

**Marietta Area Service Committee of NA
Meeting Minutes
August 25th, 2019**

Next Meeting Sunday, September 29th, 2019 @ 2:00 PM

Ridgeview Day Hospital

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 groups - Quorum met @ 2:08 PM

The Purpose of the Area was read by Dennis P.

The 12 Traditions were read by Amanda S.

The 12 Concepts were read by Christian J.

Motion to accept July minutes: Michael C.

Motion Seconded: Jocho B.

Previous month's minutes were moved to acclimation: Bryan J.

Motion seconded: Lyz F.

Group	GSR	Attendance	Comments
Another Chance	Erin	Present	
Architects of Adversity	Bryan	Present	
Back to the Basics	Jerry	Present	
Chosen Frozen	Bradley	XX	
Dopeless Hope Fiends	Debbie	Present*	
Easy Does It	Scott	Present	
End of the Road	Jan	Present	
Hold On to Hope	Sheila	Present	
It's Never Too Late	Saleem	XX	
Just for Sunday	Michael	Present	
Ladies Night	Lyz	Present	
Living the Program	Amanda	Present	
Lost Dreams Awaken	Tim	Present	
Mimosa	Geoff	Present	
NA at Noon	Alvin	Present	
A New Way of Life	Laura	Present*	
Serenity on the Square	Myra	Present	
Spiritual Awakenings	Dennis	Present	
Surrender on Sunday	Nick	Present	
Unity Group	Jocho	Present	
Warriors in Recovery	Robert	Present	
We Group	Robert	Present	
We Recover Together	Abigail	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:
 - Chosen Frozen
 - It's Never Too Late

Homegroups Added:

- The following groups will be counted towards Quorum with one more consecutive meeting:
 - The Rose Group
 - Addicts in the Attic

MASC Admin & Subcommittee Roll Call

Position	Name	Attendance	Report
Chair	Katey	Present	N/A

Vice Chair	Vacant	N/A	N/A
Treasurer	Felix	Present	Attached
Alt. Treasurer	Richard	Present*	N/A
Secretary	Chris	Present	N/A
Alt. Secretary	Melissa	Present	N/A
RCM	Rodney	Present	N/A
RCMA	Stephen	Present	N/A
Policy Parliamentarian	Vacant	N/A	N/A
Lit Distribution	Marco J.	Present	N/A
Alt. Lit Distribution	Vacant	N/A	N/A
Activities Chair	Christian	Present	Written
H&I Chair	Julie	Present	Attached
PR Chair	Chris	Present	Attached
WSR	Louis	Present	Written
24hr Room Chair	Joe B.	Absent	Written

- Open Forum: 2:09pm - 3:02pm

Katey G: I was thinking we would maybe open up the floor first, see if anybody has anything else for a little bit, and then move onto that, so yeah, that was the experience I got from other people so I'm going to open the floor up for anything else, and then we can move on to our guest.

Chris E: I just wanted to say real quick that as I go around with the schedules, if you could verify your meeting date, I'm going to have a piece of paper, and we need for you to please list your homegroup and the day of the month or however you want to do it that your homegroup group conscience meets, because PR and H&I would like to know.

Katey G: Anything else for open forum?

Chris T: I would like to announce a new meeting that's going to be starting in the Atlanta, Metro Area, I have passed around some colorful flyers with more of the details, but the meeting is called Going to NA Lengths for Your Recovery, it's a meditation meeting, meaning that there's going to be some silent meditation at the beginning, followed by open sharing. It's going to start on Tuesday, October 1st, so roughly a month from now, it's going to be a 90-minute meeting from 7:30-9:00 pm, and I have flyers and I would appreciate anybody who would be willing to put it out on your homegroup literature table and help the local meeting, it's the only meditation meeting that I know of in this area, correct me if I'm wrong. Anyway, the address is 2011 Bolton Rd. NW, Atlanta, GA 30318, and I have flyers here if anyone wants more information and details on it.

Katey G: Thank you. Alright anything else? Okay, well, I know Robert was nice enough to show up and answer any questions groups may have so the thought was, I know we talked about this last time, so if your group's GSRs came up with any questions or

anything, we ask as far as like, the thought was as far as speeches or anything along those lines, if you could keep that to 2-3 minutes to try to leave it more open for questions and things like that for the groups to get what they needed answered, as far as everything, as far as any questions with GRCNA, or anything along that line, so, yeah, I will give you guys Robert.

Robert L: I'm Robert and I'm an addict. Looking forward to the next convention coming up in February, I brought some flyers, it's going to be in the Hilton, northeast on Peachtree Road, and we're looking for a big turn out, how many people were at the convention last year in Macon? Thanks for everybody that came, we really do appreciate it, we would love to see more of you out. That's our goal, is to make it a true regional event, and the way we do that is to get everybody from the areas to attend, so, you know, I'm here to answer questions if you have any. Hopefully I'll have the answers, if I don't, I'll find them for you, and, you know, anything we can do to make GRCNA more of a personal event for you, that's more reflective of your recovery, please let me know, that's why I'm here.

Carrie L: Can you speak even if you're not a GSR?

Katey G: Yeah.

