APPROVED JULY 28, 2019

MARCH 23, 2019
TAMPA, FL

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Meeting Minutes

1. **Meeting was opened at 9:00 am with the Serenity Prayer**
2. **Sherry read the traditions**
3. **Biff read the Concepts**
4. **Adam read the Mission Statement**
5. **Roll Call/Contact Sheet**

Name	Position	Here	Phone No.	Email Address
Jeff P.	Facilitator	Y	954-850-0122	Jpaul095bv@gmail.com
Neal S.	Secretary Treasurer	Y	910-690-9862	neal@nsengineering.com
Harold H.	RD -Alabama NW Florida	Y	205-243-7854	operator19140@bellsouth.net
Kelly S.	AD -Alabama NW Florida	Y	909-263-2300	navykel@gmail.com
Michelle J.	RD – Carolina	Y	864-623-8997	crna_ad_rd@yahoo.com
Randy T.	AD – Carolina	Y	704-904-3707	rthierman@aol.com
Biff K.	RD – Florida	Y	321-217-3521	drbiffkramer@cfl.rr.com
Kristi-Beth F.	AD – Florida	Y	727-459-8905	kbfagen@gmail.com
Jeremy L.	RD – Georgia	N	404-542-8509	jol-n-atl@att.net
Bob D.	AD – Georgia	Y	404-591-0074	robertdabov@bellsouth.net
Danny G.	RD – North Carolina	Y	973-931-6239	danny.gershman@gmail.com
Lucas V.	AD – North Carolina	Y	336-202-5485	mrlucas336@gmail.com
Kevin D.	RD – South Florida	Y	561-313-6557	darkstar33444@yahoo.com
Mat S.	AD – South Florida	Y	754-368-2212	goldcoastmat@gmail.com
Kevin D.	Web Servant	Y	561-313-6557	darkstar33444@yahoo.com
Lucas V.	H&I Taskforce	Y	336-202-5485	mrlucas336@gmail.com
Mat S.	PR Taskforce	Y	754-368-2212	goldcoastmat@gmail.com
Jonathon B.	BMLT Taskforce	Y	404-542-9363	jon.braswell@gmail.com

There were no Changes to positions.

11/12 voting members present. Note: Only RDs and ADs are voting members.

The following list is for interested members that will be blind carbon copied on official SEZF correspondence.

Name	Region	Email Address
Mark M.		csemark.office@gmail.com
Rose Marie B.	South Florida	hareodog@mindspring.com

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6. Reports

A. Facilitator – Verbal only Jeff didn't really have purpose for inviting other zones to the meeting. In the future please provide a purpose when asking for a task. Process - We will strive for unanimous consent. We will allow everyone to speak, but those who haven't spoke will speak first.

B. Secretary/Treasurer- July 2018 and December 2018 minutes were unanimously approved without changes. Budget and attached treasurer's report were explained (see attached report)

C. Web Servant – Verbal report nothing of concern.

D. Regional Reports (see attached)

i. Florida – Thanks to all that helped with the FSS. Office embezzlement of $106,000 by special worker that was arrested. She is out on bond and will make some sort of reparations. She was not bonded. The office board made mistakes and will have to change some guidelines. The office was fortunately in good financial shape. Florida region will move on. Bonding will now be an issue, but they are working through it. Elections are coming up. Biff will be going off.

ii. South Florida – SF is busy. Strong PR and H&I. Couple of dozen people at the sub committee meetings. Outreach is started and will have additional needs moved form PR to outreach. No CAR motions yet.

iii. Alabama NW Florida – Regional DRT MAT workshops CBDM and FD. West Alabama has meetings in Selma. West Alabama does not have many meetings. They are requesting a meeting with The Drug court judge. Yap is working well. They have had a couple conventions since our last meeting. Thanks to ECCNA for books, they have been distributed. ASAD Mental health conference was attended by PI. PI is picking up. Fun in the Sun convention is coming up. Next zonal meeting will be in Madison (Huntsville) Alabama.

iv. North Carolina – 9 areas Foothills area joined NC Region. Regional campout is being planned. YAP is being installed. 3 areas left. They would like to joint plan a GSR assembly with Carolina. They use BMLT for a North Carolina meeting list that covers 3 regions. Two PR events attended.

v. Carolina – Good RCM participation. 18/22 present. Web portal for RCM updates. Creating resource tab for IDTs, service pamphlets and service workshops. PR attending a conference. Sponsorship behind the walls is growing. H&I mobile unit is also growing. CAR possibly second week of Dec in Charlotte.

vi. Georgia – 17 areas. Jeremy is at the RSC/GRCNA. 46 cases of books from ECCNA. H&I going will with bridge program. PR strong meeting at events. History book is still in process.

E. H&I Task Force – Starting to meet in June Delegate teams are receiving information and the Task Force is sending out requests. (see attached report)

F. PR Task Force – Workshop at FSS. In a planning process for next focus. Request for workshops in Carolina Region. Note to SEZF: It is PR taskforce not PI. (see attached report)

G. BMLT Task Force – Yap servers being configured. Foothills in Carolina was moved to NC region. (see attached report)

H. Think Tank – Remove it has been abandoned

I. Zonal Rotation/Meetings/Guidelines Workgroup – (see attached report)

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J. Fellowship Development Ad-Hoc – Change the name of Fellowship Development to Local Support Taskforce, it would include outreach and support, mentorship, and additional needs. (see attached report)
K. Zonal Designee to the WSC of the Future Workgroup – Verbal Report Workgroup is accountable to the World Board so not much can be said. Read NAWS news. They will meet a total of 3 times, met twice and will meet one more time before the conference. Zones might meet virtually. 3 task teams in the workgroup.

7. **Other US Zones –** Idea came from MZSS. Collaboration amongst zones. Henry (Southern Zone) talked about outreach and FD. Just wants to start to talk. Currently no zonal delegates in the US. CAR/CAT collaboration was talked about. NEZF looking at multi-regional service symposium. Autonomy zone has had some talks about it, but it hasn't moved forward much.

8. **Old Business**
   A. Proposal – To hold our Feb 2020 normally scheduled Feb Zonal Cat Workshop and zonal meeting in Dallas at the Southern Zone CAR/CAT Event per the invitation of the Southern Zone. If there are any additional costs delegate approval will be required. Proposal passes 8-0-3 (yes/no/stand aside)
   B. Zonal Recommendation of Danny to HRP for World Board Nomination. Proposal carries unanimously
   C. Zonal Recommendation of Biff to HRP for World Board Nomination. Proposal Carries 9-0-2 (yes/no/stand aside)
   D. Zonal Environmental Scan - We had very little participation.
   E. YAP Demonstration – Kelly will provide online demonstrations soon.

9. **New Business**
   A. Proposal 1 - That the facilitator of the SEZF contact the other US zones and see if they would be interested in a zoom meeting to begin the discussion on the collaboration among the US zones. Make by Biff – Passed unanimously
   B. Proposal 2 - To reimburse Bob D. for a Room for Jocko to attend the FSS because he was involved in a workshop. $286 for 2 nights. Made by Bob. Passed unanimously
   C. Proposal 3 - To approve Guideline Changes. Made by Neal
   D. Proposal 4 - To Create a Local Support Taskforce. Send back to the Regions. Please ask for member participation. Made by Bob D.
   E. Proposal 5 - Zonal Recommendation of Jeremy to HRP for co-facilitator
   F. Proposal 6 - To add a summary of proposals in the minutes separately. No vote, we will just do this.
   G. Proposal 7 - For all digital zonal communication to be completed through a zonal google group instead of email. Tabled no action required.
   H. Zoom account confusion. We switched to TechSoup and we don't have clear understanding of the amount of accounts that we have. We are trying to have 3 accounts but cannot give out the third admin account which effectively leaves us with 2 accounts. Florida region is possibility getting a new account more will be revealed.

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10. **Final Verbal Treasurer's Report –** note that this is based on a snapshot of our current financial position at the end of the meeting and is not an official report.

Beginning Balance:	$4508.90
Credits (+):	$1000.00
Sub-Total:	$5508.90
Debits (-):	$655.53
Ending Balance:	$4,853.37

11. **Open Discussion from the Floor**
    A. Separate email list for minutes and other information is being created
    B. Flyer is included for Never Alone Group Deaf NA Meeting This is a closed NA Zoom meeting for the hearing impaired. Let's do what we can to get this on local meeting lists!

12. **Plans for the next Meeting** (see attached)
    A. Huntsville July 27-28 2019 Workshops: Who is missing from out meetings. DRT/MAT
    B. Charlotte December CAR 6-8

13. **Meeting Closed at 1:50**

Summary of Proposals That Require Action

This section lists the proposals that require Action to be brought back to the July Meeting in Huntsville Alabama. See old business and new business for other motions that were either voted on or removed.

The Budget will be voted on in July. (see attached)

Proposal 3 - To approve Guideline Changes. Made by Neal (see attached)

Proposal 4 - To Create a Local Support Taskforce. Send back to the Regions. Please ask for member participation. Made by Bob D. (nothing attached please read Fellowship Development ad-hoc report for more information)

Proposal 5 - Zonal Recommendation of Jeremy to HRP for co-facilitator (Jeremy's resume is attached and there is a link on the SEZF webpage per our guidelines)

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Proposed Budget

2019-2020 (December 2018-December 2020)

Income			
Income Category	Income From	2017-2018 Actual	Budget
A	Alabama NW Florida		
B	Carolina		
C	Florida		
D	Georgia		
E	North Carolina		
F	South Florida		
G	Misc		
	Total	$16,676.30	$14,000.00

Expense				
Budget Category	Budget Item	2017-2018 Budget	2017-2018 Actual	Budget
1	Facility Cost of Zonal Weekends	$7,200.00	$1,864.51	$3,000.00
2	Trusted Servant Travel	$6,000.00	$5,773.16	$3,600.00
3	Trusted Servant Lodging			$1,440.00
4	Trusted Servant Per Diem			$1,320.00
5	Funding of NAWS or WB Participation			$0.00
6	Technology	$2,100.00	$446.40	$730.00
7	Legal and Accounting			$125.00
8	Special Events		$3,134.54	$1,750.00
9	Bank Charges & Misc	$450.00	$286.73	$35.00
10				
11				
12				
	Total	$15,750.00	$11,505.34	$12,000.00

** Special Events are listed in the guidelines as other expenses as agreed to by the zone and its member regions

Total Budgeted income - Total Budgeted Expense =	**$2,000.00**

Prepared by SEZF Treasurer 3/22/2019

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Proposal for Guideline Changes March 23, 2019

Attached are the current Guidelines with highlighted changes and notes and the new proposed Guidelines as they would be after the changes.

Instructions: We decided at the zonal meeting that each item would be taken separately if needed because we require unanimous consent for changes. Only bring up changes that you do not agree with so that they can be removed and/or amended with the approval of all voting participants. If you have any additions, they will need to be in a new proposal that would take affect after these changes are approved

A summary of the major changes:

1. Changes to the Guidelines require consensus instead of unanimous.
2. Getting rid of the requirement to do the CAT in Georgia.
3. Add a sentence about the CAT to the sentence about the CAR.
4. Change the setting of the meeting schedule from the WSC meeting to the meeting before the WSC.
5. Nominations changed from the meeting before the WSC to the meeting after the WSC and elections moved to the December meeting.
6. Change the sec/treas requirements
    a. Maintain legal status and submit annual report to the Florida Dept of Corporations.
    b. Add requirement for a final report.
    c. Submit a budget at the July meeting following the WSC to be voted on at the election meeting (Dec).
    d. Add requirement to add section to the minutes for proposals that require action.
7. Add zoom meeting option to facilitator's responsibilities.
8. There were also a few formatting changes and grammar corrections that don't change intent or meaning.
9. Added our guidelines for WSC nomination process.
10. Added "Stand Aside" to guidelines

Explanation for each item:

1. We don't think the intent was to require unanimous support for changes to the guidelines. Consensus seems more in line with our standard practices.
2. The paragraph requiring the CAT to be in Georgia was a hold over from when it was the only meeting outside of the WSC and the FSS. There is no reason to require it especially with our current talks about having the CAT workshop in Dallas.
3. Since the CAT sentence was removed it was added to the next sentence.
4. Currently we do not have a scheduled meeting at the WSC. Even if we add it in the future, it still makes more sense to work out a schedule at the first meeting after the WSC.
5. Having nominations before the WSC and elections after the WSC caused us heartache last cycle. Also, members might be running for World Service positions and therefor could not run for zonal positions but might wish to run for a zonal position if they do not get elected for their WSC position. Moving the elections one meeting fixes these problems.

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6.
    a. There was a requirement for the sec/treas to obtain an EIN. This was changed to maintaining legal status and filing with Sunbiz every year. More of a reminder than anything else. It would be easy to overlook for a new sec/treas with a new facilitator.
    b. A final cycle treasurer's report is a good idea. It also helps with the next budget. It makes sense to do it right after our normal cycle.
    c. The current treasurer should make the budget for the next cycle. Neal has made a spreadsheet that automatically tracks the budget for the cycle that is easy to use and can be passed along to the next sec/treas along with written instructions.
    d. There was a request that a section for proposals that require action to be added to the minutes to make it easier to find.
7. Per workgroup recommendations.
8. There were some formatting inconsistencies and grammar errors that were corrected.
9. Added our guidelines for WSC nomination process.
10. Added stand aside to the guidelines since this was our practice at the FSS and generated no concerns.

SOUTHEASTERN ZONAL FORUM

fixed border

Guidelines for the Southeastern Zonal Forum of Narcotics Anonymous

Approved April 2016

Mission Statement

The mission of the Southeastern Zonal Forum is to provide a regularly scheduled time and place where representatives of the member regions come together to further our primary purpose, "to carry the message of recovery to the still suffering addict", through service oriented discussions, workshops, events and task forces. The Southeastern Zonal Forum's primary function is to facilitate joint, multi-regional efforts that serve our member regions and are directly responsible to the Regional Service Committees within the zone.

changed bullets to numbers

- The Forum is comprised of Regional Delegates and Alternate Delegates from within the geographical boundaries of the Southeastern Zone.

- To accomplish its primary purpose, the Southeastern Zonal Forum has established guidelines that provide direction and accountability for its actions. The member Regions must approve these guidelines unanimously before being enacted, amended, added to, deleted or changed in any way.

- The Southeastern Zonal Forum will conduct itself in accordance with the Twelve Traditions and the Twelve Concepts for NA Service so that a spirit of selfless service and not of government remains always as its guidepost.

changed wording only

- It is clear that this structure shall act as a service to the Regions and not as another level of service between the Regions and NAWS.

Meetings and Rotation

changed bullets to numbers

- The Forum location will rotate among the participating regions according to the following schedule (or a schedule agreed to among the zonal participants based on pricing and availability): Florida, Alabama/NW Florida, Carolina, Georgia, South Florida and North Carolina. The host Region is responsible for providing meeting space for the Forum.

