

Plains States Zonal Forum of Narcotics Anonymous

Minutes Virtual Interim Nov. 12, 2022, 2 pm CDT (3 pm MDT)

- ❖ Open with moment of silence and Service Prayer

God, grant us the knowledge that we may serve according to your divine precepts. Instill in us a sense of your purpose, make us servants of your will and grant us a bond of selflessness that this may truly be your work, not ours, so that no addict, anywhere, need die from the horrors of addiction.

- ❖ Roll Call

- Regions –

- Best Little – Krista L | Gary R.
- Iowa – Michelle B. | Tonya H.
- Mid-America – Ben T. | Jacob K. • Nebraska – Brenda D.,
- OK – Pam T. | Tim L.
- South Dakota – Carol P.

- Trusted Servants –

- Facilitator – Barry B.
- Co-Facilitator – Beth N.
- Secretary – Tonya H.
- Treasurer – Natalie S.
- IT - Open
- PR – Sally R.
- SBTW – Sam B.
- Guests: Laura H. (Iowa Region), Denny V. (Iowa Region), Mia (Best Little Region)

- ❖ Minutes – Approved Unanimous consent

❖ Reports – Posted in Slack

• Facilitator

Greetings in recovery,

Thank you for the honor of serving you. This is a combined report as your Facilitator and a report of the Information Committee. We have been in a middle of move the past 3 months and I had been living in a member's house in Kearney Nebraska. We have moved into our new home in Grand Island Nebraska and are starting to get settled in. Today I'm in Glenwood Iowa at my parents' house. We are here for Thanksgivings are my parents will be gone for the holiday in Mexico. There internet is not the best and I will be on my hotspot for the meeting today. I hope to keep a connection.

As your Facilitator I did attend the Collaboration of US Zones on October 9. There was another presentation followed by the business section. The next meeting of the Collaboration of US Zones is January 8, 2023, at 5 pm CST. We are still waiting for all the regions to cast their ballot on the US Zones.

As a reminder here is the link: https://youtu.be/s8Bw_oPBK9g. Here is the survey link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/R2BXGCN> . There was a proposal for a US CAR CAT to be held virtually. The date was selected is the same date as our CAR / CAT workshop. It was decided to not have it as a US Zones since we are not yet approved. It is hosted by the Southeast Zonal Forum. The Southern Zone and Midwest Zones have voted to join in. I have posted information on Slack about this, and it is on the agenda today. The next meeting of the US Zones will be hosted by us the Plains States Zonal. I attended the Conference Participants Meeting and saw you all there. There have been no meetings of the Virtual Meetings of Zones since our last meeting.

The IT Committee has been quiet this past quarter. The Iowa Region has gone live with Yap server and their calls are being answered on our server. Please everyone have the BMLT meeting information updated. If you need assistance, please let me know and I can assist in this. NAWS now goes out and gets the information to update their meeting app. All we need to do is keep the information up to date. Lori will send out a file once they have updated that we then need to upload into our BMLT. I have received an update from Lori for Iowa and OK. The recovery meeting continues Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays at noon. There are members from that group that do contribute monetarily to the zone. Our slack channel for IT is #itworkgroup. The yap phone number is 712-435-2248.

My budget has no request for our next zonal meeting as the meeting will be in my new home town. In loving service, Barry B.

• Co-Facilitator

Hi all, Barry reported on the October 9th US Collaboration of zones; I don't have much to report beyond that. I did attend both conference participant meetings that happened since we last met as a

zone, and the October US Collaboration of Zones meeting. I look forward to the inventory today and

seeing you all in February in Grand Island. ILS - Beth, Co-Fac

- Treasurer (spreadsheet in Slack) 11/12/22

PSZF Treasurer Report

We currently have \$15,975.62 in the bank. Currently, Sam still has on hand \$497.43 for SBTW. I did pay the \$2000.00 donation to NAWS per our last meeting. I have implemented the updates to the budget based on 4 unfunded members and have those in the spreadsheet. I then remembered Sam was not at the last meeting, so I have added another tab with his allotments mirroring mine for review even though it was not discussed. I have also created a Budget spend

down tab to show where the money from each subset is spent throughout the cycle. Our Greater Western Bank Account has been closed due to them being bought out and they started charging \$10 a month for the account being under \$100. Mark B. took time out of his day to close it for me and sent me the \$80 check which was deposited into Amarillo National Bank.

Due to our policy, I will need minutes stating Cynthia Benson is to be removed from the bank account and Barry Barbour and Beth (full last name) is to be added to the bank account. Then if you will send me your current address in a direct message. I will send you a signature card to be added to the bank and you can send it to the bank.

