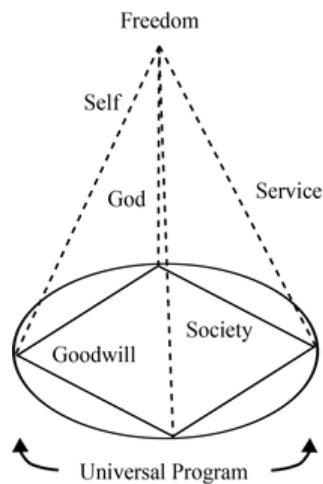




VOLUNTEER REGION SERVICE MEETING

May 3, 2020

A Service Body of Narcotics Anonymous



Kirstie M.
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615-939-5770

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Activities subcommittee postponed Spring into Service speaker meeting indefinitely.

Upcoming Events:

The Woods party is still scheduled for 07-11-20 at the laurels in Unicoi.

Area Concerns:

Post script after the ruling by the governor most NA meetings were canceled due to facilities restrictions.
One group in our area was allowed to continue meeting as long as guidelines were followed.

Nightly NA meetings were established at 7:00pm EST 926 591 7058

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Procedural Overview

- Meeting opened at 9:45 am with the Serenity Prayer.
- Twelve Concepts were read.
- VRSC Purpose was read.
- Regional Chair welcomed and recognized visitors.
- Lunch was from 12:00-1:00pm.
- Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Note: HIGHLIGHTED PORTIONS REQUIRE ACTION OR ATTENTION.

Roll Call

Administrative

Chair	Dell E.	Present
Vice-Chair	Vacant	N/A
Secretary	Kirstie M.	Present
Alternate Secretary	Vacant	N/A
Treasurer	Michelle H.	Present
Alternate Treasurer	Vacant	N/A

Regional Representatives

Regional Delegate	Jim B.	Present
Regional Delegate Alt.	Vince B.	Present

Subcommittees

Public Relations	Craig G.	Present
ITCC	Lucy O.	Present
Policy & Procedures	Vacant	N/A
Outreach	Lidia S.	Absent
H & I	Eric P.	Present
VRC 38	Sam D.	Present
VRC Adhoc	Chuck P.	Present

Areas

Chattanooga	Vince B.	Present
Clarksville	Scott G.	Present
East TN Ridges of Recovery	Austin S.	Absent
Greater Nashville	Mike B.	Present
Heart of Tennessee	Donald S.	Present
Knoxville	Stephen Z.	Present
Middle Tennessee	Angela E	Present
Midwest Tennessee	Josh D. (Lee R. Alt RCM)	Present
Mountain Area	Greg V.	Present
West Tennessee	Lucy O.	Present

Quorum Results

Number of Areas represented:

9 of 10 active Areas

**** After lunch one of our RCM's had to leave, we had 8 of 10 Areas present ****

Quorum established? (Requires 2/3 of active areas; 5 needed)

Yes

Review Previous Secretary Minutes

Questions/comments from the floor:

No Questions from the Floor

Motion to accept, second, 9-0-0, unanimous.

Officer Reports

Chairperson Report

VRSC Chair Report Volunteer Region Service Committee

5/03/2020

Hello Everyone

Since our last Region Committee Meeting we've had two In between meetings with increase participation at both. On March 1st we had four in attendance which doubled the previous meeting. Our first discussion was, were there any concerns from the last Regional meeting. There was a concern maybe we rushed through the topic on Googling Narcotics Anonymous and members names and phone numbers are given out. I contacted and talked with the person who brought the topic to the floor and he was satisfied with the way it was handled, he did not feel as though the topic had been rushed through.

We proceeded to talk about the check shortage, disbursement of funds, how to receive needed funding when we are in between RSCs and how to maintain financial accountability? Can money be request and checks written at the In between meeting? No decisions were made more discussion is required.

The following meeting April 7th there were seven participants. We were briefed on the World Service Conference (WSC) and how it would possibly take place by our Regional Delegate (RD). The Treasurer had received checks and mailed out the ones to those who did not receive theirs at our last RSC. ITCC expressed the willingness to help Areas get their website up to date for COVID-19 meeting availability

I would like to conclude my report by inviting Administrative officers, Subcommittee Chairs and their Alternates to support the In between meeting and encourage everyone to review the guidelines to refresh yourselves of the duties and responsibilities of the service position you serve.

Dell E

[Questions/comments from the floor:](#)

Motion to accept, second, 0-0-0, unanimous.

Treasurer Report

****WE NEED AN ALTERNATE TREASURER (3 years clean time requirement) ****

Starting report:

Dell made deposit with two checks
\$1,967.17

Outstanding checks

Rent \$

Tammy Coleman \$

SZF \$

Outstanding balance \$591.50

What are the donations for the last two cycles?

Feb- \$11,012.08 / donated \$1387.20 to world

Nov \$15,588.52 / donated in Dec \$16,736.29 to world

Ending Report:

Starting Available: \$ 34,538.26

Wrote checks for: \$ 28.96

Prudent Reserve: \$ 5,000

PR Bud: \$ 5,959.01

H&I \$ 6,600

Balance: \$ 16,950.29

** Treasurer will send the amount for the plane ticket for Vince to NAWS **

Questions/comments from the floor:

No questions

Motion to accept, second, 9-0-0,

Secretary Report

No report this cycle.

