



## **Newsletter of the New Jersey Region**

**July 2006**

### **WSC 2006**

The biennial event/entity/whatever known as the World Service Conference has come and gone once again. The Basic Text Sixth edition project and the Public Relations guide continue on track. Of interest to the local fellowship, the New Jersey region and other concerned parties brought about substantial discussion and parliamentary gymnastics over the region's motion to prevent the holding of special interest/common needs meetings at the World Convention without a motion going out to approve the change. After five or six hours, the motion eventually failed for lack of the two thirds margin that it was said to require as a policy motion.

The reasoning behind this remains opaque to your poor editor, who cannot understand for the life of him how it is that a proposal which violates standing policy can be implemented without requiring any approval, while a motion that merely affirms the standing policy can require two thirds to maintain the status quo. Oh brave new world, that hath such reasoners in it! In any case, one hopes that some consideration, however slight, is given to the strongly expressed concerns expressed by the members, even if they fell short of two thirds. (After all, being able to retain the approval of less than half, though more than a third, of the membership scarcely counts as a ringing endorsement of the proposed direction, still less that "consensus" that we are repeatedly told is being aimed for."

For more detailed information on the results (if one may still use such a term to describe the end product, if any, of the WSC as it now stands), contact our Regional Delegate.

### **NJRCNA XXI**

How does the New Jersey Regional Convention differ from our clean time medallions? It still uses the Roman Numerals.

On a more relevant note, the 21st annual convention came off as scheduled, and though we aren't able to report hard numbers yet (that will be next issue) we are informed that it went quite well in terms of both attendance and finances by the standards of recent years.

The convention board of trustees informed the May region meeting that it would be breaking with past practice and guidelines by holding the election meeting for the next convention's officers at the July 8th meeting in CRANBURY, rather than on Sunday afternoon at the convention.

This is part of an ongoing effort to address the decline in willing volunteers in recent years, and this change will also be proposed as a change to the Convention Guidelines for the future.

Among the additional changes being considered are: scheduling the planning committee and BOT meetings on Saturday or Sunday, with the BOT meeting held after the planning committee meeting, and the addition of elected area representatives to the body.

### **State of the Fund Flow**

The New Jersey Region's contributions to N.A. World Services for the first half of 2006 amount to a total of \$800, many thousands shy of the same time a year ago. For once, this does not mean that the Region is sitting on a pile of excess funds. The working capital balance, (that is, the amount in the treasury exceeding the arguably large prudent reserve), was at \$956.63 at close of business in May, lower than it has stood in quite some time.

Proceeds turned over from the Regional convention will probably alter that situation, but contributions from member areas have by no stretch of the imagination kept pace with regional expenses for the first half of the year. (\$21,777.28 total expenses, \$7,528.57 in area contributions and helpline donations plus the basket passed at RSC meetings, and \$2,661 in income from meeting list sales, largely to the areas.) This is not one of those "don't you feel guilty, now" pleas for more money. These situations arise from time to time, and every service body needs to take care of its own back yard. Sometimes this leaves more available for other bodies in the service structure, sometimes it leaves less.

### **Elections**

The July region will be attempting to fill the positions of Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Policy Chair, Public Information Chair, Lit. Review Chair, H&I Chair, Convention Chair and Convention Board of Trustees chair.

At the September meeting, the commitments of the website representative and the Newsletter chair will be over, and it will be time to fill those positions. Potential newsletter chairs should feel free to contact the current editor for info on what's involved in this not terribly difficult position.



## Ask Nicky Newcomer

*Tired of that boringly predictable advice from various "Old-timers?" Sick of continually hearing about "acceptance", and only being able to control your own behaviour and attitudes? Always have that sinking feeling that following their guidance is going to involve work on your part? Nicky feels your pain. Nicky is here to help, with the bold advice that only our perpetual newcomer would dare to provide.*

**Dear Nicky:** Ever since I got my "X" medallion 10 years ago, my only motivation for staying out of the crackhouse (if you don't count the grandkids, the job, my friends, etc., etc.) has been the hope of acquiring the "Double X" one. Imagine my dismay when my twentieth anniversary came and all I got was this plain old Arabic number 20. What's up here? Is it a conspiracy? What can I do? —*Grouchy in South Jersey*

**Dear Grouchy:** One of the great things about sticking with the white key tags is never having to deal with such problems. Gosh, I feel bad for you. On the one hand, you're a customer, so you could threaten to take your business to the other WSO. Oh, wait, there isn't one. Well, then, you could submit a humbly worded request for a project plan to the World Board, and spend the time from now to your thirtieth anniversary tracking the progress, if any. On the other hand, a buddy of mine met this dude at a history workshop who says he's prepared to supply the coins you prefer. He's found a metal that has sort of a baby blue cast to it, but otherwise they'll be just like the old ones. Money raised will be split between his legal defense fund and the self-publication of his book, "*Narcotics Anonymous— My Way or Else.*" I hope this helps.

**Dear Nicky:** I've been going to meetings regularly for a couple of years now, but I'm starting to feel bored. It's always the same stuff—people whining, people pontificating, people telling jokes and stories, same ol' steps, same ol' traditions. I mean, how much is there really to say about this stuff?

— *bored stiff*

**Dear Stiff:** This is something I can help you with. As a result of me and my then girlfriend being the only people to show up at a business meeting, my home group briefly utilized the war story gong show format, which I heartily recommend. Everybody tells their best war story in the most exaggerated manner, and they get gonged when the group gets bored with it. Alas, the other members were back for the next business meeting, and the killjoys put an end to our experiment. Something about traditions, I think. I never understood that stuff. I also find that sliding a topic like "*turnpike clean time and its effect on the quality of your convention relationships*" into the mix can liven things up.

**Dear Nicky:** If your sponsor borrows your car to head off from a meeting and provide "extra spiritual guidance" to a sixteen year old girl three days out of rehab, how long do you need to wait before you think that something must have gone wrong, and call the authorities about your car? Hours? Days? How long does "extra spiritual guidance" usually take, anyway?  
— *bewildered on the corner*

**Bewildered, bewildered, you have no complaint—** Oops, John Prine's lawyer just called and told me not to finish that line. Here's a question for you: Can you fill in the blank in this sentence? "*There's a \_\_\_\_\_ born every minute.*" Maybe nothing's wrong and they were suddenly inspired to go down to the gulf and help out with the reconstruction of poor neighborhoods in New Orleans. If this is the case, they'll undoubtedly have somebody return your car to you freshly waxed. To answer your other question, my eleventh sponsor, who helped with the first paragraph and a half of my fifth effort at writing on the second step, once told me that extra spiritual guidance takes varying lengths of time depending on how "extra-special" the guidance is. In the case you describe, it sounds like it was probably "extra-extra special" guidance, and only a handful of root gurus of extremely esoteric sponsorship cults know how long that should take. On the other hand, maybe anything that would seem really sleazy and wrong outside the context of N.A. is still sleazy and wrong inside that context.  
— *Nicky*

### Powerless in the Pines

Yes, its time for the annual plug. South Jersey Area will be sponsoring the XXII annual Powerless in the Pines campout at Bodine Field the 21st–23rd of July. Suggested donation is ten dollars. Sand, a stream, lovable little ticks and the above Roman Numerals are provided. Bring anything else you need. For those not inclined to the full campout experience, try the bonfire meeting, which kicks off around tenish on Friday and Saturday nights, and lasts until everybody' said their piece. It's always an outstanding example of N.A. as such not being organized. But its fun.

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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.**

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