we go. Response if we are required to travel it is usually more expensive to eat "on the road". Most people do not submit receipts for food for in-region travel.
- 65) Houston Area H&I Chair announced an event she is creating that would like supported by Region. Response There is a Regional Learning Day for November could be H&I, PI. The next H&I Regional event is planned for Esperanza on 6/23.
- 66) Comment want to do regional learning day in November and "mask it" like a convention, maybe more people will show up. Want to have a couple of regions support. Response H&I has the ability to sponsor any regional event.
- 67) Comment for the TBRCNA sub-committee Houston member is working on getting speaker for TDCJ.
- 68) H&I Regional Facilitator mentioned TDCJ wants fewer people to be in contact as possible.
- 69) Comment Yes work with H&I Regional Chair for support for a Regional event in the Houston area.
- 70) Clarification requested by Area H&I Chair that she should be in contact with Regional H&I Chair for support YES.
- 71) Open Discussion Closed

New Business

- 1. TBRCNA Facilitator Report Everything going well, we are in desperate need for positions to be filled: Treasurer, Entertainment and Arts & Graphics. Please contact Facilitator or any other TBRNCA member. Next meeting @ Hugs 6/3 at noon.
- 2. Proposal #1: A written proposal was made by Brian: "Increase PR cap back to \$600. Sub-committees' budget would include travel and per diem of \$25. PR & H&I can request additional funds at any RSC if needed and approved by the body at the RSC budget amounts do not "accrue". Intent: to further our primary purpose."
 - a. Vote taken based on consensus model:
 - b. If RCM's, Regional administrative persons and Sub-Committee Facilitator support the proposal when asked, don't respond.
 - c. If those asked do not support the proposal, say "Stand Aside".
 - d. If those asked feel a Tradition or a Concept has been violated say "Blocked" and be prepared to state which Tradition or Concept has been violated and why.
 - e. Facilitator confirmed all understand how the vote will be taken.
 - f. Proposal 1 passed by consensus.
- 3. Proposal #2 & #3 are related to each other:
- 4. Proposal #2 Made by RDA "to contact the Texas State Convention and the Texas Unity Convention representatives to ask if they would become a sub-committee of the TBRNA. If they agree then we will begin to work on our guidelines to change to include them. The Intent is to re-unify the region with conventions that are happening in and around the region as well as to provide a level of accountability to these services to better represents convention bodies in the service sense." (The Texas Unity Convention happens in the Lone Star Region does not happen in TBRNA).
- 5. Proposal #3 By Tri-County RCM 1 "Regional Co-Facilitator act as a liaison to the Texas State Convention and the Texas Unity Convention by requesting and presenting information on their quarterly services to Region." Add that back to the Regional Policy, back in November was removed. This Liaison would be facilitated by phone or email to reduce or eliminate expenses associated with travel." Intent to re-open dialogue with both service bodies.
 - 1) Discussion:
 - a) Comment what happens if they don't want to be a part of TBRNA? Response RDA heard Myron (?) say he wanted to work with all of the regions that was his vision. TBRNA has had zero contact with TUC.
 - b) Discussion about TUC it is "in and around" this region.
 - c) If they say no, then they don't choose to participate with TBRNA and give TSC more "legitimacy" and provide more unity. It ends the bad will between TSC and TBRNA.
 - d) Why don't we address each proposal separately. Understand we want to extend an olive branch, but it is represented in our Principles. One of the main reasons we set TSC on their way is because of principle of the whole situation. Is this becoming personal or will we stand by our original response?
 - e) The issue this body has is regarding accountability and this proposal offers them the ability to be accountable to this body. This is providing the opportunity to meet their responsibilities as a convention body.
 - f) We already have one convention what is the financial impact of "sponsoring" other conventions?
 - g) Understands TSC always makes \$\$, not in need of funds. If for some reason both can't financially make it, we address it at that time since both conventions would be reporting back to this body.
 - h) We don't have a Co-Facilitator right now.
 - i) TSC going on for about 10 years. They have some accountability. Why would they be accountable to TBRNA vs. any other Region.

