



Newsletter of the New Jersey Region

September 2004

Convention Past—

The impression we had at the convention, that it was a success compared to the previous couple of years in terms of attendance and income, was confirmed by the convention Board of Trustees at the July region meeting.

According to the board, there were 853 registered guests in attendance, up substantially. The BOT turned \$7,500 over to the Region in proceeds, which all seem likely to agree is significantly better than a negative number.

—and Future

The Region voted to confirm the BOT's choice of a site and date for the 2005 convention. It will be held March 4th–6th at the Newark Airport Sheraton. In line with the earlier vote of confidence given it, the Board of Trustees has begun working with members of the Northern New Jersey Region on planning for NJRC20, hoping that it will be a truly statewide event with extensive participation from both regions.

Money Matters

Bolstered by the proceeds from the convention, the RSC sent \$11,000 to N.A. World Services, bringing the Regions' year-to-date total of contributions to \$27,600.

A motion passed to provide \$209.50 for the Regional Delegate–Alternate to attend the meeting of the Northeast Zonal Forum in Williamsport, Pa. This covered hotel costs, gas, food, and tolls.

History and Archives

After several years of the position being vacant, the new History and Archives chair, Eric E., has begun to start in on the backlog of work. Included in his report were material on the costs of better storage facilities. As he points out, some of the material archived can be damaged by excessive heat, which the present facility seems to possess in abundance from time to time.

He has also begun to inventory the archives, and thus far reports a virtual absence of area (as opposed to regional) history materials.

A gap in the Region's archive of convention tapes was

also reported. He was able to locate tapes for only four of the nineteen years' worth that the Region theoretically received and owns.

The archive of old meeting lists is also a bit spotty, and things generally seem to be in roughly the state one would expect after a decade or so of the position being vacant most of the time.

Public Information

The Regional Vice-chair continues to be responsible for this subcommittee, as the inability to obtain a P.I. chair drags on from region to region. On the plus side, she reported that the committee would be participating in the August 2nd health fair in Atlantic City.

On the somewhat less of a plus side, area attendance at the regional PI meetings continues to be sporadic and minimal. On the "what are they thinking" side of the ledger, South Jersey Area's PI committee chose to amuse itself by sending an email announcing its secession from the regional PI structure, illustrating the theory that the best way to solve problems is to run away from them.

At both the area and regional levels, Public Information tends to be one of the most undersupported and disorganized activities that our service structure engages in, and this has been a remarkably consistent state of affairs for many years. We are probably not present at even a twentieth of the events that we would be welcome at just by asking and having people willing to show up.

Elections

In the convention department, the Region confirmed Cameron W. as the new Board of Trustees chair, and Jim C. as the planning committee chair. Nancy C., Roger W., and Carol W. were elected to the Board of Trustees. The BOT Treasurer position, a fairly critical job, was not filled.

In filling Regional Positions, Nancy C. (apparently fearing that the BOT job wouldn't suck up enough of her time) was also elected Regional Policy Chair. Fred M. was elected Regional Delegate, replacing Muk, who is off to World Board land, and Lora Z. was elected RD–Alternate. Roger W., (inspired by Nancy, perhaps,) was elected to the Regional Treasurer gig along with his BOT commitment. *(continued)*

Elections (continued)

Troy T. was elected as Assistant Treasurer. Congratulations to all the new and seat-changing trusted servants.

Positions open at the September region are:

Regional Chair
Regional Vice-chair
H&I Chair
Public Information Chair
Newsletter Chair (*please.*)
Literature Review Chair
Assistant Policy Chair
Assistant Secretary

(Shameless plug): Being Newsletter chair is really easy (trust me, pal,) and kinda fun. You should want this commitment. Yes, you. Really.

Send input and articles to:

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Sanity is published every two months as a service of the New Jersey region for its groups and members. Input and articles are welcome on all recovery-related topics. Opinions expressed here are those of individual addicts, not N.A. as a whole.

**Issues of SANITY can be downloaded from the statewide website,
[www,nanj.org](http://www.nanj.org)**



It wasn't broke, but we fixed it anyway.
Here they are, extra special traditions for the extra special addict. And remember—why work the steps on yourself when you can work these on other people?

The Traditions Purified

1. Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends on N.A. unity, which can best be achieved by imposing a common grammar and body of dogma upon all members.
2. For our Group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—the joint will of a small group of like-minded people.
3. The requirements for membership are as follows:
 - a. Willingness to repeatedly trumpet the superiority of Narcotics Anonymous over all else in the world,
 - b. A desire to talk properly,
 - c. Additional membership in an approved sponsorship chain, to include knowledge of the secret hug,
 - d. Oh yeah—a desire to stop using.
4. Each group should be autonomous unless it fails to take sufficiently rigid steps to drive away those addicts who think or talk wrongly, in which case measures (including formal excommunication) should be taken to bring it into compliance with the One True Faith.
5. Each Group has but one primary purpose—to carry the message of “extra-special” recovery to those addicts who mistakenly think they are already recovering but are really just staying clean and working the steps.
6. No N.A. group or individual member should ever mention or acknowledge the existence of any related facility or outside enterprise, even in passing, lest we might fail to maintain the pretence that we are the only game in town.
7. Every N.A. group ought to be spiritually self-supporting, declining to accept experience from any but its own members or approved gurus from the appropriate sponsorship chain.
8. Narcotics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, except that a close relationship should be maintained with those members of the fellowship who traffic in N.A. related paraphernalia and knick-knacks, it being our responsibility to keep their recovery profitable.
9. N.A., as such, ought never be organized, except where the right viewpoint can prevail by using service boards and committees as a tool to manipulate and control the groups.
10. N.A. has no opinion on outside issues, except when they take the form of negative opinions of other fellowships or views of addiction, in which case the louder the better.
11. Our public relations policy is based on promoting ourselves as the only possible solution.
12. N.A. members should always wear a sufficient amount of N.A. regalia to function as walking N.A. billboards. This is perfectly compatible with our interpretation of anonymity. Our leaders are important folks, damnit, and we are important by association. *And remember—There's exactly one right way to do everything, and we know what it is.*

(Basic disclaimer. We believe that the above is intended as satire. Please do not take it as a remotely serious interpretation of the traditions—ed.)