

# Volunteer Regional Service Meeting

## February 6, 2011

Meeting opened at 9:35 with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.

Reading of the 12 Concepts by Luke.

Reading of the purpose of an RSC (ARTICLE III) by the Vice Chair.

All visitors and new members were welcomed and recognized.

### **ROLL CALL and Establishment of a quorum.**

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE:**

Chair	absent
Vice-Chair	here
Secretary	here
Alt-Secretary	vacant
Treasurer	here
Alt-Treasurer	vacant
Regional Delegate	here
Alt-Regional Delegate	vacant

#### **SUBCOMMITTEES:**

	<b>Present/Absent</b>	<b>Represented by:</b>
Activities	vacant	
Hospitals & Institutions	late	
Outreach	vacant	
Policy & Procedures	vacant	
Public Relations	vacant	
VRC XXVIII	here	
Financial Legal Adhoc	here	
Exploration Adhoc	here	
VRC 29	here	

#### **AREAS:**

	<b>Present/Absent</b>	<b>Represented by:</b>
Chattanooga	here (pre Dec)	
Greater Nashville	here (pre Dec)	
Greater Smokey Mountain	here (pre but late Dec)	
Knoxville Area	here (pre Dec)	
Mid West Tennessee	absent (pre Dec)	
Middle Tennessee	here (pre Dec)	
Stones River	here (abs Dec)	Gloria
West Tennessee	here (pre Dec)	

Quorum - established

## **SECRETARY REPORT:**

I started the yahoo email list group and sent invites to everyone I had emails for. Many of you didn't respond and in order for this to work you need to. If you go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/natennessee/> and push the "Join this Group" button it will take you to a yahoo sign in page. You can create an account or sign in.

Motion to accept minutes by GSM area, MT area seconded. Passes - unanimous

## **TREASURER REPORT:**

Motion to accept the Treasurer's report by GSM area, 2nd WT area. Passed - unanimous

See Attachment: Feb2011TreasurersReport.pdf

Motion made by Chattanooga area, 2nd by Stones River area:

For the purposes of today, Lucy O (Regional Secretary) initial each check that Callie G writes (VRSC treasurer) in lieu that Melvin (VRSC chair) is absent..

Intent: So that reimbursements of checks can be written and internal accountability can be upheld.

Passed unanimous.

Question: How can we find out info about the phone line expense?

Reply: It's an automated response when you call. Treasurer will get info and bring back next meeting.

Question: We paid the CPA - did it include breakdown of taxes and financial adhoc expenses?

Reply: Craig will get info and bring back to next meeting.

What about the SZF donation? We haven't paid in quite a while.

(I didn't take this down, but I believe we decided that since a check we wrote way back to them got lost/never cleared, we would rewrite that check.)

## **AREA REPORTS**

### **Chattanooga Area:**

Good Morning VRSC,

Here are the going-ons from Chattanooga:

I will start on a poor note. Our **H&I Committee** which takes weekly meetings into Silverdale Correctional Facility (men), Walker St. Prison (men), Sholze Adolescent Treatment Center (coed), CADAS Treatment Center (coed), Valley Hospital Detox (coed), and a bi-monthly meeting into Silverdale Correctional Facility (women), lapsed in service to two of our facilities: Silverdale & Valley. The chair of the committee and one of our panel leaders have chosen to not come to NA anymore and let the two facilities lapse for 7 weeks. When the committee did not meet this past month it was discussed at area and the two facilities are now being served. It appears that no real damage was caused in our relationships with the facilities. A long standing and trusted member has been nominated for H&I chair.

Our **PI** committee is still successfully providing meeting schedules and a helpline. Over the past two months they have acquired a Meeting Schedule Coordinator, a Website Coordinator and a secretary. They are still in need of a Chair. Upon their request, the GSRs voted to fund the creation of a vinyl sign to adorn a bus for one month. The bus will travel all over Chattanooga and the area will be able to reuse the sign for future public relations efforts. They are also putting meeting schedules in probation offices, public service buildings and counseling offices around town.

The **Activities Committee** has hosted two events since we last met. The “Non-specified Holiday Extravaganza” was held on December 11 and was a huge success. They also held a lock-in on New Year’s Eve which only had 11 in attendance. Activities Committee needs a chair.