Questions/comments from the floor:

***** We need an Alternate Secretary *****

Area Reports

Chattanooga Area

Greetings Family from the Chattanooga Area of The Volunteer Region,

Eleven of thirteen participation groups have gone to virtual meetings due to the pandemic. We were able to make this transition very quickly and with very few issues. All our meetings are very well attended with members of the area attending but most important, members from other regions and countries attending.

Fellowship Development would like to thank Lucy O. ITTC for updating the Regional meeting list for the Chattanooga Area, showing the virtual meetings and for updating this same information with NAWS. Fellowship Development meet virtually and was able to conduct business as usual with no issues. The chair and vice chair position remain open, but the committee continues to seek qualified persons to fill these positions and to function and fulfill the responsibilities of the committee to the area. Instead of having a carpool, the sub-committee decided to have virtual carpool which has been a success by supporting other groups virtually in the area as well as groups around the world.

The Activities subcommittee is expecting a HUGE turnout for Unity Day. The date has not been set yet due to the pandemic. This is an annual event that is normally held in May.

H&I has not been able to go into facilities but are working on trying to go virtual into the facilities they serve.

The Surrender Subcommittee also met virtually. Speaker Jam 19 is tentatively scheduled for June 20, 2020. More will be revealed. Surrender Under the Stars will be September 25-27. Due to the pandemic and changes of positions in the church, communication with them has been difficult. Once flyers are made the Regional website and the Area website will be updated with registration information.

Grateful to be of service,

Vince B

[Paul Questions/comments from the floor:](#)

No questions from the Floor

Clarksville Area

Good morning and hello family from the Clarksville area! First and foremost, it's good to see all of you and I wish I could see all of you in person, but the commute here took no time at all!

AS we are all aware the virus has hindered a lot of activities and/or events that have been recently planned and possibly in the coming months. With that said, it's proven rather difficult to keep anything on the calendar and set in stone to broaden how the Clarksville Area carries our message. However, this virus has been somewhat a disguised blessing, showing our Area the blind spots where we can improve our communication skills and how we can change the way we function, as a whole, in our Area. It's also been proven difficult to attract regular meeting attendance. Initially we had a huge turn out with the virtual platform, questionably more than in person meetings, but it didn't take long for that to fall off. Went to approximately 30-40 members to approximately 10-15 in regular attendance. We have painfully learned these lessons and should be more equipped moving forward should we ever have to endure such tragic temporary transformations in the future. With all that said, our ASC hasn't met to conduct business and offer no contribution at this time.

The PR committee has missed a couple workshops with our local hospital and local government officials but have remained in contact to reschedule something in the near future once this social distancing thing is over. We do have two events coming up in September where we're planning to put up booths. One is for a local annual celebration called Riverfest. This gets a lot of attention and this could be a great opportunity for our area. Another one is something I attended last year called a suicide prevention, walk for life. I viewed this as a missed opportunity because as we all know, mental health has a huge link to addiction along with what leads to suicide and do not want to miss this opportunity again. With these events, one of them (so far) requires proof of non-profit and I am not sure if our Area has that 501c3 proof or not. I've heard talk of it with members saying we used to but aren't sure if that is still accessible. Is this something the Region can assist with? We would like to get on this as quick as possible, so we don't miss out on this crucial opportunity to let our surrounding community that we're here. Any feedback is welcomed, and I look forward to seeing everyone soon. Wish we had more to report.

In Loving Service,

Scott G.

Clarksville RCM

clarksville@natennessee.org

Questions/comments from the floor:

- In response to nonprofit status- we (the region) have a letterhead from the state of TN. I am not sure that is for your area
- Regional public relations will be helping this Area with event, so regardless of the Area's nonprofit status, the region will be helping so it will be able to help provide this service

East TN Ridges of Recovery Area

Absent- no electronic report

Questions/comments from the floor:

No questions from the Floor

Greater Nashville Area

Greetings Everyone,

The greater Nashville area has stepped up to the current crisis by being totally proactive in carrying the message. There are currently over 50 zoom meetings being conducted, that is the current count according to our website Nanashville.org. Our PR committee has been on the front line of this and has done tremendous work in ensuring that this fast-changing information is being placed on the website.

H-I is staying in communication with all the facilities they serve to stay abreast with the current conditions and remain available to aid when needed. As of now

Our groups have made some headwork in communication with recovery houses and treatment center about the opportunity for their clients to connect with our groups. The fifth tradition is alive and well in Nashville.

On an ASC standpoint a decision was made by the GSR's not to meet in April but to meet in person in May, that created a vacuum in our service delivery. We overcame that by hosting a zoom meeting during April to discuss regional concerns and to collect our areas conscience. That meeting was not well attended which places us in a position to place a present but not voting in old business.

As our RCM team starts our transition, we are looking at the things we did, but most importantly the things we can improve on. Our largest obstacle is to ensure that the information at the RSC is effectively communicated and that the groups have the time necessary to formulate a group conscience on regional matters.