Carrie L: Carrie, I'm an addict. Thank you for coming, thank you for your service. I just have two questions for you. So in the recent reports from region, from our last region, it looks like some suggestions were going to be made with modifications to the way that the convention is done, with regards to security and also restricting attendance to meetings within the event to non-registrants. So, my question is who's, like within our NA service structure, who's the authority over how we execute this convention, who is the deciding party, let's say, on how things are going to go and how things are going already. I may choose to offer my view, and if a member has a different view than you, who do they get to address that to? My biggest concern, and this coming from a personal, this is not representing a group or anything, this is just me, is off-putting the message that we are restricting attendance to meetings to people who have not registered, to me personally, I can't include my support in that, if we're going to turn away people at the door who are trying to come to a meeting for any reason. So that's my biggest fear, is that that's going to be the way things are done, and that's it, that's all I wanted to say. Thank you.

Robert L: So if I'm hearing you right, you're wondering who is the, I guess, the person in charge. And see, it's a two-fold thing in how the regional convention works. One, the region decided to create a board, we're a corporation, okay, who's in charge is the legal fiduciary part of the convention. It gives us the opportunity to act as a business, and we try to operate within the guidelines of the fellowship as much as possible and be reflective of that, and that would be me, I'm the man who signs the checks for the board. My responsibility is to enter into negotiations and contracts with facilities, with hotels, and get bids and, you know, basically do the money part of this thing. So, I guess any questions you have about that part, about the legal part, would be me. Now how does

the fellowship have, what role does the fellowship play in this? And that is the Convention Planning Panel (CPP). The Convention Planning Panel is like any committee that you would have, like an event committee, and what they do is they coordinate all events that happen at the convention, the speakers, the workshops, the t-shirt designs, basically everything that happens hands-on is that panel, and they are a regional subcommittee, so they're directly responsible to the areas for their service. Two of those members, the treasurer and the facilitator of that committee are members of the board and that is in our policy, and that is to give the region a voice on that board. Again, the board is made up of members that have been previous chairs of the convention, they're all trusted servants that have done years of service in Narcotics Anonymous, and we try to keep and preserve the NA traditions in the best fashion we can. So that's question one, the second question was whether people can come or not because of what we did this year. What we did this year, and I really have to go back a little bit because I'm not sure where everybody's at, I'm not sure if you didn't hear when it was explained, I came on the board several years ago after the Jekyll Island convention. Jekyll Island was a major loss for the convention, we lost well over \$10,000, we were up near the \$17,000 mark, and many of us felt that it wasn't a good idea to go to Jekyll Island, I being one of them, I didn't think it was a good financial move for the convention. A lot of things fell into place that year, we had a World Convention in Orlando, we had a convention in Jacksonville, there was an East Coast convention in South Georgia, so there was a lot of things pulling away, and attendance fell dramatically. It was 300-plus. I came on the board as the chair at that time, after that convention, and, in June after seeing where all our expenses had been paid, I had an account with \$10,000 and a prudent reserve that was \$15,000, the year before it was \$5,000. I had a commitment to Macon Centreplex for a contract that cost \$17,000, so I'm starting off in the red already and I had to sign another contract for this convention that'll be in 2020, okay, and I had to present a check for \$1,000 and coordinate because, you know, we're two years ahead on where we go. So at that time, that was a big part of the decision making process, for me, it was "Where do we go after Macon?" Attendance has fallen steadily since GRCNA 35. We've had registered members being around 700 down to 650, and then 300 in Jekyll. So looking at those trends, knowing how much money we had, and knowing what I thought we could afford, in case we needed to get out of a jam, I went back to the Hilton. The Hilton is a little smaller, it doesn't hold as many people, it doesn't have as much parking, but I had a feeling that if we got through Macon okay, with a little bit of money, we could get through another convention without having to go broke. I wasn't sure, I wasn't sure of the region's feeling at the time, I wasn't sure whether we were going to have a convention. There was a lot of negative sentiment out there about how much money we lost at Jekyll, and it's not the first time we've lost money at a convention, but if you've ever been to a region after we've lost money, all hell breaks loose, and a lot of people have thought that maybe we shouldn't be doing this. So our approach to signing Hilton was very conservative, you

know, that was our idea, we could go in there, it's going to cost us in the neighborhood of \$10,000+ and if Macon's a failure, we'll be okay, we'll be able to pull it out. We had about \$6,000 worth of merchandise left over, over the years, I don't think that they were using shrinkage formulas put in the guidelines as to how we buy merchandise, we had overbought in several years, so there was a stockpile of that. The thinking was, let's get rid of it all, we'll sell it, we need the money. We achieved that in Macon, before Macon we sold all of our pre-convention merchandise, that's why there was none in that room. We limited our order for the Macon convention based on the amount of pre-convention merchandise we were going to have to sell at that convention, so that's why we ran out of t-shirts on Saturday at Macon. And, you know, thank goodness, a week before the convention we had a member step up and buy all of our pre-convention t-shirts, so we re-ordered a little bit more, we had a little bit more, we had two hoodies left over from the convention this year, which is great from the standpoint of hey, we sold everything, we're not carrying a bunch of merchandise but not good on the fact that we probably could have sold a little more if we'd had the money, but we just didn't feel like it was practical. We did good this year. We got our CD's back, we had purchased 2 CD's, purchased them, I want to say, in July, so we've got our \$15,000. Our prudent reserve is actually \$20,000, it's \$5,000 above, and we have the money this year to go into the convention, I'll go ahead and tell you now, because our whole thing is full disclosure and if you've got questions, I'm going to let you know. Because I want to be accountable for every penny we have and I want you to know where it is, because it is the region's money, so we signed a contract, we're going to be going to, for GRCNA 40, it's going to be in the Augusta Marriott down on the riverwalk. It's a very large facility, it could be very nice, it'll be much bigger than the one we have this year. Having said that, going into the Hilton my experience with the Hilton was GRCNA 34, no I think it was 33...

