



Newsletter of the New Jersey Region

March 2006

WSC 2006

The 2006 World Service Conference will be held in Woodland Hills, CA, April 23–29, and various motions are presently out to be discussed in the groups throughout New Jersey. For the benefit of anybody new to the process, the New Jersey Region deals with the motions that appear in the Conference Agenda Report (CAR) by encouraging each group to vote on them, and having the group tally determine the Region's position on the motions at the Conference.

As the way the Conference attempts to conduct business has continued to change in recent years, fewer and fewer decisions actually get referred out in the CAR for the Region to send them through the group tally process. Anybody wanting to get a feel for this should make a point of reading through the World Board report that takes up the great majority of this year's CAR, and noting what things are and are not thought to require any formal input from the fellowship, and what the reasoning is behind this.

If groups or areas do want to give input on topics not being distributed through the CAR, (for example, approval of the proposed Public Relations Handbook,) they should get the material through the RD or RD-A as soon as possible, give the input and "hope" that it counts for "something."

Posters and Buses and Us, Oh My!

The issue that sucked up the most time and generated the most heat at the January RSC meeting began with a motion from the South Jersey Area to have the Region pick up the \$1800 (\$150 per month for 12 months) tab for placing one hundred posters with the Helpline number on the New Jersey Transit buses in Camden and Gloucester counties. (The area was picking up the printing costs for the posters.)

There was not a great deal of argument (if any) about whether it might be useful to have the Helpline advertised on NJT buses. The brouhaha began over the question of using Regional money to pay for a project in a single area. Representatives of some areas felt that this

contravened their understanding of the principle of self-support, and expressed the view that if an area wanted to do this it would be better for it to pick up the cost and send less money on to the Region in the first place.

As often happens, people on both sides of the issue managed to take offense at one thing or another and heated words got tossed around like a volleyball.

It eventually seemed clear that the funding would not be forthcoming for this as an "Area Project," so it was amended and rechristened as a Regional "pilot project," with the intent of the motion emphasizing the ability of the Regional PI Committee to "evaluate the results of the project for possible expansion to other counties." This sufficed to make the project acceptable in the minds of some who had previously found it unacceptable, though in either case exactly the same funds were being expended on exactly the same thing.

This sort of thing is often frustrating to those involved, and is easy for an observer to make fun of, but it also illustrates a reasonably important point: It is important in seeking to accomplish any objective to spend some effort on doing so in a way that is within most members' understanding of the traditions. Things also go a lot more calmly if this is done at the beginning rather than in midstream.

Insurance

The Region passed a motion that had been tabled to the areas two months earlier to authorize the purchase of a blanket insurance policy at a cost of approximately \$3000. This would provide insurance coverage for all group recovery meetings within the region, as well as meetings of the Regional Service Conference, the various Area Service Conferences, and their respective subcommittees.

It is hoped that this will enable groups and areas to save a significant sum of money that an ever increasing number have been shelling out to meet the requirements of meeting facilities for proof of insurance.

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When the policy is actually purchased, we hope to provide the basic information in this newsletter as to the mechanics of getting the necessary information about the coverage and providing it to the sites requesting it.

NJRC XXI

The 21st Annual Regional Convention is on schedule for June 9–11 at the Clarion Hotel in Cherry Hill. Preregistration runs until the 25th of May. Preregistration for the basic package is \$15, which includes the Friday dance. Basic registration at the door will be \$20. *Checks for preregistration are payable to RCC of N.J. Inc., and may be sent to RCC of NJ/Registration, PO Box 134, Fords, NJ 08863.*

Group room rates at the hotel are \$95+ tax nightly for Single/Double occupancy rooms, and \$102+ tax for Triple/Quad. The hotel reservation number is 856-428-2300.

Convention Issues

As the convention planning continued to move forward, the committee continued to operate without a Vice-chair, an assistant treasurer, a Fundraising and Entertainment chair, and a Hotels and Hospitality chair. Many of the positions that are presently filled were not filled until many months into the convention cycle. This is one illustration of a problem that has been growing in recent years: the difficulty of getting and keeping people involved in the convention.

This has been recognized as a problem by the Planning Committee and Board of Trustees. The BOT Chair reported in January that the Board saw a need for “a change in how the convention conducts business and when the convention committees meet,” and was hoping by March to have its ideas on the matter, and possibly some motions, ready for presentation to the region. Some ideas that have been kicked around involved some form of rotating “Area Sponsorship,” more central meeting places and different meeting times.

It cannot be repeated too often that the people who really need to be putting their views forward about what they want in a convention are the N.A. members throughout New Jersey for whose benefit we ostensibly hold the convention in the first place. Anybody who has views or ideas on any aspect of the convention should be putting them forward, either to the BOT if workshops are held, or to the Regional Service Conference. There is also plenty of opportunity for those who want to be involved to show up and serve on any of the CONvention subcommittees and to attend the election meeting on the last day of the convention.

Website

Now that the Region has a website rep again, in the person of Mark M, it is again receiving regular reports about what’s up with the website. Among other things, a motion was passed to host subdomains on the site for the New Jersey and Northern New Jersey (if any) conventions. Anybody involved in service should definitely become familiar with the website and the services provided there. Among other things, there is a searchable database of meetings which is always more current than the printed directory. There is also a listing of regional and area activities in the state. If your area is not presently listing activities there, the mechanism for doing so is fairly simple and straightforward, and is one more (free) means of ensuring that as many people as possible are aware of the existence of your activity and how to get to it.

PDFs of this newsletter are also available for download, and there are email links for a number of service positions.

Helpline

The Helpline Shared Service Committee reported that in the course of its last update of the volunteer database it found it necessary to delete the volunteers from four areas, due to those areas’ ongoing failure to confirm the accuracy of their lists. Hope was expressed that all areas would manage to take the necessary steps to confirm that their volunteer information was accurate in time for the March update.

Simply adding names and numbers from time to time does not suffice. We need to ensure that numbers change as volunteers move, and that they are deleted as people relapse or drop out of the fellowship. There isn’t much point to giving the newcomer the number of someone who was once an active member but who’s been busy using dope for the last year and a half.

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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