This is my last regional meeting serving as GNA's RCM. My thanks to Jimmy C for being willing to serve in the capacity, to this region for its continued dedication to serve the addict that still suffers. And finally, to the area I serve for having faith in me to serve, participate, and broaden my base of recovery.

In loving service,
Mike B.

Questions/Issues from the Floor

No questions from the Floor

Heart of TN Area

Greetings from the Heart of Tennessee area of Narcotics Anonymous. Jared and I are happy to be here virtually and to be of service to this body, our area and the world. What a strange time we are all learning to live in, challenges and obstacles to carrying the message as we have for so long are numerous but not insurmountable. That being said the HOT area has been conducting its service meetings virtually, both Fellowship Development and the Area meeting were conducted via the zoom platform. As we learn to navigate the new dynamics of virtual service meetings, we will improve the ability to carry the message to the addict who still suffers. If you are interested, we can share the meeting id's with you for our next service meetings scheduled for May 9th and 17th. The HOT area also recently changed its domain name to hotareana.org. This was to help make our interactions with the public and ourselves less confusing. Not everyone we talk to understand the acronyms of the last web address. Very few in person meetings are being held at this time in Rutherford or the surrounding counties. Fortunately, a lot of our meetings have gone online. A list of those meetings is available at hotareana.org.

H&I is scheduled to hold its first virtual H&I meeting on May 7th with a local treatment facility. All of the other H&I meetings are on hold until further notice. H&I also compiled a list of local treatment facilities that we are reaching out to and offering this service too. The PR team started hosting a temporary possibly permanent virtual NA meeting called Coro-NA that meeting id is 726 073 3575 password 121212. It currently meets at 7pm on Wednesday evenings, please join if you are so inclined. Our Outreach team was slightly slowed by our new challenges. They have adapted and overcome and the Nomadic Addicts ride again albeit virtually. The Nomadic Addicts team is supporting two groups meetings virtually. Our scheduled golf fundraiser has been postponed. We will let you all know when that gets rescheduled. In exciting news, we are making literature available to newcomers who request it via professional delivery drivers (addicts who deliver for their jobs). We look forward to getting literature into the hands of people who need it. Our area sent a donation of \$561.39 to the Regions PO box

We did have some feedback from our groups about the VRC money and the funding of the SZF. Concerning the SZF groups wanted to know What the budget for the RD is for the SZF trips? What is the budget at the SZF? What does \$400.00 cover? What cost to the Region? ie what suffers here if we send \$400.00. Overall, we had 2 groups with positive input and 6 groups with no input plus the above questions. The VRC money had 5 groups with positive input, 3 groups with no input, one group that wanted it to move to smaller areas. One group wanted to know why it had not been raised before now? Thought it might be a checks and balance measure to help control costs.

Our votes on the regional motions Scot B for VRC 39 Chair 8-0-0-0 and H&I budget 8-0-0-0
Thank you for allowing us to serve.

Questions/Issues from the Floor

SZF questions and concerns will be brought up again in Open Forum

Knoxville Area

It feels like so much has happened in the past three months. We held an area inventory, facilitated by Craig G. (thanks again!), that had thirteen people in attendance and resulted in four key areas we would like to work on as an area. A task force was formed as a result of the inventory that reports at each ASC.

We elected a PR chair, Jessica S., who has been very diligent and has been reaching out for support.

We elected a new H&I chair, Becca B., who has been part of H&I for quite a while now and has been very active with other areas on Zoom and participated in several virtual H&I meetings.

I was elected to serve a second term as RCM. No one else showed willingness, and I have been advocating for an alternate. I notified the ASC that I will more than likely be moving out of the Knoxville area before the end of the year but I will fulfil my commitment.

We have a nomination for an outreach chair, Robert H., and we are really looking forward to the good work he and his subcommittee will bring to the area.

KACNA has been rescheduled to June 5-7 2020, there has also been a discussion around moving KACNA to odd years rather than even years.

KANA purchased a Zoom account and has been facilitating meetings for the past 5-6 weeks, several home groups opted to use that account where others chose to purchase their own account.

A member of our area reached out to me with some old service documents. I have created an archive on our area website and have been asking any other members that may have documents from GSMNA or KANA to send them to me for archival.

We have discussed holding a sponsorship workshop, but don't have any details ironed out yet. More will be revealed.

The next KANA ASC will be held May 16, 2020.

In loving service,

Stephen Z

Questions/Issues from the Floor

Are you leaving the Region?

Nope, just moving further south!

Middle Tennessee Area

Hi Family,

Because of the covid-19 threat, our Area adhered to the government's "stay at home" policy. We canceled our April Area meeting and have not met since February (2020). We are looking to Zoom as a mechanism to hold future meetings. I would personally like to thank the Regional ITCC chair, Lucy O., for her assistance in helping Homegroups in the Middle Tennessee Area set up Zoom meeting. Because of her effort's, addicts needing a meeting can connect with other addicts. We currently have nine plus zoom meeting. Information on those meeting can be obtained on our website, nanashville.org.

