

**Marietta Area Service Committee of NA
Meeting Minutes
October 28th, 2018**

Next Meeting Saturday, December 1st, 2018 @ 2:00 PM

Ridgeview Conference Center

P.R. Subcommittee meeting is held @ 1:00 PM

WSR Subcommittee meeting is held @ 1:00 PM

H & I subcommittee meeting is held @ 12:00 PM

Quorum calculated to be 14 groups - Quorum met @ 2:13 PM

The Purpose of the Area was read by Abigail F.

The 12 Traditions were read by Amanda S.

The 12 Concepts were read by Bailey

Motion to accept September minutes: Chuck M.

Motion Seconded: Austin B.

Previous month's minutes were moved to acclimation: Chuck M.

<u>Group</u>	<u>GSR</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Addicts in the Attic	Eugene	Present	
AMNA	Erin	Present	
Another Chance	Chuck	Present	
Architects of Adversity	Lyz	Present	
Back to the Basics	Jerry	Present	
Dopeless Hope Fiends	Marco	X	
Easy Does It	Scott	Present	
End of the Road	Chris	Present	
Just for Sunday	Melissa	Present	
Ladies Night	Julie	Present**	
The Lie is Dead	Big John	Present	
Living the Program	Amanda	Present	
Mimosa	Bailey	Present	
NA at Noon	Reggie	X	
A New Way of Life	Sid	Present	
On the Right Track	Jocho	Present	
The Rose Group	Brian	XX	
Serenity on the Square	Erin	Present	
Sky's the Limit	John	Present	
Spiritual Awakenings	Rachel	Present	
Surrender on Sunday	Austin	Present	
Warriors in Recovery	Brian	Present	
We Group	Jodi	Present	
We Recover Together	Christian	Present	
Whitlock Group	John	XX	
YANA	James	Present	

**Came in Late, does not count towards total. **First meeting back, does not count towards quorum.*

Homegroups Removed:

- The following groups will be removed from the Attendance/Quorum list due to two consecutive absences:
 - Rose Group
 - Whitlock Group

Homegroups Added:

- The following groups will be counted towards Quorum with one more consecutive meeting:
 - None

MASC Admin & Subcommittee Roll Call

Position	Name	Attendance	Report
Chair	Jody	Present	N/A
Vice Chair	Katey	Present	N/A
Treasurer	Dez	Present	Attached
Alt. Treasurer	Zach	Present	N/A
Secretary	Susan	Present	N/A
Alt. Secretary	Chris	Present	N/A
RCM	Jonathan	Present	Attached
RCMA	Stephen	Present	N/A
Policy Parliamentarian	Tony	Present	N/A
Lit Distribution	Mary	Present	Written
Alt. Lit Distribution	Vacant	N/A	N/A
Activities Chair	Vacant	N/A	Written
H&I Chair	Geoff	Present	Written
PR Chair	Billie	Present	Written
WSR	Nicole	Present	Written
24hr Room Chair	Joe	Present	Written

- Open Forum: 2:14pm - 2:53pm

(No recording for first 30 seconds - Lyz F requested literature for the new meeting "Ladies Night")

Lyz F: Uh, I don't know what that means

Jody T: Like a home group member?

Lyz F: I'll be helping, like, facilitate the meeting

Chuck M: Are you going to be a home group member?

Lyz F: I currently serve a position at my own home group.

Jody T: Okay so we'll...

Lyz F: So, but I don't know when she'll be here, to like...

Jody T: That's the thing, so the group needs representation, just as, um, to have somebody active on the floor here, they need to be here two areas in a row. Um, the group would need representation, I believe, someone please correct me and help me with clarification.

Katey G: Well, they need to clarify, to speak on the meeting and say that they're fulfilling the purpose of the group, like as a home group member to get the newcomer packet, so you need to have a home group member here to answer any questions.

Lyz F: Does that have to be in open forum? Or can it be at any time during area?

Katey G: Like during the area day? I mean I guess we'd have to...

Chuck M: They have to be considered present at area.

Jody T: Yeah, they do have to be considered present.

Jonathan B: Tony's going to figure it out.

Chuck M: We just had a roll call.

Jody T: Sorry guys, yeah, please raise your hands, and we actually have someone back here. Are you speaking on this?

Metro Atlanta Task Panel - Joe: No I just wanted to speak on something, you said it's open forum right?

Jody T: Yes. But um, hold on just a second, are we... anyone have anything?

Lyz F: I just need to know what time throughout area, like do we have to do it now or?

Tony: I'm working on it.

Lyz F: So he said he's looking, so you can move on.

Jody T: Okay, so go ahead.

Metro Atlanta Task Panel - Joe: Hey family, my name is Joe and I'm an addict. And I am here to talk to the Marietta Area, I am here to represent, I know you guys might have heard a little bit about it, it's called the Metro Task Panel, and basically Metro Task Panel is the eight areas that surround Metropolitan Atlanta. We have a group, a lot of the representatives have banded together to try and better address our PR and H&I issues. We deal directly mostly through our PR Chairs and H&I chairs. We look at what are the service gaps for those areas and see where we can combine our services, and the main resource that we have is the human resource. We notice that certain areas do certain things better than other areas. The step writing thing, Marietta does that better than anybody, but North Atlanta has this thing that they do, that they call traveling orientations, where they actually travel to their groups and get people signed up and registered for facilities for their H&I. They currently have over 50 members in their H&I committee. So we're looking at, "Well, what are the best practices?" and how we can document them and put them in one certain place, and we call it a resource toolbox, where all the areas can tap into it and use it. Because see, there's a problem when we're dealing out here in PR and H&I when it comes to NA, they said we are two things: inconsistent and unreliable, in a lot of the facilities that we've been kicked out of over the years, because we go in there with different messages. We're not saying the same things, and we're not doing things the same way. Well, what [Metro Atlanta Task Panel] want to do is look at our best practices. And see, the bottom line is this group is not asking for any money, you see the Metro Atlanta meeting schedule, this is the group that actually prints the Metro Atlanta meeting schedule. These schedules were actually originally designed for PR and H&I because when a person is in a facility, they might be in a facility in Smyrna and in Griffin when they go home, so we want to make sure that we're keeping them plugged up when they get out and they know where to go. So we have 391 meetings on that list now, you know, 391, and that's Metro [Atlanta], that's everything 35 miles from the center of the city of Atlanta out, and that's what we

