

Greater Philadelphia Regional Service Committee Meeting



Minutes of December 13, 2020 Meeting

2020 Greater Philadelphia Regional Service Committee			
2020 Administrative Board	Name	Telephone Number	E-Mail Address
RSC Chairperson	Melvin S.	856-906-8618	mstokes1148@comcast.net
RSC Co-Chairperson	Matt O.	484-320-0011	olenik227@gmail.com
RSC Treasurer	Scott D.	215-500-4327	flyoldhead@gmail.com
RSC Secretary	Arlene C.	267-265-2347	secretary@naworks.org richardchappelle@aol.com
Policy Chairperson	Open Position		
ABC Chairperson	Billy W.	215-868-1969	billywolf3@gmail.com
ABC Co-Chairperson	Lea H.	856-264-1348	leboneh@yahoo.com
ABC Secretary	Open Position		
ABC Treasurer	Abu S.	267-237-1840	abusutton@yahoo.com
Regional Delegate	Clarence A.	610-659-4304	llewtra1949@gmail.com
Regional Delegate Alt	Ted D.	215-715-4847	Teddawson.td@gmail.com
Special Worker - Admin	Theresa T.	267-304-3253	ttovercomer@verizon.net
Special Worker - IT	Michael J.	610-842-4691	michaelj@naworks.org
2020 RCMs			
Clean Acres Area RCM	Harvey E.	610-563-7014	harveyellison2@gmail.com
Clean Acres Area RCM Alt	Eric M.	484-838-2778	egotabenz@gmail.com
Delaware County Area (Delco) RCM	Mike S.	610-368-6122	trollvis153@comcast.net
Downtown Area (DT) RCM	Drew C.	267-838-0515	lemonhillbuilders@gmail.com
Greater Camden Area (GCA) RCM	Bob R.	609-605-2609	rprogerssr@gmail.com
Greater Camden Area (GCA) RCM Alt	Juana M.	609-707-0058	jminney993@gmail.com
Inner City Area (ICA)	Rob G.	267-418-8394	dchrisee@icloud.com
Montgomery County Area (<u>Montco</u>) RCM	Kevin H.	484-639-3556	khenry59@yahoo.com
Northwest Area (NW) RCM	Eugene G.	267-726-1641	genegist.com@gmail.com
Northwest Area (NW) RCM Alt	Laurence D.		
Philadelphia Area RCM	Karen D.	215-694-8985	karen.donaldson215@gmail.com
Philadelphia Area RCM Alt	Alex D.	215-518-1633	alexnd3playngolf@yahoo.com
Pyramid of Freedom (POF) RCM	Diane K.	215-954-9071	kirbydiane@yahoo.com
Pyramid of Freedom (POF) RCM Alt	Earl W.	215-264-8879	herew58@aol.com
Schuylkill Valley Area (SVA) RCM	Joanna G.	856-649-4536	breatheletgo@ymail.com
South Philly Area (SPA) RCM	<u>Wahidah</u>	215-966-2936	wahidahlee1954@gmail.com
West Southwest Area (WSW) RCM	Melvin H.	215-990-5254	hmelohill@hotmail.com
West Southwest Area (<u>WSW</u>) RCM Alt	Tony F.	215-987-7821	clifffulwood@gmail.com

2020 Greater Philadelphia Regional Service Committee

2020 Regional Subcommittees			
H & I Chairperson	Heather B.	267-310-8329	babcockheather420@gmail.com
H & I Outreach	<u>Duwan</u>	215-920-6262	kameelah43@yahoo.com
<u>Cleansheet</u> Chairperson	Keith F.	215-571-5167	kfarmer113@yahoo.com cleansheet@naworks.org
Public Relations Chair	Marvin E.	267-593-7323	marvinellis39@yahoo.com
Public Relations Co-Chair	Brother James	215-668-5252	jastone55@gmail.com
IT Committee Chair	Pete B.	215-205-8033	pbrown9@comcast.net
Meeting List Chair	Monique H.	267-250-8550	mofhoto@yahoo.com
Meeting List Co-Chair	Mark B.	215-327-4859	markel811.na@gmail.com
Phone Line Chair	Brenda M.	215-397-0431	byfaithternal@gmail.com
Unity	Matt S.	215-410-4577	sirchoya@gmail.com
Convention Committee Chair			
Trusted Servants / Visitors			
Northwest Area IT Tech	Pat C.	267-456-8708	pat.clark58@gmail.com
Donate to GPRNA via Venmo: @GreaterPhiladelphia-RegionOfNA Or via PayPal: \$INAWORKS			