Removed highlighted section

- The Southeastern Zonal Forum will meet in February or March in even years in the Georgia Region. This will be a Zonal CAT Workshop held after the publishing of the Conference Approval Track. Typically, this workshop will occur in the years that the WSC will be meeting. The Georgia Region will host the CAT Zonal Workshop as their Regional rotation in the meeting schedule. Other multi-regional events, workshops, learning days etc. may be held as needed or requested by member Regions.

Added sentence about CAT workshop

- The December meeting in odd numbered years will include a zonal CAR workshop held after the publishing of the Conference Agenda Report.

Added "if requested by the Zone"

- The Zonal Facilitator will request participation from NAWS at least 3 months prior to the proposed date of the zonal CAR and CAT workshops**.**

Modified for grammar and clarity

- Typically the Southeastern Zonal Forum workshop(s) occur on a Saturday, be located near a major airport with shuttle service available to the facility, and include other service and/or recovery oriented topics as requested by the region hosting the zonal forum.

changed to before WSC

- The time, location and date for Zonal meetings for the conference cycle will be set at the zonal meeting at the WSC.

changed to "the Regional Delegates."

- The agenda for the next Zonal Forum meeting will be set by the Facilitator with input from each Regional Delegate.

changed heading formats

Zonal Trusted Servants

Elections

changed meeting dates

1. Elections are held the first meeting following the WSC
2. All positions are two year terms coinciding with the cycle, with a maximum of two consecutive terms
3. Nominations will be taken at the meeting before the WSC

Date changes

Facilitator

Requirements

grammar changes only

1. 8 years continuous clean-time
2. Previous service experience in NA at the Area, Regional, or Zonal level
3. Ability to lead a meeting and guide the workgroup
4. Knowledge of webinar technology, and the ability to conduct electronic meetings.

Responsibilities

1. Is the single point of accountability and primary contact for the Southeastern Zone
2. Facilitate all regular meetings of the SEZF
3. Set the agenda in writing and make it available to all participants at the meeting
4. Co-signer on the checking account
5. The Zonal Facilitator will request participation from NAWS as needed
6. Will appoint a project leader to any projects agreed to.

removed this is in previous section

added 2 new resposibilities

Secretary/Treasurer

Requirements

grammar changes only

1. 8 years continuous clean time
2. Previous service experience as a Secretary and a Treasurer of a committee or subcommittee in Narcotics Anonymous at the Area, Regional, or Zonal level

Responsibilities

grammar changes only 1-5

1. Keep accurate financial information in a clear and concise manner
2. Present complete written and oral report at each zonal meeting
3. Prepare copies of bank statements with a written report
4. Maintains physical custody of the checkbook, receipts, reports and electronic records of the treasury
5. Co-signer on the checking account
6. Is responsible for obtaining a tax ID number
7. E-mail minutes to zonal participants within 14 days of the close of the zonal meeting.

modified 6

grammar 7

added responsibility for minutes

grammar 8 added sentence

8. Seek regional web servant assistance to keep website and hosting site current.

Web Servant Guidelines:

1. The web servant is an elected member of the Southeastern Zonal Forum but does not need to be present to be elected.
2. The web servant is a non-voting member of the Southeaster Zonal Forum and is fully aware of all zonal activities.

changed and to but

Website Guidelines:

1. Sezf.org is an integral communications conduit connecting all of the regions in the zone. Its purpose is as an information exchange between other regions, zones, and NA World Services. The site should be owned, funded and hosted by the zone. All costs for site maintenance will be included in the zonal budget.
2. The web servant is assigned website maintenance and works closely with all zonal trusted servants. Site maintenance guides and tutorials will be created and maintained by the web servant.
3. The content on the website is maintained by the web servant. It is developed by the web servant based upon zonal participant input. No external links except to member RSC committees, other zones, and NAWS will be permitted. The site should be an evolving, living document and updated on an as-needed basis.
4. To coordinate zonal activity, a calendar of events will be maintained by the web servant.

removed highlighted it is in the budget section

Budgeting

1. The Budget will be prepared by the secretary/treasurer and submitted at the first meeting in odd numbered years and voted on by the member Regions at the next meeting.
2. The budget will be for a two year cycle
3. The budget will include:
    a. Travel, lodging and per diem for trusted servants (except web servant)
    b. Cost of zonal weekends
    c. Funding of NAWS/WB participation if requested
    d. Other expenses as agreed to by the zone and its member regions.

moved budgeting to sec/ treas added budget items

added section for WSC nominations

Definition: Consensus Based Decision Making

Consensus is defined as the decision making process used by the SEZF in which discussion and compromise are used to reach agreement. For example, if a proposal /topic is introduced to change, or create a practice of the Southeastern Zonal Forum and consensus is not reached, the practice will continue as it currently stands or will not be implemented.

Procedure: Consensus Based Decision Making

1. Proposal / Topic is introduced.
2. The facilitator opens the dialogue. Begin with the maker of the proposal / topic.
3. Clarifying questions are taken. This is when questions are asked to ensure that all participants understand the proposal / topic. This is not the time for general discussion.
4. Facilitator asks for concerns or reservations (General Discussion). This is when modifications may be made to the proposal / topic in an effort to address expressed reservations or concerns.
5. Facilitator asks for Consensus

added 6. for stand aside

CONSENSUS is reached when 80% of the RD's and AD's are in favor of a proposal/topic.

Guidelines for the Southeastern Zonal Forum of Narcotics Anonymous

Proposed March 23, 2019

Mission Statement

The mission of the Southeastern Zonal Forum is to provide a regularly scheduled time and place where representatives of the member regions come together to further our primary purpose, "to carry the message of recovery to the still suffering addict", through service-oriented discussions, workshops, events and task forces. The Southeastern Zonal Forum's primary function is to facilitate joint, multi-regional efforts that serve our member regions and are directly responsible to the Regional Service Committees within the zone.

1. The Forum is comprised of Regional Delegates and Alternate Delegates from within the geographical boundaries of the Southeastern Zone.

2. To accomplish its primary purpose, the Southeastern Zonal Forum has established guidelines that provide direction and accountability for its actions. Changes to the guidelines require consensus.

3. The Southeastern Zonal Forum will conduct itself in accordance with the Twelve Traditions and the Twelve Concepts for NA Service so that a spirit of selfless service and not of government remains always as its guidepost.

4. The SEZF shall act as a service to the Regions and not as another level of service between the Regions and NAWS.

Meetings and Rotation

1. The Forum location will rotate among the participating regions according to the following schedule (or a schedule agreed to among the zonal participants based on pricing and availability): Florida, Alabama/NW Florida, Carolina, Georgia, South Florida and North Carolina. The host Region is responsible for finding meeting space for the Forum.

2. Multi-regional events, workshops, learning days etc. may be held as needed or requested by member Regions.

3. The December meeting in odd numbered years will include a zonal CAR workshop held after the publishing of the Conference Agenda Report. The zonal meeting prior to the WSC will include a zonal CAT workshop held after the publishing of the Conference Approval Track.

4. The Zonal Facilitator will request participation from NAWS at least 3 months prior to the proposed date of the zonal CAR and CAT workshops if requested by the zone.

5. Typically, The Southeastern Zonal Forum workshop(s) will occur on a Saturday and the business meeting will occur on Sunday. The meetings will be located near a major airport with shuttle service available to the facility. The workshops will include other service and/or recovery-oriented topics as requested by the region hosting the zonal forum.

6. The time, location and date for zonal meetings for the conference cycle will be set at the first zonal meeting before the WSC (July).

7. The agenda for the next Zonal Forum meeting will be set by the Facilitator with input from the Regional Delegates.

Zonal Trusted Servants

Elections

1. Elections are held the second meeting following the WSC (December).
2. All positions are two-year terms coinciding with the cycle, with a maximum of two consecutive terms.
3. Nominations will be taken at the first meeting after the WSC (July).

Facilitator

Requirements

1. Has a minimum of 8 years continuous clean time.
2. Has previous service experience in NA at the Area, Regional, or Zonal level.
3. Has the ability to lead a meeting and guide the workgroup.
4. Has knowledge of webinar technology and can conduct electronic meetings.

Responsibilities

1. Is the single point of accountability and primary contact for the Southeastern Zone.
2. Facilitates all regular meetings of the SEZF.
3. Is a co-signer on the checking account.
4. Will appoint a project leader to any projects agreed upon.
5. Will call for a zoom meeting between regular meetings if necessary.
6. Is responsible for other facilitator tasks listed elsewhere in the guidelines.

Secretary/Treasurer

Requirements

1. Has a minimum of 8 years continuous clean time.
2. Has previous service experience as a Secretary and a Treasurer of a committee or subcommittee in Narcotics Anonymous at the Area, Regional, or Zonal level.

Responsibilities

1. Keeps accurate financial information in a clear and concise manner.
2. Presents a complete written and oral report at each zonal meeting.
3. Prepares copies of bank statements with the written report.
4. Maintains physical custody of the checkbook, receipts, reports and electronic records of the treasury.
5. Is a co-signer on the checking account.
6. Is responsible for maintaining SEZF legal status and files the Corporate Annual Report with the Florida Dept of Corporations (sunbiz.org) each year prior to its due date (May 1).

7. E-mails minutes to zonal participants within 14 days of the close of the zonal meeting.
8. Adds a proposal summary to the minutes for clarity.
9. Seeks regional web servant assistance to keep website and hosting site current.
10. Provides a final treasurer's report at the end of the budget cycle.
11. Budgeting
    a. The Budget will be prepared by the secretary/treasurer and submitted at the meeting following the WSC (July) to be voted on at the next meeting (December).
    b. The budget will be for a two-year cycle.
    c. The budget will include:
        i. Travel, lodging and per diem for trusted servants (except web servant)
        ii. Cost of zonal weekends
        iii. Funding of NAWS/WB participation if requested
        iv. Website and webinar costs
        v. Corporate filing costs
        vi. Other expenses agreed upon by the zone and its member regions

Web Servant

1. The web servant is an elected member of the Southeastern Zonal Forum but does not need to be present to be elected.
2. The web servant is a non-voting member of the Southeaster Zonal Forum but is fully aware of all zonal activities.

<u>Website Guidelines</u>

1. Sezf.org is an integral communications conduit connecting all the regions in the zone. Its purpose is as an information exchange between other regions, zones, and NA World Services. The site should be owned, funded and hosted by the zone.
2. The web servant is assigned website maintenance and works closely with all zonal trusted servants. Site maintenance guides and tutorials will be created and maintained by the web servant.
3. The content on the website is maintained by the web servant. It is developed by the web servant based upon zonal participant input. No external links except to

member RSC committees, other zones, and NAWS will be permitted. The site should be an evolving, living document and updated on an as-needed basis.

4. To coordinate zonal activity, a calendar of events will be maintained by the web servant.

WSC Nomination Process

All resumes should be submitted by the zonal meeting in March following the WSC. A written copy and a digital link will be distributed to all RDs. The resume can contain any pertinent information with the understanding that confidentiality will not be able to be protected. Questions can be directed to the candidate through their RD. A final vote by the SEZF needs to be done before October.

Definition: Consensus Based Decision Making

Consensus is defined as the decision-making process used by the SEZF in which discussion and compromise are used to reach agreement. For example, if a proposal /topic is introduced to change, or create a practice of the Southeastern Zonal Forum and consensus is not reached, the practice will continue as it currently stands or will not be implemented.

Procedure: Consensus Based Decision Making

1. Proposal / Topic is introduced
2. The facilitator opens the dialogue. Begin with the maker of the proposal / topic
3. Clarifying questions are taken. This is when questions are asked to ensure that all participants understand the proposal / topic. This is not the time for general discussion
4. Facilitator asks for concerns or reservations (General Discussion). This is when modifications may be made to the proposal / topic to address expressed reservations or concerns
5. Facilitator asks for Consensus
6. A voting member may “Stand Aside”. This means that the member is removed from the vote count and does not affect the vote.

CONSENSUS is reached when 80% of the RD’s and AD’s are in favor of a proposal/topic.

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World Pool Information

Friday, May 3, 2019

Jeremy Leggett

Jeremy Leggett
2898 Traddsprings Ct
Snellville, GA 30039-4951

Home Phone: (678) 344–1015 **Cell Phone:** (404) 542–8509

Email Address: jol–n–atl@att.net

Region: Georgia Region

Clean Date: 11/29/2001

General Service Interest

- ☑ World Board, Human Resource Panel, or WSC Cofacilitator
- ☐ NA World Service Projects

Service History

World Service (1998–current)

Total Years Served: 4 Years

- ☑ Regional Delegate/ Alternate Delegate
- ☐ Zonal Delegate/Alternate Delegate
- ☐ Ad/Hoc/Focus Group/Work Group
- ☐ NAWS Public Relations Resource
- ☐ NAWS Fellowship Development
- ☐ NAWS Special Worker
- ☐ World Board
- ☐ Human Resource Panel

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☐ WSC Cofacilitator

Details I was elected AD of the Georgia Region, in June 2015, RD in June of 2017 and my commitment will end June of 2019

Zonal Service

Total Years Served: 4 Years

☐ Fellowship Development
☑ Other Zonal Service
☐ Translations
☐ Website
☐ Zonal Forum Admin

Area/Regional Service

Total Years Served: 15 Years

☑ ASC/RSC Admin
☑ Events/Activities
☐ Fellowship Development
☑ Group Service Representative
☑ Hospitals & Institutions
☐ Literature
☐ Outreach
☑ Phone/Helpline
☐ Public Information
☐ Public Relations
☑ Policy
☑ Regional Committee Member
☐ Translations
☐ Website

Convention/Corporation/Service Office

Total Years Served: 14 Years

☐ Board of Directors (BOD)
☑ Committee Member
☑ Executive Committee
☐ Special Worker

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Languages

Language	First Language	Can Write	Can Read	Can Speak
English	Yes	Fluent	Fluent	Fluent

Recovery

The World Service Conference identifies personal recovery as a critical component to being a successful NAWS trusted servant. With that in mind, please reply to the following personal recovery-oriented questions:

1. Do you attend NA meetings on a regular basis?

Yes. Regular means 2-3 meetings per week, unless there is a birthday celebration, or if I am traveling and have no access.

2. Do you have an NA Sponsor?

Yes.

3. Have you worked all Twelve Steps of NA?

Yes.

Relevant Education, Occupation, and Life Experiences

Education

I have two bachelors degrees, one in business and one in political science.

Occupation

I am currently one of three owners of a nutritional supplement manufacturing company. All three owners are in recovery and we mainly employee recovering addicts, believing that everyone deserves second chances and employment only helps to foster progress in personal recovery.