Asa B: 3.

Robert L: 33. We went to the Hilton, I was a member of the committee at the time and it was the first time we were at the Hilton, and everything went well up until Saturday night. If you've been to a convention, and anybody who's been to a convention knows what happens on Saturday night, it's the big draw, the main speaker, clean time countdown, everybody comes. In Macon we had 300 people register, even though we had asked everybody to register whether they paid or not, we had about another 40 people actually fill out the registration forms, and that reason is for our insurance, we need to know who's on property. But we got the flood on Saturday night, and we let it come, we let it happen and we had over 1,000 people in there on Saturday night. That was okay in that facility, but in this facility here? It's going to seat 800 people, **max**. Max, max, no more room, no more seats, very hot, very uncomfortable, like what happened at 33. What happened at 33 was, before the convention everybody piled into that lobby and you couldn't move. We were trying to get people to go to the doors to get them in and I had serenity keepers quitting on us. I mean, people were ugly. They were rude, they were obnoxious, they were trying to bust in the doors, we had to hold the

doors closed, this was not how responsible, productive members act. Pretty scary. We really in essence, at 33, we should have been thrown out of the hotel, we were in violation of so many fire codes it wasn't even funny, we managed to pack everybody in there, all the way around the walls, there were no seats, and it was very hot and very uncomfortable for a lot of people, so you know, looking forward, what do we do this time, we're coming back, you know? What do we do Saturday night when this 700-800 people come flooding in the door? So we went ahead and we did registrations only, we've been doing registrations and we've spoken about this the last two years at Region, we're going to have to register to go to GRCNA. Everybody that attends GRCNA is going to have to register. It has nothing to do with us, it has everything to do with the facilities we're going to. The hotels want to know, who's in their lobbies, because they have other guests that are in their hotels, and they don't want vagrants wandering around the hotel. You know, they've come to me and said "We need to know," okay? You're going to have, in Macon we had to hire fire marshals, to attend based on the amount of people that were at the convention. Piedmont actually got shut down Saturday night, the convention before ours there, because they didn't have the right projected amount of fire marshals to attend the convention. They lowballed the number, and when the fire marshals found out, they shut it down. So, we had to be a little bit more, you know, had to have more than we needed, and actually it worked out perfect Saturday night. So, going into this event this year, it's going to be smaller. We've been asked that we've got to register to come in, you know, and we charge everybody to come in. GRCNA is not a meeting. Not a meeting. It is an event. It's a paid for event, you know, we don't, it's not like we give a donation to the facility for the space that we use. We commit to a contract for a set amount of dollars, and whether ya'll come or not, we're paying that check. So it's a little bit different. It's kind of like DragonCon, or if you've gone to any other conventions around, you know, it's an event and it costs money to put on. So are there meetings at NA conventions? Yes, I would call them meetings, they're not regular meetings, we don't give out chips, we don't pass the 7th Tradition basket, we try to follow the guidelines of meetings, but they're not really NA meetings. And do we turn anybody away? We don't turn anybody away with less than 90 days clean. You know, if we have to pick and choose about who comes in those doors, we're going to make sure the newcomer has a seat. That's our main focus, that's our main purpose. We've already sold over 200 newcomer packets. They're going to have seats, you know? They're the most important member at that convention, that's our first experience in Narcotics Anonymous, so that's our priority. If we have to make a decision about who can attend, we're going to pick the most important person, the newcomer. We're going to have limited seating, we bumped the registrations from 600 to 700, that we're going to sell, in hopes to accommodate. I would love for us to sell out, but again, we only sold 300 registrations in Macon last year. Those registrations paid for that event. If we don't have people come and register we don't have a GRCNA. I mean, I've gone to conventions my whole life, and I gotta tell you, when I got clean, we had

800+ people register, and this is '93. My first convention, I didn't pay, okay? They made me a hugger and that's how I paid my way, they told me to do service, and I was a hugger, and I was sold on it after that. You know, I did everything I could to afford that weekend at GRCNA because it was, you got to see people from everywhere, you know, and everybody gave. Everybody gave, there were members that hated service that were turning around and buying 10 registrations for people who couldn't pay, I mean everybody there, and that doesn't anymore. I don't know why, I know I try, I know I try to make sure that anybody doesn't have, has a package. And if you can't afford it, come to me after the meeting and I'll make sure, you know, you can pay it forward. I'll get you a registration and you can pay it forward. That's how I was taught, but we're not doing that anymore. We should 2,000-3,000, as big as our fellowship is, we should have 2,000-3,000 people going to GRCNA. There shouldn't be a facility out there that we can't go to.