Greater Philadelphia Regional Areas

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clean Acres Area 2. Delco Area 3. Downtown Area 4. Greater Camden Area 5. Inner City Area 6. Montgomery County Area | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Northwest Area 8. Philadelphia Area 9. Pyramid of Freedom Area 10. Schuylkill Valley Area 11. South Philadelphia Area 12. West Southwest Area |
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Greater Philadelphia Regional Subcommittees

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Regional Delegate 2. ABC Chair/Office Manager 3. ABC Treasurer 4. Convention Chairperson 5. Convention Treasurer 6. Meeting List 7. Phone Line 8. Hospitals & Institutions 9. Unity | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Public Relations 11. IT/Webmaster 12. Clean Sheet 13. Administrative 14. Policy 15. JAC 16. RSC Treasurer 17. Special Worker - Admin 18. Special Worker - IT |
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PURPOSE

The primary purpose of the Greater Philadelphia Regional Service Committee (GPRSC) is to unify the Areas within the region and help carry the message to the addict who still suffers.

The GPRSC provides a meeting place for all the Regional Committee Members (RCMs) within the region to express their collective group consciences.

The GPRSC meeting is the center of communications to share information and ideas between each area and other regions. It is the intermediate position linking our area services with the worldwide services of NA.

The GPRSC provides and promotes more active service committees to fulfill the common needs of the areas they serve and the communities they service.

The GPRSC participates in the continuation and growth of NA by initiating and contributing to the worldwide services of NA each year. The GPRSC will send the Regional Delegate (RD) and RD-ALT to the biennial WSC meeting and other World Services and NAWS, Inc. functions, when funding is available. The GPRSC will also participate in World Service by involving itself in literature review and development and all other World Service projects requiring fellowship-wide input and support.

The GPRSC is a service committee created by the Areas within. The elected officers are but trusted servants to the areas; a loving and caring Higher Power has the ultimate authority to guide all the regional meetings. The Twelve Traditions, Twelve Concepts and Guide to Local Service are the foundation by which the region operates.

The GPRSC is responsible for bringing together all members within the region to promote unity and harmony by celebrating our mutual recovery in NA. At least once each year, the region will accomplish this goal by holding activities such as conferences, conventions, campouts, unity days, etc. The planning and implementation of these events is left to a regional sub-committee specifically established to carry out this purpose.

Regional Service Committee Meeting – 12/13/2020

Note: If there is no quorum by thirty (30) minutes after the meeting starts, we will begin with an informational meeting, which will include the reading and acceptance of reports.

An emergency meeting of the Regional Service Committee Meeting was called today to take care of Regional business not completed at last week's regularly scheduled meeting.

The meeting was opened at 10:20 a.m. with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. The meeting was conducted via the Zoom Platform.

The 12 Traditions and 12 Concepts were read.

The Purpose of the GPRSC was read.

Roll Call of Areas and introductions of other participants.

Roll Call: 8 Areas Represented

Clean Acres Area

Downtown Area

Greater Camden Area

Northwest Area

Philadelphia Area

Pyramid of Freedom Area

Schuylkill Valley Area

West Southwest Area

Agenda for this meeting:

- Philadelphia Area Concern
- WSO Loans
- Open Forum

Philadelphia Area Concern:

Karen D., Philadelphia Area RCM, presented the following concern from her Area.

Home groups in the Philadelphia Area that have been following the city ordinance prohibiting inside gatherings are concerned about those groups still meeting in person and how their actions may affect them. It is felt that this is a violation of our 4th Tradition warning against actions that could affect other groups or NA as a whole. They are afraid that they may experience a similar situation as when the Catholic Church banned all NA meetings several years ago because of the issue of insurance coverage that was raised involving one meeting. The Area is looking for guidance from the Region on resolving this issue.

This concern sparked extensive, and at times heated, discussion, and several questions and points of information were raised.

If groups are meeting, they must have received permission from the church or facility where they are meeting, and should not be referred to as “rogue” meetings. Are they limiting attendance? Practicing social distancing? Because we are tenants, it is the facility and not the group that will feel the repercussions if there is a violation of the city regulations. The Administrative Board of the Philadelphia Area has been looking into this situation. Although religious groups have limited exemption from the city ordinance, as NA home groups, we are not covered by that exemption.

Can or should the Region do anything about this? There was the suggestion that this is ultimately an outside issue. Although removal from the meeting list has been posed as an option, some felt that would be a slippery slope, and that we should first go to the groups and request that they stop the violations.

Billy W. said that the ABC was asked to check into this situation and make a recommendation. They reached out to World to see if there was any information about how other Regions may be handling similar situations. World confirmed that other Regions are having similar issues, but the World is staying out of expressing an opinion on health issues. Billy reminded us that, although this issue has caused a lot of division in our Region, it is still a temporary issue. (At one time, NA groups meeting in New York were in violation of local laws.)