I will donate to NAWS today based on discussion of the Treasury Budget.

In loving Service, Natalie S.

- IT – Included in Facilitator report
- PR

Hello Zonal Family,

I don't think I have accomplished much since being elected but I have been doing some research. Last Saturday was the Open NAWS PR Webinar. There were several presenters discussing issues and solutions in their part of the world. It was a relief and at the same time sad that everyone

around the world is having similar issues as we see here in the heartland.

A few ideas that stood out were;

- a. Making cold calls to locations that might have contact with addicts to see if they would be interested in literature or a presentation.
- b. Announcing PR opportunities during regular announcements at meetings. Some members don't know what service options might be going on that they would be interested in participating in. a. Also asking for PR suggestions during announcements.
- c. Donating books to the public libraries and using their bulletin boards to announce local meetings.
- d. As institutions begin to open back up after COVID, re-establish PR/H&I collaborations as meetings restart behind the walls.
- e. The importance of responding quickly (same day) to emails requesting NA participation. It was explained that when an organization is interested in having a panel come in, they may send the same email to several mutual aid organizations and whoever responds first gets the opportunity.

The next PR Webinar is planned for early June but there will be other meetings between now and then to pick topics and presenters. One of the presenters was Paul from Ohio who presented via zoom during our last meeting in South Dakota. As exciting as I am about the work they are doing and the things they are accomplishing, I think going another direction could be equally or more beneficial to our regions. Instead of focusing on individual facilities or departments, perhaps it would be better to focus on the vendors. A project that made NA literature a standard offering when tablet agreements were being made, might broaden our reach and maximize our resources. The major vendors for inmate tablets are Jpay, GTL, Connect Networks, Secure View and Securus. When an organization is entering into a contract with them, there a list of standard options then can choose or expand from. If NA literature was already an option for free, many may choose it along with other offerings such as various religious and education items. The only issue I see, is I'm not sure a zone would have authority to enter into agreements with these vendors but perhaps we could partner with other US zones and NAWS to make this happen. The benefit would be that it could reach county jails, state prisons, and federal or military prisons. I have recently been in touch with the previous PR coordinator for the Zone (Keith).

He shared that his term happened during Covid so it was more challenging. Many organizations moved to online trainings making it more difficult to have professionals attend our usual in-person presentations or panels. I have seen this in my professional life and many will likely never go back to the old ways since online was cheaper and easier for the company and their staff so we may need to shift how we offer presentations.

We also discussed some of the responsibilities in the Zonal guidelines for PR, specifically these two; a. To research and maintain a list of upcoming professional conferences within the zone.

b. Maintain a list of current human resources within the zone.

During our emails back and forth it seems that he hit a lot of barriers in meeting these criteria due to most Areas or Regional bodies already having these under control for themselves, or changes that I mentioned before due to Covid.

My questions for this body are, 1. Have these lists ever been used to identify or engage in an event? 2. Has the list of human resources ever been reviewed to find people to participate in those events? If so, I will immediately begin working on those things. If not, perhaps we should discuss what this position has been doing and align our policy to those things. Just a suggestion and I'm good with either option. Jeff R and I recently did a PR training in Hays, KS. The reason I bring this up is because they had 17 members of this small homegroup show up to participate. They also come up with some fantastic ideas for projects to improve, reestablish their reputation in the community. It seems there is a hunger at the group level for service opportunities. Some of the things they talked about were adopting a piece of highway to keep clean and having an afternoon event in the park that they could invite community organizations or members to. I can't wait to see what they do moving forward.

Finally, I am excited to do whatever I can do to assist with the Nebraska PR presentation. In loving services, Sally R.

Public Relations Coordinator

- **SBTW**

Hey Everyone,

We currently have a balance of \$497.43 from our last budget. I will get this moved over this week. We will be placing an order for IP's soon as well as purchasing stamps and envelopes for the sponsor communications coordinator and facilitator for sending prison letters. We will have to pay for our PO box again in July of 2023. We have been reviewing policy and have just completed that on Wednesday. We will be getting the changes typed up and plan to have it ready for Zone in February. We are currently resending information letters to prisons. We have sent to the Oklahoma prisons first, because we have had people reach out to their regional body. We still currently have co facilitator, co sponsor communications coordinator, co postal coordinator, and liaison positions for Bes Little, Nebraska, and South Dakota open. Please spread the word. We will be scheduling an online orientation soon and I will post a flyer on Slack once

scheduled. ILS, Sam B.