consider Metro. We're also working at some virtual solutions because we know that on the fringes of our area, it's kind of rural, and it's kind of hard for the people out in the rural areas to participate sometimes. So what we're doing is, we're setting up Metro, we're setting up virtuals actually, so they can actually participate in the PR meeting, they can actually participate in the H&I meeting and participate in the H&I function from where they're at and they don't have to drive 30 miles. So maybe we can get better participation, maybe we can get better support. We're also working on some modules on how to address things like drug court, right? You know, so that we have one consistent way that we're doing this and that we're going in here. So this is the East End PR chair, and this is the West End PR Chair, right? So we came in to sit in with the PR committee today, you know, you guys' PR committee and we listened to some of their concerns. But one of the things that we know is that together, generally what you find... I actually used to be the PR chair for the region, and most of the PR committees around our state have 2-3 members. But they're responsible for taking care of the website, taking care of the phone lines, making sure the meeting schedule's going out and trying to do presentations. Well, that's kind of hard, but if West End has 3 and if East End has 3 and Marietta has 3 and Midtown has 3, now we're talking 12-15 people to handle facilities/functions that we used to only have 3 to do. So we're trying to find ways to consolidate and combine our efforts. Last month, uh, we got a little bit overzealous, last month we got on the regional floor, because we wanted to be accountable to somebody. You know, we want to be in line with the 9th Tradition, we've got to be accountable to somebody, we don't want to be a renegade group. And we got a little bit overzealous because we had this money, right? The schedules generated some money and we didn't, you know, nobody wanted to hold the money, and we wanted to give it to somebody and be accountable. We figured we needed to be accountable to the PR and H&I committees of the areas that we're representing. And we're just letting Marietta know, you know, we talked with West End, we talked with North Atlanta, we talked with Decatur, we're going to talk with East End next week, and we just wanted to let you know, you know, that we're here and that we want to be accountable to you. Right, we want to be accountable to you. Right, that committee's working real hard, they're working on training modules for, like when she was talking earlier about, "What happens when a new PR chair or H&I chair comes on board? Who trains them?" And because these learning curves are so high, we can help cut that learning curve down by doing the best practices in ways that we've learned are effective.

Metro Atlanta Task Panel - Linda: And I'm responsible for the training modules on things like how to do an event, how to create an effective flyer, you know, [how to do] H&I. When we go into these facilities and there's people that go in there, you know, they want to volunteer but do they really know how to carry the message? So what we're trying to do is, we want to create these modules, you know, either virtual or training by classes and what we want is we want to get people that are experienced in those areas and come out and help us, because we can't do everything. So those are a few of the

training modules, also, how to do a presentation, you know, so those are some of the avenues that we're trying to address.

Metro Atlanta Task Panel - Robert: And one of the things we did lately is we went to the West End Area and we went into Fulton County Drug Court and did a presentation there but what happened is everyone, you know, we all went together. So when we did the presentation, you know, all the areas were presented, you know, because when the people leave drug court, we don't know what area they're going to. So by doing it the way that we did it, whatever area they went to, there was someone there from that area that was there to represent.

Metro Atlanta Task Panel - Linda: The other thing is that they didn't even know who we are. They thought that NA was a religious organization, you know, so that helped to clear up what we're about, and the presentation went so well that they want us to come back next year.

Metro Atlanta Task Panel - Joe: You all need to keep in mind that there's a bunch of other avenues that these facilities can use, and they're saying that we've got AA and we've got Celebration of Recovery, why do we need [NA]? We've also got judges who are sending heroin addicts to AA versus NA, you know? So we're trying to break down, because there's been a stigma attached to us because of some of our previous experiences due to how we handled things, and we need to address them better. And as I said, once again, we want to work with your PR committee and your H&I committee. We want to establish a pool of people, so that if your H&I chairperson can look on this pool of people and look on this list, and say "Okay, I've got this person and this person that I can get in contact with. Can you come in?" Because what has been happening is these two guys here are running that facility, they're running it for a whole year, they ride or die, you know? You've got those trusted servants who say "I'm not going to let that meeting stop no matter hell or high water," but what happens when life presents something to that individual?

Metro Atlanta Task Panel - Linda: The other thing I noticed, being the PR chair for East End is that there are a lot of facilities that want us to come in and do presentations, they're excited, they want us to start meetings, but guess what, where's the manpower? So that we can go ahead and tap into another area close to us, and say "Hey can you help us out here?", so it's to get unity and love, you know?

Metro Atlanta Task Panel - Joe: So you see those meeting schedules. We could currently produce these meeting schedules for \$0.25 a piece. And that's the cost for us, all the labor for it is donated by our members, you know it's just service work, because if you compare that same item at Kinko's that's \$1.00 a pop. Right, that's \$1.00 a pop at Kinko's. So we can do it for \$0.25. We designed it for H&I and PR but many of the areas are now saying "We want more," like for instance I've got to print 400 for West End this week. Midtown bought 1,000 at a time, you know?

Metro Atlanta Task Panel - Linda: We average about 150 a month.

Metro Atlanta Task Panel - Joe: So, if you want them all you have to do is call over

and say you want to place an order and have your PR chair, your H&I chair or somebody contact us and we'll just deliver them to you, but you don't have to do that because you can actually print this for free off of the regional website.

Metro Atlanta Task Panel - Robert: And we're not selling them to individuals, they're sold to areas.

Metro Atlanta Task Panel - Joe: And so where does that money go? Well, it allows us to buy more paper, more ink and hopefully, we want to be able to give, in the summer, a regional event where we sponsor a Unity Day picnic for Metro. That's what we want to do, and we want to use that as a fundraiser for the region. So those are the two things that we want to do, because we want to be accountable to you guys as an area, we want to be accountable to our region, you know? I have much love for the region, and as some of you all actually know, I'm actually the co-facilitator for the region, so I'm not going to do anything that's going to be outside of that. You know, I honor our region, we've done a lot of good work there and I think we're heading in the right direction in many areas. So, Metro is around guys, and hopefully we can get Marietta's support behind us, you know, and that's all we want. Send your people, you know, send your people and we'll help train your PR chairs, we'll help train your H&I chairs and anybody who wants to be part of that.

Metro Atlanta Task Panel - Robert: And really, all we're really talking about is creating more unity between the areas, you know, so that we can better serve and better carry the message.