I am very sorry that I am not able to participate in today's Regional meeting. My term as RCM for MTA is at the end, so this would have been my last meeting. As always, I have greatly appreciated working with the members of the Volunteer Regional Service Committee. I am amazed at the dedication and tireless service that each member brings to the table. Even though these times are uncertain, I am certain that the Volunteer Regional Service Committee will rise to the occasion and continue to provide the service that is needed to ensure that the message of NA is carried to the addict who still suffers.

Yours in loving service
Julius H. – RCM MTA

[Questions/Issues from the Floor](#)
No questions from the floor.

Midwest Tennessee Area

Midwest Tennessee Area met on 4/26/2020 via zoom. There were 6 groups out of 11 present as well as Activities, H&I, Public Relations, and Webmaster. Our Outreach subcommittee hasn't been doing much do to covid19. The H&I subcommittee is doing a great job keeping slots filled at four local institutions, however that is on hold due to covid19. Our Public Relations chair has been gaining knowledge of what her position entails. Webmaster is doing a good job keeping website updated with zoom links. Also Lucy O. has helped tremendously with keeping namwt.org updated and easy to navigate. Activities has been doing a great job at hosting fundraisers for our 2nd annual experience, strength, and hope weekend coming up on June 19-21 at pinson mounds state park. Brought back votes for VRC 39 chair and \$20,000 seed money for vrc chair. Also have \$75 donation that will be mailed in.

In loving service, Josh D RCM Midwest Tn Area

[Questions/Issues from the Floor](#)
No questions from the floor.

Mountain Area

**NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS
VOLUNTEER REGION OF TENNESSEE**

05-03-20

Report from: (Area) Mountain Area MANA **Serving** 8 **Home Groups**
Area Officers Phone number, email address
RCM: Greg V. 951-337-0527 gregjvogelsang@gmail.com
RCM Alt: Open
Chair: Kenny C. 423-431-8231 WILLIAMKCRUMBLY@YAHOO.COM
Vice Chair: Open
Secretary: Chelsea G. 615-5802733 clogantwenty3@gmail.com
H&I Chair: Eric S. 423-202-5460 Laytdewayne.ez13@gmail.com
H&I Vice Chair: Open
PR Chair: Reggie G. 423-773-0749 mudfoot47@yahoo.com
Activities Chair: Reggie G. 423-773-0749 mudfoot47@yahoo.com
Activities Vice Chair: Open
Phoneline Chair: Reggie G. 423-773-0749 mudfoot47@yahoo.com
Literature Chair: Ben D. 423-797-0630
Treasurer: Phil S. 276-494-9372 gobamano1@comcast.net
Regional Donation: _____

Report on Subcommittee Activities (--H&I --PR --Activities --Phoneline --Literature)

The Area meeting held on 02-16-20 addressed:

H&I had 5 reports were given from the various facilities, all literature requests were filled.

P.R. subcommittee announced Greg V. would be the vice chair.

Activities subcommittee planned an event called Spring into Service where they would have 5 speakers talking about the different areas of service members could be involved in planned for March 21st 1:00 - 6:00 with a spaghetti dinner.

The area meeting held on 03-15-20 (The last meeting held as the church was closed down that evening due to covid19)

H&I Eddie produced a website and flyer to entice members to participate. Also set-up a google drive to get more participants involved.

Meetings at facilities will be limited to one panel member. (as of the time of this meeting)

Tammy was voted in for panel leader of Willow.

Jeremy was voted in as vice -chair for H&I.

P.R. schedules to be printed for April, May, & June. Angela S. added to phone lines.

YAP number given out. Greg to contact agencies for PSA.

Activities subcommittee postponed Spring into Service speaker meeting indefinitely.

Upcoming Events:

The Woods party is still scheduled for 07-11-20 at the laurels in Unicoi.

Area Concerns:

Post script after the ruling by the governor most NA meetings were canceled due to facilities restrictions. One group in our area was allowed to continue meeting as long as guidelines were followed.

Nightly NA meetings were established at 7:00pm EST 926 591 7058

Questions/Issues from the Floor

No questions from the floor.

West Tennessee Area

Just like others around the world, we have been busy getting virtual meetings set up and keeping the meeting list updated. We have very few in person meetings and several have temp closed and not moved to virtual meetings. We voted to postpone our March area. It was rescheduled for April 5. Our April area didn't have quorum and according to our guidelines had to be rescheduled. We will have our April area on May 10. Hopefully we have a quorum this time. We will be making a motion to change our guideline to be similar to the regions in regard to what we can do if a quorum isn't there... Like being able to have discussions and read group reports, etc.

NA in May was rescheduled for September 18-20. Visit nainmay.org for updates.

We've not really done much else.

We did vote yes for Scot B for VRC 2021 chair. (11 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain)

Lucy

Questions/comments from Floor:

No questions from the floor.