**Outreach** is continuing to carpool to two groups monthly for three months at a time and they helped a group in Dalton, GA conduct a group inventory. They are also planning to have a GSR orientation soon.

**Surrender Under the Stars Planning Committee** will be having their first meeting February 12<sup>th</sup>.

The only group news of note is that a new group formed to host a 7:00 am meeting every Thursday Morning. Won’t it be a wonderful day when addicts can be served by Narcotics Anonymous every hour of every day in Chattanooga (we are working for it).

I host a service system workshop with 4 in attendance. There was good discussion but none of the members felt familiar enough with the material to really provide good input. The goals of the workshop were accomplished though, they all know how to participate.

As an area we also voted to create a reserve fund for the application for 501(c)3 incorporation. We know that it is going to cost a considerable amount of money and we want to save for it incrementally. We also received nomination for RCM, Treasurer, H&I Chair and Secretary. We hope that nominations come for Area Chair, PI Chair and Surrender Chair.

I have our area’s vote on the motions and we also have a \$500 donation this month.

Love you guys,  
Zach A.  
423-227-3288

**Greater Nashville Area:** Verbal Report by Hanz

**Greater Smokey Mountain Area:**

Monthly ASC meeting was held 1-23-11. Quorum was established and business proceeded. Trusted Servant positions are slowly being filled, Donna V was nominated and elected Area secretary. Currently the treasurer's duties are being carried out by the chair and vice-chair. Several sub-committee chair positions are currently vacant, however the committee's are still functioning and providing their services. It appears that a spirit of cooperation is emerging from members of the two ASCs that serve addicts in the Knoxville geographical area. Steve C, GSM RCM

**Knoxville Area:**

We have a little under 90 days until the Area convention and we appreciate any help getting out the registration flyers from the other areas. I have some available today and we will be mailing some out as well. I need to find out today if I have the Areas addresses correct. We are discussing the possibility of creating a consolidated meeting schedule with the Greater Smokey Mtn. Area and East Tennessee Ridges of Recovery Area. Any input on how this has worked for other areas would be appreciated. The annual Valentine's Day Dance will be February 12, 2011. I posted the flyer on the Regional Message board and have some with me today. All Regional motions and nominations were passed and we have a \$50 donation. Thanks for allowing me to serve. Karent T, Knxoville RCM

**Midwest Tennessee Area:** Absent

### **Middle Tennessee Area:**

Our Area continues to provide the services necessary to assist our Groups in carrying the message of the Narcotics Anonymous program. Activities, H&I, Public Relations subcommittees are shared subcommittees with the Greater Nashville area. From all reports all seem to be doing well. The Newsletter subcommittee is still without support and therefore not functioning. It is hoped between the two areas (MTA and GNA) that this will change soon.

MTA subcommittees - Policies and Procedures, Outreach and Unity are functioning well. A flyer for Unity will be forthcoming in the near future to be shared with the Regional Areas. Financially our area is formulating a workable budget which will enhance services and at the same time enable us to participate in forwarding funds to this Region.

Yours in loving service,  
Julius, Acting RCM

### **Stones River Area:** Verbal Report by Gloria

### **West Tennessee Area:**

Hello,

Our area is struggling to fill positions. We are in need for Executive Committee positions (Chair, Vice Chair, and Treasurer).

Outreach is doing well they have several activities planned: February 19th, we will have a "How to Chair a Meeting" workshop at First Congregational Church at 8:30 PM. All are invited, but especially those who are new to chairing meetings. March 19th will be the service fair. Location TBD, most likely Congo. H&I: We are planning an H and I learning day for April and participating in an upcoming service fair. As always we need more volunteers.

Guidelines for NA in May funds were established by adhoc committee: Basic Texts will be sold for \$5 until book subsidy runs out. At the May ASC if there are any funds left over, a motion can be made to pass the funds onto other NA services in the Area, the Region, or the World, otherwise the funds will remain in the subsidy for the following year. Treasurer will include subsidy balance in monthly treasurers report.

ILS,  
Hannah  
WTA RCM

### **Delegate Report:**

**See attachment:** RDFeb2011Report.pdf

Hello Thank You for allowing me to serve

I don't have a lot to report not a lot of activity this month. We are in need of an RDA it is very important to have one in place so as not to end up with folks without experience as we just went through it has been a big learning experience for me and would have appreciated more training for the position.