Metro Atlanta Task Panel - Joe: Now our committee crosses all lines: color, economics, all kinds of stuff. distance. And we meet the second Sunday of the month at 3 PM, and we actually meet at the I-20 Club because it's right off the highway, and because it's more centrally located for South Atlanta, East End, you know. We had to put it somewhere that was centrally located so that it takes everybody 20-25 minutes to get there, you know what I mean, so we tried to be as fair as possible. You know, I think East End has a little bit farther to ride, but that's okay.

Katey G: You guys have a contact email? Or does PR have it?

Metro Atlanta Task Panel - Joe: Yes, and that's all we wanted to do, was let you guys know. We're going to go back, because we've got a motion on the regional floor to actually be a subcommittee of the region, but our group has said we really would rather be accountable to the areas versus being accountable to the regions.

Metro Atlanta Task Panel - Linda: So, before we close, does anybody have any questions?

Chuck M: I'm Chuck and I'm an addict. I'm pretty sure it's on other people's minds, I know it's a question you've already gotten, uh, the areas that aren't included in the Metro Area. I'm sure they're going to be feeling kind of left out and feeling some kind of way about that. How have you all addressed that and what have you done?

Metro Atlanta Task Panel - Joe: This is what we look at, we are the guinea pigs. If you look on the regional website, the regional website is broken down into four sub-regions,

right, the North, Metro, Middle Georgia, and South Georgia. We're saying that we can be the business model, because if it works here, because we've got the most people, if we get it to work here, it can work anywhere in Georgia. And the people in the South are waiting on us. We talk to them, and the people in the South are waiting on us. We've got to make it work first, and then they're in line, you know because there's a schedule for South Georgia just like this Metro schedule, there's one for North Georgia, just like that, and for Middle Georgia. It's one like that for each one of them.

Jonathan B: Chuck, if you look at the schedule, I mean Northeast Georgia's on here, they're technically not Metro Atlanta, right, but they want to be involved, so nobody's saying no.

Chuck M: Okay, alright.

Metro Atlanta Task Panel - Linda: Any other questions?

Various: Thank you for being here, thank you so much (applause)

Jody T: Alright, Joe.

Joe (24 Hour Room): Addict named Joe. The 24 Hour Room, we're going to pass around some numbers for all the home groups, for the group shifts, right, and we've got a bag here and Megan's going to be writing the stuff down.

Megan (24 Hour Room): This is just to let you know what order you're going to be in next month, when we ask you to sign up to do a group shift, so the point of us passing out the numbers now is just so that you know, like if you get one of the last numbers, like you should probably discuss some less appealing shifts with your home group, because you're probably not going to get the primary ones that you want.

Katey G: When do subcommittees pick? I can't remember, do subcommittees get a number this time, or do they...

Joe: I think the subcommittees are more on the personal level, right?

Jody T: No, [subcommittees] always take group shifts

Jan: They go after the homegroups, homegroups pick first.

Katey G: But they don't get a number, they just go after the homegroups arbitrarily, right?

Jan: Correct

Jody T: No, they get to pick a number after the homegroups.

Katey G: Right, so do subcommittees pick a number today, or do they pick a number after the homegroups go next time?

Joe: I think after the homegroups get their spots, then we'll open it up for subcommittees.

Susan O: I'm an addict named Susan.

Jody T: Hold on, Susan had the floor.

Megan: Oh, and if I could just ask when you draw your number, just tell me your homegroup name, and then the number that you picked.

Geoff: I have a question, my name is Geoff and I am an addict. We discussed the possibility of doing a learning day during the 24HR Room at one point for H&I. We

wanted to know if we could set aside a block of time, I don't know when that would be, to do a learning day for PR, H&I, we could even have the Metro Atlanta Task Panel guys come and do the learning day, so could we set aside a block of time to do that?

Joe: Does anybody else have anymore questions before we move on, because I can only do one thing at a time.

Geoff: And we don't have to like, erase someone's time slot to do it, we just need a place to do it.

Jody T: Alright guys, I'm sorry, I'm going to have to interject and say would you please raise your hands and say who you are to make it easier for our secretary to keep track of what's being discussed?

Austin: I'm Austin, I'm an addict. To that point, Geoff, does anybody know which night gets the most participation, just because that would probably be the best night to set up a learning day for H&I and PR, you're going to have the most people there, and get the most people to see it, that'd make sense.

Susan O: Addict named Susan, um, maybe, I know the committee has a couple of events, right, at the 24HR Room this year, like the karaoke night, right, I don't know if you want to try to tack onto that where they're having like, an actual activity.

Geoff: Yeah, I mean I'm okay with it, I'm just trying to get as many people to participate as possible.

Katey G: Alright, moving forward, Lyz, I believe Tony has an answer to your question now?

Tony: Uh, yes, in regards to a new meeting being formed, according to policy, it has to be approved by the ASC, and in order to receive ASC approval, the group has to attend area two times, and that's two times in order to get added to the meeting schedule. They can meet, but in order to get added to the meeting schedule, they have to attend area two times, and they also have to meet the six points that define what a group is out of A Guide to Local Service. And if you guys want me to read those, I can.

Katey G: But, they can get a newcomer packet though, right?

Tony: Well, it doesn't clearly say in policy about a newcomer packet, but it says in order to be added to the meeting schedule, you have to attend area two times.

Lyz F: I mean that's fine, we're here now and we'll be here next month, but also, what about getting the new group packet?

Tony: I believe that falls under, I mean it doesn't specifically address it in Area policy, so I imagine it's a newcomer packet.

Jonathan B: Yeah, I don't know what the official approved way to get a new group packet is, but what I've seen in the past is someone makes a motion for the group to receive a new group packet, and then we vote on it and say yeah, no problem, give them a new group packet. Yeah, you'd put in a motion now, and it would be addressed during new business.

Jody T: Yeah guys sorry, but I'm going to have jump in and ask if we can keep these side conversations quieter, I'm having members tell me they're having a hard time

hearing what's going on on the floor.

Tony: Does anybody here want to hear, does anybody not understand the six points that define what a group is on page 26 of A Guide to Local Services, because it's kind of important, it tells you what defines a group, and once I get to it I'll read it.

Lyz F: I just know that I just asked Erin, and AMNA didn't do that for our Area, so for it to now be applied to us...

