

VANCOUVER AREA MINUTES

June 3, 2015

Called to order at **6:45 p.m.** by Facilitator **Ivy S**

Tradition **6** was read out loud by various members.

ROLL CALL – Present except if noted as open or absent:

Facilitator - Ivy S	Newsletter Liaison – Kelly J
Co-Facilitator - Open	Outreach – Marco D
Treasurer - Jenny A	Phone Line Liaison - Open
Alt. Treasurer - Open	Postal Communications - Open
Secretary - Alan S	PI Chair – Sheena E
RCM 1 – David C	Policy & Procedures Chair – Dal S
RCM 2 - Dave H	Spring Clean – Mike G
H & I Chair - Erin N – absent with regrets	Women’s Retreat – Kerisma V
Literature Chair – Skylar S	Web Coordinator - John

GSR REPORTS:

Bill D – GSR, Addicts with New Hope – Sunday @ 7:30 p.m.

Jim W – Alt GSR

- Average attendance 20 - 25
- Low meeting attendance since the treatment centre closed
- Trusted servants needed: Treasurer and literature
- \$50 Donation

J.P. – GSR, Promises of Freedom – Thursday @ 7:30 p.m.

- Group is in need of support: average attendance is 12
- All trusted servant positions filled
- Donation \$ 50

Rick – GSR, Return to Grace – Friday @ 7:30 p.m.

Matt M

- Average attendance 10 – 20
- This group could use support, specifically from women and NA members with clean time.
- Meeting is held at the Anchor of Hope
- Donation \$100

Jun O – GSR, Step-Up – Tuesday @ 7:00 p.m.

- Meeting attendance is picking up; average attendance is 20 – 30
- More attendance from women would be nice
- First hour is step writing from the NA guide (7-8) then open sharing from 8 -9 p.m.
- Group has been donating to committees such as Women’s Retreat or Spring Clean. Group intends to donate more directly to Area in the future for Area to distribute as necessary.
- Donation \$100

Murray L – GSR, Devious Frightened Loners – Sunday @ 5:00 p.m.

- Average attendance is 30
- Current room is very hot so group is looking into buying a portable A/C unit. As a result, no donation to Area this month.
- Discussed the possibility of Learning Days to educate members on service at Area. Interest from this group. Ivy S placed on agenda for this meeting under ‘New Business’

Cakes: Aly – 1 Year, June 28 / Bill – 12 Years, June 14

Derek S – GSR, Miracle on 57th - Thursday @ 7:30 p.m.

- Successful move from old location to new
- Average attendance 10 – 15; more support would be nice, especially financial support
- All trusted servant positions are filled

Shelby – GSR, Third Tradition – Wednesday @ 7:30 p.m.

- Group is in need of support for regular group members; average attendance is 15
- Trusted service positions open: GSR and Alt. GSR

Cakes: Wendy – 6 Years, June 17 / Elaine – 10 Years, July 22

Laura P – GSR, The Alternative – Saturday @ 7:30 p.m.

- Overall, all is well. Approx. 35 in attendance on average
- Donation \$90

Kelly J - GSR New Attitudes – Daily at 12:15 – 1:15 p.m.

- Trusted servant positions open: Alt. GSR, and Secretary for weekdays mostly
- Meeting could use financial support; group made the rent but barely

Kelly J - Acting GSR, No Matter What – Tuesday @ 7:30 p.m.

- 12 members at first meeting, a successful start but could use support
- Third meeting of the month is a speaker meeting; all others are step / tradition

John P – GSR, Little Meeting in Kits – Thursday @ 7:30 p.m.

- Average attendance of 25-30.
- Trusted servants needed: GSR
- Donation: \$122

Other NA members in attendance:

Paul – Addict at large / **Jeff** – Literature Committee

MINUTES:

Minutes from May 6, 2015 VASC meeting accepted with change:

Postal Communications – Steve R was absent with regrets, not without regrets as recorded.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS & SUB-COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS:

FACILITATOR'S REPORT - Ivy S

- Attended the Public Information and Policy subcommittees, went to West Coast Area to observe their Area meeting, and attended the Public Relations subcommittee meeting at May Region.

1. Length of the Area meeting

Currently Area starts at 6:45 p.m. and finishes by 9:15 p.m.; usually running 2.25 – 2.5 hours. Ivy has been trying to balance getting the meeting done quickly with taking enough time for learning and thoughtful decision-making. Area can be an important place for us to learn from each other how to practice implementing the Traditions and Concepts, and generally learning about service work in NA. We take what we learn here and practice it in our home groups, subcommittees, and at other levels of service.

Question: is the 6:45 p.m. start time working Ok or is there any interest in moving to a 7 p.m. start with the goal of finishing by 9:15 p.m.?

