

**Approved Minutes**  
**NA by Phone Area Meeting**  
**1:35 pm Eastern, Saturday, September 12, 2020**

Percy D opened the meeting with the Serenity Prayer. Camilla L read the Service Prayer and Percy read the Second Tradition.

Officer Roll Call: Jimmie D, Chairperson, Percy C, Vice Chairperson, Susanne B, Treasurer, Camilla L, Secretary and Pierre AS, Outreach Chair.

GSR Roll Call: Keeping It Real: GSR Tony M; Life After Drugs II: GSR Jeff T; Loving Our Long-Timers: GSR Tara F; One Primary Purpose: GSR Debbie C; Our Gratitude Speaks: GSR Brian H, GSRA Dorothy S; Recovery on the Go: GSR Dawn W; Recovery Thru Aging and Illness: GSR Lin A, GSRA Lee D; Serenity on Thursdays: GSR Chanel ; The Bridge: GSRA Susanne and later, GSR Marvin E.

Member Roll Call: Loretta J from Keeping It Real Group of NA

Minutes: Minutes for the Area Meeting held Saturday, August 8, 2020, were read by Camilla and approved as read. GSR's and interested members will receive copies.

**Officer Reports**

Chairperson: Jimmie thanks everyone for attending. He announces that he will not be seeking reelection at the conclusion of his term. The position of Chair will be vacant. He has enjoyed serving and having the opportunity to give back.

Secretary: Camilla L reported minutes went out on time.

Treasurer Report: Susanne B reported our balance as of 7/11/20 was \$57.36, we got several donations between 7/11 and 8/8 totaling \$105.47 bringing our balance up to \$162.80 as of 8/8. Between 8/8 and 9/12 we received donations totaling \$33.96 bringing our current balance up to \$196.76. With no expenditures current balance remains \$196.76. The finance subcommittee meeting on August 15 identified a need for a Vice Treasurer and submits a recommendation we create policy for such a position. Question was raised about how to make an Area donation and was answered that the donation button on the meeting list goes

directly to the area. Also questioned was the discrepancy between the amount donated and the amount reported. PayPal takes a small cut for handling the transactions; therefore a \$10.00 donation is \$9.41. The email address is [treasurer@nabyphone.org](mailto:treasurer@nabyphone.org) to make a direct PayPal donation.

### **Subcommittee Reports**

Finance Subcommittee Report: The Finance Subcommittee meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month (next week, 9/19) at 1:30pm Eastern on the area phone number: 605.313.5145, 352188#. Suzanne reports at the August 13. Camilla, Suzanne, Chanel, Dawn and Jeff T attended. Getting a PayPal debit card was discussed. On investigation Susanne found there is a \$5 monthly charge for getting the card but we can get a PayPal Key which is basically a debit card number without a card which can be used to pay vendors. CashApp was discussed but decision was to stay with PayPal which is more familiar to people and has a solid reputation. Question was raised whether PayPal account records could be downloaded and shared with the Area. The answer was yes and it will be done.

Webmaster: Not present. Pierre advised group we need to investigate this since no one has attended in a long time.

Outreach Chair: Pierre reports no major activity took place this month. Two things are necessary for Outreach to function: 1) Some policy and guidelines are needed to give direction to Outreach. Collaboration with the Policy Subcommittee would be good. 2) Members are needed to join Outreach. Pierre asks all GSR's to announce that any members wanting to help make recovery possible for addicts in treatment centers and elsewhere are invited to join Outreach and to give them his phone number (802-349-7378). As of yet, there is no set meeting time.

### **Group Reports**

Keeping It Real Group of NA: Tony M, GSR reports they are very happy to be on the meeting list and a part of Area. They are getting a lot of participation. They hold 19 meetings a week with an early morning Just For Today meeting at 8:30am Eastern and about 10 to 15 members attending their other two daily meetings. They are investigating getting a PayPal account so they can contribute to the area. Loretta J introduced herself as Secretary of the Group. They had their 1<sup>st</sup> business meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> and it went well.

Life After Drugs II: Jeff T reports their group has had difficulty with a member disrupting the meeting and they actually had to lock the meeting. It was locked the next week and attendance was down considerably. Therefore, they have not made a donation this month. If they are having problems, other groups must also be having problems. How should this be handled? Also, if Jeff is elected to Policy Subcommittee Chairperson he will step down as GSR.

Loving Our Long-Timers: Tara F thanks everyone for being here. She reports both the Wednesday night meeting and new Friday LOL International meetings are doing very well.

One Primary Purpose: Debbie C reports OPP is committed to carrying the message through literature study meetings. At this time, they have no input for the area. They have 8-11 members in attendance each meeting and have also had difficulty with disruptive behavior. Moderators with computers have muted the person and when no one has computer access, they have allowed the person to rant. After about 10 minutes the person winds down and the meeting can continue.

Our Gratitude Speaks: Brian H reports they have about 8 to 12 folks per day, seven days a week, 8:30 to 9:40 am Eastern. Their format is all literature studies which varies from day to day. They are doing quite well. Dorothy adds they have newcomers attending and they are being put into service right away.

