



Region Opposes “Special Interest” Meeting at 2007 World Convention

As previously reported, the World Board report in this year’s Conference Agenda Report announced the intention of holding “common needs” or “special interest” meetings at the ‘07 World Convention. It was acknowledged that policy exists prohibiting this, but the Board took the view that since the policy in question was old and it was only proposing to violate it just the once, to see if it worked, this should be seen as irrelevant.

The March meeting of the New Jersey region seemingly took a different view, and passed a motion for the World Service Conference to direct that this not be done for the 2000 Convention, or at any convention without sending out a motion to obtain group approval. This was not necessarily out of opposition to such meetings, (though undoubtedly some oppose the idea), but out of opposition to unilateral actions that deal with issues of some controversy within the fellowship. As the intent of the motion stated, it was thought desirable by the New Jersey Region to “allow groups to decide if they want to try a special interest meeting at our World Convention.” Stay tuned for results, if any.

Region Opposes Own Meetings

A motion to have the RSC meet monthly in Conference Agenda Report years during the months between the Midatlantic Regional Learning Conference and the World Service Conference in order to help better process the Conference Agenda Report motions was voted down. Apparently the members felt that it is indeed possible to have too much of a good thing if the good thing in question is a service body meeting.

Helpline

The regional chair reported at the March meeting that the Shared Service Helpline Committee remains desperately in need of new committed members. Many of those involved with both the helpline and the website have been doing their respective commitments from time immemorial, and it would be in keeping with the principle of regular rotation for

others to begin stepping up to the plate. This is one of the most important and most expensive services provided at the statewide level, costing nearly \$12,000 per year to field upwards of 60,000 calls. Lists of volunteers from the various areas in the two regions need to be regularly updated and authenticated, coordination with the outside service needs to be maintained, and the meeting information provided needs to be kept current.

Because shared service commitments don’t seem at first glance to the areas, and because these committees rarely put out little “support us” flyers for inclusion in the minutes, the availability of such commitments rarely makes it to the floor of an Area Service Conference, let alone a group announcement.

Many members seem to still be in the habit of calling the helpline 800 number for meeting information. The helpline incurs higher costs when its done that way, and the request has often been made that members use the local number or check the meeting database at the nanj.org website, leaving the 800 number for the use of those addicts trying to hook up with N.A. in the first place.

About the Website—

The statewide website (www.nanj.org) still seems to be underutilized in many ways. One of the most useful features is the ability to quickly search the database of all meetings in the state, as demonstrated in the handy screenshot below. You can search by day and county or search for meetings within a given radius of a particular zipcode. The online meeting directory is always more current than the printed lists.

continued next page

You may select multiple days and counties by holding down the 'Ctrl' key on your keyboard and then clicking each day and county that you want.

Select Days	Select Counties	Show only these meetings:
Sunday	Atlantic	<input checked="" type="radio"/> All Meetings
Monday	Bergen	<input type="radio"/> Open - everyone welcome
Tuesday	Bilingual	<input type="radio"/> Closed - addicts only
Wednesday	Burlington	
Thursday	Camden	Show only these types:
Friday	Cape May	<input checked="" type="radio"/> All
Saturday	Cumberland	<input type="radio"/> Men
		<input type="radio"/> Beginner
		<input type="radio"/> Women
		<input type="radio"/> Youth
		<input type="radio"/> Gay/Lesbian

About the Website—continued

A database of scheduled regional, area, and group activities is also maintained. Area Activities Committees, who always struggle to get the word out as widely as possible about events, should make use of this feature. It is apparent that many are not, just from our own unscientific survey, which indicated that several upcoming events we knew about weren't there. The process of listing events is pretty user-friendly (can we say that in N.A.?), and not at all painful. We hate to cause the long-awaited "paperless office" to recede even further into the future, but perhaps flyers on the subject would increase awareness and use of these services throughout the fellowship in New Jersey.

NJRCNA 21

For those who are not fully conversant with the alphabet soup of the service structure, that's the 21st New Jersey Regional Convention of Narcotics Anonymous, and its almost upon us, kicking off at 4pm Friday, the 9th of June at the Cherry Hill Clarion, and continuing through Sunday the 11th. Be there. The Planning Committee continues to plead for people to help out, so if you happen to have the time and the inclination contact James C. at 732-895-1248 or email to jamesc@njrcna.org.

Who Wants to do a Newsletter?

In the course of going through various old files, I ran across one of the first issues of *Sanity* from after I took over the commitment. That was the July 1994 issue, and it is now May of 2006. This seems a rather long time for a single person to hold down the same commitment in a fellowship that attempts to emphasize regular rotation and everyone being encouraged to take their turn. If anybody who reads this is interested in learning what's up with the commitment and eventually taking it over, I'd be delighted to be contacted at the phone number or email address listed on this page. In the meantime, anybody who feels like writing anything even vaguely related to recovery should send that in, either by email (preferred,) or by the post office if need be. The more of this you fill up yourselves, the less space gets taken up with my own idiosyncratic ramblings.

Basic Quotes

"Ideas from the past are often incomplete and unsatisfactory. Everything we know is subject to revision, especially what we know about the truth." *Basic Text, p.91*

"Convictions are more dangerous enemies of truth than lies." *Friedrich Nietzsche*

Overheard at Meetings



In my day, they didn't let you talk until your fifth anniversary, plus we could only afford one prayer, so we said it forwards to start the meeting and backwards to end it. And that's the way it was, and we liked it.

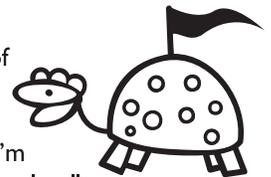
Nobody helped me put away the chairs. AGAIN!

I guess I'm the only one with any sense of commitment around here. This will be discussed at the business meeting for at least half an hour, and that's just MY speech.



Don't be silly. Of course its not my fourth step. Its the cross reference INDEX to my fourth step.

My sponsor's been suggesting for the last three years that I should start looking an the second half of the first step, but I don't think my understanding of the first half is sufficiently detailed at this point. I'm thinking I'll be there about the time I collect my 15th 90 day keytag.



**Send input and articles to:
Sanity 4729 Larchwood Ave.
Philadelphia Pa. 19143
Phone:(215)476-0655
e-mail: bob115@earthlink.net**

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