Carrie L: Thank you.

Katey G: Did that answer your question Carrie?

Carrie L: Yes, thank you.

Katey G: Go ahead Amanda.

Amanda S: I'm an addict my name's Amanda. The convention's setting aside the rest of the money for registrations or anything else, but group wanted to know if the convention consider giving anything above the cost of the convention away to newcomers who cannot afford to attend?

Robert L: You know, I would say we would consider it, but here's the problem, and it's another thing we don't do anymore. We used to pre-register for conventions, okay? We have about 150 registrations right now, and people don't register like that. If we had our numbers, if we had the numbers to justify getting a big facility like Augusta that could fit 1,000 people, and we had 800 people registering, we wouldn't be worried about it. But what's happening is we're going into conventions now having only 150-200 registrations, okay, at \$45 a piece, that doesn't cover the bills. And we're hoping people show up at the door, so if we had 800 sold, this would never be an issue.

Amanda S: So that would be pre-registrations for this convention, but in the event the convention has an amount that's equal or above prudent reserve, would the convention be willing to give away anything above prudent reserve to host the newcomers.

Robert L: No, I think that was the thought that we had at Jekyll Island, you know, that we had reached this amount of money in the bank, so let's go ahead and lay it out. Then when we do that, and we're not responsible with the money that we have and we don't get that response back in terms of registrations, then we end up in the hole. We're real good at showing up at things like going out to dinner, you know, we don't turn anybody away but when everyone's supposed to bring something, then there's not enough food. It's just, but again, I mean you can ask Asa, I know Asa's been on the committee for some time, I mean if you show up at the convention and you don't have money in your pocket, talk to somebody there. Somebody's going to say "Hey, I got

you.” And if you know somebody in your homegroup that’s struggling, that’s how we reach out, I mean you know who it is in your homegroup, if somebody just got fired or laid off from the job they’ve been working 20 years and now they’re struggling and here’s the convention, and you know they want to go. You know, I’ve had, I think that’s our responsibility, to go up and say “I got you.”

Katey G: Does that answer your question? Okay.

Michael C: I’m Mike I’m and addict. You said earlier that the board follows the traditions to the best of their ability, can you give an example of when the board finds itself unable or unwilling to follow the traditions?

Robert L: Unable or unwilling to?

Michael C: Right, when can’t you follow the traditions?

Robert L: I guess if the fellowship told us they wanted to take the money and give it to AA.

Michael C: No, a real example.

Robert L: Okay, I’ll give you one. I’ll give you an example of one time, the RSC told us to cease and desist. The board came up with the idea to write a book for the fellowship, the Georgia History book, and we told them about it like 3 years ago, and the RSC had a fit, they didn’t want us to have anything to do with it. So they said cease and desist, this is something that we’re going to do on our own, and we did it. We take direction from the Region, we always do, that’s sort of what our role is. Does that answer it?

Michael C: Yes.

Katey G: Alright, I saw Jan first.

Jan L: First question: you said you’ve had only 200 registrations, but your report says 475.

Robert L: Did I, I may have been mistaken, let me see what my report says. We sold \$9,045, was our intake on registration. Let’s see what the number Do you have the report?

Jan L: Yeah, I have it on my laptop now.

Robert L: Okay, yeah, our registrations were 475 late registrations, not including over 200... I was mistaken. But even still, at 475, okay, when we’re counting on 800 registrations,

Jan L: Right, yes, it’s still not as much, but that question was just to-

Robert L: Clarify?

Jan L: Yeah. The other thing is, you said, like of course GRCNA in its entirety is not a meeting, it’s an event, but apart from the dinner and the dance, you know, essentially those things, it’s meetings. I mean, you say they’re not NA meetings, but what makes them, apart from the fact that you charge a price to get in, makes them not NA meetings? Like, you know does the speaker use outside literature, does the speaker have to be a member? To me, when I think about it, all those “not really NA meetings” seem to be NA meetings in every aspect and, you know, the argument “they’re not really NA meetings,” the only purpose of that seems to be to justify turning somebody

away who cannot pay for it. Because I understand that it's a small venue and that there's, you know, occupational limits, no homegroup has an objection to that. The objection is to, you know, if you want to register you have to pay. That's what I'm arguing against, that's what my issue goes against.

Robert L: Let me just say that it's my understanding of an NA meeting is a meeting that's regularly scheduled, okay? GRCNA is not a regularly scheduled meeting, it happens once a year, it's a convention that happens once a year. So that would be my answer to you as far as whether it's an NA meeting.

Jody T: I'm sorry, isn't that groups you're describing, that a meeting and a group are different?

Robert L: No, meetings are regularly scheduled, aren't they? I mean, I have a, my homegroup has another meeting that we do, that we just started, it's not a group because it doesn't have a homegroup, but it's a regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, and it's on the meeting schedule, but it's not a group. It is an NA meeting.