Life Experiences

I am the only son of a single mother who was a intravenous drug user for most of my youth, but who now has over 4 years clean, who taught me about perseverance.I am married for 11 years now to another recovering addict, she teaches me about cooperation, and setting my ego aside for the greater good.I am a father of 3 which has taught me patience, tolerance and acceptance.I am a

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grandfather of 2.5 (one is on the way), these little ones have taught me about unconditional love.I have been an entrepreneur for most of my life, even before I got clean I had my own business. This has taught me about holding a higher context and inspiring others to be their best, not only for themselves but for the company as well.I have overcome a huge weight problem going from 280lbs to 190lbs, through diet and exercise, this has taught me about commitment and discipline. I am a 4 time Ironman triathlon finisher, which has taught me about determination and sacrifice.I have lead an community service based mens organization in Atlanta, being in charge of the coordination efforts of those teams of men to be the men that they have always wanted to be, by mentoring men to live with excellence, and inspiring them to create successful families, careers, and communities.I am currently a member of the BOD for the above mentioned organization, this role is currently teaching me to have a more global perspective and higher context, by serving at the grass roots level and now the director level my view is becoming more holistic and understanding the needs for both sides of that coin. This is showing that we need every level of service in order for NA to thrive, from the member all the way to the World Board, we all need each other.

Jeremy Leggett

APPROVED JULY 28, 2019

Southeastern Zonal Forum

Secretary/Treasurer's Report to the SEZF

March 23, 2019 – Tampa, FL

Minutes for approval from July 2018 in Fort Lauderdale and December 2018 in Raleigh were emailed March 4th. Those minutes included all the changes that had been requested to date. The current minutes for approval are the minutes that were mailed on March 4th plus an edit that was requested by the Carolina Region to the North Carolina Region's report.

The minutes will be approved as is or approved as modified today and will be placed on our website marked approved.

Attached is the **Proposed Budget** for the 2019-2020 cycle. Per our guidelines the budget is submitted at the first meeting in odd years. The actuals from the final treasurer's report from last cycle are provided as well.

Also attached is the current **Treasurer's Report** which includes income and expenses since the last report, the **Budget Tracking Summary** (tracks actual expenses to budgeted expenses throughout the cycle), and bank statements since the last statements provided.

In Service,

Neal S.
neal@nsengineering.com
(910) 690-9862

APPROVED JULY 28, 2019

Proposed Budget

2019-2020 (December 2018-December 2020)

Income			
Income Category	Income From	2017-2018 Actual	Budget
A	Alabama NW Florida		
B	Carolina		
C	Florida		
D	Georgia		
E	North Carolina		
F	South Florida		
G	Misc		
	Total	$16,676.30	$14,000.00

Expense				
Budget Category	Budget Item	2017-2018 Budget	2017-2018 Actual	Budget
1	Facility Cost of Zonal Weekends	$7,200.00	$1,864.51	$3,000.00
2	Trusted Servant Travel	$6,000.00	$5,773.16	$3,600.00
3	Trusted Servant Lodging			$1,440.00
4	Trusted Servant Per Diem			$1,320.00
5	Funding of NAWS or WB Participation			$0.00
6	Technology	$2,100.00	$446.40	$730.00
7	Legal and Accounting			$125.00
8	Special Events		$3,134.54	$1,750.00
9	Bank Charges & Misc	$450.00	$286.73	$35.00
10				
11				
12				
	Total	$15,750.00	$11,505.34	$12,000.00

** Special Events are listed in the guidelines as other expenses as agreed to by the zone and its member regions

Total Budgeted income - Total Budgeted Expense =	**$2,000.00**

Prepared by SEZF Treasurer 3/22/2019

APPROVED JULY 28, 2019

Treasurer's Report

March 23, 2019 - 1st Meeting - Tampa Florida

Income

	Date	Description	Income Category	Check Number	Amount
1	1/8/19	South Florida Donation	F	6197	$2,108.94
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
	Total				$2,108.94

Expense

	Date	Check Written To	Description	Budget Category	Check Number	Check Amount	Budget Amount
1	12/9/18	Danny G.	Meeting space Reimbursement for Dec Zonal Weekend	1	5014	$1,778.31	$959.05
2	12/9/18		Meeting Space Reimbursement for Dec 7th PR Event	8			$819.26
3	12/9/18	FRSO	Zoom Techsoup Reimbursement (Oct '18 to Oct '19)	6	5015	$289.85	$289.85
4	12/9/18	Jeff P.	Travel	2	5018	$702.84	$368.60
5	12/9/18		Lodging	3			$224.24
6	12/9/18		Per Diem	4			$110.00
7	12/9/18	Void	Void		5016		
8	12/9/18	Void	Void		5017		
9							
10							
11							
12							
13							
14							
15							
	Total					$2,771.00	$2,771.00

Beginning Balance:	**$5,170.96**
Credits (+):	**$2,108.94**
Sub-Total:	**$7,279.90**
Debits (-):	**($2,771.00)**
Ending Balance:	**$4,508.90**
Net Income:	**($662.06)**

Monthly Bank Statement Consolidation	
Ending Bank Balance From Bank Statement	**$4,508.90**
Outstanding Checks Total	**$0.00**
Difference ($0.00 means consolidated)	**$0.00**

Prepared by SEZF Treasurer 3/22/2019

APPROVED JULY 28, 2019

Budget Tracking

2019-2020 (December 2018-December 2020)

Income By Region				
Income Category	Income From	Income Budget	Income To Date	Remaining Budget
A	Alabama NW Florida		$0.00	
B	Carolina		$0.00	
C	Florida		$0.00	
D	Georgia		$0.00	
E	North Carolina		$0.00	
F	South Florida		$2,108.94	
G	Misc		$0.00	
	Total	$14,000.00	$2,108.94	($11,891.06)

Income by Meeting				
Meeting		Projected	Actual	Difference
1		$2,333.33	$2,108.94	($224.39)
2		$2,333.33	$0.00	($2,333.33)
3		$2,333.33	$0.00	($2,333.33)
4		$2,333.33	$0.00	($2,333.33)
5		$2,333.33	$0.00	($2,333.33)
6		$2,333.33	$0.00	($2,333.33)
	Total	$14,000.00	$2,108.94	($11,891.06)

Expense				
Budget Category	Budget Item	Expense Budget	Expenses To Date	Expenses Remaining
1	Facility Cost of Zonal Weekends	$3,000.00	$959.05	$2,040.95
2	Trusted Servant Travel	$3,600.00	$368.60	$3,231.40
3	Trusted Servant Lodging	$1,440.00	$224.24	$1,215.76
4	Trusted Servant Per Diem	$1,320.00	$110.00	$1,210.00
5	Funding of NAWS or WB Participation	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
6	Technology	$730.00	$289.85	$440.15
7	Legal and Accounting	$125.00	$0.00	$125.00
8	Special Events	$1,750.00	$819.26	$930.74
9	Bank Charges & Misc	$35.00	$0.00	$35.00
10		$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
11		$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
12		$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
	Total	$12,000.00	$2,771.00	$9,229.00

APPROVED JULY 28, 2019

Non-Profit Checking

PNC Bank

DECEMBER 2018

PNC BANK

For the Period 12/01/2018 to 12/31/2018

Primary Account Number: 12-2207-6486

Number of enclosures: 0

SOUTHEASTERN ZONAL FORUM
2222 S COMBEE RD STE 6
LAKELAND FL 33801-8004

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IMPORTANT ACCOUNT CHANGE FOR ALL BUSINESS ACCOUNTS
WITH TREASURY MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Effective JANUARY 1, 2019, charges for certain Treasury Management services will change. The impact of these changes on your organization will depend on the mix of services you use at PNC and your transaction volume. If applicable, the fees for some of the services may be reduced or offset by the Earning Credit for your account.

Rather than listing all the detail for all services, we would be happy to review with you the changes that are applicable to your account and to discuss other services and options that may address the evolving needs of your company. If you are interested, please contact Treasury Management Client Care (TMCC) at 1-800-669-1518.

Non-Profit Checking Summary

Southeastern Zonal Forum

Account number: 12-2207-6486

Overdraft Protection has not been established for this account.
Please contact us if you would like to set up this service.

Balance Summary

Beginning balance	Deposits and other additions	Checks and other deductions	Ending balance
5,232.21	.00	2,542.40	2,689.81

Average ledger balance	Average collected balance
3,427.92	3,427.92

Deposits and Other Additions

Description	Items	Amount
Total	0	.00

Checks and Other Deductions

Description	Items	Amount
Checks	3	2,542.40
Total	3	2,542.40

Daily Balance

Date	Ledger balance	Date	Ledger balance
12/01	5,232.21	12/10	2,689.81

APPROVED JULY 28, 2019

Non-Profit Checking

DECEMBER 2018

For 24-hour account information, sign-on to
pnc.com/mybusiness/

For the Period 12/01/2018 to 12/31/2018
Southeastern Zonal Forum
Primary Account Number: 12-2207-6486

Non-Profit Checking Account Number: 12-2207-6486 - continued

Activity Detail

Checks and Other Deductions

Checks and Substitute Checks

* Gap in check sequence

Date posted	Check number	Amount	Reference number	Date posted	Check number	Amount	Reference number	Date posted	Check number	Amount	Reference number
12/10	5013 *	61.25	073891817	12/10	5014	1,778.31	073066407	12/10	5018 *	702.84	073891816

Detail of Services Used During Current Period

Note: The total charge for the following services will be posted to your account on 01/02/2019 and will appear on your next statement as a single line item entitled Service Charge Period Ending 12/31/2018.

** Combined Transactions include ACH Credits, ACH Debits, Checks Paid, Deposited Item - Consolidated, Deposit Tickets Processed

Description	Volume	Amount	
Account Maintenance Charge		.00	Requirements Met
Combined Transactions	3	.00	Included in Account
Checks Paid	3	.00	
Total For Services Used This Period		.00	
Total Service Charge		.00	

APPROVED JULY 28, 2019

Non-Profit Checking

PNC Bank

JANUARY 2019

PNC BANK

For the Period 01/01/2019 to 01/31/2019

Primary Account Number: 12-2207-6486

Number of enclosures: 0

SOUTHEASTERN ZONAL FORUM
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LAKELAND FL 33801-8004

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Watch Out for Text Scams

Be careful of unexpected text messages that may appear to come from PNC, asking you to follow links or provide personal information. PNC will never ask you to click a link in a text message to provide personal or account information. If you think you may have responded to a fraudulent text, immediately change your PNC passwords, then contact us at 1-800-762-2035.

Non-Profit Checking Summary

Southeastern Zonal Forum

Account number: 12-2207-6486

Overdraft Protection has not been established for this account.
Please contact us if you would like to set up this service.

Balance Summary

Beginning balance	Deposits and other additions	Checks and other deductions	Ending balance
2,689.81	2,108.94	289.85	4,508.90

Average ledger balance	Average collected balance
4,247.73	4,247.73

Deposits and Other Additions

Description	Items	Amount
Deposits	1	2,108.94
Total	1	2,108.94

Checks and Other Deductions

Description	Items	Amount
Checks	1	289.85
Total	1	289.85

Daily Balance

Date	Ledger balance	Date	Ledger balance	Date	Ledger balance
01/01	2,689.81	01/08	4,798.75	01/24	4,508.90

Activity Detail

Deposits and Other Additions

Deposits

Date posted	Amount	Transaction description	Reference number
01/08	2,108.94	Mobile Deposit	074101598

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JANUARY 2019

Non-Profit Checking

For 24-hour account information, sign-on to
pnc.com/mybusiness/

For the Period 01/01/2019 to 01/31/2019
Southeastern Zonal Forum
Primary Account Number: 12-2207-6486

Non-Profit Checking Account Number: 12-2207-6486 - continued

Checks and Other Deductions

Checks and Substitute Checks

Date posted	Check number	Amount	Reference number
01/24	5015 *	289.85	075396538

Detail of Services Used During Current Period

Note: The total charge for the following services will be posted to your account on 02/01/2019 and will appear on your next statement as a single line item entitled Service Charge Period Ending 01/31/2019.

** Combined Transactions include ACH Credits, ACH Debits, Checks Paid, Deposited Item - Consolidated, Deposit Tickets Processed

Description	Volume	Amount	
Account Maintenance Charge		.00	Requirements Met
Combined Transactions	2	.00	Included in Account
Checks Paid	1	.00	
Deposited Item - Consolidated	1	.00	
Total For Services Used This Period		.00	
Total Service Charge		.00	

APPROVED JULY 28, 2019

Non-Profit Checking

PNC Bank

FEBRUARY 2019

PNC BANK

For the Period 02/01/2019 to 02/28/2019

Primary Account Number: 12-2207-6486

Number of enclosures: 0

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For hearing impaired clients only

IMPORTANT ACCOUNT INFORMATION

The information below amends certain information in your "Business Checking Accounts and Related Charges" ("Schedule"). All other information in our Schedule continues to apply to your account. Please read this information and retain it with your records.

Effective March 17, 2019: If you have Overdraft Protection on your checking account, PNC will no longer charge the Overdraft Protection Transfer Fee for the transfer of funds from a Protecting Account to cover an overdraft. Also, we will no longer charge the Overdraft Protection Set-Up Fee.

If your checking account is overdrawn, it will still be subject to any and all other applicable fees associated with overdrafts (e.g., Overdraft Fee, Returned Item Fee, Continuous Overdraft Fee), and you will be required to pay the amount of the overdrawn balance.

Your credit card may be subject to a Cash Advance Fee if used as the Protecting Account.

Watch Out for Text Scams

Be careful of unexpected text messages that may appear to come from PNC, asking you to follow links or provide personal information. PNC will never ask you to click a link in a text message to provide personal or account information. If you think you may have responded to a fraudulent text, immediately change your PNC passwords, then contact us at 1-800-762-2035.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT LINKED ACCOUNTS

When you link accounts with other accounts, any account owner on any linked accounts may have access to limited information about any of the linked accounts. This is true even if they are not a signer on the linked account; also, any signer added later to one of the linked accounts will be able to see the limited information. The limited information that may be available includes the existence of the account and information to determine if the criteria for fee waiver benefits has been met, such as: the balance of the account, the total dollar amount of PNC Merchant Services deposits processed per monthly statement cycle and the total dollar amount of eligible monthly PNC business credit card(s) purchases.

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Non-Profit Checking

FEBRUARY 2019

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For the Period 02/01/2019 to 02/28/2019
Southeastern Zonal Forum
Primary Account Number: 12-2207-6486

Non-Profit Checking Account Number: 12-2207-6486 - continued

Southeastern Zonal Forum

Non-Profit Checking Summary

Account number: 12-2207-6486

Overdraft Protection has not been established for this account.
Please contact us if you would like to set up this service.