- j) Accountability extends out more than \$\$ and reports. It extends to location of convention, etc.
- k) Some members have a problem of their prudent reserve of \$8500 which is not seed money; it's the amount their Advisory Board has in the bank.
- Regarding the convention itself interested groups go to their board and ask to bring the convention to an area.
- m) An understanding is that both conventions have been in existence for some time TSC is the 10th, TUC since "Jesus Christ" was still Jewish. They have never been accountable to TBRNA in any way. They are outside entities that have never sought to be a member of this body for any reason. They haven't asked us for \$\$, why would they be responsible/accountable to us?
- n) What they are taking from us is the NA logo. You hit the nail on the head when you said outside organization/enterprise and by definition by our Traditions – outside enterprises can't use the NA logo. This is a violation that can cause court cases. That's how this all started. We have to protect our fellowship from outside organizations.
- o) They are using a copyrighted trademark an sue the S___ out of them and move on.
- p) So what we have done is we have backed away from endorsing them and they have come back to us and asked for our endorsement and our solution is great join our Region.
- q) Filling in for Recorder only writing the proposals and results.
- r) Point of clarification Hugs representatives were at the meeting requesting the convention be in Houston and was brought back to the Hugs Home Group, but was not taken to Area and presented.
- s) A Hugs Home Group member thought it would be a good idea, but did not carry the Home Group's conscience. But the TSC presented it at a Houston Area Service meeting as if they had the endorsement of Hugs. But one member doesn't represent the group.
- t) Traditionally, Home Groups show up, put in a bid and then come back not only with their Home Group and Area's support. That did not happen in Houston.
- u) That's when the conversation started regarding Houston, not Esperanza Area.
- v) There was a liaison with TSC in the Houston Area in years past. In regards to the outside enterprise or organization manufacturers of cups/tables/briefcases have nothing to do with NA. If they want to put an NA logo on these things then that is illegal. The TSC Advisory Board only has one function one purpose they only do one thing to put on an NA convention which is why they need a group or Area to support them. They are not taking anything from NA, not manipulating, not making \$\$ on their own. This is what makes them different. I don't see how the TSC is violating a law or anything as we allow them to further our primary purpose. They don't sell stuff outside the fellowship. They are designed to give the newcomer hope. I don't believe we should be treating the TSC like they are committing a crime. Everyone has their own way to carry the message. Their way of doing that is by having a convention. Some people want to downgrade them and make them think they are doing something illegal.
- w) Point of clarification from last November, when this body decided to not liase with TSC and not to accept any cash from them was not that TSC was doing something wrong. It was because this body was doing something wrong in violating a tradition by accepting something from them and was facilitating copyright law infringement. No one ever said TSC was breaking the law. What this body voted on was that as a body, we are breaking traditions by accepting \$\$.
- x) Two of our RCM's resigned due to this issue.
- y) Keep in mind those newer to NA are hearing the controversy about this convention and think there is something wrong about attending that convention. It's important to clarify and it is important to discuss accountability and responsibility my favorite thing I've heard

- is the word "unity" that's why I stay clean and is what I believe attracts people to NA is that sense of unity. The newcomers (5 years or less) look to others to help them make decisions about which conventions to attend, etc. I did it..I look to you who were voting in business meetings.
- z) I'm new to the area and my information about both of the conventions (TSC and TUC) but I do have an understanding from my predecessors about the traditions, how are they considered "outside enterprises"?
- aa) TSC has an Advisory Board who is elected from within and they are not responsible to any area, region, or consistent Home Group.
- bb) Are they responsible to those they serve?
- cc) Not necessarily???....We have a service structure in NA Home Groups, Area, Region, World. Home Groups being the primary person they are responsible for. If every year the state convention moves from Mt. Pleasant to Houston, to San Antonio to El Paso then no one Home Group has experience on how that body has performed 20 years before. You look at a information say on a spreadsheet that maybe no one in that Home Group knows what to look for and I'm not speaking just about \$\$. The reason they have to get a Home Group to support them/sponsor them is so they can use the NA logo. And I have to speak to this because of the traditions are what keep us alive and free. There is not a consistent body, outside of their own Advisory Board that they elect from within that they are accountable to. For a couple of years we had a member who would participate in their meetings. It became a financial strain and the new Co-Facilitator was not able to make those meetings. In the interim we were not getting communication from TSC. The day we decided to take them off of our Regional website, we all of a sudden heard from them again. We did not say Areas could not go, host, etc. The proposal attempts to create unity come sit with this body to provide consistent accountability.
- dd) I'm not suggesting that this body support or not support the TSC, my question is how did this body come to the conclusion that the TSC is an outside enterprise?
- ee) To my knowledge, as long as they are accountable to those they serve and those they serve are NA members it doesn't violate a tradition. The service structure comes from the bottom up not the top down. As long as they are responsible to the NA members they are not necessarily an outside enterprise. To call them an outside enterprise calls them a totally separate enterprise suggestion they are trying to profit from NA. We don't endorse outside enterprises. My question was what constitutes an outside enterprise to this body? If they are outside enterprises, then any functions related to those events cannot be announced at NA meetings. Why is one acceptable to announce and one not?
- ff) End of this discussion.