We should remember that we are an organization of service, not of government, and should be careful not to use the 4th Tradition as an excuse to govern. We are not an investigative agency and have no way to enforce our Traditions. If the Region intervenes on behalf of the Philadelphia Area, will we have to do this in other Areas? The ABC is recommending that we again put out a memo giving general guidance for how home groups can respond to this pandemic. (See attached memo.) We can deal with any consequences when, and if, they occur.

Karen mentioned that some members of the Philadelphia Area are also small business owners, who have been forced to close down, but now see the religious organizations renting event space and are upset by that. Some groups have contacted Philadelphia City Council and the Department of Health to report those groups that are still meeting. Many felt that this was an outside issue and should not be used to influence our actions as a Fellowship. There was also the feeling that reporting groups to city authorities was possibly a greater violation of the 4th Tradition than the original action of holding meetings that initiated the concern.

There was no proposal or recommendation for specific Regional action on this issue. The PR Chair offered to reach out to those groups in the Philadelphia Area who are still meeting by doing PR presentations to discuss the issues and encourage further dialogue surrounding this situation.

World Board Loans:

Since last week's RD Report, we have received additional information concerning the application of the World Board for business loans.

The World Board has received two loans: PPP (Paycheck Protection Program), which covers employee payrolls, in the amount of \$676,740; and EIDL (Economic Injury Disaster Loan), which provides small businesses and non-profits with low-interest loans to cover operating costs such as rent and other expenses, in the amount of \$150,000.

The question is whether acceptance of these funds violates our Tradition of being self-supporting. Billy W. said during the time he was RD, it was determined that accepting such loans would be ok. The World is, in fact, a business. There is a provision in the FIPT that allows the World to get loans.

Staff has been cut, and the hours of remaining employees have been cut. One argument in favor of these loans is that our employees should not be penalized simply because they work for NA.

The question was raised whether the Fellowship should approve business loans or if the RDs could make that decision without having to go back to the Regions and Areas. In most cases, it would be unlikely that we would have the time to bring such an issue back to the Fellowship.

The loans have already been accepted, so discussion now applies to what happens in the future. These programs include the possibility that the loans can be forgiven. Some members felt that not having to pay back the money would definitely cross the line and would be inconsistent with our spiritual aim.

OPEN FORUM

7th Tradition:

Because of the drop in 7th Tradition donations during the pandemic, can we find easier ways for individuals to make their donations? Not everyone is comfortable with using PayPal, Venmo, and other digital methods. Checks can be mailed to the virtual office. There was the suggestion that recurring or automatic payments may be a good option.

In any case, we need to be sure we spread the word and get as much information as possible out to the Fellowship. Our Regional website is certainly a good tool for that, but not everyone checks the website regularly, so other avenues can be included. It was felt that it is important that we send out information about what Region does and why our financial support is needed, as well as explanation about the transfer of funds and assurance of the level of security in that process. Communication is the key!

Pete B., our IT Committee Chair, is continuing to work on this issue and will be offering recommendations soon.

RSC Meeting:

The RSC is a recurring meeting, and the code and password will remain the same – even for emergency meetings, such as today. For other Regional meetings, a reservation form for Zoom meetings is available on the Regional website, www.naworks.org.

JAC:

The JAC will meet prior to our next RSC meeting. Information will be forthcoming.

Meeting closed with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.

The next regularly scheduled RSC Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 7th, 2021, 10:00 am, on the Zoom platform. Meeting id is 532 740 6231. Password is 1234.

In loving service,

Arlene C., RSC Secretary



GREATER PHILADELPHIA REGION

We have received inquiries about how Greater Philadelphia Region of Narcotics Anonymous groups should respond to the COVID-19 (coronavirus). As a fellowship, we do not have opinions on outside issues. This includes providing guidance on health issues, which is outside of our scope.

We suggest contacting your local health authorities for appropriate information regarding health issues and questions. We do have general suggestions based on our collective experience that allows the focus to remain on our primary purpose.

Some groups have taken the suggestion to make the following changes:

- Avoid hugging and shaking hands
- Refrain from holding hands and embracing when closing a meeting
- Make sure coffee and information areas are sanitary
- Possibly suspend food and drink stations for the time being

Regardless of group decisions each individual is responsible for their own health decisions. NA support can come in many forms. Along with meetings, there are contact lists, social media, and phone/online meetings.

For NA virtual meetings go to <https://naworks.org/virtual>. For more information on the Greater Philadelphia Region of Narcotics Anonymous, go to <https://www.naworks.org>.

We hope this information is helpful. If you have additional questions, please email Olenik227@gmail.com