Balance Summary

Beginning balance	Deposits and other additions	Checks and other deductions	Ending balance
4,508.90	.00	.00	4,508.90

Average ledger balance	Average collected balance
4,508.90	4,508.90

Deposits and Other Additions

Description	Items	Amount
Total	0	.00

Checks and Other Deductions

Description	Items	Amount
Total	0	.00

Detail of Services Used During Current Period

Note: The total charge for the following services will be posted to your account on 03/01/2019 and will appear on your next statement as a single line item entitled Service Charge Period Ending 02/28/2019.

Description	Volume	Amount	
Account Maintenance Charge		.00	Requirements Met
Total For Services Used This Period		.00	
Total Service Charge		.00	

APPROVED JULY 28, 2019

Space reserved for Florida Report

APPROVED JULY 28, 2019

From: Kevin D
To: Neal Smith
Subject: South Florida Report
Date: Saturday, March 23, 2019 9:45:56 AM

Our RSC has been doing well providing H&I and PR support to various areas. There is a cost involved in getting the proper people to around the state but it has been well received. Our H&I and PR committees are strongly attended.
Additional Needs is moving under our new Outreach as their focus is aligned.
Mat has been able to discuss the FIPT concerns with some Areas. However, our region has had little interest in many of the IDT or literature projects. I have been offering to do either for any Areas interested.
There has yet to be any formal discussion on CAR motions. I have an expectation that will change in the next few months.

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ALNWFL RD Report

Narcotics Anonymous

3/23/2019

Hello Everyone from Alabama Northwest Florida Delegate Team;

First I would like to thank God for allowing me to be here clean and in recovery, and it's always good to participate in my recovery.

Glad to be here and glad to be of service. The Alabama Northwest Region conducted our annual regional assembly in Montgomery Alabama on February 23, 2019, The annual Alabama/Northwest Florida Regional Assembly is a meeting of all the GSRs, Regional Committee Members, RSC participants, and all trusted servants and members of the NA fellowship in the Alabama/Northwest Florida Region. We come together to meet, grow in unity, and arrive at a regional conscience on a variety of issues locally and globally in N.A. It is a key ingredient in the maintenance of the NA groups' final responsibility and authority for our fellowship's services, spoken of in our Second Concept, the event was a success. It was an all day event where the AD and myself put on workshops. We have numerous new members to service, so we let that dictate what the workshops were about. We started with the Issue Discussion Topics, 1.Carrying the NA Message and Making NA Attractive, 2.Attracting Members to Service, 3.Drug Replacement Therapy/Medication Assisted Treatment as It Relates to Narcotics Anonymous. The DRT/MAT workshop drew lots of participation and the members are looking for more information on this topic. Other topics included, Consensus Based Decision Making workshop,YAP demonstration, Navigating through the ALNWFL website and we briefly discussed fellowship development before time ran out.

We did talk about the area in west Alabama where we know of no NA meetings. I'm happy to announce that there are two new meeting started in Selma Alabama, We have made contact with the West Alabama Mental Health Center, where the director has been a valuable resource in helping to put us in touch with the right people. The judicial process calls for some drug offenders to be sent to the facility where clients are mandated to attend group sessions, not NA meetings. I have been able to start the process, I have been in contact with the Director (Patricia Moore) of the West Alabama Mental Health Treatment Facility which services Choctaw, Greene, Hale, Marengo and Sumpter counties. Three of the counties have drug court and one judge is on the circuit, The Honorable Judge Eddie Hardaway. The counties that he is on the circuit for are, Marengo, Greene, and Sumpter counties. I have established communications with the drug court and the process has begun. The West Alabama Mental Health Center has also expressed that there is a possibility that they can provide meeting space for H&I to start up a meeting.

APPROVED JULY 28, 2019

Since our last meeting, we have had one RSC. We did bring to the floor the topic of meeting with the Southern Zone in Dallas for the CAR/CAT workshop in Dallas in February 2020, initial reactions are not favorable. However, I personally don't see them rejecting the final decision this body makes. Since our last meeting, we have had two conventions, Free at last in Montgomery and Out of the Darkness in Decatur Al. Both were a success. YAP is alive and well in most of the areas, however in an effort to link to link the new YAP number to our existing 800 number is moving a little slow. There are no reports of any issues with H&I in the region. Thanks to the ECCNA for the book donation, and most of the books have been distributed. There were a few RCM's missing from the last RSC, they will get them at the next RSC.

Our Public Information chair had a committee to set up and answer questions and distribute literature this past week at ASADS conference. The ASADS is a conference held at the University of Alabama for mental health professionals that cover areas like, providing affordable quality education to the community on substance abuse treatment, prevention, and other areas of shared concern. This event will provide a unique opportunity for professional development, information exchange and networking. It is designed to address the need for knowledge and skill development through advanced training.

Upcoming events include our Regional Convention, FUN IN THE SUN, to be held at the Boardwalk Beach Resort in Panama City Beach Florida, April 25th through April 28th rooms are going fast at the Boardwalk. We need your support in this effort. In spite of the hurricane which pretty much destroyed Panama City, the convention will go on as planned. Panama City Beach was not hit as hard as Panama City. A portion of the workshops will be dedicated to Members that survived natural disasters like hurricane Katrina,etc.. We are looking forward to this convention. We will have another RSC before the zone meeting and hopefully we will have more information in the Zonal CAR/CAT collaboration in Dallas in 2020.

We are very excited about the upcoming zonal meeting which will be held in the Space City of Huntsville, Alabama July 27th and 28th, 2019 at the Holiday Inn Express & Suites, 8956 Madison Blvd. Madison Al.35758, 256 258 3000. You can go ahead and book your reservations (July 26th -28th). Cost is $104.00 per night. Kelly will forward the contract to Neal for inclusion in the archives. We have a $1000.00 donation.

That is all for now, and we are looking forward to the Zonal Meeting in Huntsville
Glad to be of service

Harold H. RD
ALNWFL

APPROVED JULY 28, 2019

From: Danny Gershman
To: Neal Smith
Subject: North Carolina Region Report to the SEZF
Date: Saturday, March 23, 2019 10:05:16 AM

North Carolina Region Report to the SEZF March 23rd, 2019 (Tampa, FL)

9 areas, 159 groups, 363 meetings. We meet quarterly typical in Greensboro, NC. Our next RSC meeting will be April 27th, 2019.

The region has met once since the zone last met in December in Raleigh, NC. We had an area called the Foothills Area ask to join our Region. The area has meetings in the northwestern portion of North Carolina up to the Tennesee border.

We conducted the NAWS environmental scan, the plan is at our next RSC to have a discussion about how process those results internally.

The region formed an Adhoc Literature Translations Committee (or LTC) for the purposes of facilitating translation into Cherokee. We are working directly with NAWS and have completed a first pass of the glossary. We have completed an initial translation of the white key tag, which could be approved soon. We are actively pursuing contacts in Oklahoma where there is a large population of Cherokee. With advisement, have initiated contact with the Cherokee Studies programs at Western Carolina University and UNC Chapel Hill for assistance in grammar / punctuation review.

We formed a campout committee to plan our 2nd regional campout.

Since we've moved completely over to Yap in November 2018, we've saved NA member areas approximately $850. This will wind up being about 75% savings per year. We still have 3 areas that in the process of migrating over. Our average / min cost is about 5 cents (including phone numbers and SMS), versus about 50 cents a minute when we were on Grasshopper.

We written a letter to Carolina Region asking for collaboration in a GSR assembly sometime this year. We have passed this along to their RD team.

The two area convention (Down East + Crossroads) convention was canceled to due damage to the hotel from Hurricane Florence. The convention committee is working toward a convention for 2020.

Our PI committee has made business cards with a QR code with it. The QR code is a pointer to our statewide schedule. As you may be aware, North Carolina has meetings covered by 3 regions. We use the worldwide aggregator and the bread

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Wordpress plugin which generates a PDF version the meetings from the BMLT. Anyone can then visit that url and download the most up-to-date realtime version of a complete list of meetings in the state. We had a concept of a t-shirt with the same QR code that some folks show interest in.

Our region recently attended two public events. 1) 2019 NC Reentry Summit; Harnessing Hope for People Returning from Incarceration. We made ~60 contact. Several folks from the Greensboro Area H&I committee attended. 2) 10th Annual NC 'One Community in Recovery' Conference: Connecting People, Raising Voices. Both events went well. Our Region voted to fund Thomas C our Regional PI chair to come to FSS8.

We donated $138.71 to the SEZF.

TFLMS,
Danny G
RD North Carolina Region

APPROVED JULY 28, 2019

Carolina Region Report for the SEZF
March 24th, 2019
FSS, Tampa/St. Pete, Florida
Michele J, RD
Randy T, AD

Hello Family,

The Carolina Region's last regional service meeting was held on January 12th, 2019 in Charleston, SC. The RCM presence and participation has been much higher than in recent meetings, although we are still noting inactivity amongst very few areas. Communication with RCMs and other regional members has improved, and the flow of information between members seems to be friendly and productive. Our Service day has increased with Areas participation which we are very excited about. Almost all positions are filled in the subcommittees and at the CRSC.

The web-team and RD/AD have created an Area Update form (similar to the NAWS update form) and we now have it on the CRNA Secure Document Portal for the Areas to update at their leisure. We are also working closely with the web-team on adding the RD/AD information to the resources tab on crna.org for all members to have access to. Also, we are discussing/working on having CAR/CAT voting on line for the Carolina Region.

The RD/AD team are doing presentations at each CRSC. We also had one for a home-group that had an awesome attendance, they are all being met with enthusiasm. We were asked to do a presentation on the 6th of April for an Area, which we are very excited about. The next CRSC presentation will be on April 13th, 2019 in Columbia, SC.

A team of The Carolina Regional PR committee representatives are going to take part in the Ashville Addiction Conference on March, 21-23, 2019. We have literature for distribution to the professionals and addicts interested in our fellowship. We are the only 12 step program, in attendance for this conference as of today's date.

The Carolina Region thought the Dallas, Texas Southern Zones invitation will be a great opportunity for us to retrieve even more viable facts for the CAR/CAT workshops. We are excited to see the vote today.

The next WSC virtual/digital meeting is on the same day as our CRSC. So, we have made every effort to be available and will be in attendance.

The budget for the SEZF has been submitted and we will receive the RCM's (Areas) votes at the April 13th, 2019 CRSC. We are requesting, from the SEZF, in the future to receive the proposed budget prior to July for the prior next 2 years, please. This will allow us to present and receive the RCM's approval or denial in time for our December SEZF meeting. (This is a proposal for the SEZF guidelines ad-hoc). Also, how can a Region submit a proposal to the SEZF have this placed in the SEZF guidelines as well?

The Florida Service Symposium (FSS) was very informative there was a lot of awesome information to bring back to our CRSC. We would like to Thank everyone for all their hard service work in the FSS.

ILS,
The CRNA RD/AD Team

Michele J., RD
crna_ad_rd@yahoo.com

Randy T., AD
rtheirman@aol.com

APPROVED JULY 28, 2019

CRNA input for the Draft on the SEZF Guidelines
These are things that came up at SEZF meetings and from the Carolina Region.

SEZF Guidelines draft:

Questions that have been brought up by members of the Carolina Region on different occasions:

- Note: The 1-4 Options have even years for Carolina this should have Odd Years.
- Can we have an option for virtual meetings in between the SEZF? Move forward with all 5
- Record all meetings Virtual/Digital and face to face? Have archived, with a view only, so it does not get downloaded and shared on the world wide web. (Anonymity)
- Secretary/ treasurer "Is responsible for maintaining a tax ID number and maintaining all local, state, federal required registrations and filings". Are taxes being filed or are we not for profit status? Who do we pay if we are filing taxes? What is required by the State of Florida if that is where we are registered?

  This draft does not state anything about the Budget so add following:

  i. Budget needs to be given the year prior and before July for the Regions to have votes returned by December.
  ii. When is The Budget time frame for? Is it a fiscal year or a 2year cycle? (IE: Its a 2-year cycle starting on March 1st, ending on February 29th).
  iii. The complete Financials P&L, Balance sheet, Budget vs Actual, will be given with the Treasurers report at each SEZF meeting.
  iv. Does the PR or H&I task force have a budget if so, what is it?
  v. Is there a process for requesting non-budgeted items? What is process?
  vi. If there is money left at of end of the cycle what happens to the money? Does it go to WS or is it carried over to the next cycle?
  vii. Maybe add a Financial guideline for process and procedures?
  viii. Possibly have a financial policy ad-hoc committee formed?
  ix. Responsible to email minutes with-in 14 days of meeting and upload the minutes to sezf.org. after the RD's approval and amendments, with-in 30 days of Zonal meeting

- Are the ZF (zone facilitator), ZT (Zone Treasurer) going to be funded for the WSC for our SEZF meeting or will that be a virtual meeting, for budgeting purposes please specify.
- Special events to be specified (IE: PR Conference, Professionals Conference, etc.).
- Any recurring Events will be added to calendar and to the SEZF Budget.
- RDS are the ones who vote. The AD is a training position. (IE that's like the Regions given the Alternate RCM's a vote and the RCM or the ASC giving the GSR alt a vote and the GSR a vote). This was asked why AD's vote aren't they the same as Alt RCMS or Alt GSRs they should vote when RD is unavailable, only, correct?
- SEZF Guidelines always go to the Regions for approval for any and all changes,
  Have the vote 80% all the way through SEZF guidelines for consistency.
- When and how can we set aside policy please have parameters set in the guidelines?
- How can a Region join (be part of) the SEZF? What are the parameters?
- If a new region joins will we add a SEZF meeting or will we remain in the same rotation of 7 - 8 per cycle? May we add one SEZF for the MZSS, since we are there?
- The positions are Zone Facilitator, Zone Secretary/Treasurer. Zone Web servant. Roles and responsibilities should remain in guidelines. We should add an RD can be a Co-Facilitator or an Alt Secretary/Treasurer? That would not be an additional budgeted expense since already there for the Region. In case of emergency this would be a good idea.
- Also, it says now it is clear that this structure shall act as a service to the Regions and not as another level of service between the Regions and NAWS. We may need to look at this since zones are now a new structure and have same rights as regions. (remove or replace).