Delegate Report

Regional Delegate Report

SECRETARY WILL SEND THIS REPORT AS SOON AS IT COMES IN

Questions/comments from Floor:

- NAWS pays for delegates/housing for the conference- were they able to get refunds? Did it save money?
- There was approximately \$50,000 in travel arrangements that were lost. They are hoping for more refunds OR credits... the airlines are only offering credits.
- Having the capacity to vote on just the WB motions around the FIPT creates distrust. This makes it seem like they, the people who are antagonistic towards NAWS, have a point.
- When the line of questioning is getting shut down... the 9th concept speaks to this with seeking out the lone voice.
- Is the World Board coddling Regional Delegate's in an effort to get RD's to push the WB's agenda or is that just a perception?
- Yes, I have felt that presence. I do see a "coalition" building. I do see a solicitation for support.
- What needs to happen for the delegates / conference as a whole, to get done what needs to get done? Like the CAR/CAT.
- We will hold it open, we need to discuss it as a body.

Subcommittee and Ad-Hoc Reports

ITCC Report

This has been a busy few months. I've made several updates to our regional meeting list, including the list on the website and the printable pdf version of the list and regional helpline after there were new versions put out by the team of volunteers updating this software to help us with showing the changes brought about by the new temp closures and virtual meetings. If you have looked at our website list lately or called the helpline, you'll see the addition of 2 formats, TC for temporarily closed and VM for virtual meetings. The virtual meetings, including phone meetings, both have clickable links, whether you go to the website OR text our helpline: 901-350-5030.

At this time we have several meetings around the region using our Zoom account for their virtual homegroup meetings.

Additionally, I've sent weekly or at least every other week meeting updates to NAWs so our meeting list will be correct there as well.

I'm asking for reimbursement for Twilio (an account used for the helpline) of \$10.97. I'm in no hurry for this but if I don't include it in my report, I'm likely to forget! I also need reimbursed for the domain renewal of 17.99.

Lucy

[Questions/comments from Floor:](#)

No questions from the floor

H&I Report

We had our Quarterly H&I Meeting last Sunday via Zoom. We had 5 areas present which is the most we have had so far. Jessie O was elected as our Vice chair. We had a brief conversation about virtual H&I Meetings. It was also brought to my attention that a prison in Virginia is looking for a meeting, so I have been looking into which Area I need to reach out to, to make this happen.

ILS

ERIC P

Questions/comments from Floor:

No questions from the floor.

Outreach Report

Absent- no electronic report

Questions/comments from Floor:

N/A

Policy and Procedures Report

**** Vacant ****

Questions/comments from Floor:

N/A

Public Relations Report

Hello Family!

Greetings from the Volunteer Regional Public Relations Team!

Most of you have probably heard the saying that you may be the only example of the Basic Text that someone may see. In these times of social distancing and quarantine, our efforts at letting the community “see” our recovery in the way we live is being diminished. All members of Narcotics Anonymous are members of the NA PR Team. Please be mindful of your behavior in the public, especially social media, as it may be the only reflection people see of our program.

We have been quite busy as Regional Public Relations! We met on February 25th, which was BC...Before Corona! During that time, we discussed a booth at Nashville Pride on June 27 & 28, 2020. We voted unanimously to fund the booth from our budget. Our budget allows for \$1,200 for event booths. The booth at Nashville Pride will cost \$300. One of the issues brought up was the size of the event and having enough trusted servants to fill the 18 hours of time slots. Clarksville and The HOT Area quickly and energetically expressed their willingness to commit to putting on the event. Clarksville stated that they had 28 members present at their subcommittee, which was due to the PR Training workshop that the Regional PR provided for them. On a final note about Nashville Pride, we clarified that our members who serve cannot wear rainbow colors so that there is no appearance of endorsing an outside organization.

We will be having business cards made for Regional Public Relations which will include the Region’s website and the Yapp number, but both of which are accessible and beneficial to all our Area Public Relations subcommittees. Our final decision made BC was to begin work preparing for a PR for Professionals event in Tn.

AD...After Diagnosis, we met to discuss how we were going to address a letter that had been circulating around the fellowship telling us and the public that we were basically not representing NA if we were meeting in person or parking lots. We believed that letter was governing and shaming, so we believed we needed to revise the letter to speak to our members and members of the community in a more loving and unified voice. After a handful of discussions, we agreed on the wording of a letter that spoke to the main points that we wanted to speak to. The letter has been shared with all the Area PR Chairs and some Areas have added the statement to their website.

At our last subcommittee meeting, Brittany H. was voted in as the Secretary for the VRSC PR Subcommittee! Brittany has been actively involved with Regional PR for some time now, and we look forward to her continued support of and participation in Regional Public Relations! She is currently the Vice-Chair for GNA/MTA Public Relations.

I was asked to connect with some members of the Kentucky Survivors Area from Lexington, Ky, who had expressed an interest in possibly serving with the Volunteer Region. I participated with them at a PR for professionals event in which we met with their Mayor’s representative on the opioid task force, a city councilwoman from a predominantly Hispanic community, and an organization that provides services, including translations to the immigrant populations within their state. The purpose of the meeting was to brainstorm ways in which their Area can connect with the Hispanic community and make the NA message available to an underserved portion of the population.

The following day, they held a Learning Day. This was a great event and used technology. There were participants from India, South Africa, and all around the United States! One of the topics was preparing a Public Service Announcement, or PSA. I was able to take

some really good notes, but this PSA was made available for us to change up to meet our needs and to be shared across our state. I will be sending it out to the members of the Region for input, and then hopefully working on making it available on numerous platforms around Tennessee. More will be revealed.

