

## **Lake County Area Service Committee of Narcotics Anonymous Minutes for May 22, 2010**

1. Open meeting with the Serenity Prayer 10:05 am.
2. Reading of the 12 Traditions by Karen Z.
3. Reading of the 12 Concepts of Service by Iva B.
4. Introduction of New Group Service Representatives: Terra G., Sunday B-Day meeting alternate GSR.

Visitors: Chris (Region), Steve, Wayne, Suzanne

5. ASC Birthday's: Terra G, 30 days; Bernhard, 62 belly button years; Tony C., 4 years; Theo B., 3 years; Jeff B., 3 years; Gary S., 16 years; Steve K., 10 years; Suzanne D., 18 months.

Announcements: Bernhard still has TAC T-shirts for sale and pre-registration for the TAC event.

6. Reading of the 5<sup>th</sup> Concept of Service by Anthony P.
7. Officer Reports: These are attached to these minutes.
  - Chair: Present, written report.
  - Vice Chair: Present, written report.
  - Secretary: Present, written report.
  - Treasurer: Present, written report. (report not distributed to ASC due to printing error)
    - Tiffany W. started working with Gary S. this month.
  - Regional Committee Member 1: Present, oral report.
  - Regional Committee Member 2: Present, no report.
  - TAC Liaison: Present, written report.
8. Subcommittee Reports: These are attached to these minutes.
  - Hospitals & Institutions: Present, no report.
  - Public Relations: Present, written report.
    - Postering Day: May 30<sup>th</sup>, Everyone meet at the SNAG building at 9am.
  - Literature: Present, oral report.
    - Theo needs a Vice Chair.
  - Activities: Present, written report.
    - Spring Fling was a great success! ☺
    - Tony will be emailing the Unity Day Flyer to everyone after Area for approval.
  - R4R: There will be a fundraiser for this event. Time and date is being discussed. More details to come.
9. Group Reports:
  - Sunday Birthday meeting needs a GSR.
  - Just For Today has moved to the SNAG building.
  - Recovery Spoken Here needs a GSR.
  - Heart of NA: Women's retreat is doing well. They are only half full but the spots are filling up fast. June 2<sup>nd</sup> is the next business meeting for the Women's Retreat.
  - Northshore Recovery- Renee was elected the new Secretary for the Saturday night meeting.
  - Men's Walk Their Talk moved to the SNAG building.
  - Recovery First- Next BBQ is Tuesday, June 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.
  - Serenity on the Mountain: \$17 group income, \$5 to buy keychain tags. This group has a new Treasurer. The old treasurer is missing with \$12 of group funds. Attendance is about 30 with 4-8 newcomers.

- Speakers coming to Serenity on the Mountain: Theo B., Karen Z., Michael H., Debra C., Amber W., Jeff B., Greg R., Anthony P., Suzanne D.
- Ladies Circle of Trust- needs an alternate GSR (Shelly is the GSR) and they need support.
- Dopeless Hope Fiends: Need a new Treasurer and an alternate GSR.
- Welcome Home Group needs support.
- SNAG- The business meeting is at 5:30pm on the Monday before ASC.
  - The Monday night SNAG meeting has potluck BBQ the first Monday of the month.
  - Speaker Jam is on October, 2, 2010- SNAG needs a new name for the event.
  - Snag shirts will be done soon.

10. Break

11. Re-Open Meeting with the Serenity Prayer at 11:14am.

12. Roll Call: Quorum established... 10/17 groups in attendance.

Officers:

- Chair - Present
- Vice Chair – Present
- Secretary – Present
- Treasurer – Present
- Regional Committee Member 1 – Present
- Regional Committee Member 2 – Present
- TAC Liaison – Present

Subcommittees:

- Hospitals & Institutions – Present
- Public Relations – Present
- Literature – Present
- Activities – Present

Group Services Representatives: *present/absent during roll call to establish quorum.*

- |                               |                                      |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Keep It Simple- Absent        | Northshore Recovery- Present         |
| Basic Men's Group- Absent     | Men's Walk Their Talk- Moved To SNAG |
| Birthday Meeting- Present     | Recovery First- Present              |
| Destiny Group- Present        | Serenity On The Mountain- Present    |
| Just for Today- Moved To SNAG | Ladies Circle Of Trust- Present      |
| Still Feels Good- Absent      | Feels Good Group- Absent             |
| Addict's Lifeline- Absent     | Dopeless Hope Fiends- Present        |
| Wednesday Nooner- Present     | Welcome Home Group- Present          |
| Recovery Spoken Here- Absent  | Saturday Lunch Special- Absent       |
| Heart of NA- Absent           | Survivors- Absent                    |
| We Do Recover- Absent         | SNAG- Present                        |

13. Last month's minutes approved.

14. OLD BUSINESS

1) Assistant Treasurer. Tiffany W. is being trained, but this item is to remain in old business. The position is still open.

15. OPEN FORUM

1) Area Inventory

- We need to set a date for this and prepare flyers. We want as many people as possible to attend.
- We need to submit a request to Region to facilitate our Area Inventory.
- Area inventory is not mean to be a "gripe session." If we give ourselves some time to put this together, we can really benefit from the inventory.
- Maybe we could take an Area day to do this inventory.
  - With only 10 out of 17 GSRs being here today, this idea may not work. We need some structure, support and thoughtfulness.
- We need to know from Region what they want from us in order to prepare for inventory.
- We as an Area can do this without Region. Area can do an inventory at any time. This doesn't need to be a formal event.
- Are we doing this just as an Area Admin committee or as an Area Service Body (GSRs too)?
- Groups are Autonomous and should have a choice whether or not to attend.
- We are complicating this issue. We have guidelines for this.
- We could cancel ASC and do the inventory during that time slot. If feelings are running high, that's when we could use an outside facilitator.
- When this Area was asked if they wanted Region to facilitate our Area inventory, we voted YES. So, now we just need to decide when and where, and how we're going to make it happen.
- July 24, 2010, Area day is now going to be Area Inventory Day will be held after an abbreviated ASC meeting. The suggested area inventory, from the Area planning tool will be distributed to all GSR's throughout this month and hard copies will be available by next Area.