APPROVED JULY 28, 2019

From: Robert Dabov
To: Neal Smith
Subject: Georgia Regional Report
Date: Saturday, March 23, 2019 11:09:47 AM

Georgia Regional Report

We have 17 Areas
RD Jeremy is doing a Cultural diversity Work Shop at GRCNA
ECCNA Distributed 28 cases of Basic
Text to 33 State Prison Facilities
ECCNA RECEIVED A TOTAL 46 CASES OF BASIC TEXT .
GEORGIA REGIONAL H&I IS CREATING A BRIDGE PROGRAM TO HELP PEOPLE LEAVING PRISON TO FIND A MEETING.
H&I HAS FINALLY GOTTEN A PERSON TO SPEAK TO GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS.
PUBLIC RELATIONS *****
HAD A BOOTH AT GAY PRIDE
GWINNETT COUNTY FAIR
BOTH WENT WELL.
METRO TASK PANEL *****
HAS BEEN GOING WELL
HISTORY BOOK panel has conducted 50 to 60 interviews .NOW THEY ARE STARTING TO PUT THE STUFF TOGETHER.
IN LOVING SERVICE
BIG BOB

Sent from my iPhone

APPROVED JULY 28, 2019

From: Lucas Vee
To: Neal Smith
Subject: Re: Reports
Date: Monday, March 25, 2019 11:14:33 AM

HnI Task Force is continuing to make contacts with members across the region. The FSS has provided an opportunity to connect. Am looking for regional and area HnI contacts. We will have our first zoom meeting no later than June.

APPROVED JULY 28, 2019

From: Mat Swenson
To: Neal Smith
Subject: Re: Reports
Date: Monday, March 25, 2019 11:00:26 AM

PR Task force is continuing to grow and evolve. The biggest focus since the last Zonal meeting has been the Additional Needs workshop happening at the symposium. We believe this workshop was a success. Not only was it well attended, but I also heard many people discussing the topic during the banquet. We are now looking forward to future projects, CA Region requested a workshop during the Dec Zonal meeting. Our current facilitator's (Ramon) Term ends before the next Zone in ALNWFL, If anyone in your regions is interested in this have them join us in the google group or on the monthly Zoom meeting.

ILS
Mat

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From: Jonathan Braswell
To: Neal Smith; Jeff Paul
Subject: BMLT Task Force Report
Date: Saturday, March 23, 2019 10:52:38 AM

During the questions portion of the report, the South Florida region indicated that they would like us to stop sending exports to NAWS, so we will stop doing that unless directed otherwise. The other member regions want us to continue to send exports to NAWS monthly.

BMLT Report

Since the last SEZF meeting, we have...

1. Configured a Yap 2.x server for the ALNWFL Region.

2. Spent some time helping Kelly S, delegate from ALNWFL, get Yap configured and tweaked. Kelly can speak to how that has been working for them.

3. Sent BMLT exports to NAWS for updating to na.org three times. The most recent export was sent yesterday, March 22, and Lori W at NAWS expects it to be processed within the next week.

4. An area from the Carolina region moved to the North Carolina region. At the request of the North Carolina Region RD and the Carolina Region Web Servant, we moved this area from the Carolina Region to the North Carolina Region in the BMLT.

5. Updated the BMLT Root Server to the latest release (2.12.6) on March 22, 2019.

6. Patched the server with the latest security updates on March 22, 2019.

7. LetsEncrypt, the service we use to get SSL certificates, made a change that broke our SSL certificate renewal. We fixed LetsEncrypt on the server so that SSL certificate could continue to work as expected - there was no downtime.

Coming soon...

1. We will upgrade to Yap 3.x in the next few weeks. This will allow all member regions and areas to utilize the SEZF Yap server while paying their own twilio bill. Please bring this back to your regions to let them know that a regionally hosted Yap server will soon be available for use.

Thank you for letting me serve!

Jonathan B

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Meeting Rotation Workgroup

March 23, 2019 Tampa Florida

The ad hoc workgroup was assigned the following tasks:

- Address guideline issues with meeting rotation and bring a proposal to the Symposium meeting
- Do we want to meet between SEZF meetings on zoom as needed?
- Do we want to meet at the WSC?

Meeting rotation – The only current requirement in the guidelines is to meet in the Georgia region for the CAT workshop. The workgroup recommends that this requirement be removed. The requirement is in the guidelines from when it was the only scheduled meeting outside of the WSC and the FSS and Georgia was centrally located.

The current guidelines allow for the rotation of all the other meetings to be set by the SEZF.

Another issue that was discussed was the possibility of swapping the South Florida meeting with the North Carolina or Carolina meeting. The issue arose due to the winter weather at our last meeting in Raleigh. Snow in the Carolinas is rare in December, in fact this year that day was the only snow, we got all year. The cost to travel to South Florida is high in December. The guidelines allow for either, so no changes are required.

Zoom meetings as needed between SEZF meetings – The workgroup saw no reason not to have this as an option and recommends adding it to the facilitator's responsibilities.

The current practice is to provide zoom access to the SEZF meetings. Another issue that was brought up was the possibility of recording our SEFZ meetings with zoom. This would be possible if desired. The meeting could be downloaded to the host computer and transferred to the website.

Do we want to meet at the WSC?

The workgroup felt that there is no advantage to meet at the WSC due to time constraints and the cost of sending the facilitator and sec/treas. If an issue arises, the facilitator would have the option of scheduling a zoom meeting at any time.

There are two existing issues that can be resolved easily.

1. Current guidelines are to set the rotation schedule at the WSC. The workgroup recommends that this task be moved to the meeting before the WSC.
2. There was an issues last cycle with members wanting to add SEZF nominations at the WSC. The workgroup recommends that nominations be taken at the meeting after the WSC and the elections be moved to the second meeting after the WSC. This would also allow for anyone running for WSC positions to run for SEZF positions, if they don't get elected at the WSC.

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Ad Hoc Report

The ad-hoc workgroup was created at the December 2018 Zonal meeting for the purpose of defining fellowship development for our zone. The workgroup met via zoom on February 9, 2019.

Our first discussion centered on the term “fellowship development.” On a zonal level, there appears to be so many different understandings and applications of the term, that the use of the term itself can be confusing. As a result, it is recommended that a different term be used to avoid existing, differing perceptions as to the tasks such a workgroup might perform. The alternative suggested would be something along the lines of “Local Support Task Force.”

The services such a task force could perform would be:

Outreach – This would consist of identifying underpopulated (in terms of NA) communities within our zone, assisting in their development, and supporting local areas and regions within our zones with existing outreach efforts.

Mentorship

Additional Needs – Existing additional needs are currently under the purview of Public Relations. That service might be utilized better in a Local Support task force.

The zone will need to decide if a task force such as this will be a useful service to provide.

In Service,

FD Ad-Hoc

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8956 Madison Blvd
Madison, Alabama 35758
Phone-256-258-3000 Fax-256-774-5457
Holiday Inn Express & Suites Meeting & Function Contract

Contact Southeastern Zonal Forum Kelly Sweeten 909-263-2300 Navykel@gmail.com
Date/Time: July 27 and 28 7am to 9pm 43 Walnut Cove Blvd SW Hsv 35824

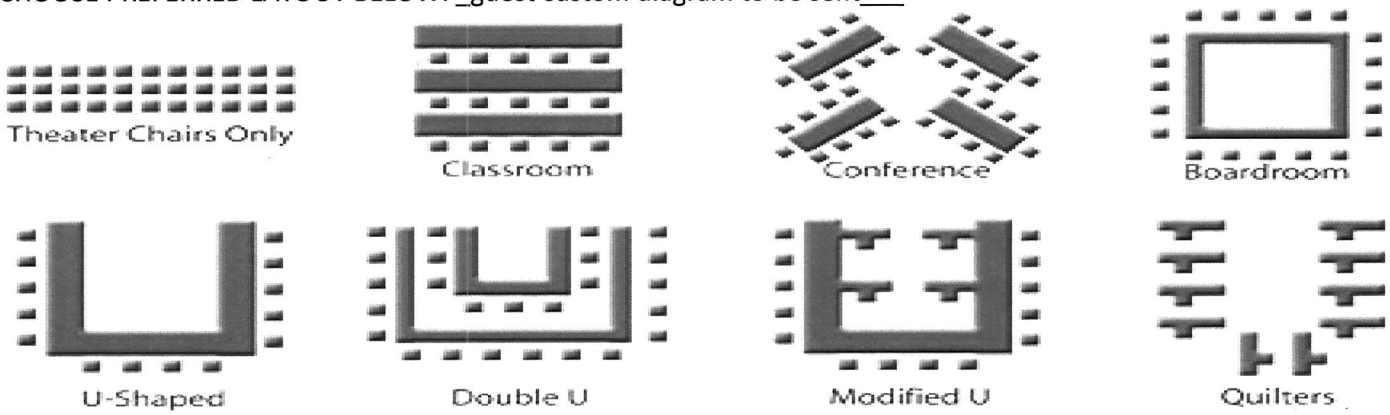
Type of Function: ☐Large Meeting ☐Small Meeting ☐Training ☐Social Event ☐Other

Number of People: _TBD_____

Charges Apply for Items Below: TBD

PROJECTOR ☐ SCREEN ☐ MICROPHONE ☐ PODIUM ☐ COFFEE ☐
TELEPHONE ☐ DVD PLAYER ☐ FLIP CHART ☐ EASEL ☐ BREAKFAST ☐

CHOOSE PREFERRED LAYOUT BELOW: _guest custom diagram to be sent___



Room must be secured with a Credit Card.

Meeting Room: $_Complimentary with 10 sleeping rooms daily_____

SALES TAX: 7% $_____NUMBER OF DAYS: _X 2_____

TOTAL CHARGE: $___10 sleeping rooms each day _____

ADDITIONAL SETUP INFORMATION: Comp water station and drop screen. Set up to be determined.
Guest has group block of 15 sleeping rooms for same dates. Meeting room will be complimentary per day with 10 actualized sleeping rooms per day. Otherwise, meeting room will be $500.00 per day plus 7% tax per day.

MEETING ROOM POLICY: MEETING ROOMS MUST BE CANCELLED IF REQUIRED WITHIN 7 DAYS OF ARRIVAL OR WILL BE CHARGED THE TOTAL AMOUNT. All cancellations must be made in writing. If reservations are made within the 7-day period, reservations must be cancelled within 48hours. Deposit must be made within two weeks of arrival if method of payment is check or cash. No push pins, tape, or items are to be placed or hung on walls.

3/15/19

Guest Signature Date Hotel Representative Date

"Every time you plan your meeting or group room block with us, we guarantee it! That's because not only are we the experts at handling small and mid-size meetings and groups, but we also offer the exclusive Holiday Inn Brands Groups and Meeting Promise program at Holiday Inn Express hotels worldwide. It's our guarantee- in writing- that everything will go exactly as agreed. If not, the problem will be corrected to your satisfaction, or you don't pay for that item."

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Group Contract

Wedding, School, Sporting Event, Church Group *Holiday Inn Express & Suites*

TO		HOTEL		
Kelly Sweeten		Holiday Inn Express & Suites		
43 Walnut Cove Blvd SW		8956 MADISON BLVD		
Huntsville AL 35824		MADISON, ALABAMA 35758		
navykel@gmail.com				
PHONE	**GROUP CONTACT**	**PHONE**	**SALES MANAGER**	
909-263-2300	Kelly Sweeten	256.258.3000	**Laurie White**	
GROUP NAME		**ARRIVING**	**DEPARTING**	**NIGHTS**
Southeastern Zonal Forum		26-Jul-19	28-Jun-19	2

# OF ROOMS		ROOM TYPES	RATE CONFIRMED	ROOMING LIST REQUIRED
				☐ Yes ☐ No
	6	KING	$104.00 + tax	
	6	2 QUEEN	$104.00 + tax	
		KING SUITE		GROUP TYPE Association
		2 QUEEN SUITE		

ROOM GUARANTEED BY: **Individual Credit Card**

CONTRACT MUST BE CANCELLED BY: 4 pm day of

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

All sleeping rooms must be credit card guaranteed by July 12th. Any rooms not guaranteed by July 12 will fall bac into general inventory to be sold at market rate and will not count toward block count. Meeting room will be complimentary on July 27 and 28, with a minimum of 10 actualized room per each night. Breakfast and WiFi are included in the rate. Thank you for choosing us to host your group and event.

Do you have any further requests or questions? Please note above. ☐ Yes ☐ No

THANK YOU.

3/15/19

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE **DATE**

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE - GROUP **DATE**

Revised (11/98)

APPROVED JULY 28, 2019

NEVER ALONE GROUP DEAF
NA MEETING

This is closed meeting
all addicts are welcome

Thursdays: 7pm CST
zoom number:802-616-925

Saturdays: 11am CST
zoom number: 916-400-544

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FLORIDA SYMPOSIUM
Additional Needs Workshop
"The only requirement for membership.."

Good Afternoon everyone! My name is Rose Marie and I am an addict. Our workshop today is on Additional Needs. The title for our workshop today comes from the third Tradition: "The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using". We truly believe that an addict, any addict, even addicts with disabilities, has the right to access the lifesaving message of Narcotics Anonymous. In Narcotics Anonymous, our Additional Needs literature (IP 26 and the Additional Needs Information Guide) refers to guidelines to assist accessibility at meetings, conferences and conventions for those with physical, visual and hearing challenges.

I am an addict that became physically disabled in recovery. Although not yet confined to the wheel chair, I do use a power wheel chair to get around as well as a highly trained mobility service dog.

In our Zonal workgroup, besides physically disabled members, we also have those that are deaf and blind. Our members are not only from the South East Zonal Forum, but worldwide. During this workshop today, we will be presenting information on the challenges of being in recovery and having additional challenges of having these disabilities. This will be an interactive workshop with audience participation.

A little bit about the history of Additional Needs in Narcotics Anonymous as well as how the literature was developed. About the mid 1980's, a physically disabled person, Billy Z, "Wheels", was a member of the World Public Information. At one point, he was asked about how the Fellowship was serving those with disabilities. From the suggestions that Billy made, a WSC Ad Hoc Additional Needs Committee was created. Billy became the Committee chair and Mary H. the secretary. It took 10 years to create the literature, IP 26 and Information Guide, and have it Fellowship approved in 1998/99. Billy and Mary are both still in Narcotics Anonymous, each having over 35 years clean.

One additional bit of information. How it came to be called "Additional Needs". At first, it was called "Special Needs" as it was generally called with the public. However, after a question on how to address Billy, he stated: "I am Billy and I am an addict! All addicts are special! Please do not isolate me! The term "special" does just that. Please do make me feel separate and apart from! I am, however, a wheel chair user, and do have, from time to time, additional needs. Everyone liked that much better. And, that is how Additional Needs came to be called and used in Narcotics Anonymous literature.

Twenty years later, Additional Needs guidelines seem to be totally forgotten. Yet, the addicted population worldwide has grown tremendously, to include the disabled addicted population.

In 2004, my physical disabilities started to decline where I needed to use a mobility service dog. I had no idea there was anything called Additional Needs literature nor did the groups. With some groups, I faced challenges to my right to use my dog to access meetings. I was actually

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FLORIDA SYMPOSIUM
Additional Needs Workshop
"The only requirement for membership.."

told that they would help me to go to the bathroom! In 2008, I started to have to use a mobility scooter. As I declined, I found that more and more Narcotics Anonymous meetings became inaccessible to me. So, in 2010, I started the journey of advocating for Additional Needs. From 2010 to the present, various members of NA and I have worked to bring back to the consciousness of the groups that not only do we have Additional Needs literature but that groups, in accordance with Traditions and the spirituality of the program, should be actively conscious of this. That is aside from any country laws.