Jody T: Our activities committee has meetings all the time, they are meetings that are scheduled, they're not groups that are on the schedule, but they are Narcotics Anonymous meetings following our traditions.

Robert L: I would disagree, I would say it's an event. It's not under a stable location, it happens every year, and the reason for the difference being that a meeting is in a place where an addict, any addict can find it on a regular basis. A dance is not something that an addict could attend any day of the week and expect it to be there, or GRCNA, and expect it to be there.

Jan L: So charge for the dance. Nobody has a problem with you charging for the dance, or the dinner, or the comedy show. It's kind of a bizarre, you know, argument, where you say it's not a meeting if we charge for it, versus we shouldn't charge because it's a meeting, you know, it's the chicken and the egg. I'm just saying the argument doesn't... like me saying it's not a violation-

Robert L: It's an interpretation of the traditions, you know, you could take two sides of it and everybody's right.

Lyz F: You said that the RSC helped you become a business so that you could do contracts and so now you're, you're an LLC.

Robert L: We're a corporation, we're a 501(c)(3) corporation.

Lyz F: And you also say you're in accordance with NA traditions.

Robert L: Yes, and also state law.

Lyz F: So every NA, if Narcotics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional, but a business is professional, and it says our service centers may employ special workers, so is GRCNA a special worker that we've hired and we created the LLC to do that, or are you a professional business signing contracts and then printing all the NA stuff and the literature, like I'm just trying to understand how that works as far as the traditions of... If you're not, are you professional or are you not professional?

Robert L: No, I'm very far from professional, a little closer than when I got clean-

Lyz F: But are you a special worker? Do you get paid for any of this?

Robert L: No, and we're restricted from pay by our by-laws stating that we do not reimburse anybody for anything, so no, I'm not paid at all.

Lyz F: So, I tried to be part of the service committee before Jekyll Island, I sat in one of those meetings and it was my understanding that a member of that committee was using their own personal money to help with the payments for that facility and they did that personally, so personally, they lost money right, so therefore there was no accountability. And now, the committee is trying to basically clean up their mistake, you know, as addicts we do that, we make mistakes. So you're asking a state of Narcotics Anonymous to show some forgiveness and understanding and the backlash of that is going to be to minimize our area's conventions and get our profits back up, which is very money, property and prestige focused, not principle-based. And so, my thing is, is there a way to move forward in the future to either shut the convention down or separate. You're saying "We're NA, but we're kind of not." And that's where a lot of us have an issue with in this area, a lot of us have an issue especially with like, I'm still a newcomer, like I don't know all the traditions, and I'm sure you and Asa and a lot of people here know a lot more than me and have been longer than I've been alive, so I almost look up to you like you know what you're doing, and you know how to teach me. But when I'm reading our literature and learning the principles it tries to teach us and then I look at this committee and how it works, it's like I can't get behind that, because now you're not principle-based, tradition-based or the fellowship and that's not what I want to get down with, you know, so it's like I listened to the message you carried today and I respect and appreciate your service from one person, one addict, but it's just like, it's like something in me that's like "this is bullshit," you know, something that won't let me get behind this. So now, next year, if the convention lives on, and hopefully it will, could the committee take into consideration, maybe I'll try joining again and be part of the solution, if not I'm part of the problem, but like, did the committee consider getting a different venue? Like they knew that in Augusta and Macon, we did have all these people show up on Saturday night, they wanted to be a part of that meeting, they wanted to be part of the fellowship, and now they probably won't be able to. Was that mentioned, was that talked about? You know, like, how we can accommodate that or was it property-based? Was it security-based? You know, and yes, conventions are events and I'm grateful that predecessors here took me to events and paid my way, but I'm sorry, Narcotics Anonymous doesn't promise us that we get clean and we become rich, we become wealthy or that we know how to manage money, so according to what Amanda said, there's some people in here who want to be a part of, they're whole homegroup's going down there to listen to so and so speak at a Friday night workshop, but you can't go because you don't have any money. You know, there's so much disunity around this whole thing, and our primary purpose is to carry a message, yes, but to who? The ones that can afford it? And I liked that it was asked, like who is the deciding factor in all this. Is it the region or is it the committee? You know, so there's just

a lot of things to take into consideration around this whole thing and I appreciate you coming here and it sounds good, but when I read our literature and hear what's going on, it's like, but are you in accordance with our traditions? Are you really at the sole center of it? And maybe instead of presenting it like we are, or we're doing that, maybe [inaudible].