2) Chris (VP Board of Directors for Regional Service Office) has the floor regarding the Service Animal and Religion issue.

The Northern California Regional Service Committee has delegated to the Regional Service Office Board of Directors the responsibility for protecting our fellowship legally and financially. In that capacity, the BOD has reviewed Federal and State Laws regarding persons with disabilities. It is our understanding that Narcotics Anonymous in Northern California must comply with the regulations specified in the Americans with Disabilities Act and California State Law regarding individuals with disabilities. Because of that understanding, we recommend that individuals and groups act accordingly.

Americans with Disabilities Act Title III and California Civil Code Sections 54 and 55 cover discrimination against individuals with disabilities. California laws provide more guidance than the broad definitions of the Americans with Disabilities Act while maintaining compliance with it.

For this discussion, we also need to know that State and local law trumps Federal Law UNLESS they are in direct conflict with Federal Law, in which case Federal Law takes precedence.

That being said...

California Civil Code Section 54.1(a)(1) says “**Individuals with disabilities shall be entitled to full and equal access, as other members of the general public, to ... places to which the general public is invited**, subject only to the conditions and limitations established by law, or state or federal regulation, and applicable alike to all persons”.

Our literature puts us in this category with the statement “Anyone may join us regardless of age, race, sexual identity, creed, religion or lack of religion”.

BUT “subject only to the conditions and limitations established by law, or state or federal regulation, and applicable alike to all persons” means that if a leash law exists, service animals **MUST** be leashed **UNLESS** it impairs the ability of the animal to provide the service for which it is trained.

It is well within our right as members to ask individuals with service animals to maintain those animals on a leash where those laws exist unless the leash interferes with services provided by the animal.

Section 54.2.(b) Every individual with a disability has the right to be accompanied by a guide dog, signal dog, or service dog, especially trained for the purpose, in any of the places specified in Section 54.1 without being required to pay an extra charge or security deposit for the guide dog, signal dog, or service dog. However, the individual shall be liable for any damage done to the premises or facilities by his or her dog.

Definitions of ‘guide dog’, ‘signal dog’, and ‘service dog’ are found in Section 54.1.b(6)(C)(i), (ii) and (iii) but are really a moot point because ADA limits what we can ask in determining whether or not an animal meets those requirements.

### **So how do we know what’s a pet and what’s a service animal?**

The ADA has provided a Technical Assistance Manual and a Business Brief on Service Animals that give us guidance.

*(from – ADA Title III Technical Assistance Manual.)*

“A number of States have programs to certify service animals. A private entity, however, may not insist on proof of State certification before permitting the entry of a service animal to a place of public accommodation.”

*(from – Business Brief on Service Animals)*

Businesses may ask if an animal is a service animal or ask what tasks the animal has been trained to perform, but cannot require special ID cards for the animal or ask about the person’s disability.

The **ONLY** times a service animal can be asked to leave is when:

*(Business Brief on Service Animals)*

(1) the animal is out of control **AND** the animal’s owner does not take effective action to control it (for example, a dog that barks repeatedly during a movie) or

(2) the animal poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others

*(Allergies and fear of animals are generally not valid reasons for denying access or refusing service to people with service animals.)*

So what about exemptions as ‘religious organizations’ or ‘private clubs’.

Again, our literature and traditions give us the appropriate guidance.

- 1.) Narcotics Anonymous is a ‘spiritual not religious program’.
- 2.) Anyone may join us, pretty much means we’re not a ‘private club’.

### **So what is the cost if we fail to comply?**

California Penal Code Section 365.6. (a) says Any person who, with no legal justification, intentionally interferes with the use of a guide, signal, or service dog or mobility aid by harassing or obstructing the guide, signal, or service dog or mobility aid user or his or her guide, signal, or service dog, is guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding six months, or by a fine of not less than one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) nor more than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500), or both that fine and imprisonment.

AND you can be sued in civil court as well...

“NA as a whole” can be held accountable to the State of California and the Federal Government if we don’t comply with these regulations.

*(from – Business Brief on Service Animals)*

Violators of the ADA can be required to pay money damages and penalties.

- Chris will be preparing a more formal document to distribute.
- We are to be in compliance with ADA guidelines.
- How do we distinguish if a dog is a Service Animal or not?
  - The animal does not need a vest or a tag.
  - We can only ask...
    - Is your animal a Service Animal?
    - What task has your animal been trained to do?
  - Therapy dog vs. Service Dog? Are they the same?
- If we ask these questions and the dog is not in compliance... how do we handle this?
  - We can ask the owner to remove the animal.
  - A Service Animal provides a service that the individual cannot provide for themselves. The animal has to mitigate a disability.
- This has been an issue in many different Areas. The information from this Area can be brought to different Areas to help.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1) Motion by Anthony P., seconded by Bob B., to reimburse Dennis C. \$8.18. This was the printing cost for 5 copies of "Guide To Phone Line Service."...Approved.

17. Motion to Adjourn 12:42pm