We received a request from a newspaper reporter to do an interview to discuss how NA is being affected by the pandemic. I was super excited about the opportunity to really put Tradition 11 to task! It was like I have been training for all these years for this moment! Lol! I asked for a list of questions that she planned on asking so that I could be better prepared to respond, and she accommodated the request. She asked for my name and title for referencing during the article, but I told her I could not accommodate her request because of our guiding principles, and that my position would have to suffice. The article was printed in their paper in East Tn and it was quite interesting to see that the AA Public Relations Chair did not take the same action, and her first and last name were used several times in the article, where I was wonderfully referred to as “the PR Chair”. It was a great opportunity to add some positive light to our program and to maintain the boundaries our Twelve Traditions provide us. Along those same lines, even though I am the single point of accountability for our Regional Public Relations Subcommittee, I sought guidance and input from a handful of Public Relations members before I sent the reporter my responses, in order to make sure that what I was sending truly represented the best interest of Narcotics Anonymous.

The Clarksville Area PR Chair has sought some input regarding a couple of PR booths in their Area. They will be needing use of the Region’s non-profit status for the event, and we will be happy to provide that resource for them, along with providing any other support we can give them for these events. We are super excited to watch as our Area Public Relations Committees around the state grow and catch on fire with excitement and enthusiasm!

And finally, the Mid-West Area PR Chair has asked for us to facilitate a PR training workshop in their community in June. As with everything these days, more will be revealed!

Our next meeting will be May 19th at 7:30 central via Zoom. If you are interested in joining, please email me at publicrelations@natennessee.org for the link.

Thanks for allowing me to serve,
Craig G
VRSC PR Chair

Questions/comments from Floor:

- Are you cancelling the May meeting seeing is how the PR Week has been moved from June to July?
- As of now, no, we will still meet.
- PR Week= July 6-10, 2020

Volunteer Regional Convention XXXVIII

Hey family,

Many things have transpired since we last met, All of which effect the convention significantly. On March 4th, my hotel liaison was contacted by the event manager of The Hotel Knoxville to inform us that she had just been informed that all employees were being laid-off at the end of business that day, and the property would be held for private auction on March 10th. The only further direction she could provide was to contact the hotel after April 23rd. She also informed us that the new owners would be honoring our contract, but that we could contact Marriott Corporate offices if we wished to get our deposit back and nullify the contract. We have since tried to reach anyone at the hotel with no success. It appears that the property has remained vacant since early March. In addition, we have contacted Marriott Corporate offices to reclaim our deposit and were informed that Marriott Bonvoy has had no affiliation with The Hotel Knoxville property since March of 2018, when the property was sold to iSquare Management, a company out of Little Rock, AR. Several attempts have been made to contact iSquare Management, all of the voicemail boxes we reached have been full. I honestly am not sure where to go from here, what legal measures to take, and how to even go about pursuing such measures. This has, unfortunately, been only one of two major set-backs that our committee is facing. During a world-wide pandemic, I think it's fair to say that Recovery conventions fall under the distinction of non-essential. In congruence with Covid-19 public health and safety guidelines, not only are large gatherings of people unsafe and currently prohibited, I feel as though they would be financially irresponsible in the near future. From individual addicts all the way to the WSC, NA funds are desperately needed elsewhere. That being said, our committee has discussed possible options moving forward and all members have the willingness to serve the region in whatever capacity and for whatever length of time. Our discussion, which included the point of swapping of host years that Knoxville made with Chattanooga in the recent past, produced three reasonably viable solutions.

1. Postpone VRC38 until 2021 and have Memphis be the next hosting city
2. Postpone VRC38 until 2021 and allow Knoxville to Co-Host with ETROR and MANA (the intent being to hold the convention in Gatlinburg/Sevierville/Jefferson City)
3. Have VRC38 this year and host the convention via the ZOOM platform

As I said, my committee and I are willing to do whatever is asked of us from the region and are open to any and all ideas. The situation we find ourselves in is unprecedented so the need for Unity and Cooperation are paramount. Our common welfare must come first.

In loving service,

Sam D.

VRC38 Chair

[Questions/comments from Floor:](#)

The two main issues in this report will be sent to Open Forum

VRC Guideline Revision Ad-Hoc

We met on March 2 at 8:00 on Zoom with 2 in attendance. We did not meet on April 13.

We discussed the motion that was on the table to raise the budget for VRC. We discussed what was the desire of the region for VRC in terms of do the members want it to continue and at what frequency.

We began outlining what the Oversight Board would look like and its responsibilities. We agreed the next discussion we would be discussing the specifics of the Oversight Board.

Considering the current Covid crisis I was unable to hold the April 13th meeting.

As a member of NA and Chair of this committee I have the following concerns regarding VRC. VRC 38

1. With the current situation and its future outcome in Fall will Knoxville VRC be able to be held?
2. What are the financial liabilities to the region if the convention is canceled?
3. What is the Hotels position on the fall convention proceeding and will social distancing be a requirement?
4. What is the minimum number of rooms guaranteed and meals required per our current contract?
5. What is the minimum number of paid attendees to break even?
6. Will our members be able to afford to attend this convention?
7. Will there be PPE for all who attend this convention?

