

April 15, 2007

The regularly scheduled meeting of the SFANA opened at 4:00 p.m. Chairperson, A.J. R.. opened with the “We” version of the Serenity Prayer, followed by the Twelve Traditions read by David and the Twelve Concepts read by Wes H. Secretary Laura B. called the roll of Officers and Home Groups.

OFFICERS PRESENT

Co-Chair - A.J. R.

Secretary - Laura B.

RCM - Jeff B.

Treasurer - Scott D.

Alt. Secretary - Ashley R

Literature Chair - Jessica N.

Alt. Literature Chair - Dana A.

Activities Chair - Joe P.

H&I Chair - Rookie K.

PI Chair - Marsha

Outreach - James Y.

OFFICERS ABSENT

Policy & Procedure - Pam O.

HOME GROUPS PRESENT

Addicts R Us

Agape

Back to Basics

Beaten Path

Clean & Serene

Courage to Change

Just for Today

Mustard Seed

Never Too Late

Not Anymore

Positive Connections

Road To Recovery

Surrender at High Noon

HOME GROUPS ABSENT

Carry the Message

EZ Riders

Found Freedom

Learning to Live

Miracles-N-Tha Makin’

Minutes were accepted for the month of March. Secretary, Laura B.. called for reports. (See attached.)

OLD BUSINESS - NONE

OPEN FORUM

AJ read the home groups’ feedback from the area inventory.

Joe P.: We would like to have some feedback from the home groups or anyone for what kind of events you

would like the Activities committee to have. If there is something that a home group would like us to do, we would be more than happy to hear about it and do it. If anyone has any ideas, we will discuss it here. Another thing I would like to bring up is that only 5 home groups turned these in. We have a lot more home groups than five. We kind of feel that it would be nice to have a lot more input than that, but maybe they didn't get filled out because there are so many questions and it takes so long to do it. Maybe this thing could be simplified more. If we want this form revised, we can form a committee to revise this form and make it a lot simpler. I would like to hear some discussion about that because it would be a lot better than just having five home groups submit these things.

Karen: Last year, our home group didn't even do the thing because there were too many questions. We sat down and had the intention of doing it, but how were we going to come to a consensus on every single one of these questions, so we just said "forget it". This year, what I did was made copies and gave everyone a copy so they could take it home and go over it before the meeting. Revising it would really help.

Rookie: Our home group just had a special meeting. As far as H&I, sometimes we struggle with having 4 meetings a week. We always have an uneven flow of membership. One month they go with us and then with them, then with us, and then with them. This last month, we had a smaller pool, but just about every one kept their commitment and it was really good. Some of us were talking about starting a new meeting like what James was talking about, but that would really stretch us thin. What he said about training their folks under our umbrella would be a good idea. Our subcommittee can look at it next month.

AJ: That's fine and just send us a report next month if your subcommittee talks about it. Let's stay on this topic about the inventory.

Ronnie B.: I think it would be easier to simplify it.

James Y.: I would be willing to help revise it.

AJ: What Joe suggested is that the few officers that met to go over it stated their willingness last time to create an ad hoc committee to revise it. So unless anybody has anything else, any officers that are willing to come, let's set a date hopefully before next area so we don't forget about it and it comes up next year.

Karen: Is everyone in favor?

AJ: I just want to know if there are any objections. We don't have to vote on it now. We can do it and bring it back to be voted on. Any member of this area can bring something and say let's vote on this. We will get together - James, do you want to head it up?

James Y.: We could do it at campvention.

AJ: Let's do it at campvention. The activities committee can decide what time.

Karen: Can you put it in our itinerary so that anyone who wants to come can be a part of it?

AJ: Yes, that is settled.

Jeff B.: (See RCM report) The motion is not what they were trying to do. The motion, however was voted

on and passed. I did not vote on it because the area said they didn't understand what came their way. What they were trying to do was not what the home groups voted on.

Karen: So they voted on one thing and were trying to do another and they already have done it?

AJ: Let's go with the first topic about them doing something the motion didn't say.

Karen: So they passed a motion that they didn't want to do?