Robert L: To answer your questions, [inaudible] they were attorneys and members of the region and the region decided to form the corporation, and they decided to form this corporation, then they sat down and wrote our by-laws and they helped to form the corporation. The regional convention has always been lead by members of Narcotics Anonymous, and I go to my homegroup regularly, I do H&I service, and I try to do as much service as possible. I try to live the traditions in my life, and it also says in our traditions we are fully self-supporting through our own contributions. Now, my experience has been and some of what I understand of conventions and some of the fellowship takes this literally and their groups pay for conventions. Now that's how they decided to do their conventions, the groups pool their money and then they put on a convention for everyone. Narcotics Anonymous chose a separate path, they chose to be fully self-supporting through registrations so that's been set in motion. We did take into account that GRCNA 40 is going to be a much bigger event, we don't like turning people away, we don't, you know, we want everybody to come, and we're not going to have a space issue, and the reason we signed that contract again is because of the money we took in from Macon. We can't afford to look too many years ahead, we've got to look at what we have now to spend in two years so the better we do this year, we'll sign a, you know, if we can afford more space then it'll allow more. But there's a problem in this fellowship. There's a problem with people supporting their homegroups, you know, and getting involved in group conscience, you know. I know, you mention group conscience in my homegroup it's "Oh no, I'm going to dinner, screw you," and I mean, I hate it. I think that more people need to be involved with this fellowship, you know.

Katey G: Alright, I saw Chris, Robert, Stephen and Cecil, and we've got about 10 minutes.

Chris B: Hey. Thank you for coming and thank you for your service, I just had like a situational question because I know as a member of the board or a member of the committee you guys are kind of between a rock and a hard place in terms of the support that you get. I just wanted to ask, because I know what you're talking about when you talk about the flood on Saturday nights. Have you guys anticipated the situation where like people, so many people come and you have like a finite amount of space in that place that like people who did pre-register are not able to get in because of, you know, everyone who comes who didn't register? Because that was the first thing I thought of, is like "Oh man, people aren't going to be able to get in who did pay," you know, because of the mass flocking to the Saturday night event.

Robert L: You know, that actually did happen, where we didn't have seats because of

the crowd at the door.

Chris B: So how do you guys handle that?

Robert L: Well, I mean this year it's not going to happen, you know. It's just not going to happen. And we're not going to handle the security because we're not set up to tell people, you know, "Get back," you know, we have serenity keepers, they're regular members of Narcotics Anonymous and when somebody gets in their face and they're yelling and screaming, they're not really equipped to say "Hey, this isn't cool, you've got to go." So we've hired two police officers that are also EMTs that we need to have on-site anyway, and I don't think we'll have that response from people. That's why they're there, they're there for our safety, they're not there to arrest people. We just need some orderly, you know, ways to have things go down. That was our view.

Chris B: Thank you.

Robert B: So, what I was going to ask you was, so how do we solve this? So pretty much, like people need to register, correct? So we don't have to go to small events, people need to register and they need to come to your, what do you call that, fundraiser things, that probably nobody in the Marietta Area shows up to, don't worry about that. But I totally get, this is what I'm sitting back here thinking, I'm sitting here and I'm thinking you fully thought this out before you up and decided "Oh, this is what we're going to do," you know, because in my experience of being involved with Narcotics Anonymous, I literally think about the newcomer or another addict, how is this going to affect them, and I'm pretty sure you do too. So all I want to say is thank you for coming, and I commend you for all your thought and time and effort for doing this, sorry we're badgering you, thank you.

Katey G:

Stephen R: I just had something similar to what Robert said, I'm kind of more addressing the ASC more than I am you, [Robert L.]. Like, I was talking to Bob, and it's like, 1000 people showed up last year right? That's already 200 people from last year that aren't coming, that cannot get in based on the limits of the space we're going to be using this year, so off rip people aren't getting in, like people have to be turned away regardless of whose side you're on, like the fire marshals decide that those people aren't coming in at the end of the day. It's not the board, none of that, it's the fire marshals and it's the law, those 200 people that came last year and didn't pre-register for this one aren't getting in regardless. So, it's just like, to me this seems like we're beating a dead horse for no reason, because like, if you don't register, you're not getting in. So, if you guys want to change something, I know they could use the support on the committee, so, I don't know, that's it, thanks for coming.

Cecil S: I'm Cecil, I'm an addict. And thank you Robert for coming out, and whenever we make changes it's going to be met with either fear or resistance, you know what I'm saying, but I know from working on conventions it takes a lot of work, a lot of sweat and a lot of work is put into it. And I was just thinking if we still served coffee at conventions, we would not have conventions anymore, just because of the price per gallon, so we