Region

1. Have donations dropped during the last cycle? What is projected for future funds based on no face to face meetings? If meetings do reestablish and there is a 10-person limit how will this effect donations?
2. Does the Region see VRC as a necessary budget item if donations are declining?
3. If donations are declining how can Motion #12-01-2019-4 VRC Funding be considered viable?
4. Would the Region consider a motion to ask every Home Group if VRC should be continued?

These questions have not been brought before the subcommittee and are only my personal concerns as a member of the Volunteer Region and as a trusted servant to the Region. With many years in this fellowship I have seen quite a lot, but this new situation is one which has never been traversed and we are working with new parameters. The newcomer is the most important person and carrying the message to the still suffering addict is our responsibility yet, to endanger the lives of them and others is now our obligation to the rest of society.

ILS,
Chuck P. Ad-hoc Chair

Questions/comments from Floor:

- What is the average expense for travel each cycle? (Asked the treasurer)
- Treasurer will be gathering that info for the Open Forum discussion about VRC

Open Forum

Discussion 1- Regional Donation to SZF

How do our areas / members of this body feel about regular donations to the Southern Zonal Forum?

Questions/comments from Floor:

- What is the budget for the RD for the SZF trip, if any?
- \$1,200 and \$1,500 (\$2,700 in total) reimbursement for two cycles for travel for 3 people/2 trips a piece.
- What will the \$400 that we donate cover/ what is it used for?
- Does this body have the regular funds for this and how would it affect the region?
- PR Chair shared that he has gotten a lot of experience through participating with the SZF
- A couple of RCM's shared that they have shared that they told their areas that we donated and that if they had any issues or concerns to please share. No members chose to share.
- An RCM shared that we may not have the answer on whether or not we should decide this today due to the current circumstances of COVID-19
- It may want to be brought up that they (SZF) should hold it (SZF) outside of the 4 major cities
- We may want to look at getting creative with our travel to save the region money and still get the information out there and the resources
- Treasurer said that we do have plenty of money this cycle of we were to send a donation this time
- **This discussion will go on Open Forum to be brought up next cycle.**

Discussion 2- VRC 38 – Hotel

VRC 38 chair cannot get in touch with anyone for a refund after the hotel shut down.

Questions/comments from Floor:

- The hotel was in management by a company (I square management) in Little Rock, AK
- **The VRC 38 chair will be sending a certified letter** to the site of the hotel and the company to deem the contract breached and to request our deposit back. It will also state that the VRC will not be providing any more funds to any entity involved.

Discussion 3- VRC 38 – Options for this years' convention

What will we do for this years' VRC?

Questions/comments from Floor:

These are the three options presented in the VRC 38 Chair report:

1. Postpone VRC38 until 2021 and have Memphis be the next hosting city
 2. Postpone VRC38 until 2021 and allow Knoxville to Co-Host with ETROR and MANA (the intent being to hold the convention in Gatlinburg/Sevierville/Jefferson City)
 3. Have VRC38 this year and host the convention via the ZOOM platform
- Do we have the resources to host via Zoom?
 - The chair and his committee has the willingness and he does know the beginnings of getting it going. If it was hosted via Zoom it would not have to be a "Knoxville" hosted VRC, many others could help host as well.
 - A couple of people have resources with knowledge of virtual conventions

Vote: Do we want to hold a virtual convention?

5-0-2-1- Vote Passed on the floor

Discussion 4- COVID-19 Statement on Website

Regional PR Committee approved a COVID-19 statement and the PR Chair is suggesting we add the statement to our website

Questions/comments from Floor:

“Narcotic Anonymous Public Relations Subcommittees across the state of Tn. encourage all members to be mindful of the executive order by our Governor to limit gatherings to less than 10 people, and to avail themselves of virtual and phone line meetings until this crisis is averted and all our local meetings can be restored to face to face status.”

- Since we don't know how long the “10 people” rule will apply or if the 10 applies everywhere, maybe we should remove the 10
- The governor's order still stands at 10, so a member would like to keep it
- Should we post this as is? 9 voted yes
- Should we post this without the numbers? 3 voted yes
- **Current statement will be placed on the VRSC Website.**

Discussion 5- Meeting every February via Zoom

Do we want to do this?

Questions/comments from Floor:

- This would save a large sum of money
- This would prevent us from canceling due to weather
- This would allow people to be at home on that day since it is at the same time as the Super Bowl every year to avoid a rushed atmosphere
- Some think it would be helpful to hold a virtual meeting all the time
- Some think it should be part time virtual
- Virtual meetings have been available for quite a while and everyone has the option to do so any time
- Maybe we should make the motion read that if we choose to do this, we could do it on a meeting by meeting basis
- This decision does not affect groups, it affects this meeting only, so it would not have to go back to groups.
- Straw poll for virtual Feb meetings: 9-3-0-2

Discussion 6- Send what we were going to spend on Vince to the Conference

Sending the money that we are getting back from Vince's plane ticket to the conference

Questions/comments from Floor:

- Should we wait on a recommendation from the treasurer?
- We may have more, that was just a suggestion for that specific money

Vote to send the funds: 7,1,0,0 – passed on the floor

Discussion 7- Specified conversation around pending funds

The guidelines specify sending everything not “pending” to NAWs

Questions/comments from Floor:

- A lot of our pending funds are for VRC and we are unsure what VRC will look like in the future
- We will move on from this and table this discussion until our In between meeting

Discussion 8- Outreach Chair removal / warm body syndrome

We should take responsibility for this by putting someone in the position at their first Regional meeting.