Our Outreach and Public Relations, along with groups, are challenged in reaching out to the disabled addict population. Many groups are not concerned with insuring accessibility to meetings. Part of the reason is that they do not see disabled addicts coming to meetings. But there are many disabled addicts out there that have no idea that Narcotics Anonymous is also there for them. Or, they go to one meeting, find it inaccessible, and never come back.

How many disabled addicts are out there? Here is some research and statistics for you: Using the U.S., it has, as of July 2017, 325.72 million people. 40 million, or 1 in 8, are disabled that are not institutionalized. That is 12.6% of the population. If you think about it, that puts disabled people, who are considered a minority, equal to the number of Hispanic Americans or the number of African-Americans. This number does not reflect the number of Americans with less severe disabilities.

According to research, there is at least 600,000 pure deaf addicts in the U.S. There is no actual research regarding the blind and addiction, even at the National Blind Institutes. However, there are 7.5 million blind people. Using a conservative ratio of addicted population, (1 to every 10 people), that would calculate to 700,000 totally blind addicts. This is almost 1.5 million addicts!

Now think about your own home groups. How many of these addicts with disabilities do you see? One region was kind enough to do a total survey. In their state, there are 2 regions. Their state has a population of 8.3 million. So, figure the region serves half of those people: 4.2 million. The region has 542 groups, 22 Areas. The total number of deaf for the region is ..3. The total number of blind is...3. The total number of physically disabled (wheel chair, walker, cane, etc.) is..4. This is a region that easily has 30,000 NA members. It is apparent that rarely is a NA member carrying the message to the disabled. (Tradition 5)

One more fact: the United States only has 5% of the world population. Yet, responses from at least 10 regions from around the world indicate that their percentages of disabled members are just as low – even in highly developed countries.

At this time, I will turn the workshop over to Laura, who will be doing the deaf portion of the workshop. (Laura's portion is attached)

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Additional Needs Workshop
"The only requirement for membership.."

....Thank you, Laura. At this time, I will turn the workshop over to Jocho, who will be doing the blind portion of the presentation. (Jocho' s portion is attached)

.....Thank you Jocho. I will be doing the part on physically disabled and will touch a little bit on service dogs.

As I stated earlier, I have been advocating for accessibility in meetings since 2010. Besides being disabled, I believe I was being prepared by HP many years for this. In 1980, I worked in Human Relations for the military, learning discrimination law and investigating discrimination. In 1985, I took a Social Science class on the Minority Experience. It was taught by a lawyer. As part of the course, he taught us how to find and read tort and case law. In 2004, I had to start to use a service dog and that required me to learn more law in order to advocate for myself. And then 2010, when I could not access a meeting. I am not a lawyer, however. But I was blessed with meeting a woman who used to be a discrimination law lawyer and had every accreditation possible with the U.S. Dept of Justice in ADA (American Disabilities Act) law. And she was kind enough to mentor me. Although she is not an addict, the other blessing is she is aware, and understands, our Traditions. So, she mentors me, and I bring that knowledge back to Narcotics Anonymous. This led to my current service positions as the Additional Needs Point of Contact for the South Florida Region Public Relations committee and being a member of the South East Zonal Forum Public Relations committee. My tasks are to help create guidelines and help groups resolve issues that they encounter when disabled members face inaccessibility. At region, we have created several guidelines to assist groups, all reviewed by my mentor and many addicts across the country. Please thank Mary Beth Marques- Caramico for being so generous with her time and mentoring.

Those of us who are physically disabled, that is those that use a cane, walker, scooter, wheel chair or mobility service dog, are constantly challenged when it comes to Narcotics Anonymous meetings. Can I get in the front door? Is the meeting up or down stairs? Is there an elevator or ramp? Can I get into the meeting room? Is there a place for a wheel chair in the meeting room? Can I use the bathroom, or even get in the bathroom? And when using a service dog, where can I sit that accommodates both the chair AND has the dog out of the way?

Those of you here, if you had to think about that every time you went to a new meeting, or even the first meeting – how likely would you be to want to even try to attend a meeting?

At this time, may I have a volunteer from the audience? Please come to me. Please have a seat in the wheel chair. (Give instructions how to use the joystick).

Please try to navigate this room by making a quick circle around one set of the chairs. Notice how you cannot directly get to any particular person inside the rows? Now, go to the door and try to open it. Not an easy door to open, sitting in a chair. Now come back to me and let me

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sit. Now image trying to do all that you just did but add the dog. Hard just got harder. Thank you!

You may realize that the chairs set up in here are in a more handicapped accessible mode. Could I get 6 people to pull their chair in a circle please? Where should the wheel chair go?

This small exercise demonstrates that, when you set up your rooms for meetings, that many times you set up the rooms based on physically able members to sit. Your entrances may be too hard to get into. An extremely cost-effective way of solving that is having a greeter!

There are many inexpensive or no cost ways to have your meeting place be handicapped accessible. First, pick a place that either has no stairs or has an elevator. If there are only 1 or 2 steps, a ramp can easily be built. Many places may already have a ramp or have a removeable ramp. Meeting room chair placement can easily accommodate a person in a wheel chair or those with canes, walkers, etc. that cannot seat themselves easily. Either have the coffee pot where a chair user can reach or be kind enough to assist with coffee.

One thing that cannot be easily adapted is if the bathroom is handicapped accessible. Sometimes it is a simple fix, like putting a bar next to the toilet. Sometimes, however, it is a major fix – or cannot be fixed. Some landlords and churches are not willing to update the bathroom. Finding a meeting place with an accessible bathroom is the obvious solution. There are those of you that have difficulty finding a meeting place, never mind handicapped accessible. Therefore, think of the spiritual solution. Why would you allow only SOME people to be able to use the bathroom and not others? Does that remind of you of former years with discrimination against races? It should! Put the bathroom off limits to all if you cannot find a better place.

Another hard to solve situation is having a meeting in an inaccessible room. Would you tell that addict "too bad, too sad, go to another meeting"? I would hope not. I know I personally would not take it with serenity. What you can do, following our spiritual principles, is have a few folks bring their chairs outside and have a mini meeting for that person. Then make sure that the addict has direction for where there are accessible meetings for the future.

Identifying meetings that are handicapped accessible on meeting lists will help tremendously. Another thing that can be done is to have your helpline add an additional question prior to giving instructions to the next meeting: "Do you have a need for a handicapped accessible room?". This will reduce frustration and insure the addict, especially a newcomer, gets to the right meeting the first time.

A small bit on service dogs. As I want to have time left over for questions, I will limit my addressing this. In the packet you can pick up at the end of the workshop, there will be the South Florida Region guidelines for service dogs in meetings. Any questions not answered here will be answered in that guideline.

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Additional Needs Workshop
"The only requirement for membership.."

First thing to know: in any country, a service dog is task trained to mitigate the disability of a major life system or illness, with high end obedience and is potty trained. I do not have expertise on any country law but the U.S. However, my associations with service dog users around the world state this same principle. In the U.S., an animal whose sole purpose is to comfort the owner is not a service dog. To explain this further, may I have a physically able person come up here? (Demonstration with leash)

Right now, I will address the most important points to know. ..... That was point number 1: the dog has no rights. Only the handler does. Number 2: the dog is to remain on leash at all times unless a specific task requires the dog to be off leash. Number 3: if the dog is disturbing the atmosphere of recovery, the dog should be removed outside by the handler, settled and then brought back in. If the dog continues to disturb the atmosphere of recovery, the handler should remove the dog for the rest of that meeting. One last quick point: the only members that should, quietly, question whether that dog is a service dog or not are trusted servants of the group.

For further information, please read the information packet that will be handed to you. Also, there is one reference to Florida law regarding emotional support animals, where they do not have public access. In the U.S., the ADA does not offer public access protection for ESAs nor do most states offer any additional protection for them. I personally do not know of any country that gives public access to ESAs. However, do check your state or country laws to be sure. Any questions can be asked of me during the Symposium, or at my email that is provided to you at the bottom of this presentation.

The title of this presentation, from the 3rd Tradition, is "the only requirement for membership is the desire to stop using". For addicts that have additional needs, you have seen that the challenges to get clean and stay in recovery can truly make it much harder. As a newcomer to NA, you are lost, alone, scared and expecting everyone to turn their backs on you. Then you get lots of hugs and feel you belong. But, when you have a disability, after the first set of hugs (if you can even access the meeting), it is different. Once people realize you have a disability, they back off from you, shun and ignore you. At times you are even told to stay away from them because they do not want to catch what you have. We disabled many times feel apart from and more alone than ever. No one wants to sponsor us. If you think I am exaggerating, please read the story in the packet from Michelle A. Michelle is an addict from England, who had recently become deaf. No one wanted to sponsor her...because they might just have to write! She had to reach out on a Face Book international NA page and cry out for a sponsor. I was the only one to answer. It has been one of the most rewarding experiences in my life.

We are excluded from trusted servant positions and the service structure, many times with various excuses about our health and abilities. We are excluded from group functions. Or we are asked to travel far distances alone. Then confronted when you state you are unable.

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In reference to NA literature, it is obvious to the disabled that many passages written covering illness, injury and disability were not written by disabled people. If you have not had to rework the steps to accept your disabilities – how can you tell us how to work "spiritual principles"? That is exactly the same as a nonaddict telling an addict how to get clean! And for those of us who cannot see or hear, much of the literature is not accessible. Or worse, for those that are blind, they have no idea of what literature is out there because no one is kind enough to tell them.

There are also the newcomer seniors and the old timers, both having disabilities. What are we doing to insure the newcomer is welcomed and the old timer is still being offered fellowship? Yet we hear cries that the old timers are no longer coming to meetings nor doing service work.

Twenty years ago, the NA Fellowship approved the Additional Needs Literature. Today, not only is the literature forgotten, but also the spiritual principles behind the literature. Billy Z, back then, had advocated that each group, Area, Region have an Additional Needs committee. The idea fell flat, as members promised they would insure accessibility. Here we are today, with more addicts with hearing, vision and physical challenges than ever – and less meetings and members willing to make accommodations for them.

This workgroup, the SEZF Additional Needs committee, was able to work because we had both the support of the SEZF PR and the SEZF itself, as well as addicts from all over the world to come together and work. This group started in Sept 2018, right after the WCNA, and has grown. We have members that, after the Symposium today, have committed to work on our second phase. That phase will be creating guidelines for Outreach and PR to reach out to disabled addicts, especially in schools for the visually and hearing impaired. We will also be creating guidelines to help groups in accommodating the disabled. We will also be insuring that our guidelines can be used internationally. Members have attempted to help before, to include my submitting an idea packet to the WSC 2014 and the SFR putting in a motion at the WSC 2016 to update the Additional Needs literature. Updating is indeed necessary, as some of the information is so old. One example is to carry the wheel chair up the stairs. My power chair weighs 400 lbs.....good luck. I believe the reason these attempts failed is because everyone believed that this was only a U.S. cause – and not a spiritual, international NA cause.

We especially need your help to accomplish this. We need the word to get out to addicts everywhere. We definitely need more disabled addicts, and able-bodied addicts, especially internationally, to join the work group. Groups need to be more willing to make accommodations and reach out to disabled addicts. Areas and Regions need to be willing to have trusted servant positions to aid the groups. And we would love to see a motion at the WSC 2020 to make this workgroup a WSC workgroup.

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We want to thank the SEZF, Florida Region and all that worked to create this Symposium and especially thank you all for this opportunity to do our presentation. Please insure that you pick up the packets before you leave. And especially take the time to read the disabled members' stories that are included in the packets.

I am willing to help anyone in any place towards achieving Additional Needs accommodations. My email is included in the packet. hareodog@mindspring.com

I leave you with this one last thought: We disabled are more than willing to go to "any lengths" to get recovery. What are YOU willing to do?

We have time for some questions

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Deaf in Recovery

Intro – Laura S from Galveston, TX

I came into the rooms of Narcotics Anonymous March 8, 2015. Years of loneliness, rejection and fear led me to find a new way to live.

When I came to the program, I was afraid, alone, unaware and isolated from everyone in the room. As I have grown in my recovery, I have also grown in my transition from hearing to deaf in NA.

Going to meetings became overwhelming, no interpreter just me in a room full of people that didn't know how to communicate with me.

After rejection time and time again of my request for an interpreter and to change the setup of the room I almost gave up. Resistance was at every turn. But I remember the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using.

There are many deaf addicts seeking the message of NA but have no access to an interpreter. As a former Certified Interpreter before my hearing diminished, I see both sides of this, of interpreters in meetings.

Certified Interpreters are easily found on your state registry, local agencies and those needing CEU hours and many are willing to interpret one scheduled meeting per week for $40.

I must add that interpreters are vital in facilitating communication for deaf in NA as they are bound by anonymity and code of ethics.

While a family member or friend might be willing to interpret, we must consider that they might not accurately relay the information the deaf member is signing.

Funding for interpreters is already in place in many areas, but if one area is a small area, then two areas could come together to provide an interpreter for a border meeting.

Lighting is also very important for us to read lips and see the speaker and interpreter. The ideal set up of a meeting room is so that all can see each other clearly so that we can observe body language, facial expression and read lips when possible.

NA literature is the basis of our recovery. However, we do not have any literature in ASL. To give an American a reading in Chinese and ask them to read it, understand it, explain it and apply it is the same as us Deaf with the written literature. ASL, for many, IS their first language. There is a tremendous need for more literature available in ASL format.

Deaf in NA are underrepresented and it is our message to carry to all addicts regardless of hearing status.

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Blind in recovery

A list of some of the challenges that I, as a recovering blind person, experience in Narcotics Anonymous:

Accessibility issues on websites and digital forms of literature:

1. Not all of our literature is in braille or digital format. Some blind people prefer to read their literature in braille. Others, like myself, prefer to be able to read our literature via digital format. An example would be the iPhone using iBook's or the screen reader the iPhone and Apple products provide. Android has a screen reader, so does the new windows 10. There is a program for PC called Jaws that is also a screen reader. It would be nice if our literature was accessible by all the different forms of screen readers that are out there.
2. The accessibility of the websites itself can be challenging. The way the webpage is displayed can be very confusing and sometimes tedious to navigate. But even that may not be an ability, because all of that hinges on the fact if the webpage is accessible by one of the previously mentioned screen readers.