(Brief discussion but no consensus to change time, so it will stay 6:45 p.m. However, we will move the July meeting to July 8th because of the holiday)

2. How Ivy plans to implement this revised by-law:

“All NA members present at Area may provide their input into the consensus decision-making process. Consensus will be considered to have been reached when all GSR’s (or their alternates) agree or consent to the proposal.”

Ivy intends to approach consensus the same way it has been practiced over the past 17 months. The Facilitator will assist the meeting in coming to a consensus that everyone present is agreeable to, or can live with. It would only be if a matter is time-sensitive and/or is taking an unreasonable amount of Area time (given its importance) that the Facilitator would stop to consider whether an objection is coming from a GSR or someone else. Consider that in at least the last 17 months, we have always been able to get to the consensus of everyone in the room within a reasonable time.

The expectation is to continue practicing the 7th Concept:

“All members of a service body bear substantial responsibility for that body’s decisions and should be allowed to fully participate in its decision-making processes.”

- Ivy S will be away for the August 3rd Area meeting so we need someone to fill in as facilitator. This would be a good opportunity for someone thinking of running for Co-facilitator or Facilitator.

SECRETARY'S REPORT – Alan S

- Minutes of May 6 meeting were circulated via FB group and VASC email distribution list
- Please let secretary know if you wish to be added to email distribution list or the secret Facebook group
- Please bring GSR reports to the front before leaving

TREASURER'S REPORT – Jenny A

Presented ledger

\$ 1,720.98 - Opening balance

Mailbox rent payment was not received and so mail was held; no new cheques received by mail. Women's retreat gave \$500 cash toward 2016 seed fund.

Income \$ 1,111.80

Expenses \$ 1486.79

Balance \$ 45.99 after prudent reserve of \$1300 set aside

- Jenny A will not be running again in September 2015.

SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS:

RCM 1 REPORT – David C

- Attended Regional on Sunday; not much to report.
- Regional Delegates (RDs) currently run 4-year service terms - representing BC Region at World. Not all positions will be affected with 2 plus 2 service term change as decided this month.
- RCM 1 will be submitting for travel to Regional meeting and multi-area phone line committee meeting.
- Next Regional meeting will be August 22-23rd at Rosemary Heights Retreat Centre
- Regional meeting in May 2016 will be in Kelowna. Treasurer – please budget for travel (\$0.30 / km) and 2 nights hotel stay for attendees.

RCM 2 REPORT - Dave H

- Purchased new (used) laptop. No printed report.
- Attended Regional – full report at July Area
- Any groups or members interested in supporting NA in Nepal? Some meeting facilities are collapsed and donations are needed. Contact Dave H

Upcoming NA Events:

- June 5 – 7 South Spring campout \$25
- Women's Campout in Sooke in August
- NA Olympics in support of BCRCNA in Prince George.
- Suggested that all GSR's have copy of Regional insurance policy. Group rents may be able to be discounted with proof of insurance.
- Discount now available on discontinued medallions - up to 50% off!
- Regional has decided to go with CANA web designer for \$800 design and \$200 annual

maintenance fee. One big benefit is that updated meetings will take effect from Regional to CANA without need to intervene or update separately.

- Suggestion that VASC sponsor one member to attend Regional meeting. 16 spots are paid by Regional to the Retreat Centre, whether 16 show or not. Ivy S – suggest we take this up at August Area.
- Trustees at Regional did an audit of Regional books – details to be provided to Secretary for distribution with minutes

H AND I: Jeremy H, Vice Chair

- Erin N sends her regrets
- Erin N attended regional
- No open positions at this time
- Motion to be put forward at June 21 sub-committee will suggest that the discussions to merge H & I and PI be put on hold until more stability is present in the PI sub-committee.
- H & I has not yet seen the PI orientation package.
- Dal S suggests that perhaps H & I sub-committee members and panel leaders could attend the PI sub-committee to show support in an effort to gain some momentum.
- H & I is requesting the full allotment of \$420 this month.

LITERATURE: Skylar S

- Circulated printed price lists for meetings to tally the order and prepare the cheque in advance. The printout also gives direction for how to order online.
- People are calling and orders are being picked up at Skylar's store.
- \$897.52 is bank balance at this time

NEWSLETTER LIAISON: Kelly J / Dave H

- Clipboard is going around for cakes and names of meetings in need of support. Please remember to use last initials when recording cakes.
- There is an email on front of the Basic News to reach the newsletter editor
- Newsletter Editor position is going to be vacant. Requirements are some computer skills and 2 years suggested clean time **GSRs please take this back to your groups**
- Meeting lists, including Regional lists, are at the back of the room for pick-up
- Basic News is also at the back of the room for pick-up
- Suggestion: can we put a legend on our meeting lists to indicate 'pet friendly' meetings?