Tony: I can't speak to what's happened before in the past, you guys just asked me what our policy says, so that's what I'm basically saying to you. I don't make decisions, I'm just telling you what the policy is. Uh, what is an NA group? The six points are:

1. All members of a group are drug addicts and all drug addicts are eligible for membership.
2. As a group, they are self-supporting.
3. As a group, their single goal is to help drug addicts recover through application of the Twelve Steps of Narcotics Anonymous.
4. As a group, they have no affiliation outside of Narcotics Anonymous
5. As a group, they express no opinion on outside issues.
6. As a group, their public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion.

So as long as they meet those six points, this area says that you can become a member of this ASC, given that the ASC members feel that that's true.

Jan: Grateful recovering addict named Jan. What was the first point?

Tony: All members of group are drug addicts and all drug addicts are eligible for membership. So as a group you have to be following these six points, and if you read more, it talks specifically about why these six points are used, and it defines what a group is in Narcotics Anonymous, because there are a lot of people who have misconceptions or differences of opinion, but as a fellowship, we decided that this is the basis of what constitutes a group. Not a meeting, a group, so the way the policy reads is that in order to be added to the meeting schedule, you have to be a group, and come here twice.

Katey G: But what does it say about new groups?

Tony: I didn't see anything in the policy, so if there's something different that this body wants to come up with, it would be an amendment to policy and we'd have to put forth a vote for it.

Katey G: So there's nothing in policy that says they have to...

Tony: To be put on a meeting schedule they have to meet these points to be put on the meeting schedule.

Katey G: Right, but to get the new group packet, it doesn't say that they can't just come in and request one in open forum, correct?

Tony: No it doesn't say they can't.

Katey G: Okay, so they can just do that.

Austin: Yeah, in the past we've always done it with a motion, but I'm sure you can

come in and do it in open forum.

Tony: I mean there's nothing to stop that, or say another group donating their literature to them for that, it's just... in the past.

Katey G: Okay, so there's no clear thing around it.

Tony: I couldn't find anything.

Lyz F: Right, that's all I was asking, what our policy says about getting a new group packet, that's what my question was. Like when do you bring that up, how do you go about it, but now the GSR is here, and she's going to make the motion.

Jonathan B: Just make the motion and it'll get voted in, nobody's going to say no.

Tony: You specifically mentioned that it was a women's meeting.

Lyz F: Correct.

Tony: Is that a special interest meeting, or is it an NA group.

Lyz F: It's open to whoever.

Tony: So the meeting will be a Narcotics Anonymous meeting?

Lyz F: Correct.

Tony: Okay, because the group itself can be predominantly made up of woman, but the meeting itself has to be a Narcotics Anonymous meeting, I just wanted to clarify that.

Austin: So if dudes come in and they're like "Hey"

Lyz F: We'll welcome them just like anyone else.

Tony: So that's what I'm saying, when you announce it as being a women's meeting, the non-anonymous nature of the meeting itself, it now becomes not an anonymous meeting. The anonymity becomes blurred because it's a special interest meeting. Or it's not any addicts welcome, it's women.

Lyz F: Okay, so we're starting a new meeting called Ladies' Night.

Tony: Well, I'm just saying, the 12th Tradition, I'm just saying. You come to a Narcotics Anonymous meeting and we're not affiliated with race, gender, identity, any of that kind of stuff, now if the group itself is made up of, predominantly [one identity, gender, race or another], and that's what our literature clearly talks about as far as what identifies the interest of the group, but the meeting itself has to be a Narcotics Anonymous meeting, which clearly is not specific gender or race or whatever. So just be leery of that when you announce it as a women's meeting, you know, it's kind of convoluted.

Julie N: We'll announce it as that we have a new meeting called Ladies' Night.

Jody T: Yes, I've been to a meeting that was predominantly the same...

Tony: I'm not saying this as a guy, I'm saying as the purpose of the meeting.

Lyz F: I mean, at the World Convention, there was a men's [unsure] and a women's [unsure], was that then not a Narcotics Anonymous meeting, or was that?

Jody T: No, it wasn't a meeting, it was an event.

Tony: It's all under the same policy, a white meeting, a black meeting, a green meeting, a red meeting, a Native American meeting, I mean you're a special interest meeting, is what you put in your title, so I'm just saying.

Julie N: Just so you know, the meeting is starting due to a lot of our experiences with,

like I have sponsees who struggle to share in a group with men, not to say we're not an open group of Narcotics Anonymous and we're going to turn away men, but sometimes women struggle with men in the room. I've had sponsees who are in treatment, and it's been like the common theme so we will stay within your all's format and we won't turn anybody away.

Tony: I mean you can have those meetings, I'm saying when it comes to being a Narcotics Anonymous meeting, I'm not trying to detract from that.

Megan: In announcing it, they have been saying no addict is turned away. So they have been saying that.

Jan: Grateful recovering addict named Jan. I mean I get what Tony's saying and I feel the same way right, and my question becomes, like what I wanted to say is that we don't say it's a women's only meeting, but isn't just saying "Oh it's called Ladies' Night" kind of doing it, because you're doing it without actually saying it and you're still having the same effect.

Lyz F: So there's multiple other areas in Georgia that have women's and men's meetings, so maybe we'll reach out to those other areas and ask how they went about following traditions or whatever is being brought up in our policy and how we can stay within the means of that, but right now we're willing to stay within it being an open meeting, but we're allowed to name the meeting whatever we like. It doesn't matter, we could name it "Women Against Men" and it would be a Narcotics Anonymous meeting, like it really doesn't matter what the name of the meeting is, you know what I mean, like we have freedom in that.

Jonathan B: Jonathan, I'm an addict. Whether or not special interest meetings fall within the guidelines of the Traditions is really a hotly debated topic throughout the fellowship, and it's an interpretation of traditions issue. This is something I've been really interested in for a long time, I don't think it's that black and white, you're going to talk to some people who say like "Oh, clearly a tradition violation" and then other people are going to have an argument that seems to hold water about how it's not, so what you said about reaching out for experience, I would say that.

Lyz F: Right, but the reason we started it in the first place, when we heard that people in our area had a problem with it and traditions, but we were at the World Convention, hosted by NAWA, which is the pyramid scheme of where we go up to

Chuck M: No, no, no, we go down. We go down to NAWA.

