

Portland Area of Narcotics Anonymous Board of Directors Meeting

February 23, 2008

Paul, PASC Chair, opened the meeting at 11:05 a.m. with a moment of silence, followed by the Serenity Prayer.

Present when the meeting opened:

Paul, Chair

Michele, Secretary

Lynda, Hotline Chair

Nanette, H & I

Troy, Outreach Chair

The Board of Director's met in special session to discuss the GSR Handbook, Area Planning Tool, and other business.

GSR Handbook

Troy, Outreach Chair, distributed copies of the revamped GSR Handbook. The last time they were updated was 2002. Troy thought it would be useful to start using the Handbooks again to improve new GSR training and improve PASC meetings. He said he can print them in six or seven bright colors.

Michele said she reproduced the 2002 handbook with very few changes. She asked members of the BOD to proofread the Handbook for errors and typos before a mass printing.

Troy asked the BOD if the Handbook needs to be approved by a vote of the groups, or just the Board of Directors. "Outreach is accountable to Area," Troy said. "Area has the final say so in what I do."

Paul, PASC Chair, said that the Area has given Troy and Outreach the authority to conduct Outreach business as he sees fit.

The BOD approved dispersal of the GSR Handbook to new GSRs and to members of the PASC.

Troy continued to explain other activities Outreach has undertaken since he became Chair. Every month, Troy says he attempts to contact the groups that haven't been attending Area. When he finds groups that are no longer meeting, he tells the Secretary to remove them from Roll Call and from the PASC Contact List.

A lot of these meetings, Troy said, want to stay in the Portland Area, they just don't have a GSR at this time.

Area Planning Tool

Paul, PASC Chair, reiterated how important it is to conduct an Area Inventory. The groups voted on it and it is the duty of the BOD to make sure it happens. Paul directed the secretary to send out a copy of the Area Planning Tool to all of the groups, subcommittees and executive officers with a note that says, "Hey, groups, please give us this inventory."

Carolyn, Literature Chair, suggested that the Planning Tool be sent out in an email that is dedicated to just this inventory, so it doesn't get lost amongst the minutes and other Area announcements.

The BOD agreed that all Area Inventories should be turned in to the BOD on March 29, 2008, during the March PASC meeting.

Michele offered to collect all of the inventory sheets and organize the information.

Public Relations

Jim, representing the Public Relations Subcommittee (formerly PI) discussed progress at bringing in the Outreach and Hotline subcommittees under the PR umbrella.

It's starting to take a little shape, Jim said. The Public Relations Subcommittee would like to move its meeting to Round Table, where Hotline meets.

The first priority is to put out an accurate schedule, Jim said. PR is working with the other two areas to get meeting times and places correct.

Jim said the subcommittee has been working on a new set of Public Relations Bylaws.

Next month, Jim said he would like to attend the H & I Subcommittee and have a chance to speak. This month he didn't have a chance to say anything, he said.

With Activities, PR wants to hold a training for presentations and booths; because we all have interactions with the public.

Paul, PASC Chair, said that before we reset our bylaws, he'd like to have the new subcommittees pretty well worked out.

Wayne, PASC Vice Chair, said that this isn't something we need to rush into, again.

Jim said that they will work on bringing the subcommittees together. Then, they will start making motions to make it official.

"We know this is where we want to be," Jim said. "That's what our literature tells us."

When Troy asked how Outreach fits in, Jim explained that groups often deal with people at churches and other meeting places. And Outreach can help train groups public relations techniques for interacting with the public.

“We need to get rid of the stigma that that is your side of the fence and this is mine,” Jim said. All of the subcommittees need to work together.

Nanette said that we need to educate our people about how their actions affect NA as a whole.

In other business, Jim said that PR had put together a Newcomer Workshop Proposal for Clackamas County.

Schedules

Troy said he has been getting emails “up the wazzu” about some motion that will be brought to this body to use the Metro schedule. What is our current Webhost trying to do? Troy said he understands that PR is trying to put out current and accurate schedules for all meetings. But, how can our Webhost try to use the Metro schedule.

Jim said that there has to be one schedule for the Portland Metropolitan Area, but not the Metro schedule which isn't accountable to anyone, or the Portland schedule. We're duplicating services and this is creating a big impact on people we don't even know; who have never been to any of our meetings. Politics are getting in the way. There needs to be discussion with the other areas.

Wayne, PASC Vice-Chair, said that what we need to focus on is our Area and what is going on in our Area. We don't need to complicate anything, Wayne said. We are trying to overanalyze it.

Paul, PASC Chair, said that as long as we have coordination and cooperation with the other people, we'll work it out.

Troy, Outreach Chair, said, “Did not this body direct PI to put all the meetings in our schedule? Why is it not done?”

Carolyn, Literature Chair, said that the other two areas broke off from Portland. Why is Portland following them? Portland has been successful at providing services for many years. NA as a whole is doing fine. But this is our Area. We're responsible for our Area, the best we can... Carolyn said that we can put the meetings in our schedule, but we need to concentrate on the people in our Area. That needs to be our priority. Not following what other areas want to do.

Paul, PASC Chair, compared the new areas to newcomers. When a newcomer comes into our meetings, we don't turn our backs. We go over and introduce ourselves and exchange phone numbers.

Carolyn said that We're supposed to be helping them, not following them. Carolyn thought the whole issue was being blown out of proportion.

Copier and Literature Room

Nanette said she has a fairly new copier, in good condition, to donate to the Portland Area.

Paul suggested that we take the copier out of the Literature Room that doesn't work and replace it with the newly donated copy machine.

Troy asked that the PASC give the old copier to Outreach so he can make GSR Guidebooks in his garage.

In reference to the Literature report from January, Troy said he was concerned about other people having access to the room where the PASC stores its literature. Money came up missing out of the till.

Carolyn, Literature Chair, said she brought this to the attention of the URS Club, which said it would change the lock a month ago; but nothing has been done yet.

Paul asked Carolyn to talk to the URS Club again about getting the lock changed on the Literature door.

Carolyn took responsibility for someone leaving the key in the cash register. It was a stupid thing that we did and we will take responsibility for it, she said. That was the only time we left the cash register key in it.

Troy said that if this happens again, he has a half a garage and a storage room. "I personally feel uncomfortable with someone else having access to our literature and our money.

Conference Agenda Report – Regional business

Wayne asked if Big Steve had gotten with Ron for an accounting of the Conference Agenda Reports.

Every month, the Portland Area puts aside money to purchase the CAR every two years. This year, the Area decided to purchase 50.

Wayne said a situation came up at the Regional Workshop where the RCM gave these CARs to some people from the Portland Area and he sold some, also. "I feel it's my responsibility to put this out there," Wayne said.

Steve said that as a trusted servant, he felt that it was his duty to supply every person from the Portland Area with a Conference Agenda Report at the workshop. Steve said he gave them to newcomers that couldn't afford the price. He sold them to other people. He

doesn't know how many he gave away, and how many he sold. He was multi-tasking and couldn't keep track.

"I don't feel that service is dependent on how much you can pay," Steve said. "I am extremely sorry if this body thinks I am wrong."

Steve said he didn't know he needed to keep track of what groups he gave copies to.

Steve said he was brought down to the Workshop by the Alternate RCM.

"But I guess I offended him," Steve said. "He took off."

Paul asked that the remainder of the conversation be "off the record," as it was personal in nature.

Before the meeting closed, Michele reminded Subcommittee Chairs that they need to come to the March PASC with newly elected Chairs that need to be ratified by the groups.

The BOD meeting closed at 1:05 p.m. with the Serenity Prayer.