figured out ways to be more effective and more efficient. You know, I did a workshop one time called "Carrying the Message" about carrying the message and what's NA's message, and man I had a big ass fight with Casey Scott in '87 or '88, and I did not speak with her ass for an entire year, and the next year I was like, you know, "I want to talk to you," and she was a little smartass and I was like "Don't be a smartass, I want to talk to you." I went up and down the list about why this guy shouldn't have to pay \$5 to get in the dance and Casey let me finish and then went up and down the list about why he should and said that guy had the most expensive jacket that was sold, had the most expensive jewelry that the convention sold, had 2 cartons of cigarettes, 2 cartons of sodas, he had all kinds of shit, and I never argued with her again, we just hugged and I never argued with her about that again. But what I'm saying is in a year's time, we can save up \$20-\$30, you know what I mean, how we are, you know the 7th tradition is about us trying to support ourselves. I've been in situations where I loaned money, borrowed money, given money, given vehicles, received vehicles, but you know, \$20-\$30? For us, it's the accountability and the responsibility, because if they want to pay for the part of the other people it's okay, but in our personal lives, this is a certain thing for us, if we're teaching people to... who can't save \$30 in a year? You know what I'm saying? And you know, because a lot of times, as far as conventions go, I had a discussion a little bit ago about the World Convention because somebody was raising hell about registrations, and I said "Man, I'll tell you what, if we went to Orlando right now, those same people wouldn't be raising hell at Disney World and all that stuff down there." One of the guys I was talking to spent \$1,000 at Disney, but raised hell about the registration fee for the World Convention, you know what I mean? So we prioritize what we want and what's important to us. Like there's an entitlement issue sometimes, I think, when it comes to Narcotics Anonymous, like people put 4 years of work into that shit and work their ass off, like a lot of you all do, I mean I know I'm preaching to the choir, I mean ya'll are the ones that serve, I mean think about how many people are in this area and how many people are in this meeting on a Sunday, you know what I'm saying? But it's the same way with this stuff, and we normally catch hell, those of us that serve, we normally catch most of the hell. But for me, it's like, what truly is our message? Is it being responsible and productive members, and being accountable? Or is it like, you know, the hell with it, you don't have to do any work, you can go somewhere for free, you know, and ever since Casey said that shit to me way back when, I never had another issue with that, you know what I'm saying? So, and I worked on the security thing for the World Convention when it was here in 2002 and it was so fucking hectic, I couldn't fucking believe, you know what I'm saying? People were trying to rip my fucking shirt off to get in, so I understand what you're talking about, you know what I mean? We don't need to pit addicts against addicts anymore, I don't think.

Jan L: I mean sure people can save \$30 over the course of a year, but in this case, and that's great, but it's a bigger issue when it's a small venue and there's a real possibility of running out of registrations, especially for people who can't afford it. Because I can't

register until I've saved up, and there may be things going on that prevent me from saving. I mean, I can afford it and I'm aware that I'm very privileged, but the question is why should I have a better chance to go to that convention than someone who wants to go too, but is struggling for say 3 months, or 6 months to save that money. Why do I, or why do we, and that's my question, is with the current set up, why do I have a better chance to go to that convention than the person who is struggling?

Stephen R: I mean, it's like he said, if you can afford it and you see someone struggling, why not offer to buy their registration. Because if that's the case, then I would feel like buying a registration for somebody that couldn't afford it. And if I don't have someone necessarily in mind, I could buy an extra registration and give it to the committee and say "Hey, this is my donation to the committee." I think that's a good way to try and amend that, at least on a personal level.

Jan L: I mean, I don't have a list of members in our area who are struggling.

Stephen R: Well, that's not the point I'm making, it's not like you'd have to give it to somebody specific, you could buy one and give it away.

Big Bob: This guy named Ben M., that comes to the convention, he buy 140 packets every year. I mean that's the truth, the thing about GRCNA is we turned it into a business. We turned it into a business. NA turned it into a business. It was brought to the areas, the areas brought it up and made the decision to incorporate because see, the thing was, back in the day, an area would go to the region and say "Hey, I want to host a convention," and we'd say "Alright, here's some seed money, host a convention." We needed the incorporation to sign hotels and venues, because who's going to sign a liability, because back in the day, we tore the fucking hotels up. We would end up in a hole just because of how we tore the hotels up and have to use the money to pay that back, and that's what brought the change on, but it was all done on the floor of the Georgia Region. It was all done through GSRs and then RCMs that brought it to the region and did it on the floor. So if you all want to change it, start putting in some fucking motions and change it, or get involved with the convention planning committee. They work their ass off, get involved in it, if you're going to sit here and be the Sunday morning quarterback, be the Sunday morning quarterback, if not, get involved. They need help. They need help. You know my thing, I think they ought to go to every two years, that's what I think, but that's my personal opinion.

Cecil S: I'm Cecil, I'm an addict, I just wanted to say one little quick thing, we do H&I and H&I is not a regular meeting of Narcotics Anonymous, so this is a little bit different than a regularly scheduled meeting, it's a little bit different, we have subcommittees directly responsible to those they serve, this is kind of one of those. Thank you.

Katey G: Did you have a really quick question you wanted answered?

Melissa P: Melissa, addict, I just wondered if we ever considered designating a meeting nearby the convention location to hold an overflow meeting on Saturdays for the people who get turned away for fire code violation, just a thought, may not be practical, just curious.

Robert L: Very good question, it came up on the RSC floor, at the last RSC, about an overflow hotel. The last time we did it was in Marietta and they had screens because the hotel was small, and, you want to piss somebody off? Put them in an overflow room. I'm sorry, it was a shit show, I mean people really got angry about that, they weren't part of the convention and they weren't in that room, so I really wish we could accommodate everybody this year, I mean I really do. I don't want anybody to miss out on it, you know? I think if we had more members, and we have a lot of members that can afford it, if just us registered early, this would never be an issue. It would never ever be an issue. We wouldn't even be looking at it, you know what I mean? Because there's at least 800 people in this region that can afford to go, if they would just register we would be open for the ones that are struggling. We'd have enough money to keep everything going.

Katey G: Thanks Robert. Alright [round of applause.]

