

Greetings Everyone

Public Relations has had another busy month. This month we were asked to attend a booth sitting event at David Douglas High School. We had to order some literature for the event at the last minute and we were able to get it overnight mailed thanks to Michael McD. We now have a pretty good stock pile of Literature for future events. The event was enjoyable and interesting, with the students having a scavenger hunt with questions about each booth represented. They asked the Narcotics Anonymous booth questions like: What is one of the 12th Steps? And what is the difference between NA and AA? I think they mostly liked to get free key tags from other countries with different languages. I think it was great positive exposure for Narcotics Anonymous, and Nathan (TVA) and I enjoyed it very much.

TVA have decided to stay with the metro and to create a 1800 Metro phonenumber. So what this means is there is duplicating services for our Areas. This doesn't change how we do services. We must continue to try to work together with sharing information with TVA and GWVA so we can continue with our primary purpose, which is to help the suffering addict through our schedule and phonenumber. We also must try to remember that the public doesn't understand our own internal conflicts nor do they care - they just want our help. The fact is that their decision to not share services with the phonenumber and get their own 1800 number and to have their own schedule has the potential to confuse the community. I'm choosing to look for something positive in all of this. Our NA message is just more accessible. The only way that I see things changing, and to alleviate duplicating services, is for us to look for ways in our Area that we can work with the Metro and share the services. I think it's important to look at all sides now and practice the spiritual principles that NA teaches us. I choose to lead by example and choose not to be resentful and perpetuate the problem any further. I choose to move towards finding a positive solution if possible.

The current phonenumber service was down yet again twice this month. A few months ago I was appointed by the Phonenumber chairperson to look into a better system that would alleviate this issue. I have done a great deal of research and I found a company that would not only remove human error completely but it will save our Area a great deal of money. I presented the information to the Phonenumber subcommittee this past Sunday and the committee voted to change companies. The new system that I recommended will allow Phonenumber to better manage the volunteer shift workers by eliminating the volunteers from transferring the calls themselves. Our Area currently pays \$67 for the system we use now, and the new system will cost \$25 per month. Also we won't have to change our phone number either. I did some research and investigating and was in contact with the FCC. The FCC said all numbers by law are portable except for pager numbers. We will probably have to pay a one-time fee to Answernet but we will be able to keep our number. The Phonenumber number is now listed in the Dex and so is Watershed Treatment Center. Please know I did try to have this removed but was not successful. I guess you can't win them all.

Our new web host Paula D. is working hard getting our web site updated. I'm personally asking everyone for their patience in regards to the web site. We are very sorry about any inconvenience with things not being updated but please know that we are in transition and we are very aware of the situation and we are working on it. Paula has asked for some help and will be receiving it - that will

resolve some issues that she was having. The (AAAG) Activities at a Glance will be updated. We also voted to have a link to the Convention web page added to our website for the up-coming PNWCNA next year.

BA has been working on a PSA placement in the Willamette Week. The paper will run our PSA when there is an opening. He is also working on PSA's with other papers such as: Just Out, Portland Observer, and the Nickel Ads. A possible new member who joined the committee is interested in doing some media work with the colleges. We will keep everyone apprised of the happenings of the media. I will also be working with our flyers coordinator on developing training for flyer distribution.

The schedule is our Area's biggest expense and I think it is important to say that schedules are not free. Because NA has grown so much in recent years we have gone to a two page schedule, which means the price of the schedule was increased. We are kindly asking groups to keep this in mind when they are grabbing schedules. Please do not take more than you really need. Our Area may be forced at some point to have to charge for schedules, or they may be bundled up for each group.

I will be spending the next month or so assisting with the Audit of our mailings, checking in with the community to make sure that we are providing the information that they may want or need. Our goal is to perhaps go to an email system that would decrease the every other month cost for sending out our mailings, since most of the information is available on our web site. It's another \$30 to \$50 dollars that we can save our area.

Public Relations is looking into the possible idea of bringing back the news letter "Portland Reach". This would be a great way to promote unity with subcommittees, and to talk about the positive things that are going on in our Area. We are submitting a flyer to Area today to look for some people who might be interested in doing this. This would be a perfect thing for someone who is new to service and wants to be involved with a very fun and creative project. Please contact us if you might be interested.

In closing I would like to say thank you to everyone who has been supportive with Public Relations and Phonenumber this year. We know there have been a lot of changes, and with change there are growing pains. See you all next year and have a great holiday in whatever way you celebrate.

In loving service

Vera K.