Lyz F: Well, they serve us, and we had a women's meeting at the World Convention of Narcotics Anonymous, so what's to say you can't start one in your area.

Jonathan B: Okay, so let me finish. So that's what I want to say, is that there is precedent in the worldwide fellowship for having meetings like that, you know, a lot of people do it, and whether or not it falls within the guidelines of the traditions is up to interpretation, and like you said, I would encourage you to do just what you said you were going to do and reach out to other people and find out how that works.

Tony: The guide to local services has a paragraph on it, if you guys would like me to

read it. Okay “Sometimes specialized NA groups form to provide additional identification for addicts with particular needs in common. For example, many men’s, women’s, gay, and lesbian groups exist today. But the focus of any NA meeting—even if it’s conducted by a specialized group—is on recovery from addiction, and any addict is welcome to attend.”

Lyz F: Right that’s what we’re doing. That’s what we’ve been saying, so I don’t know what the run around is about.

Megan: Maybe we can announce it as predominantly women but no addict is turned away.

Lyz F: We’re just going to announce it as there’s a new meeting called Ladies’ Night on Friday, 8 o’clock, Powers Ferry United Methodist, come if you want, we don’t turn any addict away, that’s it.

John: I’m an addict named John. You know I can understand your need for this meeting because we had one female homegroup member at our group and she was the only one, and there were like, you know, 8, 9 other guys. So you know, and she was talking about this happening anyway, and just to let people know, I can understand, you know, you’re one woman along with 8 guys, you’re going to feel somewhat isolated and somewhat, you know, different. There may be problems that you can’t talk about so I can understand the need for a meeting like this. I mean I would just simply say no addict will be turned away and that’s it, you know, for me as long as addicts are attending and they’re getting the message of recovery, you know, that’s the important thing. And, you know, if they can identify here and talk about issues that they normally wouldn’t be able to talk about, because it’s a whole room full of men, because, you know, let’s face it, men and women have different problems sometimes, you know, that’s it.

Katey G: Thanks John. Alright, we’re going to move on, Jocho, I think I saw your hand?

Jocho: Yep, I’m Jocho, I’m an addict. We too will also be starting a new meeting in Austell. Don’t worry, it’s a co-ed. So we’re filling out the motion paper now for a new meeting packet, so that’ll come up with the motion, correct?

Jody T: That’ll be new business, yes.

Jocho: Okay, and then one other question I had, should I be bringing up about the RCM policy vote, we had a question about that. Should I do that now?

Jody T: Uh, sure, well, where’s Jonathan. Hey Jonathan, we have a question for you.

Jocho: We wanted to know, somewhere in the policy it said that, okay we would like to know regarding clarification of the drug court conference. We just spent money to go to a drug court conference and we have heard nothing about this, even though we are dealing with drug court problems in our area.

Jonathan B: Yeah, so, if I recall correctly, it wasn’t a “drug court conference,” but it was a conference in Georgia about opioid addiction and how to address it, and it happened to be that lots of judges who have drug court programs were there. And the region, actually, no, it was the zone, the Southeast Zonal Forum had a PR booth at this conference, I don’t think they did a presentation, it was just a booth, like you come to us

and we'll give you information sort of thing, and it was staffed by volunteers from the Georgia Region. I don't have a lot of information about how, you know, if it was worth the money or how successful it was, so that's all I really know about that particular event.

Jocho: Okay, thank you.

Jonathan B: Do you have a request?

Jocho: Yes, we would like to know what the money was spent on and what came of it.

Jonathan B: Okay, so I'll make a note of that and get the information about the success of the event.

Jocho: And how does it trickle down and help us in our area, because there's so many groups that deal with drug court problems.

Jonathan B: And so the trickle down is just PR stuff, it's letting professionals know that NA exists, and maybe don't try to find our meetings or try to refer their clients to us, that's the trickle down. But as far as how the money was spent and the feelings of the members involved about how successful it was, I can get that information for you, I'll talk to the Zonal PR Task Force about it.

Jocho: Okay, thank you.

Rachel: I'm Rachel, I'm an addict. This is a new topic, by the way, is that okay? Jocho are you done?

Jocho: Yes ma'am.

Rachel: It has to do with region. So, our group was going over the budget report for region and we're looking at last year's income versus, you know, expenses and it looked like our income was like \$27,000.00 and our expenses were \$25,000.00, and then this year the budget is for like \$40,000.00 in expenses and we were just trying to figure out where region thought that we were going to be getting all that extra income to cover that.

Jonathan B: Yeah, yeah, that's a really good question. So, this is part of our report, there was a conversation on the regional floor pointing out just this, in fact the regional treasurer brought this up. There's two issues. One is that we spend a little bit more than we take in at region, and that's not good, right? You don't want to spend more than you take in, you want to have money to pass to another level of service. The other is that the budget does not reflect what we actually spend. So, say we spent however many thousand last year at the regional level, well the budget was actually way higher than that.

Rachel: Okay, do you remember what the budget was by any chance?

Jonathan B: Yeah, so right here I have in my notes that last year the region received about \$22,000.00 and spent about \$23,000.00, so that's not good, but last year our budget was about \$33,000.00, so the budget was actually \$10,000.00 higher than what we actually spent, so the budget does not reflect reality. So those two issues, we spend more than we make, and the budget doesn't reflect reality, those were discussed on the regional floor and we asked the treasurer to come back in December with one,

recommendations to change the budget to make it right-sized so it reflects what we actually spend and two, some recommendations on how to cut costs so that we are spending less than we make. So the budget's that's come back for approval, it is what it is. So based on that information, you're going to have to have a thumbs up, thumbs down on it and there'll be more discussion about it in December.

Jocho: Okay, I've got a question. So there's so much discussion about how we're going to, about the specifics of this budget, but yet, this month, we're supposed to vote on whether or not we're going to approve the budget?

Jonathan B: We'll vote next month.

Jocho: On the budget?

Jonathan B: Well yeah, what went back to groups. It was the budget, the policy, and the change to the nomination forms. And so I communicated that last month because we need to vote on it at region in December, but I'm going to communicate it again this month in my report so we've made sure all groups have had two months to get a vote.

Tony: Have all the GSRs noticed the budget's inaccuracies? Have all the groups noticed that when they look at it, the numbers didn't add up correctly? And you're telling me that region knows that the numbers have issues, and we're expected to vote on a budget that does not add up?