OUTREACH: Marco D

- Not much to report as he has been very busy with his business
- Does participate on the PI sub-committee and continues to ask for participation on PI panels
- Looking for support for a female meeting in N. Vancouver
- May bring a suggestion for new chairperson to July VASC. Currently there is no co-chair for his support
- Goal is to attend at least one outreach meeting before July Area
- Dave H – Would you consider taking Meeting lists and Basic News? Outreach targeted meetings are typically not represented at Area where GSRs usually pick them up.
- Kelly J – Suggestion to email Basic News with targeted outreach meetings.
- Meetings in need of support are:
 - Miracle on 57th

- The Exchange
- Line by Line
- Steps to Serenity
- Return to Grace
- Angelic Addicts (Women)
- North Shore NA
- New Directions
- Third Tradition

PHONE LINE: Open – RCM 1, David C reporting

- New location: Coquitlam City Centre Library. David will be putting in for travel since it is out in Coquitlam
- Jenny A re: Phone bill from Cortel, the phone line provider . . . the Treasurer has not seen a bill in some time. Is something amiss?

POSTAL COMMUNICATIONS: Open

PUBLIC INFORMATION: Sheena E

- PI met in May and was able to orient 4 more members. Only 2 NA members were there as support to the subcommittee. At this point PI is struggling with forming a subcommittee and has not had consistent member support. We discussed editing and redistributing the poster with PI info. We also discussed that June's PI meeting will have elections for the subcommittee.
- Dal, Kelly, Erin and Ivy went to the PR meeting on Sat afternoon at Region. Summary from this meeting:
 1. PI work is being done in BC, i.e. Richard P gave a presentation at a Coquitlam school, South Van Island does them regularly at Camusun College, and Central Vancouver Island does them at the 3 Nanaimo high schools.
 2. Some Areas also have trouble finding enough trusted servants. One suggestion was to listen to people share in meetings and when you hear someone with a good message, go up after the mtg and ask them to consider PI; people tend to be flattered to be asked.
 3. We decided to create another secret FB group called BCPR to share our experience, strength, and hope (and documents).
 4. Most Areas have PR (combined H&I and PI) but they are doing fewer panels than our H&I alone.
 5. Richard P has a booth that can be borrowed for conferences
 6. Canadian Assembly of NA (CANA) has created 3 Public Service Announcements for TV or web. These are available (although the process is a bit complicated) and can be viewed at <http://carna.ca/publicservice.php>
- Sheena E will have to step down as chair of PI. The duties of this role are too much for me without the support of a functioning subcommittee. A temporary vice chair was elected. I am happy to continue to support PI but will need to take on less of a role. **GSRs please announce at your groups immediately that the PI subcommittee is in need of a Chair**
- GSR's please also announce at your meetings that orientations are the third Sunday of every

- month at the VRC @ 2:00 pm in the Dance Hall Sunday, June 21st@ at VRC Dance Hall
- Questions? Contact Sheena E at 604-202-4069

POLICY & PROCEDURES: Dal S

- Attended Regional meeting May 23 – 24th at the Rosemary Retreat Centre:
- Attended workshop “Effective Services in our local NA communities”
- Attended Saturday afternoon PR session – summary provided in PI report for this month
- Saturday evening attended the Traditions Book review workshop
- Sunday morning attended session with RCM 1 David C where committee report-backs were heard and new regional business was discussed re: lengthening the terms of service for executive and sub-committee chairs.

- From the May 31 P & P meeting:

1. We propose changing the following policy from October 1993:

“The VASC subcommittees will meet on the 3rd Sunday of the month at 3161 Ontario Street.”

Currently, all subcommittees (at least in theory) meet the 3rd Sunday of the month. We propose allowing the subcommittees to meet on different days of their choosing, but still advertise the meeting time & place so that any member of the fellowship may attend.

Here is the proposed phrasing:

“The VASC subcommittees shall meet at least once a month, except those subcommittees that are not active all year. The subcommittee meetings will be held at a regularly scheduled time and place that is advertised and open to the fellowship.”

This is policy, not Bylaws, so does not need to go back to the groups.