We need to participate in all we can as the World Board asks for our input into the changes ahead.

We will have our Regional Assembly on March 19<sup>th</sup> at Crieewood Church in Nashville. We will be working in conjunction with the shared Activities committee and aim to make this an informative and fun day of fellowship. Please encourage participation and make this a successful event. I will attach the flyer with this report. Please bring any important issues that we may be able to address at this forum.

I will be attending the SZF in Austin TX on 1/29 & 30. We will be discussing the Service System and I will bring a report of what went on to the regional meeting in February. The Travel budget will be around \$630 and was included in the approved budget.

If anyone has any questions please contact me and I will try to obtain the answers.  
Love & Respect  
Pete F

Comment: About the WB response - they say "our primary purpose" - what "our" are they referring to? WB's purpose? Fellowship as a whole?  
Reply: Pete will find out.

Comment - When Stones River created their area - they didn't get permission from any area or region to do this, they just did it. Seems that the same thing is happening with the USSC. Important for individual members in the region to know what's going on. 1st meeting - Witchita. Feels our RD should go.

Comment: Total disaster or really good. No secret who's spearheading it - Bo and other 'older' guys. Don't believe it's an outside issue. Agrees we should send a representative (or 2) - another service conference forming. Disagrees with some of what they've written - like dissolving concepts.

Comment: We have a service structure. We need to follow it. If you want to destroy all the rules and guidelines - then start a new fellowship. Shouldn't be brought to the floor - outside issue. Going against all traditions and guidelines.

Question: When is Witchita meeting? March 4-5-6.

Comment : Stones River very small. "How do we make the principles work for these groups?" Nothing new happens without someone thinking outside the box. They want to stay neutral and find out about outside the box issues. Thinks representation would be good - only to gather information.

Comment: Not coming from group, area, region - if individual members want to go and get more info - great - doesn't think the Region should send someone.

Comment: Cant see taking basket money and sending someone to a conference to see what its about.

Comment: NA as such (in traditions) is the groups. And it appears that individuals have started it. Agree with not sending a representative.

Comment: Groups have started this USSC. And the flyer is inviting regions/areas.

Comment: Wants information about it. Website given out.

Comment: if anyone does go, would like to hear about it at this body.

**Regional Delegate-Alternate Report:** Vacant

**Sub-Committee Reports:**

**Activities:** Vacant

**H&I:** Verbal report given.

## **Policy and Procedure:**

Verbal report given by Craig - discussed motion to dissolve Activities subcommittee. Not against guidelines. Discussed removing from guidelines completely Amended... See New Business

**Reminder** - if you have a motion you can send it out before Region and it can be discussed at the P&P meeting the day before Region rather than the following P&P meeting.

## **VRC XXVIII:**

See attachment VRCXXVIIIFinalReport.pdf

Question: would you have taken position if part of the requirement is to be on oversight committee for 3 yrs? Answer: yes. 1 year as Chair, 3 as being on Oversight Committee.

Discussed mugs  
See motion in New Business

Question: do we need to start thinking about raising seed money, in lieu of the fact that NA in May is no longer a fundraiser nor recovery on the ridge, etc?

Answer: Discussed going to 6000. Will put in a motion.

Question for chair: numerous occasions commented about VRC guidelines being revised. Chuck would you be chair? Would this committee need to physically meet? Prefer meeting by email.

Comment: Is there a time limit of when the guidelines will be revised? Should be implemented by Chattanooga. But if not completed, that's ok.

Current motions already made are ok.

Chuckpaetz@gmail.com - if you want to be a part of the new VRC Guideline revision committee.

**Financial AdHoc:** Verbal Report given by Craig

**Outreach Report:** Vacant

## **VRC 29 Report:**

Theme for Convention: Attitude of Gratitude

Vice Chair Josh and Convention Info are working on the website. Convention Info sending out info to other regions and areas for VRC 29 As a committee, we are already discussing changes and motions to be presented to the Region in the near future. One motion will be presented today to change the number of days the convention will be held. We are closely watching our numbers and budgets.