Jeff B.: Correct and it passed. I withdrew from the quorum because that is not what we voted on. The second part time worker was already hired. What they were doing was increasing the part time hours from 20 to 40. The Region does not have to have home group approval to hire workers. They do have to have approval of hours they work and increasing the budget. It said in the motion that they wanted to hire a second part time worker to work more than 20 hours a week and that wasn't what they were trying to do at all. They had already hired the part time worker several months before. They pulled out the policy that they don't have to have approval to hire somebody. I asked why they sent a motion to hire somebody. Then he went into a schpiel about increasing the hours worked and never admitted about budget, but to increase the hours, you have to increase the budget. The motion came back that passed for the 2007-2008 budget. They had one budget set aside in case that motion failed. They e-mailed us a second budget that passed where they increased the budget.

Lane: Did you vote on that motion? And was the motion ammended.

Jeff B.: No and no.

Karen: The motion does have a little star that says adding an additional 20 hours a week to the budget.

Jeff B.: Yes, but the motion was to hire another worker when they had already hired another worker. Why are we getting a motion to hire another worker when we already have?

Karen: So what do we do? Write them a note saying "What the fuck?"

Ashley: You keep saying that it passed. How did it pass when that isn't what they wanted to do. And you keep saying they have to bring it back to home groups to increase the budget.

Jeff B.: When the chairperson presented it, it was voted on. When you make a motion to increase the budget, you say for X number of dollars. It wasn't a motion to hire somebody, it was to increase the budget. It was a misleading motion.

Karen: The motion says that it would increase the budget. What do we do now?

Jeff B.: One of the big things was to move the office to Greenville and had a motion to put an AC on the back of the building and get a couple of months free rent and that has yet to happen. I am seeing a pattern of bullshit from the Region. If you are okay with that then I can't do anything.

Karen: It is not okay, that is why I keep saying what do we have to do?

Jeff B.: If the area is displeased, we can fill out a motion to bring that motion back and properly word it and put it back to a vote. We could change Regions.

Lane: When you are at the meeting talking to others, is anyone else seeing the things you are seeing? Does Regional policy have a clause for removal from office? What kind of motion do we have to make? A lot of reason they talked about moving to Rock Hill is just what you said, they came up with all of this bullshit about the air conditioner and the central location. If this is the same man giving us this information. This isn't a good idea for all of this to happen.

Rookie: When I was at the Region at H&I, I talked to one of those people about it and it made me feel really bad because he said they didn't need our approval to do anything. I am just telling you what he said. Knowing him and his recovery, I was really shocked. They just tried to fragrance it up by saying this is what it is and did what they wanted. I don't want to have to remove anybody because somebody has to serve.

Joe P.: I think there is a lot of conning and manipulation going on. Do we send them a letter or submit a motion, what does this area want to do.

James Y.: Is it possible to get the O&F chair and regional chair down here next month. (Jeff B.: Yes) Bring them down here.

Karen: I think we need to consider taking this back to the home groups to see what they want done. I think somehow it keeps getting forgotten that the home groups run all of this.

AJ: Let's take it back to home groups. Let them know that after next month's area we will have the O&F chair and Regional chair at this meeting and will be more informed as to why this is happening.

Jeff B.: The next regional meeting will be July the 14th in Hickory, NC.

Lane: Are the areas helping put on the regional meetings being reimbursed with regional money to put on these meetings?

Jeff B.: As far as I know they are.

Marcia: We would like to ask for our PI budget. We are going to have a poster day on May 5th and we need the money for the function and the fliers.

Mike: Acting as the GSR for Beaten Path, we had some concerns that we wanted to address. This is principles before personalities. We feel that we question the Treasurer's commitment to this area. We question your organizational skills and how you handle this commitment as a whole by what you have shown us. It has happened in the past and has been detrimental to this area. We would like to ask you to step down from this commitment. From the very beginning, you had an attitude and were very angry about questions coming to you. Quite honestly, that is a dangerous attitude to have for this commitment.

Scott: The only anger I have shown is when I was audited 4 times and was brought to my attention that we needed to be audited again because the money didn't seem right which it has only been on the dollar, on the dime. As far as my commitment, I have only missed one meeting and that was for my mother's 65th

birthday that I had spent 2 months planning a surprise for her. I am willing, I am learning. I told you from the beginning this was a learning process for me. You can put it to a vote, it will be whatever it is. My committment is to serve and help however I can, I am not going to step down.

Ronnie: My home group also had concerns. They were concerned about sending money to the region and not having enough money to pay our bills and clarity in the treasurer's report. And what is the status on our P&P chair?

AJ: Are we done talking about the Treasurer before we talk about P&P?