Jonathan B: That's correct.

Tony: I don't know if you guys knew that or not.

John: I'm an addict named John. So what you're saying is they may budget for \$40,000.00, but they may not spend that whole budget, is that correct?

Jonathan B: Yeah, there's no way they're going to spend \$40,000.00, even though they're asking for that in the budget, so that's got to be reconciled somehow. First, you guys as groups have to decide if you're okay with that, you know, and then the region's aware of that and looking to right-size it so the budget actually reflects what we'll spend.

Jan: Yeah, and it's in part because also, like H&I budget, it's the same thing for our area, where we give H&I a budget, but they only use like half of that, so that's where part of that difference comes from.

Katey G: Thanks Jan, just to remind you guys we're getting very close to the end of our open forum time. Austin, then Chuck.

Austin: Just real quick for the region thing, why are we increasing the budget if we're already not spending what the budget is? That doesn't really make sense either.

Jonathan B: I agree, it doesn't make sense at all, and that's why they're discussing it at region, and unfortunately because regional policy says budgets have to go back to groups, they're going back to groups now.

Chuck M: I just want to know for all of us, I mean, what's the best way for us to approach this right now? Do we just need to go ahead and reject the budget, like I said, I'm just looking for a little bit of direction. Do we reject it as it is now and how much impact is that going to have on the day-to-day functions and everything else, I mean, should we just go ahead and reject it now and make them change it and face the

consequences or, some kind of... I mean what's our best approach right now?

Katey G: Would you address this in your RCM report? Is that okay? Can he address this in his RCM report so we can wrap up open forum?

Chuck M: That's fine.

Katey G: Okay, great.

John: I have one more thing. I'm an addict named John, this is just to let everybody know that the Chosen Frozen, they will have a GSR here next month.

Katey G: Thank you John.

Big John: Big John, addict. GSR for The Lie is Dead, we're having a very struggling meeting on Tuesday nights, for the last month, I met by myself just about every one, so I've talked to Ron about this and if we can't get any support out there, we're going to have to shut that meeting down. So if anybody can spread the word, Tuesday night, 7 o'clock in Rockmart, we could use some help to keep that meeting alive.

Katey G: Thank you. Anything else for open forum? Alright guys, thank you.

- Subcommittee Reports: 2:53pm - 3:51pm

- Treasurer's Report - Dez:

- Report attached

- **Dez:** So the only thing that I wanted to bring up, Jody you probably have more information on it, but I wanted to bring up what happened when we went to the bank.

- **Jody T:** Right, well, a lot has happened since then, refresh my memory.

- **Dez:** Well, basically, we went to the bank to add me to the bank account, and the 24HR Room has a bank account and we have a bank account for the area, and there was some sort of fraud activity that had happened with the 24HR Room and from that, the bank has messed stuff up, and basically the 24HR Room has access, people that aren't even on the 24HR Room anymore, have access to the Marietta Area account and can go in, hypothetically, and say "I want to withdraw \$4,000.00 from this account," and they could do it because they're on the account. There's some sort of mix up. I mean, I know that stuff needs to be done about this and I've spoken with a few people from the 24HR Room but we need to just go to the bank and get this all worked out, basically.

- **Jody T:** So, when we were at the bank we talked about how we

technically have separate accounts for the Marietta ASC and the 24HR Room, but, and Dez, I'm sorry, a lot has happened since we went to the bank, but help refresh my memory [if I'm wrong], but those accounts aren't entirely separate. Like, whoever has a signer on the 24HR Room account can go ahead and access Marietta Area funds and I think the reverse is true, like whoever's on the Marietta side can access 24HR funds.

- **Katey G:** Well, it's supposed to be that way because 24HR Room is supposed to be a small part of the Area umbrella the point is, is that if we have an issue, where say 24HR Room doesn't feel like giving back all their money in January, Marietta Area could go in and pull the money. That's why that was set up that way. That was intentional.
- **Jody T:** So the 24HR Room is supposed to be able to pull money from the ASC?
- **Katey G and Jan:** No.
- **Jody T:** So, that's how it is, and apparently there's no way to reconcile that if we have [the 24HR Room] account under the ASC. They can pull money from the Marietta ASC funds.
- **Dez:** I think what the problem was was that whenever this fraud thing happened, they had to set up executors of the account, and for the Marietta ASC, we don't have executors on the account, so the only executors on the account are in the 24HR Room, which kind of trumps it and makes that the main account of the area instead of the other way around.
- **Katey G:** Katey, I'm an addict. I think that needs to be worked out with the bank because the problem is that they want an executor but our people on the accounts change yearly and that's where, likely the issues is coming in. We are not a company where someone is "Vice-President" for years at a time, we are shifting every June who's on the account, you know, going in and taking people on and off, so that's what needs to be figured out with the bank, how we do it without an executor, or does the Chair and Vice-Chair need to be the executors of the account, changing on a yearly basis.
- **Jody T:** And we also need to remove the executors who are no longer on any of the committees.
- **Tony:** My name's Tony, I'm an addict. So, my home group does have something similar. We have the non-profit EIN that we have a checking account through, and every time we change the treasurer, or we have a secretary change, we just have to go to the bank and

update who the information for the personnel is, it's that simple. You just tell them who you want to be in that slot, if I'm not mistaken the way structure is, if you add someone then that's the decision, but it's as simple as going to the bank and getting it updated.

- **Jody T:** Well, they wouldn't let us update it, and Jan has useful information here.
- **Jan:** Well, you would think that but two of those executors, I was in the bank when we removed them from the account.
- **Tony:** All the people that are on the account, if they're currently on it, then they need to come back, enough of them to just show up there and if one person's not available, just tell them they're no longer associated with it and get them removed, because you'll have everyone else that's there.
- **Jody T:** That didn't work when we were there.
- **Jan:** That's what we did 2 years ago, 24HR Room when I became treasurer, Felix, Carrie and I went to get me on there and remove Felix and I had to sign twice, once to get me added and once to remove Felix. And this year, Carrie, Brian and I went and the same thing, I signed twice, once to get Brian on, once to get Carrie off, yet somehow, Felix and Carrie are two of the people that are still on the account and Cecil, who's never been on the 24HR Room is on the account too.
- **Tony:** So they didn't update their database. So it's on the bank to fix their database.
- **Jody T:** Well, so basically we've been trying to do this with the bank for 2 years and nothing's getting done so maybe that's an issue we need to talk about with the area as well.
- **Tony:** Well, maybe you should change banks. I mean, because it should be a very straightforward procedure, and if it didn't work then it's the bank's issue.
- **Katey G:** Yeah, but the problem is is those executors who aren't even on any of our committees anymore need to be the ones who go to the bank.
- **Tony:** Yeah, but the form you signed that he was just talking about, it says specifically on there, you become willing, I think it's like a $\frac{2}{3}$, there's a certain number that have to be present to get a person removed, and if they're not honoring it then it's a bank issue, and change banks.