Next committee meeting - Sunday Feb. 13th, 2 pm, Marriott. March 13th 2 pm Knoxville Marriott

Maarja F VRC 29 Chair

Comment: From Feb. 2010 Motion #2 was made by VRC 28 Chair and seconded by Chattanooga Area and read as follows: To make the current VRC checking account the permanent VRC checking account. This account will be used for all future VRC's and the seed money will be left in the account at the end of the current VRC.

**RCM's voted unanimously that the motion should be ruled out of order because it was a change in guidelines by creating a new policy. And never sent back to groups.**

## **Exploration Adhoc Report:**

Hello Family,

The Exploration Ad Hoc Committee met today before this meeting.

This Ad Hoc Committee's purpose is to explore the feasibility of options raised by RCMs, such as, a regional newsletter, a regional meeting list, tele/web conferencing , human resource pool, consensus based decision making, and workgroup structure for service to improve the effectiveness and prudence of the Regional Service Committee and increase connection with and participation from the Fellowship.

This service cycle we reached out to other Regions to gather information concerning a regional newsletter. We only heard back from the South Florida Region. Their newsletter is used to communicate with the fellowship. We hope to gather more information about the costs (man, conscience, financial) that it takes to put on. We also hope to hear from the other Regions we contacted. More will be revealed?

We also tried to video people into the meeting. It was not a success and we are going to try to meet via the internet before the Regional Assembly.

We also have packets about Consensus Based Decision making. We will all be spending time studying this material and hope to prep ourselves for the new Service System report on Processes.

We spent most of our time discussing the Regional Assembly. We have been allotted 2 hours at the event and plan on using that to survey GSR's about the various options we are exploring. We will tabulate the survey responses we have received so far and we might execute a preliminary workshop on Consensus Based Decision Making.

More will be Revealed, see you all at the Regional Assembly!!!!

Zach A.  
423-227-3288

**Chair Report:** Absent

**Vice Chair Report:** Verbal report given

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **Nominations and Elections:**

**Nomination #1 12/5/10** Luke H - VRSC Alt. Secretary

Nominated by VRSC Vice-Chair; Seconded by GNA Alt RCM

Chattanooga yes

Middle TN yes

Greater Nashville yes

Stone's River yes

Greater Smokey Mountain yes

West Tennessee yes

Knoxville yes

**Unanimous This nomination passed.**

**Nomination #2 12/5/10** Mike R for VRSC Alt. Treasurer

Nominated by VRSC Vice Chair, Seconded by MTA RCM

Chattanooga yes

Middle TN yes

Greater Nashville yes

Stone's River yes

Greater Smokey Mountain yes

West Tennessee yes

Knoxville yes

**Unanimous This nomination passed.**

## Motions:

### Motion #1-10/3/10

Made by VRC 28 Chair, seconded by GNA

To add a new committee to the VRC, TCC (Technology & Communications Coordinator) with proposed requirements, qualifications and duties.

Intent: Help committee with central point of contact in dealing with new means of communication with fellowship. Upkeep of website.

(duties and guidelines in Dec. 2010 minutes)

Chattanooga yes

Greater Nashville yes

Greater Smokey Mountain yes

Knoxville yes

Middle TN yes

Stone's River yes

West Tennessee yes

**Unanimous This motion passed.**

### Motion #2-10/3/10

Made by Knoxville Area, seconded by WTA

The motion reads as follows: To add to Article IX Section 9: To start Regional meeting promptly at 9:30 am CST. If a quorum cannot be established for actual business, the meeting can proceed with group reports and other housekeeping readings. Voting would be conducting business and cannot be done without a quorum.

Intent: To start meeting on time and proceed with the Regional meeting.

Chattanooga yes

Greater Nashville yes

Greater Smokey Mountain yes

Knoxville yes

Middle TN yes

Stone's River yes

West Tennessee yes

**Unanimous This motion passed.**

### #1-12/5/10

Made by Secretary, seconded by WTA

Motion reads as follows:

To strike Article XI Funding, Section 6 Prudent Reserve, which reads "The treasurer shall maintain to prudent reserve of \$1500. The treasurer at his or her discretion, may keep up to \$1500 above that if he or she feels the funds may be needed."