Karen: Are you asking him to step down? (Yes)

AJ: And he is not, so either fill out a motion or nothing else procedes. As far as P&P, last month, we had a meeting, she was here and was sick and couldn't stay for area. This month, I was given a message that she would be late. I will be calling her after this meeting and asking her about her willingness. Either she can resign or say she is willing to serve. If she isn't here next month, that is considered a resignation.

Tommy: Is there going to be a P&P meeting next month?

AJ: No, it is an as needed basis and there isn't anything to review.

Tommy: Is there a P&P co-chair?

AJ: No. Not at this time.

Tommy: Can we schedule a P&P meeting now for next month to protect ourselves so that if something happens, there will be somebody from P&P to represent our area?

AJ: Do we need to have the Policy chair to schedule the meeting or can we do it now?

Karen: Weren't we supposed to receive our ammended policy this month? (yes) This is a program of principles before personalities and our concepts tell us that leadership qualities are valued in NA and nodding out in a meeting is not a very good quality of leadership in my opinion. That has gone on at my home group, I have had newcomers ask me "what is wrong with that girl?" That is not the kind of people my home group want to fill that position.

Lane: According to P&P, we have instilled responsibility to schedule a meeting to the P&P chair, not to anyone else. There is no co-chair at this time to act for the chair.

AJ: I can schedule a meeting. It will be at 12:30 next month before area.

Ashley: My home group doesn't have anyone to represent our group as GSR because Rookie and I hold officer positions. It was brought to my attention that I can't carry my home group's vote.

Joe: Since the secretary is here, I don't see a problem with you carrying your home group's vote.

Lane: Policy says you can't hold 2 offices. In this situation, when the roll call is called, are you going to say

you are absent as Alt. Secretary. Down the line, there could be a conflict of interest. What you want, may not be what your home group wants. Do we stray from policy that has worked for years and years? Why would we do that?

Karen: If Ashley says, she is going to be Alt. Secretary and GSR and Laura can't make it, which position is she going to sacrifice? Home group or Area?

Joe: I think Lane has a good point. You can vote on something you want and your home group could vote against it. I think that would be a confusing situation to be in. You could announce that you are here for one position and not the other. I wouldn't want any position to go unfilled. Especially my home group.

Laura: I think that if need be, we know when the home groups have to vote on something, when a vote needs to be carried to the ASC meeting. The only conflict is when she has to vote on housekeeping issues when the officers and home groups have to vote on the spot, not what she is carrying from the home group to the meeting. It is an on the spot decision. If she knows that there is a vote from her home group that she needs to carry, she can come here and say she is the GSR and not the Alt. Secretary. If you have missed so many meetings that you are going to lose your rights, then Rookie can step in and say H&I chair is not here and the home group is. Or we can change policy. That is about it.

James Y.: Today, when you took roll and said absent with report, that means you don't have a vote. Why can't the home groups submit the vote in the report?

Laura: You have to be present to vote.

James Y.: We can suspend policy to vote.

Tommy: According to policy, any amendments to policy need to be voted on by the home group. If you want to send in a motion that you want a written vote to be submitted to the area, then you can do that. If someone wants to serve in 2 positions, then you need to put in a motion that goes back to home groups to amend policy and let it be voted on. Until that happens, there is no reason for discussing this because policy clearly states that. I am not trying to offend anybody. My home group's vote is important to me and I wouldn't want to be serving the area and feel like my home group's vote doesn't even count because of this or that. Policy is what it says and it should be voted on by the home groups and not suspended for any reason.

Scott: Can't she be here as an Alternate without a voice? She doesn't get to vote on anything pertaining to Alt. Secretary. And on the rare occasion that Laura is out, Rookie could step up to GSR.

Jason: As an area, we have enough complications as it is with votes. We are asking someone to take a responsibility that isn't theirs. If you are making a commitment to a position, be responsible and fill it. We need to go thru the good, bad and ugly as an area and when the pain gets great enough, someone can step up and say we are going thru this and that and complicating things. We will then do something different.

Ashley: I was just asking as a temporary situation, not forever.

Karen: Does the meeting list need to be included in the minutes? Laura only needs it to know who to mail the minutes to. Someone made copies of the mailing list and left them on the table for anyone to have them.

That makes me uncomfortable.