- **Literature Report - Mary W.:** marietta.literature@gmail.com
 - Took in \$909
 - Bought \$949

- **RCM Report - Jonathan:**
 - Report attached
 - Home Groups should vote on (3) Region Topics
 - Area voting at November ASC
 - Region voting at December RSC
 - Back to Group items listed at end of Minutes

- **Activities Report - Katey:**
 - Returning \$743 after campout (had asked for \$600)
 - Campout went great, a few t-shirts left. Workshops were awesome.
 - Preparing for Gratitude Feast (flyer will be attached to minutes)
 - Requesting additional \$200 from area for food around that.
 - Next activities meeting will be held Saturday, November 3rd at 6:30 PM @ Starbucks in Vinings

- **H&I Report - Geoff:**
 - We had 13 in attendance today.
 - Spent \$244.33 on lit, received \$50 from Just For Sunday, meaning we used \$194.33 from budget. We've used \$1528.56 Year to Date out of a budget of \$2755, leaving \$1226.44 remaining.
 - Discussed having a learning day to get support for H&I possibly at the 24 HR Room.
 - Facilities/Times
 - Cherokee County Jail (Needs Support!) - 6 months clean time, background check required.
 - Men's - Fridays at 2:30 PM and 3:30 PM
 - Women's - Fridays at 4:30 PM
 - Cobb Wellstar (Needs Support!) - Online Application, immunization records and 6 months clean time required.
 - Tuesdays at 7 PM
 - Cobb BHCC - 3 months clean time required
 - Fridays at 8 PM
 - Ridgeview Institute - 3 months clean time required
 - Fridays at 8 PM
 - Discussed Ridgeview meeting and possibly turning it into an open meeting, and creating a different, separate H&I meeting in Cottage

B/C. which would be more in line with H&I policies and traditions.

- **PR Report - Billie:** PR@mariettana.org
 - Had 5 members in attendance (3 from Metro Atlanta, the PR Chair from West End)
 - **Billie:** You might have noticed, I didn't pass out any schedules. We ran into a snag this morning, it turns out Office Depot will not print until we pay first. When a member went to pick them up, they were not ready. I will do my best to get them out, pass them out to people that go to other meetings, but I can only do my best.
 - **Scott:** No changes from last month's schedule, so last month's schedules are still accurate
 - Looking for a contact in Ridgeview to help gain access to Ridgeview's Cottages and establish an H&I meeting in said cottages that is more in line with H&I policies and purpose.
 - Spoke with Metro Atlanta Task Panel
 - **PR NEEDS HELP!!!**
 - Learning day to help instruct H&I members discussed
 - Shot of Hope meeting in Cedartown needs to be checked on by members of the fellowship/PR committee.
 - Called Dr. Rodriguez at the request of Cathy H. (Living the Program):
 - Thanked her for wanting to assist but explained as part of our traditions we cannot seek help from outside entities, and that NA is not a program where professionals treat addicts. We use a peer support strategy. Our focus is on recovery from addiction, and we would not want to distract from our primary purpose of carrying the message to the addict who still suffers. She understood and thanked me for the call.
 - **Amanda:** I'm an addict, my name's Amanda. My home group, which is Living the Program, has asked me to present interest to the Area for a booth at the Marietta Square Farmers Market. So there should not be any booth expense unless we opt to purchase a tent, the area expense would be \$25.00 a day, which would be the rental space and we would need to decide if Lit would schedule expense or anything else would be handed out. It was something that 3 members had interest in doing, and they asked that I present interest to the area floor.
 - **Billie:** I'm just trying to figure out how we can help you with that
 - **Tony:** Are you asking for help or are you just telling the area that you're doing it.
 - **Amanda:** That is something I will have to take back to the group, it

was just an idea that we talked about in group conscience, and we wanted to generate either ideas or support, but really just get an idea of the support for it.

- **Billie:** It sounds like a good idea, can we put that in the minutes, that the request was made?
 - **Multiple:** When is the event?
 - **Amanda:** It's every Saturday in the Marietta Square. There are other areas that have done similar booths, whether it be local or different countries, so it's been done. I've got some pictures of what it kind of looks like, so if you want to take a look I can show you after area, but as far as actually doing it, I'm not sure whether or not we're looking for funding from the area or if it's something we just want to do as a homegroup, so I'm not sure if that answers your question
 - **Tony:** I was just going to say because PR, we're already strapped thin, but as a homegroup you could do it and with other groups you could coordinate it and obviously just let them know and they could participate on it. I mean if the area says hey, let's take it on as an area, PR could do it, but a homegroup could do it just as well and other groups, if they want to participate, could help as well.
- **WSR Report - Nicole A:**
 - 5 Members in Attendance
 - Postal Facilitator Report:
 - Total Letters Received: 17
 - Total Workbooks Ordered: 4
 - September Expenses:
 - Supplies: \$2.35
 - Postage: \$20.00
 - Workbooks: \$45.00
 - Total September Expenses: \$67.35
 - Year to Date Expense Total: \$767.29 out of \$1380.00.
 - Budget Remaining through December 2018: \$612.71
 - Our WSR vice chair attended North Atlanta's AREA meeting today to ask if they will partner with us to provide additional guides willing to guide writers from prisons and jails, so we will have an update to this AREA in our December AREA meeting.
 - We are currently in the process of reviewing and updating our policy and Correspondence Agreement as a subcommittee. Our subcommittee met today and updated policy. This is an ongoing process until complete. Once updated, do we need to provide our

policy to the AREA?