To change: Section 3 Payment of Expenditures: All expenditures for the VRSC shall be pd. by check.

Treasurer shall maintain balance in bank account sufficient to cover 2 Regional meeting cycles operation expenses, based on treasurer's projected expenses.

To read: Section 3 Payment of Expenditures and Prudent Reserve: All expenditures for the VRSC shall be paid by bank instruments. The treasurer shall maintain a prudent reserve sufficient to cover 2 Regional meeting cycles operating expenses, based on treasurer's projected expenses.

Intent: To clarify the guidelines regarding procedures having to do with the prudent reserve.

Chattanooga yes

Greater Nashville yes

Greater Smokey Mountain abstain

Knoxville yes

Middle TN yes

Stone's River yes

West Tennessee no

5 yeses, 1 no, 1 abstention - **This motion passed.**

## **New Business:**

### **#2-12/5/10**

Made by Secretary, seconded by GNA RCM alt.

The motion reads as follows: Dissolve activities subcommittee.

Intent: Save funds; temporary committee can be appointed when need arises.

Amended to read as follows:

Dissolve activities subcommittee. Amend guidelines and adjust lettering/numbering.

1) remove: listing in table of contents,

2) remove: "Activities" under **ARTICLE XII: Section 1: Establishment Of Subcommittees.**

3) remove: **Section 8A. Activities:** This committee deals with ...

Intent: To apply the 11th concept by managing NA funds responsibly; temporary committee can be appointed when need arises.

Pros: good idea

Cons: none

**Vote to consider - unanimous.**

### **THIS MOTION NEEDS TO BE VOTED ON BY GROUPS**

### **Motion #2-2/6/11**

Made by VRC29 Chair, seconded by GNA

The motion reads as follows:

To modify the Volunteer Regional Convention (VRC) from a five (5) day event, to a four (4) day event. Eliminating the entire day of Wednesday. Changing start date to Thursday. This will amend following changes under Program, page 21, of the VRC Guidelines.

- Wednesday *eliminated*
- Thursday NA meeting 8pm-9pm. Workshops and banquet eliminated.
- *Please note:* Friday and Saturday workshops will remain the same.
- *Please note:* Friday, Saturday, and Sunday main speaker meetings will remain the same.
- Effective VRC 30, 2012

### **Deferred to Policy and Procedure (bring VRC guidelines to meeting)**

### **Motion #3-2/6/11**

Made by VRC29 Chair, seconded by MTA

The motion reads as follows: To hold August 2011 VRSC at Knoxville Marriot

Intent: Enable members in the Knoxville and surrounding area to attend a VRSC Regional Meeting. Many members express interest but can not attend due to their circumstances. This can create interest in Region. To allow members to see the event site for VRC 29.

5 yes, 1 no, 1 abstain

**This motion passes.**

### **Motion #4-2/6/11**

Made by MTA, 2nd by Chattanooga.

Motion reads as follows: To forward coffee mugs from VRC 28 to KISS Campout fundraiser.

Intent: To enable KISS campout to make a viable donation to vRC 29

**Passed Unanimous.**

**Motion #5-2/6/11**

Made by Vrc29 chair, 2nd by Chattanooga

Motion reads as follows: To raise seed money for VRC NA from the current \$4000 to \$6000

Intent: Events to raise money to fund VRCNA have decreased. Past profit made this VRC have decreased.

The convention is held to carry the message of Narcotics Anonymous. Additional funds are needed to host the convention.

Voted to not send to P&P

All in favor to send to groups for a vote: 7 yes, unanimous.

Comment: Recommend changing to 5000.

Comment: \$6000 is insurance in case convention failed cause of whatever, we'd at least have that 6000 sitting there.

Question: Is the 6000 in response to how they missed the mark in Nashville?

Question: Why are the previous fundraisers changed from VRC fundraiser to area fundraisers.

Reply: They became Area fundraisers

Comment: If we are going to commit to convention, then let's commit and change to 6000.

Comment: Goes to help making it self sustaining - one time expense.

Comment - Just cause we have it we aren't necessarily going to spend it.

Question: Shouldn't we send this to P&P to follow the proper procedure.

Reply: No cause we discussed here.