2. The Policy and Procedures subcommittee will be developing job descriptions for all Administrative Officer and Subcommittee Chair positions. The job descriptions will be an appendix to the Policy Manual. They will incorporate the descriptions in the Guide to Local Services, and we will add a list of duties. I have already received descriptions of the work from the Treasurer and RCM’s and am still waiting for others to get back to me at their convenience

Next Policy & Procedures meeting: June 14 @ 11:00 a.m. in the Spanish room at the VRC

SPRING CLEAN: Mike G

- Excellent event with great weather. All 108 campers had a great time.
- Fundraising: \$4,564 was raised in advance of the event.
- Registration was up from last year. 18 partial and full subsidies (\$ 4,155).
- \$ 1,454 carry-over from last year
- 5,161.10 bank balance
 - Less (\$500) the deposit for next year already paid
 - Less (\$3,000) the seed fund
 - *some expenses outstanding at this time*
- Wrap-up meeting is third Sunday of this month (June). Full report at July Area

WOMEN'S RETREAT: Kerisma V

- Spreadsheet presented
- Returning \$500 today provided as seed fund from VASC
- Total attendance was approximately 78 – 83. This is close to last year's attendance and better than some years.
- 17 women were sponsored this year to attend.
- \$400 deposit paid now for next year; \$2,000 post dated cheque for end of January, 2016
- Decision to go to new camp next year based on post-event wrap up meeting and survey.
- Committee not to dissolve until September, 2015 when the new committee is elected.
- Kerisma V plans to run for treasurer in September.
- Sept 27, 2015 is planned as the first meeting of the new committee.
- Fundraising planned for this summer; 2 tickets to PNE as raffle

Q: Any concerns about using PNE tickets as fundraiser?

A: Note could be made on the materials promoting the fundraiser. There is a disclaimer that has been developed to make this clear. Jenny A to forward this to Kerisma.

- Working on non-year specific Facebook group to promote the retreat on an ongoing basis.
- Possibility of online registration is being researched by the committee.
- Chair of retreat is usually elected by VASC the month after the final report is given.

WEB COORDINATOR: John P

- Added 'No Matter What' to World NA Meeting List and removed 'Steps to Serenity' from World NA Meeting List and Vancouver Area's website.
- Has started a registration form for Spring Clean #36 and will need to have a chat with the spring clean chair to sort through the registration form needs.
- Any questions or concerns contact John P at: webcoordinator@vascna.ca or 604 733 1968
- At present, there is no sub-committee for this position. In the spirit of having some support, Ivy S wondered if PI sub-committee would include John P as a way of getting group conscience before presenting to Area. Suggestion also to perhaps attach Web Coordinator to Literature sub-committee?

Open Sharing: None

TREASURERS UPDATE:

\$ 1,720.98 - Opening balance

Income \$ 1,111.80

Expenses \$ 1486.79

Available balance **\$ 45.99***

*After deducting \$1300 prudent operating reserve

OLD BUSINESS:

1. ELECTIONS

CO-FACILITATOR:

- Ivy S gave brief description of what the position involves

- 2 years suggested clean time
- No nominees; bring back to groups

PHONE LINE LIAISON:

- Ivy S gave brief description of what the position involves
- 2 years suggested clean time
- No nominees; bring back to groups

POSTAL COMMUNICATIONS:

- Ivy S gave brief description of what the position involves.
- GSR can hold this position with GSR position
Laura P volunteered to stand / Service resume given / **Laura P** elected

ALTERNATE TREASURER:

- Ivy S gave brief description of what the position involves
- 5 years suggested clean time
- No nominees; bring back to groups

POLICY PROPOSALS from April

Proposal B: length of admin officer terms

- Dal S reviewed proposal re: Admin officer terms of service:
That positions be elected to 2 – 2 year terms plus truncated term for a maximum of 4 years, 11 months allowable
- Intent is to provide stability and continuity within the positions. Also to allow mentorship for new people coming into the position.
- GSRs – majority of those present were not in favor of this proposal, but various suggestions were made
- Ivy S – suggest that we send this issue back to P & P sub-committee for further consideration

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Service Learning Days

- Devious Frightened Loners expressed interest as a group to see a service learning days initiated.
- Are there interested persons to serve on an ad-hoc committee to meet and report back to Area in July re: feasibility of VASC or joint learning days with West Coast Area?
- Suggestion put forward to invite the 5 other lower mainland Areas to participate; general agreement.
- Jeremy H – HIPI was a good event with good turnout. Many people did H&I mass orientations. The more we can empower people for service, the better.

Consensus:

That VASC strike an ad-hoc committee to put on a Service Learning Days in conjunction with other service areas.

2. Sub-committee Sunday

- Suggestion that sub-committees no longer have to meet on the 3rd Sunday; they could each choose their own day
- Proposed policy:
“The VASC subcommittees shall meet at least once a month, except those subcommittees that are not active all year. The subcommittee meetings will be held at a regularly scheduled time and place that is advertised and open to the fellowship. Sub-committees are encouraged to not meet at the same time as other sub-committees”

Consensus; achieved

ADJOURNED at **9:19 p.m.** by Ivy S

Meeting closed with the Serenity Prayer