Facilitator re-read the proposal and called for the vote.

- Q Do we need to vote now? "I don't feel well informed enough to take it back to my group."

 Facilitator asked if the members want to take this back to their areas to discuss. Many members murmured they would like to do that.
- Q "Would that mean we have a liaison?"

Facilitator said that issue is taken up under the other proposal. All this motion is saying we are voting to ask them to be a part of this body.

Facilitator did not take a vote to have this brought back to the Areas because it was understood through discussion the only issue up for vote is to extend an offer to both conventions to become a member of this body.

Facilitator reviewed the format for consensus voting.

Facilitator re-read the proposal.

Facilitator called for the vote.

2 members voted to Stand Aside – proposal passes.

Facilitator will contact both entities and ask them to become a member of TBRNA.

Both organizations have Advisory Boards and Gary M. will contact them.

Facilitator presented Proposal #3:

- Proposal #3 By Tri-County RCM 1 "Regional Co-Facilitator act as a liaison to the Texas State Convention and
 the Texas Unity Convention by requesting and presenting information on their quarterly services to Region."
 Add that back to the Regional Policy, back in November was removed. This Liaison would be facilitated by
 phone or email to reduce or eliminate expenses associated with travel, in the event that the previous proposal
 was not adopted by either of the enterprises." Intent to re-open dialogue with both service bodies.
 - Suggest this issue be tabled until we get information back from the results of reaching out to the TSC/TCU contacts.
 - b. Suggested modification to incorporate "in the event that the prior proposal (to secure their representative to become a part of this body) does not happen".
 - c. This proposal does not address any other issue about accepting money from either entity or putting information about them on our web page. It only addresses the possibility of opening communication between TBRNA and TSC and TUC. It doesn't imply we are reversing any decisions, just which we want to be in communication.
 - d. This is my conflict they either are or are not an outside enterprise. I've heard it said and voted on that they are outside enterprises and we have nothing to communicate with them. If they are using NA logos, trademarks then all we can do is to inform them they are using those without approval. But it seems we are saying, "you're an outside enterprise, but if you come and be a part of us, you won't be."
 - e. TUC is not involved with any Home Group. TSC usually does go through the service structure.
 - f. TTCNA was unanimous in the belief that neither of these entities are outside enterprises.
 - g. We have to understand what they are trying to do. He was against the convention initially...they may be going about it the wrong way, but their intent is good. I believe they want to promote recovery.
 - h. SETA is submitting a vote for the 2014 TSC.
 - i. Proposal was re-read again for clarity.
 - j. Facilitator reviewed consensus based voting procedures and called for a vote.
 - k. Stand asides 4
 - Total 16 voting members
 - m. Need 80% to pass
 - n. Only received 75% proposal failed.

Facilitator presented Proposal #4:

- 1. From Treasurer To send \$300 to WSO in order to catch up on funds/donations to the Southern Zonal Forum that we have been previously unable to make due to low donations.
- RD asked if the check was sent back to TSC. Facilitator and Treasurer said no, because Facilitator asked
 Treasurer to hold off. Facilitator agreed to send the donation by TSC to TBRNA on funds received from them –
 about \$70 \$90. The check will be mailed this week, with or without a letter from Facilitator.

Elections Held

Facilitator requested nominations for Literature Review. Lyn S. nominated. Lyn accepted. Voted in unanimously.

Facilitator requested nominations for H&I Chair. Esteban R. nominated. Esteban accepted. Voted in unanimously.

Facilitator requested nominations for PI Chair. Diane M nominated. Diane accepted. Voted in unanimously.

Facilitator requested nominations for AAI. Greg P. nominated. Greg accepted. Voted in unanimously.

Facilitator requested nominations for Policy Chair. Current Policy Chair not present – Facilitator said Policy Chair will volunteer. But it was not voted on.

Treasurer announced that our policy says 50% of the convention \$3276 proceeds is to be sent to NAWS. This does not include the 20% of remaining funds \$1026 that go to NAWS for a total of \$4300.

Next Regional meeting we will have approximately \$1000 of working capital. We haven't sent NAWS any money in the last two quarters.

Next meeting in Brazos Valley, Saturday August 11, 2012, 9AM, location to be announced.

Kristine B. – Programming Chair for TBRCNA asked for CD's for speakers for the TBRCNA convention.

Meeting closed with the Third Step prayer at approximately 6:15pm.

Submitted in loving service, Leslie R. Sunshine7302@ymail.com