**Voted to send to groups.**

**Motion #6-2/6/11**

Made by RD, 2nd by RCM Chattanooga

Motion reads as follows: To stop all subcommittees except VRC and operate with resource pool.

Intent: To better serve this body and spend resources when necessary.

**Deferred to P&P**

RD wants suggestions for SZF in July - How can IT help our Region?

**NOMINATIONS/ELECTIONS**

**Nominations for Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Alt. Secretary, Treasurer, Alt. Treasurer, RD, RDA need to be here in April**

**Announcements:**

**Final Treasurer's Report:**

\$4510.79 (doesn't include any money coming in today.)

**Motion to close, seconded, passed**

**In loving service, Lucy**

**Attachments:** Feb2011TreasurersReport.pdf, RDFeb2011Report.pdf  
VRCXXVIIIFinalReport.pdf, contactlist.pdf

## **Review of Day's business (this section is copied from previous pages to make it easier to report to your areas what happened)**

Go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/natennessee/> and push the "Join this Group" button

Nominations for Luke as Alt. Secretary and Mike R for Alt. Treasurer **PASSED**.

**Motion #1-10/3/10 PASSED** To add a new committee to the VRC, TCC (Technology & Communications Coordinator) with proposed requirements, qualifications and duties.

**Motion #2-10/3/10 PASSED** To add to Article IX Section 9: To start Regional meeting promptly at 9:30 am CST. If a quorum cannot be established for actual business, the meeting can proceed with group reports and other housekeeping readings. Voting would be conducting business and cannot be done without a quorum.

**Motion #1-12/5/10 PASSED**

To strike Article XI Funding, Section 6 Prudent Reserve, which reads "The treasurer shall maintain to prudent reserve of \$1500. The treasurer at his or her discretion, may keep up to \$1500 above that if he or she feels the funds may be needed."

To change: Section 3 Payment of Expenditures: All expenditures for the VRSC shall be pd. by check. Treasurer shall maintain balance in bank account sufficient to cover 2 Regional meeting cycles operation expenses, based on treasurer's projected expenses.

To read: Section 3 Payment of Expenditures and Prudent Reserve: All expenditures for the VRSC shall be paid by bank instruments. The treasurer shall maintain a prudent reserve sufficient to cover 2 Regional meeting cycles operating expenses, based on treasurer's projected expenses.

Intent: To clarify the guidelines regarding procedures having to do with the prudent reserve.

**Motion #2-12/5/10 THIS MOTION NEEDS TO BE VOTED ON BY GROUPS**

Dissolve activities subcommittee. Amend guidelines and adjust lettering/numbering.

- 1) remove: listing in table of contents,
- 2) remove: "Activities" under **ARTICLE XII: Section 1: Establishment Of Subcommittees.**
- 3) remove: **Section 8A. Activities:** This committee deals with ...

Intent: To apply the 11th concept by managing NA funds responsibly; temporary committee can be appointed when need arises.

**Motion #2-2/6/11 Deferred to Policy and Procedure (bring VRC guidelines to meeting)**

To modify the Volunteer Regional Convention (VRC) from a five (5) day event, to a four (4) day event. Eliminating the entire day of Wednesday. Changing start date to Thursday. This will amend following changes under Program, page 21, of the VRC Guidelines.

- Wednesday *eliminated*
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- *Please note:* Friday and Saturday workshops will remain the same.
- *Please note:* Friday, Saturday, and Sunday main speaker meetings will remain the same.
- Effective VRC 30, 2012

**Motion #3-2/6/11 PASSED**

The motion reads as follows: To hold August 2011 VRSC at Knoxville Marriot

**Motion #4-2/6/11 PASSED**

To forward coffee mugs from VRC 28 to KISS Campout fundraiser.

**Motion #5-2/6/11 THIS MOTION NEEDS TO BE VOTED ON BY GROUPS**

To raise seed money for VRC NA from the current \$4000 to \$6000

**Motion #6-2/6/11 Deferred to Policy and Procedure**

Made by RD, 2nd by RCM Chattanooga

Motion reads as follows: To stop all subcommittees except VRC and operate with resource pool.

**RD wants suggestions for SZF in July - How can IT help our Region?**

**Nominations for Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Alt. Secretary, Treasurer, Alt. Treasurer, RD, RDA need to be here in April**