Recovery on the Go: Dawn W reports they have consistent member participation of 10 or more on Sundays but would welcome additional Area support. They are having weekly business meetings to discuss an anniversary celebration for ROTG.

Recovery Thru Aging and Illness: Lin A, their new GSR, reports their meeting has been going for two years. Originally, they had a strong core group of 13 to 20 members but, due to a change in leadership after a year, they have been struggling to regain momentum. They are a special interest group focusing on issues with aging and illness, however, they welcome the young and healthy. They also have had serious issues with disruptions and have chosen to mute or disconnect the individual. They have also locked the meeting for a period of time. They would like support at their meeting on Thursdays from 6 to 7 pm Eastern. Lee D introduces herself as the GSRA for the group and is welcomed.

Serenity on Thursday: Chanel reports they meet on Thursdays at 7pm Eastern, they have about 12-15 people attending and a few new home group members who are getting involved in service. They are doing well. They have suggested to their members that they make donations directly to the area on the meeting page as individuals. They too have had problems with disruption but do what they have to and move along.

The Bridge: Susanne, GSRA, reports they did not have a business meeting this month due to the Labor Day holiday but will be having it this weekend. They have mailed out about 15 books paid for from a separate Book Fund and have decided to send Free Conference Call HD \$4 a month as a donation. The group made a motion to donate \$20 to the Area which was done. She hopes they will make the same decision this month.

### **Old Business**

Policy Subcommittee Chairperson Election: Votes were cast for the election of Jeff T to the position: KIR votes Yes, LOL votes Yes, OPP has no opinion, OGS votes Yes, ROTG votes Yes, RTA&I votes Yes, SOT votes Yes, TB abstains because of no business meeting. Jeff T is elected by a count of 6 yes and 2 not voting.

### **New Business**

Vice Treasurer: The creation of a Vice Treasurer and possible duties was discussed. It will go to the Groups whether or not to create the position. If approved, the qualifications and duties will be drafted by the Finance and Policy Subcommittees and submitted to the Area for approval.

Questions were raised about the recent elections of Percy as Vice Chairperson and Jeff T as Policy Subcommittee in regard to their terms of office. All positions will be open in December, they will need to run again to serve next year. Both of them expressed their willingness to continue to serve. Notices concerning upcoming Elections is already up on NA by Phone Area page. We also need members to volunteer to join the Outreach and Policy Subcommittees.

Discussion concerning the Administrative Staff including Subcommittee Chairs submitting reports ensues. It is suggested that the reports be submitted before the Area meetings if the officers will be unable to attend. If an officer cannot submit a report due to extenuating circumstances, their backup is responsible for informing the area. Consensus of GSR's is all officers should submit written reports before area if they cannot attend the area meeting.

The policy guidelines concerning attendance were reviewed: if an Administrative Officer misses two meetings in a row, the Chair or Vice Chair is to reach out to

them. If they miss three meetings in a row without explanation, their position is forfeited.

Jeff offers to create surveys in cooperation with subcommittees and administrative staff to send out to GSR's about what business is to be conducted at area meetings hoping to streamline business discussions.

Marvin E relates in his F2F area they have a Joint Administrative Committee where all the Officers and Subcommittee Chairs meet before the Area to discuss and iron out any issues. Then at the Area Meeting, the JAC Chair gives all reports thus cutting out a lot of time at the Area meeting.

Discussion ensues concerning who in the area will have the responsibility of vetting current meetings to see if they are still holding meetings and are holding true to NA values. The word values was questioned and changed to NA principles. Suggestion was made that Outreach and the Administrative Committee should do it. Pierre states that checking up on meetings is not part of Outreach. Others agreed that it should not be Outreach. Suggestion was made a committee should be created to do it. Marvin E offers to go to every meeting on the meeting list and bring back a report next month. After extensive discussion it was agreed that it is not the business of the area whether Groups are following NA principles. Every group is autonomous and if a group is not following traditions, it will fall on its own. No resolution was reached about deleting meetings that have faltered.

### **Open Forum**

Concerns about the website were brought up. The NAbyPhone.com website will be closed in October. At present we do not have a webservant. Dale resigned due to bad health two months ago and Jimmie talked to Phil who said he was willing to serve and would attend Area but has not attended two subsequent meetings or responded. Jeff T asks for and is given permission to create a survey to be sent to the GSR's requesting their input on updating the meeting list. In October the area will only have the one-page meeting list and no one to update it. Jeff T volunteers to update the list, not as a permanent position but until we find a new webservant. We will need a budget for the new website going forward.

Next meeting will be on Saturday, October 10, at 1:30 pm E, 12:30p C, 11:30a M and 10:30a P on NA by Phone Area number 605.313.5145, 352188#, Playback: 605.313.5153, 352188#. Anyone who wants copies of the minutes can contact Camilla from Chicago at 773-905-8148 to receive copies.

Jimmie D closed the meeting with the Serenity Prayer at 4:40pm Eastern.