- Subcommittee Reports: 3:04pm - 4:02pm
 - Treasurer's Report - Felix L:
 - Report Attached
 - Literature Report - Marco J:
 - I took in \$561.55 and because there was no order from the previous month (July, due to not having a Lit Chair), there was a double literature order for this coming month (August) and it was \$1955.39 (\$2117.29 w/shipping).
 - RCM Report - Rodney W:
 - Regional Topics
 - **2019-003 - Approve 2019-2020 policy guidelines - Revision/updates**
 - Vote: 11/0/8
 - **2019-004 - To approve the 2019-2020 Regional budget**
 - Vote: 12/0/7
 - Activities Report - Christian J:
 - 8 addicts in attendance
 - Previous activity - Tubing on August 17th
 - 6 addicts attended. Bringing back \$100 for newcomer funds
 - Future Activities:
 - Hike @ Sweetwater Creek on September 7th at 12:00 pm
 - Fall Campout @ Red Top Mountain on October 11th-13th

- Next meeting on September 14th at 6:30 pm @ Starbucks in Vinings
 - **H&I Report - Julie N:**
 - Report Attached
 - **PR Report - Chris E:**
 - Report Attached
 - **WSR Report - Louis B:**
 - Postal Facilitator report read and accepted
 - This months letters: 21 total letters received
 - Expenses: \$22.00 for stamps. \$105.00 for books total \$127.00
 - Budget: From a total of \$1380.00 we have \$505.09 for expedites that leaves a balance of \$874.91.
 - Discussed keeping contact with inmates after release, decided it is a personal decision outside of WSR
 - Talked about letting outside Marietta Area addicts to be step guides. Decided to allow 4 step guides from the states we service to be step guides on a trial basis
 - Talked about allowing sponsee to be step guides only if they meet the requirements
 - **24 Hour Room Report - Joe B:**
 - Next event will be Marietta Area vs. West Georgia Area Kickball Game at Rhyne Park (4145 King Springs Rd. SE, Smyrna, GA 30082) at 11:00 on Sunday, September 22nd (See attached flyer for more details)
- **Old Business:**
 - **Motion 7-1:** Amend Article 4, Section C of policy to add: "...however, if a trusted servant position remains open for at least two months, a candidate to fill that position may be elected or defeated by an immediate vote of the GSRs of the ASC, **unless any of the position's qualifications was waived.**"
 - **Maker:** Jan L., GSR End of the Road
 - **Second:** Scott L., GSR Easy Does It
 - **Intent:** To ensure group consciences get to evaluate waiving a qualification.
 - **Vote:** 14/0/1

- Elections:
 - *Alternate Literature Distribution: Matthew Z. Elected*

- New Business:
 - **Motion 8-1:** To add the phone number for the BMLT (Basic Meeting Lookup Tool) to the Marietta meeting list: (678) 841-7613.
 - **Maker:** Amanda S., Living the Program
 - **Second:** Lyz F., Ladies Night
 - **Intent:** To provide up-to-date information to those seeking a meeting.
 - **Vote:** 12/0/1

- Trusted Servant Nominations:
 - None

- Group Announcements and Celebrations:
 - **Addicts in the Attic** - Asa B. - 10 years clean on 9/27. Kevin B - 5 years clean (in September).
 - **Another Chance** - Karen H. - 24 yrs, Susan O. - 5 yrs and Courtney - 8 yrs, all on 9/28; Chris H. - 13 yrs on 8/31; Saudia - 13 yrs on 9/3; April - 1 yr on 9/7; Robyn G. - 5 yrs on 9/10
 - **Architects of Adversity** – Rodney W – 7 years on 10/4.. Michelle J. – 2 years on 10/4.
 - **Easy Does It** - Matthew Z. - 1 year on 9/1.
 - **Going to NA Lengths For Your Recovery** - This is a new NA meeting that will begin on Tuesday October 1st. The meeting will take place at 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm and is located at: Riverside Church of Atlanta. 2011 Bolton Rd. NW, Atlanta, GA 30318
 - **Hold On To Hope** - Ingrid S. - 3 years on 9/16. Janai R. - 4 years on 9/16.
 - **Just For Sunday** - Justin H. - 1 year on 9/22. Melissa P. - 16 years on 9/22. Michael C. - 34 years on 9/29.
 - **Living the Program** - Jesse - 12 years on 10/10.
 - **New Way of Life** - Bobby H. - 1 year on 9/17. Stephanie - 1 year on 8/27.
 - **Spiritual Awakening** - Curt H. - 30 years (in September).
 - **Warriors in Recovery** - Needs support.
 - **We Recover Together** - Jessie F. - 1 year on 9/21. Willie C. - 22 years on 9/18. Viktor F. - 1 year on 9/14.

Motion to Close: Bryan J.

Seconded by: Jan L.

Motion to acclamation: Bryan J.

Second: Nick W.

Closed at 4:24 pm

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

Sunday, September 29th at 2:00PM

BACK TO GROUPS

Elections to be voted on in the September ASC Meeting:

- **None**

Motions to be voted on in the September ASC Meeting:

- **None**

Available Area Trusted Servant Positions:

- **No Nominations for Following Positions:**
 - **Vice-Chair**
 - **Policy Parliamentarian**

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