Meetings, business meetings and service:

3. It is a challenge getting to meetings. Sometimes the people that I call are not going to a meeting. It would be nice if every group had a contact person that would be willing to pick me up or anybody who is disabled and cannot drive.
4. Changing things around in meetings. As a blind person, I get used to and become familiar with how the meeting is laid out. When somebody changes something, and they do not tell me about, it can confuse me, or I get lost.
5. Fixing my own coffee. I can do it if all the utensils and ingredients are put out where I can find them. When things are put up in cabinets or moved to a different spot, I have extremely hard time finding them. Then I end up having to ask for help.
6. When there is a vote being taken at the group level area etc., if the person who is counting the votes does not say out loud verbally whether it past, failed, or abstained I do not know by looking at the people's hands, because I cannot see them.
7. Just because I am blind does not mean I cannot do service work. I have been a GSR for one year and about to start another year. I also started a new group in my Area.

Things to remember when there is a blind member in the room:

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8. When members want to show me where to go or direct me, they grab me. That's not how you lead a blind person. You can offer your elbow to them but never grab a blind person.

9. Feeling alone in a meeting. If I don't hear a recognizable voice near me, I do not know who's around me. If people don't come up and talk to me or introduce their selves to me, especially as a newcomer in a new meeting, I can feel extremely alone and ignored. Also, even if I have been going to a meeting for a period of time and know certain voices, if people don't come up and say hi to me, I feel extremely alone. Keep in mind that I may hear your voice talking to someone, but I can't tell what you're doing, who you're in a conversation with or if you're busy.

10. One of the ways I see is through sound. Now if I need to find a direction, I'm going to have to call out someone's name or just say hey. I need somebody to respond to me to help me figure out the direction I am going. Now I could grab onto somebody's shoulder, I mean elbow, and let them lead me around the meeting and outside the meeting all the time. However, we blind people like to be somewhat independent. At least I like to be independent as much as I can. One of the ways I do this is by not using a sighted guide all the time as well as being familiar with the meeting and using sound to help me figure out where things are at. This tends to help me to not feel like a burden on somebody to guide me around all the time. My friends they are happy to guide me at any time and they never make me feel like a burden. On the other hand, I do value my independence.

11. At times I need to ask for help. That could either what direction something is, what something looks like, who's in the room - there can be many things. Also, sometimes I need to ask for someone to read something to me. Most people don't have a problem with helping me in these areas, but sometimes people act like it is a burden for them to help me.

12. I cannot seem to find anywhere, including World, any anniversary medallions with braille on it.

13. What people do not realize is that we are no different from them, we just cannot see. We can do the same things as them, just in a different way. Also, we have feelings, emotions, we can be hurt, we can feel alone, we can also love, and care for our brothers and sisters, be of service, and carry the message, just like people with eyesight.

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Additional Needs
Michelle A's story

My name is Michelle and I am a recovering addict in England, UK. I first wish to give you a little background information, so that you can have a clear picture of me when I entered recovery and the emotions, barriers and limiting beliefs I held.

I was born into a dysfunctional family unit, my father was and still is, an active user and addict; he was also abusive. I also experienced sexual abuse outside of the family unit and that is when I began using substances as a coping mechanism.

I was first referred to drug services at age 15, with addiction issues and at 16, I was sectioned due to psychosis, from my substance of choice at that time and after experiencing extreme trauma. By 17, I was homeless on the streets of a big city, begging to fund my Heroin and Crack addiction. For 25 years I remained in active addiction, using many different substances as well as repeated patterns of abuse.

Finally, on the 3rd February 2016, I entered a treatment center for an 18-week rehabilitation program. This would be my 5th time in treatment. It was during this time, that I lost all my hearing and was eventually registered deaf. Unbeknown to me at that time, it would take 2 years of being passed from one department, to another, before I finally got a diagnosis and some support.

As you can imagine being in early recovery and dealing with the grief of losing my hearing, my emotions were all over the place and I was filled with fear. I was desperate for recovery support and I so wanted the message and support, that the fellowship of NA offered.

The first obstacle I had to overcome, was how I would get to a meeting? The use of public transport had become stressful. I had lost my confidence and I was not comfortable travelling on my own due to the loss of my hearing. I called the NA helpline and was informed that transportation to a meeting was not provided. However, it could be arranged I got to a meeting and getting to know people personally within the fellowship. I had relocated for my recovery, so I had to wait until I could find someone I knew, to accompany me. I relied mostly on my partner's family members, when they were available.

Now I wish to take you back, so you can get a better understanding of the disadvantages I had to face. Take yourself back to your first ever meeting. You are filled with mistrust, anxiety, fear and life, up until that point, had been nothing but chaotic in addiction. Remember your anxiety of not knowing anyone in the room and the fears you hold of not being accepted, not feeling part of, not belonging. Remember the anxiety that you felt to even share and how much of your will you were using to just keep you in that seat.

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Michelle A's story

Well ask yourself, how would you have felt if you had not been able to hear? You can see lips moving but no sound, the only voice you hear are the fears and limiting beliefs in your own mind.

At first the meetings were in the dark, with just a candle in the middle of the room. The silence and the dark made me feel alone and insecure, which in turn, just enhanced my fear. At breaks, a time for social interaction, I felt excluded because I could see the frustration on people's faces, when I couldn't hear them, and this just fed into my self hate and low self-esteem.

I kept attending meetings, in the hope that this would change, once people got to know me. However, this did not happen. I continued to be excluded. I was not included in conversations and people nervously avoided me, like I had an infection or disease. I also noticed that people did not see me as an addict in recovery like them, like my experiences had been different somehow.

When I tried to stand up for myself, I wasn't taken seriously and no one listened, I was given the "what do you expect us to do" look and even was given that reply. Why was I not seen as an addict to them who's only desire was to stop using? Didn't I deserve my seat, just like everyone else ? I left feeling humiliated after the derisive behavior and I was hurt beyond words. I feared if no one wanted to get to know me, or converse with me in a way I could understand, how was I supposed to find a sponsor, never mind find one I felt comfortable with, to share my darkest secrets and thoughts. I was not being seen as an equal and I had never felt more alone. I was broken by the time I left the meetings, and this eventually made me make the heart-breaking decision to stop going to meetings. Out of pure desperation, I wrote about my situation on an NA Facebook page. Thanks to my cry for help, I have an amazing support system online and I was also blessed with a sponsor, without her I might not be here today.

My cry was heard in the US and so my sponsor was in the US, not my home country. She tried to urge me back to meetings for local support. I tried again but nothing had changed, with people's perception and attitude towards me, so she suggested I go to Area. She told me I had nothing to fear and to remember tradition 3, 5 and 12 and that the only requirement for membership is the desire to stop using. Yet again I found, that this did not apply to me!

I was told by Area that we had no additional needs committee in England, unlike America, and that there was no requirement to support people with disabilities. I was given the same response that I got at my meetings "what do you expect from us ". Aren't the groups primary purpose to carry the message to the still suffering addict, relate to me because I was still suffering and in need of NA more than anything?

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Michelle A's story

My sponsor was speechless when I told her, and I felt even more excluded from my home group. Why does England not have an additional needs committee and why in the 21'st Century, can I not access support?

So, I continued to connect with people in the US for my recovery support. I was not going to give in. I knew I wouldn't survive another relapse. I knew this was my one chance. I used my home meetings as a place to share what was going on with me, without feedback and my online support for fellowship. The problem with having just online support is not just the isolation and disconnection with people in recovery in my area, but the emotional impact it has had on me. I can't always connect with people in times of need due to time difference, accessibility etc.

The other issue was doing my step work, so many emotions and memories were resurfacing, and I couldn't just meet for a coffee or moral physical support, when these emotions overwhelmed me. So, at the suggestion of my sponsor, I had to refer myself back to mental health services to help me with the dark days.

I haven't met any other person in recovery in the UK with my disability, which states to me that they are just not accessing the meetings or fellowship, and this saddens me greatly. Today I am involved, with the first ever NA interpreter online meeting in the US, which I hope to one day set up in the UK. The only disadvantage I have, is that I don't know how to sign, but this is something I will learn to do with the support of my new-found fellowship, in time.

I am stronger now and have found I can cope with my home meetings and I have started to make connections with people in my local area, but this has been a long overdue battle.

I now have understanding and support to make changes in my area and I have someone sponsoring me over here now in a supportive capacity. This has only come to pass because of my beautiful sponsor in the US and her faith and love for me.

My biggest wish is for my message to be heard, so that one day I can help someone else and that 'Never Alone ' applies to all regardless of disability.

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Joseph's Story

Hello my name is Joseph and addict of all. I am deaf recovery addict and have 8 years clean. When I came in NA meetings, I remember I sat and wait until after meeting, I type words or write and sign language are different to conversation to talk people to hard understand what exactly I am talking about sometimes that what I always live that way in the world I would be admit always! I really want to sign and look at people's eye of real me that why I really always stay patience to go meetings no matters what difference between deaf and hearing people for me cuz sometimes I not like to write papers for chips or topics as I understand it will not always interpreter in meetings but for once to get know the real me is go to deaf meeting and get know me at once then can see where my addiction come from than always smile to everyone that not really me when I look at my addiction. I don't want to be smile cuz I know many mistakes I been made that i never proud of so it hard to show my real embotions in meetings but only real embotions in deaf meeting to look at myself and understand. I don't think I always smile all the time cuz my life is better. I smile alots cuz i am proud to take step up to be man for my many mistakes when I am clean for long time and glad my sins already cleared and stay relationship with god and Higher Power for what I did as I will always be that way forever. It not negative or positive talking as that what my life is now as my plans that I will always stay clean with kids or without kids cuz I am kind of person "late learn things". That is mosty grow up to be not embrass to share about it that my real feelings of guilt and shame for my kids and relationships of my addiction SMILE IS IMPORTANT THAT I AM NEW PERSON AND ENJOY THE NEW LIFE WITH NEW SOUL. That how it keep me alive and stay away from darkness as keep my higher power with me all the time. I know God already plans for me and proud of me to not be fear to share my experiences, hope and strength to hearing people. I don't see many deaf people do that so if they use sign language a lots, that will be helpful a lots for them to realize their own actions fast than me. I not alike others deaf people because I am different and want help them to help themselves. They been came to deaf meeting as once a week. I also brought them to NA events or meetings. They did not come at all because they still struggling trying understand messages in long way and decided to give up. I keep stay no matters what" Thanks for let me sharing. Hope this helps you understand. Let me know if it good or not.

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Additional Needs
Jocho's Story

Hello, I am an addict named Jocho. I am writing this letter to try to help you understand how it is to be blind in the rooms of Narcotics Anonymous.
A little bit of background of myself. I started using when I was an early teenager, just for fun.

When I turned 18 or 19, I started to lose my sight. It started by just losing partial eyesight in one eye. How I dealt with this was are used. And before I knew it, I was no longer using just for fun; I was using to not feel. Between the ages of 18 and 30 I was using heavily and each year I seem to lose a little bit more of my eyesight, some in the left eye some in the right eye. I also was in and out of detox units during this time period.

Around 30 or 31 I had enough and entered the rooms of another 12 Step program. I was clean for almost 4 years in this program. During that time, I was proactive and started to learn everything I could about living with blindness. I learned Braille, use of a white cane, etc.

Approximately around 3 1/2 years of being clean, I was injured. I had members of this other 12 Step program telling me it was okay to take pain pills. So, between me not being spiritually fit and the believe that was okay to take pain meds, it set me back down that road again. I was out there for about four or five years.

Now keep in mind, all this time I am steadily losing more eyesight. I knew that I was going to go blind eventually. In fact, when I was 38 years old, I did become totally blind. Even though I had learned all the physical aspects of being blind, nothing could've prepared me for the emotion. When I went totally blind, I went way off the deep end using as much as I could to avoid the feelings of despair of being lost, of the emotions, that my entire world changed. I no longer had the sense that I have been relying on since the day I was born - now everything I knew was in the dark. This was a hard thing for me to accept.

At around one year of being totally blind and using uncontrollably, I hit my bottom where the only answers that I could come up with was either eat a bullet or go get help. Thank God I had a sliver of hope because I chose to go get help. Thank God I had a friend from another program that decided to help me after I went through detox. He helped me find a meeting in the rooms of NA.

The first meeting I went to there had been 30+ people that came up and hugged me. Now remember I am totally in the dark, never seeing any of these people, scared shaking nervous, anxiety. So, in the beginning of my recovery I was learning how to be blind and dealing with the emotions and learning how to start a life clean in the rooms and NA.

I had some challenges in the beginning, and some of them still remain today. The fact that I feel very alone at times, I know we all feel alone at times, but it is extremely difficult when I am sitting or standing in the dark and no one is talking to me and no one has invited me to their conversation. Keep in mind, I can hear you talking but I don't know if you are in a serious conversation. I don't know if other people are around you and it's a group conversation. In the beginning, I felt like many times that I did not fit in. This was very isolating. I could be around a lot of people, but when you are standing or sitting there in the dark, and everybody else is around you but not including you in their conversation, you can feel very alone. In time, though, through teaching the people around me how I needed them to treat me, I now have a good

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Jocho's Story

network of friends. However, there are times still that I am standing outside with people all around me with their own groups talking, and I am just standing there in the dark. So, I can still feel alone and hurt even today.
There are other challenges that I have come across. Changing the meeting space, changing tables seating arrangements, moving coffee supplies in different areas is one example. Once I learn where things are, if they are moved and I am not told about it, they're totally disappear on me.

There is also the situation of my needing help at the meeting, especially concerning my being blind. I was welcomed with hugs my first meeting. This made me feel like this is where I belong. But quickly I found out that people did not know how to act around a blind person. Some people were even in fear of catching my blindness if they got too close, believe it or not. Others just didn't know how to approach me. People also didn't know how to help me or offer help. In the beginning of me coming to the rooms I did need assistance figuring out where everything was that in different meetings. But eventually I learned the layout in as long as they didn't change it, I was fine on my own. I had to teach the people around me how to lead me. One thing to keep in mind you never go up and grab it a person to lead them somewhere. The way you do this is by going up and asking the person how you can help how you can lead them. Normally it is by giving them one of your elbows and they will hold on and you can lead them wherever. I would rather someone come up and asked me if I need help, and me not need it, then someone not coming up to ask me if I need help when I do need it. But remember if you ask if you can help me and I do not say no in the most spiritual way I may be angry with myself because I cannot do it myself. It has nothing to do with you. My group, today, is learning that they can accept me as I am. I am just like them only I cannot see, and I do things a little differently than them.

Literature can be another challenge. There are currently only 4 pieces of our literature on iBook's for the iPhone. The Basic Text is available in Braille. There is a limited amount of our literature on other Digital formats. So I do not have access to all the literature a sighted person has and I would like to see more of it available, at least on digital format and possibly on Braille. Anniversary Medallions in Braille would also be great. Right now I have to depend on someone describing it to me....and the numbers are not able to be felt.