Questions/comments from Floor:

Chair has attempted to reach out to Outreach chair on multiple occasions with no response. Since the outreach chair has not been to three consecutive meetings and has had no contact, the VRSC Chair will be sending an official email to let her know that the position is officially open.

***Per article 9, sections 3 & 4 ***

Discussion 9- Continuing VRC

Do we want to ask our members if we want to continue the VRC?

Questions/comments from Floor:

- We just sent a nomination back to groups asking to vote in Scot B for VRC 39, maybe it's not the best time
- Maybe we could ask the question, just later
- If not now, when? There will always be “something” going on
- There are a lot of things going on right now, the groups will have many other things to think about
- **There is no clear direction on where we are going with this at the moment, and it will be brought up again.**

Old Business

Nomination(s)

Nomination # 02-02-2020-01
Scot B for VRC 39 Chair

GNA: 7-0-0-0
HOT: 8-0-0-0
Knox: 7-0-0-3
Middle TN: 7-0-0-0
Midwest TN: 6-0-0-0
Mountain: 7-0-0-0
West TN: 11-0-0-0

Nomination Passed Total: 53-0-0-3

Motions-

VRSC Motion #12-01-2019-04

The RCM's that shared, all shared that they discussed it with their areas and that the overall consensus did not have any issue with the VRSC funding the VRC with a \$20,000 budget. It was decided to go ahead and take this motion back for an official vote from our groups.

Motion by: Craig G from: PR Chair

Second: Julius H. from: MTA

Motion reads:

To change article XII, Section 12C from- C. Six thousand dollars seed money for the upcoming convention committee To- Article XII, Section 12C. To provide the VRC subcommittee an annual operating budget of \$20,000. The VRC subcommittee can make a withdrawal from that budget to open up their bank account but the remaining funds can be accessed as necessary.

Intent:

To provide funding for a subcommittee of the VRSC without relying on the subcommittee to put on fundraisers. If we do not require H&I, Outreach, and PR to do fundraisers to provide for their budgets, it doesn't seem practical to require VRC to do fundraisers to provide their service.

***** TAKE THIS MOTION BACK TO YOUR
GROUPS FOR A VOTE *****

New Business

VRSC Motion # 05-03-2020-01

Motion by Craig G from: PR Chair

Second: Scott G

from Clarksville

To host every February's VRSC Subcommittee meeting via Zoom (with no affiliation with Zoom)

Intent:

1. Save the VRSC funds
2. Helps members get more experience using technology
3. Prevent the need to change the meeting due to inclement weather (this is in the guidelines but not frequently used)
4. Will prevent the February VRSC from being rushed due to people trying to get home for Super Bowl parties

Discussion Floor:

Total: 4-3-0-1 – motion passed on the floor

VRSC Motion # 05-03-2020-02

Motion by Craig G from: PR Chair

Second: Stephen Z

from Knoxville

To send whatever funds Vince will be returning due to not attending the World Service Conference directly to NAWS.

Intent:

To use the funds already allocated for the Alternate RD's travel to the World Service Conference to help fund NAWS due to the shortfall of funds at the World Service Office

Discussion Floor:

Total: 7,1,0,0 – motion passed on the floor

Discussion 1- THIS Zoom Meeting

Any comments/concerns/issues with today's Zoom meeting?

- The chair shared that he knows this was the first zoom meeting and that it had its challenges and he is seeking ideas to improve it
- Maybe we can get a clear idea on/take a look at how the Abstentions don't count toward the vote
- The Zoom meeting went fairly well, other than a few members having internet challenges
- The time we spent debating on procedure
- There was a limited discussion about VRC going to a virtual meeting this year
- The chair has been elected into the position and he can ask the body less about where to go from here. The chair can make choices about when to move forward and the body can raise their hand if they oppose rather than leaving it up to the body to choose at every discussion
- Multiple votes in open forum, maybe save official voting to new business
- Needing to follow the black and white policies/procedures
- The chair did a great job under the pressure of today's long meeting!

Announcements

- **PLEASE ATTEND THE "IN BETWEEN" MEETING ON TUESDAY JUNE 9TH @ 7:30PM**

Closing Activities

- Review of the day's business
- Open Positions! Please pass this on to your areas/groups!
 - Alt Sec, Alt Treasurer, Vice Chair
- Final Treasurers Report (see [Ending Report:](#))

Next Meeting Details

The VRSC meeting will be held:
08/02/2020 @ 09:30am.

403 Hickerson Dr. (Jaycees building)
Murfreesboro, TN