- Some prisons are using an email correspondence system and discontinuing allowing mail correspondence with inmates. This system requires writers to submit a personal name and personal address in order to correspond. This detail is shared with inmates and requires inmates to approve individuals prior to receipt of correspondence. It is against our policy to provide personal information to inmates. As such, we are unable to correspond with facilities using email correspondence. So far, there is a facility from Florida and Tennessee. We are maintaining this list in our policy.
- Question for Treasurer: We order workbooks for inmates through the online portal. When we are invoiced, our postal facilitator has been sending a check he receives from our treasurer to NAWS. This is problematic and I do not think something our postal facilitator should be responsible for doing. The checks are being applied as a donation instead of as payment for workbooks, so our postal facilitator has been having to work with NAWS to get the money applied as payment to the invoices. I would like to ask if we can submit invoices to our treasurer and if our treasurer can submit a check to NAWS to pay for the invoice. I can provide the invoice to the treasure each AREA meeting. Our customer number and invoice numbers will need to be added to the For line of the check. The check will also need to be mailed to N.A.W.S. Inc. 19737 Nordhoff Place, Chatsworth, CA 91311-6601.
- Next Subcommittee Meeting: 12/1/18 @ 1:00pm - 2:00pm @ Ridgeview Pro North

- **24 Hour Room Report - Joe B:**

- Report Attached

- **Old Business:**

- None

- **Elections:**

- None

- New Business:

- **MOTION 10-1** - To give Activities an additional \$200 outside of budget for the Gratitude Feast for food (cooking dishes, eg. oil for turkeys)
 - Maker: Katey G, ASC Vice Chair
 - Second: Jodi M, GSR We Group
 - Point of Information - Activities donation after Campout was close to \$200
 - Pros:
 - **Melissa:** They just brought in almost exactly this amount after the Camp Out, so, if you take the transactions cumulatively, it's not really a debit so much as a shuffling of funds.
 - **Jocho:** By doing this, the Area won't have to count on the Activities subcommittee members individually for donations to have food for the event, so that one way or another, there will be food.
 - Cons:
 - None
 - 16/0/1
- **MOTION 10-2** - For the new women's meeting named Ladies Night to receive a new group packet (\$50.00 of literature of the group's choice, funded by the ASC)
 - Maker: Chris E, GSR End of the Road
 - Second: Lyz F, GSR Architects of Adversity
 - Intent: To be able to provide literature to a new meeting
 - Pros: None
 - Cons: None
 - 15/1/1
 - Meeting Time/Location:
 - Powers Ferry United Methodist Church
 - Fellowship Hall
 - 745 Powers Ferry Road, Marietta 30067
 - Fridays @ 8pm starting 11/2
- **MOTION 10-3** - Motion to request a newcomer packet/new group packet for the new meeting Unity Group (\$50.00 of literature of the group's choice, funded by the ASC)
 - Maker: Jocho, GSR On the Right Track

- Second : Christian J, GSRA We Recover Together
- Intent: To supply literature to a new meeting in order to aid in the group's ability to carry the message to the addict who still suffers.
- Pros: None
- Cons: None
- 16/0/1
- Meeting Time/Location:
 - 1791 Mulky Road, Austell 30106
 - Oran Building
 - Thursday @ 8pm starting 11/8

- Trusted Servants Nominations:

- None

- Group Announcements and Celebrations:

- **Addicts in the Attic** - Eugene - 5yrs on 11/1
- **Another Chance** - Amy H - 5yrs on 12/15
- **Architects of Adversity** - Boo W - 2yrs on 11/16
- **Crossroads** - We have lost our meeting place. We are trying to figure out what is in the future for Crossroads. We ask that the meeting be removed from the schedule until further notice.
- **Easy Does It** - Scott L. - 2 yrs. on 11/25
- **Just for Sunday** - David L - 4yrs in November
- **The Lie is Dead** - Unless we are able to get some support, we will be closing our Tuesday night meeting
- **Ladies Night** - New Meeting on Friday nights @ 8 p.m. at Powers Ferry United Methodist Church (245 Powers Ferry Rd, Marietta, GA 30067)
- **Living the Program** - Evan B - 6yrs on 11/29, On 11/22 LTP will be having regularly-scheduled meeting
- **Mimosa** - Nancy, 29yrs in November
- **A New Way of Life** - Anna A - 10yrs and Laura L - 26 yrs, both on 11/6, Teri B - 2yrs in November, Daniel W - 1yr in November
- **Rose Group** - Needs support, lots of newcomers
- **Sky's the Limit** - May be moving due to the organization we deal with is moving, it's still up for discussion
- **Spiritual Awakenings** - Erin J - 7rs on 11/12, Nicole A - 12yrs on 11/12, Julie N - 2yrs on 11/19
- **Unity Group** - New Meeting on Thursday nights @ 8 p.m. in the conference room at the bottom of the Oran Building (1791 Mulky Rd, Austell, GA 30106). First meeting will be held on November 8th.

- **We Group** - Cecil S - 32yrs on 11/1
- **We Recover Together** - Richard C. - 4yrs on 11/7, Theo D. - 2yrs on 11/10, Jeff K. - 1yr on 11/24, Christian J. - 18 mos. on 11/3

Motion to Close: Austin B

Seconded by: Jocho

Closed at 4:28pm

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

Saturday, December 1st at 2:00PM

BACK TO GROUPS

PR Sub-committee needs support

Items to be voted on in the November ASC Meeting:

● Georgia Region Topics

- **NOTE:** These went back to groups in the September minutes, but they will not be voted on until the November ASC

○ Topic 2018-0066:

- The new RSC Budget is sent back to groups for a vote.

○ Topic 2018-008:

- Throughout the year, the groups vote to make changes to the RSC Policy. Over the last year, four changes to that policy have been approved by the groups. Each year, the RSC votes to approve that policy in its entirety, with all of the cumulative changes. This topic is to approve the entire policy with the changes that

were already approved by groups throughout the last year.

○ **Topic 2018-009**

- There is a topic to add two questions to the regional service resume forms. The questions are around misappropriation of funds and failure to complete a past service commitment. The topic was amended on the floor of the RSC to provide space for an explanation if the trusted servant's answer is "no" to either of those questions. This topic was made by our area, and is going back to groups. Reception to the topic by the RSC was positive.

Available Area Trusted Servant Positions:

● **No Nominations for Following Positions:**

- **Literature Distribution Alternate**
- Refer to MASCNA Policy for cleantime/service requirements and duties for each position. Policy can be found at MariettaNA.org