I also have concerns for the blind newcomers. Fortunately for me, I was already familiar with 12 Step meetings. I knew that NA meetings were similar to other fellowship meetings. I kind of knew what to expect. But I imagine for the newcomer who has never stepped in the rooms of meeting, being in the dark, lost, not knowing what you're getting into by going to NA. Add to it being blind and it adds an additional level of fear. What people do not understand is that we are no different from them. We also have feelings and emotions and can feel hurt and feel alone. We can also love, care for our brothers and sisters, be of service, and carry the message just like people with eyesight.

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Additional Needs
Michele J.'s story

My name is Michele J. and I am an addict. Nearly everyone faces hardships and difficulties at one time or another. But for me having disabilities, caused more barriers and had a greater impact on my recovery. People see my disability as a personal tragedy, as something that needs to be cured or I need to be prevented from service opportunities because of the stigma "THEY" have about the disabled persons, meaning me.

Let me start by saying I am a 5 different type Cancer survivor and Heart patient. I was crushed on my right side by a motorcycle, which has now caused many physical limitations, Fibromyalgia, Neuropathy and seizures from a brain injury. Seizures was one of the biggest debilitating issues, they are now under control with meds. In 2017, I was informed about my hearing, the inner ear bones are fusing together. I am going to be deaf, there is no way to repair it. So, at 52 years old I am learning to sign and trying to lip read.

Finding groups to attend was not my part of my story, which so many disabled do. Wanting to do service and having my health brought up each and every time is. I do have a service dog, who is trained (performs a Task) for seizures. She is retired, at home. I have not had a seizure in three + years. When I wanted to be a trusted servant, I was asked about traveling with that dog? We are not paying for that dog or requesting special help for you. So maybe you should not do service come back at another time when you don't need help from a dog.

Here are some statements that were made and questions I was actually asked:

- You have cancer you can't due service. Your health is an issue. We don't feel you are qualified and capable of filling the position you are sick. We pulled your resume, maybe you need to talk to your sponsor and discuss a position you can do, like make coffee or something. Oh NO Not coffee you may get others sick, find something else.
- The one question that baffled me was: Don't you have" The Big C", You shouldn't even be here can't you to give it to somebody?
- How can you fly with all that metal stuff?
- We don't think you have the ability to think clearly with cancer and stuff?
- Can you walk, stand or sit, for that long of a time, I mean really? You need to be able to do that you know? Service is hard work can you even work?
- Now, my cancer has been dormant for quite some time but it still was asked. With having Cancer are you sure you can make the full term? Not saying you're going to die but.....
- Heart attack must carry nitro: What about your meds can you travel with them? Nitro isn't that for a bomb you can't fly/travel with that you'll go to jail? What would that say about NA?
- I was even told: You are on disability you can't afford to do service.
  We are all equal Area, Region pays for the person IE going to the WSC, Flyers/Magnets for a flyer drive, books for H&I, etc., so that made no sense. But they thought it would make me go away, that was stated to me personally by an elected Trusted Servant.
- I have heard why don't she just give up go away I don't want to deal with her BS. She can't do service why don't she just face it. We don't need her broken ass. Doesn't she know we can't use her we need people who can walk, stand all the time and lift don't we?
- If she does service it's an insurance risk, she can cause the insurance to sky rocket, can't she?
- She is messed up, her leg is metal, she has cancer she must be on heavy drugs, we can't let her do service? All people that messed up must be on heavy pain killers, doesn't that mean she is using? (let me clarify I am not on pain management of any kind but was not even asked)!

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- She is just like so and so and she resigned after years of service, because she got even sicker and used her health as an excuse. She's dead now, So, no way we are not going through that crap again.
- What kind of example is she setting for NA, isn't it against the law to have her to do service work, I mean her disability is a factor isn't it?

Yes, this is what was said or asked!! Not the normal questions everyone is asked: Do I have the ability to perform the duties? Do I know what the position entails? Have I ever stolen money from NA?

There were times my resume was not accepted do to my Physical/Health issues. Even told to just go away stop your nonsense and grow up! No, we don't need your sickness here aren't their meetings for people like you somewhere else like at a hospital or institution or something?
Well, I relapsed I will not say due to the rejections, stigma and judgements, but for me it was a part of it. I chose to say F' it and give up all I wanted to do was die. I felt useless inferior unwanted and was going to die anyway from what others were saying. I came back to NA after I moved to a new town. For many year's I would not tell anyone about having Cancer for fear of being rejected. Guess what happened? Yes, I relapsed again. I lied to myself as well as everyone else by omission. I met a woman who I was honest with in the rooms. She did not give up on me, she would call me and sit with me, she even brought other women to do an intervention. She, Adriane V, had Cancer and MS and she passed in 2013 with 23 years clean and her final years were in service, PR at the assisted living house she was in, holding meetings there as well. So, after my wreck on the motorcycle, Thanks to Adriane V, I came back on June 22nd 2009 in a wheel chair, but thanks to her guiding me and never giving up on me. I fought my way through the stigma and uneducated people to be of Service in NA. My first position was coffee maker, yup that's right in a wheel chair and I was the greeter. It felt so good to be useful again. I now have a cane/brace I may not need it all the time, I have good days and bad as most do but I am no longer trying to hide my disability. NA has given me the strength to be honest, and be me and to fight. I was told I would never walk, I do. I was told when I had my heart attack, I need to stay away from stress, for me service opportunities are a relaxation. The best is giving back that's a feeling I can never explain. Cancer, tried to kill me (5 different types) but is now Dormant, Thanks to NA I learned to believe and trust in my Higher Power and in myself. Yes, I am permanently disabled and I am proud to be in recovery and of service in NA, today! Today I can say I am disabled, and if others fear that that's them not me!

A last thought I needed to say: Some do not realize that as a disabled person it took many years for me to do the Steps on my disabilities. I did not want to accept my disabilities/health issues because of my own inferiority and how I was treated and judged by others, the stigma was horrid and more painful than the disabilities caused. I defiantly did not want to admit I needed help. I still have fears of being judged and I am very choosey on who I ask for help. This is something I do work on daily, trusting others to not discriminate and judge, I know they do but today I accept that's their issues not mine. It's taking many years for me to be an elected trusted servant and today I am the elected Regional Delegate. I fulfill the position to the best of my ability. The one thing I do not do is use disabilities as an excuse to not do things correctly and timely, which is paving the way for others. Some abled body persons even use me as an example "dam she is beyond injured, she is so damn sick and she can do it I have no excuse". Some. Additional needs members have even been grateful for the service, they have hope for their future in Service and volunteering. Today, I am a disabled (additional needs) person and I am a Regional Delegate who has been elected by some of the same people who thought I was incapable and now appreciate the job I do, some have even said they think I do the best they have seen in a long time, by giving Fact based not opinion-based information. Some of the Service positions I was elected to prior to

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RD/AD: RCM, PR chair, H&I chair, H&I panel leader, secretary, Treasurer, on the convention committee. The hardest was H&I panel leader this was a challenge, since canes, mobile chairs, walkers, crutches and metal leg braces are not allowed in the jails/prisons. After several discussions and perseverance, a small NA meeting was started, in a medical pod (disabled and pregnant unit), in the county jail, which was very successful.

My statement to all, "Please don't dismiss me or put a stigma on me".
The contribution that we have is just as awesome as any one and sometimes better,
not ego just some people find their niche and love the position,
others find they would prefer and do another position and do it better.
We need to speak as much as possible about how the ADDITIONAL NEEDS need to be heard, too.
Some members with Additional needs don't even know what a home-groups, WSC or Service is.
Some never even knew NA exists, that is very sad, we are over-looking so many addicts!!

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SFRNA GUIDELINE FOR SITUATIONS WITH SERVICE DOGS AND HANDLERS IN NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS

Disclaimer: Narcotics Anonymous does not enforce the law. This listing of the law, and the consequences for groups not complying with the law, are included so that your group can make a fully informed choice. This is in line with Chapter 4 in the Basic Text: "We believe that the sooner we face our problems within our society, in everyday living, just that much faster do we become acceptable, responsible and productive members of that society". Additionally, Narcotics Anonymous supports the right of every addict to find recovery through Narcotics Anonymous. To assist Groups and the NA service Structure to fulfill Tradition 3 and Tradition 5 in reaching out to those with Additional Needs, the following guidelines are being provided. This guideline is only a general guidance on a complex set of issues. Groups and Service Entities may find that their situation may not be covered in these guidelines. In these cases, or at any time, it is highly encouraged to contact your Area, Region, SFRSC Public Relations Additional Needs Point of Contact (POC) or NAWS to obtain further assistance.

SFRSC has a guideline for service dogs (SD) in meetings. However, several situations have occurred across the Region that the guideline did not cover. Therefore, this additional information is being supplied to further aid groups.

First, who should ask if the dog is a service dog? It is highly suggested that only trusted servants use these guidelines to inquire, and insure, that a dog coming into a NA meeting is a service dog and that the dog is potty trained and displaying quiet, obedient behavior that is conducive to an atmosphere of recovery. Trusted servants would be the equivalent of a store employee, as in cases involving ADA law, as ADA law does pertain to NA groups. So, greeters, room openers, GSR, etc., are all group trusted servants.

The most important thing to remember is that it is the HANDLER that has the access rights of having a service dog that accompanies them, not the dog. The dog has NO rights.

It is best if the handler is met outside the door to the room by the trusted servant. If it is not obvious what the dog's task is (for example mobility, guide dog, etc), the trusted servant can then ask the following 2 questions (word for word is best so that there is no mistakes):

1) Is the dog a service animal required because of a disability?

2) What work or task has the dog been trained to perform?

If the handler replies "no" to the first question, then the dog is a pet and, according to the group and building/landlord/rental policies, can be excluded from the meeting. The handler is free to come back into the meeting without the dog/pet.

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If the handler replies "yes", then ask the 2nd question. The handler should reply with tasks the dog does, such as "brings my medicine, counterbalance, sees for me, hears for me, diabetic or medical alert, etc". If the handler states the dog is for "comfort" or "anxiety" and gives comfort, that is an Emotional Support Animal (ESA) and not a service dog. ESAs are NOT covered by ADA nor Florida State law for public access and therefore are considered pets. Again, emphasize the dog cannot be admitted to the meeting and the handler is free to come back into the meeting without the dog/pet. Remember that certifications/registrations are not any proof of the dog being a service dog. Only answering the trained tasks the dog does to mitigate the disability.

How to respond to other answers:

1) HIPPA says I do not have to answer: We are only asking what trained task the dog does to mitigate the disability. We are NOT asking their medical diagnosis. By both Federal and Florida State laws, the handler is required to answer the question. However, if the handler still chooses not to answer, the dog can be denied access.

2) Who are you to ask me? This is why it is highly suggested it is a trusted servant that does the asking. Trusted servants do have the right, given to them by the group, to represent them. Therefore, the handler does have to answer the trusted servant. Please do not have any group member ask. First, they may not know the right things to say and cause a situation that could turn into a legal situation. Second, they do not have the group's elected representation and therefore cannot represent the group.

3) I have a doctor's letter and my dog has a right to be here! It seems that some folks bringing animals have doctor letters claim that gives the animal the right to be there, the animal is registered/certified etc.

There are 2 types of doctor prescriptions. 1) is for an Emotional Support Animal. 2) is for a service dog. The first is prescribing a pet to alleviate a mental health condition. It does NOT certify/register or in any way state that the doctor said that THAT particular animal is an ESA. Just that the Patient can have one. The doctor does not approve of any particular animal. The second prescribes a Service Dog to mitigate a major life system illness or injury. Even that letter does NOT certify/register or in any way approve of that particular dog. So, doctors' letters only prescribe an ESA or Service Dog can be used by the Patient. It does not cover the dog or animal whatsoever. ESAs are pets - they cannot go to non-pet friendly places. Service Dogs are medically task trained dogs that assist with a major life system illness/injury.

Again, the handler may still choose not to answer the question. Inform the handler that, by not answering, the dog can be excluded from the group meeting place.

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If it is determined the dog is not a service dog, do remember to tell the handler that they are welcome without the dog.

What if the handler has already entered the building? Attempt to ask the handler to please come outside to discuss a "matter". Then follow the steps given above.

What if the handler does not want to step outside? Get another trusted servant (or any group member if no trusted servant is available) and calmly, quietly and privately as possible ask the questions and follow the steps.

If the person is inside the building and the dog is determined not to be a service dog: Advise the person that, in accordance with group policy and the rental lease, no pets are allowed in the building. They will need to remove the dog and feel free to return to the meeting.

What if the person refuses to remove the dog: First, attempt to have the person understand that bringing a pet into a no pet building can jeopardized the ability of the group to continue to meet there. Emphasize that the lease/rental agreement specifically states "no pets". If the person still will not remove the dog, 2 spiritual considerations can be done:

1) For that meeting only, have a few members go outside and hold a meeting for the handler. At the end of the meeting, restate that the dog no longer can come into the meeting building.

2) The whole group goes outside until the handler leaves (no more than a 5 minute wait). If the handler still refuses to remove the dog, police may need to be contacted to escort the person out.

What if the dog is determined to be a service dog and later growls, bites, barks or causes other disruptive behavior during the meeting or while in the building:

If the handler does not take immediate corrective action, a trusted servant, on the spot, can ask the handler to please take the dog outside and settle the dog. Then the handler may return with the dog. If the handler chooses not to correct or settle the dog, the dog can be excused for the rest of that meeting only. Again, if the dog has been determined to be a SD, the handler will be allowed to return to the next meeting with the dog. DO take video of the dog's misbehaving (remember, the dog, not the people in the room) as proof. If the dog does the same bad behaviors each meeting, please contact your Region Additional Needs POC immediately for further guidance. Please remember that, if the dog has been determined to be a SD, it could be the dog just has a bad day. Addicts should well understand that!

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Anything after this, or if the handler causes a commotion or uses the words, do call your Additional Needs POC, Rose Marie B, at xxx. The words "lawyer/lawsuit" being used is an immediate call to Rose Marie. DO NOT handle it yourself! You will get guidance on how to proceed. Rose Marie has been trained to handle those situations.

Two additional points to remember: A NA meeting is considered a "business" by ADA Federal law. Therefore, we should abide by the law as much as possible. And, a church is exempt from ADA law. So, insure the church is ok with having a SD in the building. The majority of churches nowadays have no problem but will ask you to ensure that the dog behaves and is potty trained. If the church declines service dogs, contact Additional Needs for further guidance.

Last but not least: A NA meeting should insure that the atmosphere of recovery is present. A misbehaving dog does interrupt that atmosphere. At the same time, any situation that occurs in a NA meeting should be met with spiritual principles in mind. Many times, a spiritual solution will resolve a situation prior to it becoming a legal one.