Laura: They don't have to be in the minutes and it doesn't say in policy that they have to be in the minutes. It says that I am to send out minutes to everyone on the mailing list. The only reason I have done it is because that is what was done when I got here. I agree with Karen. My personal opinion is that a lot of things could be left out of the minutes. I looked at the minutes from the area that I came from and they were 2 pages. They had all of the minutes, GSR report forms and everything. They were sent out in regular envelopes with 39 cent stamps. That is something that could be looked into for anyone that has an interest.

James B.: The only reason that happened is that someone wanted copies of a poster that had the mailing list on the other side.

AJ: We can vote on this as a housekeeping issue unless anyone doesn't think this is a housekeeping issue.

Joe: If someone did want that, you could send them a copy. Otherwise, as chair of the activities committee, if I wanted a copy to call all of the GSRs, you could send me a copy.

Laura: I don't know if I should say this. I am the secretary for the area, not for Joe or the activities committee or the PI chair. I have had people call me in the past and ask if you can do this and do that. Where are my boundaries? I do what policy says.

Lane: One suggestion is to put an officer's phone list in the minutes instead of the mailing list.

Joe: I know the purpose of them being in the minutes was to be able to get a hold of each other. I personally don't have a problem with it be taken out of the minutes, I just want to be able to get in touch with people when I need to. We are a committee and I need to be able to get a hold of people. We are the ASC and should be able to get a hold of each other. That has been the reason it has been in there all these years.

Lane: That was the thinking behind the phone list. If you don't want your number on there, don't put it on there.

Jeff B.: That list should never be left out anywhere where someone could look at it. That was our secretary that did that. It shouldn't be left in that manner. It is to protect us from what is outside of us, not from us.

David: I know drugs burn our fucking brains out, but are we not smart enough to get each other's phone numbers in this room? Ask them for their phone number. I agree with Karen, our personal information has been left out there and why are we blaming our secretary for something she didn't do? I think that is wrong. If anyone has a problem with that, see me outside at the break.

AJ: That's not necessary.

David: It is necessary, we are sitting here blaming our secretary and she wasn't the one who did it.

Jessica: It wasn't an issue of the secretary doing something wrong, it was about the list being in the minutes. I don't want everyone here having my phone number.

Karen: It wasn't intended against the secretary, it was about the phone list being in the minutes. It has nothing to do with the secretary. It was done before Laura even came here.

AJ: I am declaring that a housekeeping vote. (Passed)

Lane: PI is supposed to do a poster day. The trademark is missing and we have ordered a whole other set of posters without a registered trademark on it. It is false to say you only need a registered trademark to sell something. Once we put this out there without a registered trademark, any Tom, Dick or Harry can take that and do anything they want to with it and they have every legal right to. And NA has no fight against them. The reason for the registered trade mark is to protect us from that. It is against the law, it tells you in the intillectual property bulletin that it is illegal to have that symbol in the public view without the registered trademark symbol.

Marcia: I understand, but we did order another set. As long as I have been in NA for 14 years, it has always been like that. If the NA trademark was registered, who can take it? The posters were already payed for, but we were looking into it for the next time to have it on there.

Laura: I am a graphic design student and I deal with logos and trademarks all of the time. What Marcia said is true. Somebody could see that, take it, and use it on something else, but that doesn't mean that we don't have the rights for it and that we couldn't take legal action for us. They could take it and use it without the trademark symbol, but it is not legal for THEM to do that. It is a done deal, it is ours.

Lane: So what you are telling me is that when NA asked us not to do that, you are telling me we just run on self-will and do it anyway?

Marcia: I say that we already paid \$151 for 400 posters that we can take back and change unless we do it ourselves.

AJ: How do we do this? Can we buy a stamp?

Joe: The reason the Guide to Local Service says that is to not have to call people and ask them not to do that. What Laura says is true. What you said is a good idea to buy a stamp or something. Why throw away \$150?

NEW BUSINESS

Motion 4-1-07: To remove Treasurer from office.

Tommy: It seems like we already have a hard enough time filling positions with people willing to serve.

James: Audits have been perfect.

Karen: I appreciate someone being willing to do something. I appreciate humility to step down when the job isn't being done. It isn't about the money, when you look at the past minutes and the discussions, there is always something that you have to apologize for or explain. For me that is unacceptable as a leadership quality.

Regional Motions: 43-06/07 & 44-06/07 (see attached) - The Regional budget will be posted to the area website.

There will be a P&P meeting at 12:30 before the ASC meeting.
Next Area business meeting will be May 20th, 2007 at 4:00 p.m.