- Zonal Contacts – Included in Facilitator's report

- ❖ Regional Updates

- Best Little

Greetings from the Best Little Region,

At our last meeting, Gary R. was elected Alternate Regional Delegate. Please help me welcome him back to this body. We also voted to send a delegate to the Texas State Convention. Gary R.

was selected as our delegate. We have gotten additional information about the missing check written to NAWS, but cashed in Florida. Our case has been folded into a case of federal mail fraud involving another local bank. The detective involved in our original case reported that rather than months, it may be years before we know what happened. We have since closed our account with that bank and opened an account with a new bank. At our last meeting, we removed our regional chair for mishandling our

501c3 application. It was reported at our July meeting that our application was backed up due to Covid

and we were simply waiting for our paperwork to be completed. Our treasure pro-tem was tasked with

following up on our status. Here is her report:

Non-Profit Status

At our last Region, I was tasked with following up on our Non-profit Status, which in turn became one of

the most difficult tasks I have encountered to date in my service career. What was said at that meeting

was that the IRS was backed up due to COVID and we were just waiting on our paperwork to be completed. I was also told that the address on our submitted paperwork had to be a physical address because the IRS would not accept a P.O. Box which is what the Region uses. The thing about the IRS is you can't go in as a walk in here you have to make an appointment due to Covid. Also, I couldn't get through to anyone, as the line kept telling me they were not available it didn't matter what time of day. I spoke with Sam and said, I need all our paperwork which was submitted to the IRS as we should

have copies and Selena Fogg did this for us. We should have a file as per the government documentation

should be kept for 7 years. I was informed Selena didn't have it, but Teresa did send me what she had

and what was submitted to the IRS. When I opened the document, the board members were not ours. They were from the other non-profit Sam and Teresa are a part of. When Sam was asked, he said

Selena had put in the wrong submission and it had been corrected. I stated then send me the corrected

one, but he couldn't produce it neither could Selena. Sam sent me to another CPA for assistance stating

he had talked to him earlier that week and that Selena was having a hard time and not doing well. Sam told me I could make an appointment with Victor Glenn and go into his office, and he could pull up our

information to give to me, but he would not do it over the phone basically because of privacy issues. I

called Victor, and he did not remember having the conversation, but he listened to my issue and gave me

the direct number to call for non-profit assistance. Side note, you can't look up a tax-id status of anyone's without a password. Within the documents which were sent to me by Teresa was also a request from the

IRS dated in March requesting additional information which was due on 4/15/21. It does show Teresa

signed the form on 3/30/21, but not what was sent.

After multiple attempts to call the IRS on different days at different times, I finally got through to the IRS. I spoke with Mary on 9/19/22 to inquire on our status for the Tax ID we have listed for Best Little Region

of Narcotics Anonymous, INC. Here is what transpired:

The original form that Selena Fogg submitted with the incorrect board members was dated on 12/18/21

and the IRS received it and it is on file as of 12/20/21. This is the only form that is on file for us, and they never received an updated form with the correct board members on file.

The request for additional information letter stated information was due on 4/15/21. There is nothing to

show information was sent and the IRS never received any additional information which requested.

On 5/15/21, the IRS sent a denied for non-profit status letter to the address on file for our application which is also attached to our Tax ID#. I originally assumed this address was Sam and Teresa's as they

filled out the application and told me we could not use our P.O. Box. The address on file belongs to a

Becky McQuay which is a Counselor and not part of the NA program and may be affiliated with the other

non-profit. I went ahead and asked Mary if it was true, we could not use our P.O. Box. She stated this is incorrect and we could use our P.O. Box when filing our application.

Mary stated a refund of the initial \$275 had not been sent back and at this juncture it appears one would not be which could happen for various reasons and that we could reapply with another \$275 for 1023-EZ and it could take up to 90 days for processing. I created a username and password on the pay.gov portal to upload our information. After review of the initial application the IRS has on file, there were numerous

issues with how items were marked.

I submitted our new application on 9/22/22 with the \$275 payment after approval from most board

members as we are on a timeline to obtain full non-profit status. I have also updated our W-9 form with our current P.O. box address so it will match our application and not hinder the process. We have since

resubmitted our application and have been approved!!!!!!We received a request from Barry to change

the date of our July meeting to accommodate his work schedule change. He gave us a list of his available

weekends during June, July, and August, and the dates will be brought back to our groups for selection. This will be agendized at our January meeting and I will come with a flier in February. In Loving Service,

Krista L.

Best Little Region Regional Delegate

- Iowa – Verbal report
- Mid-America - Verbal report
- Nebraska -

Greetings Zonal Family!

Nebraska Region is doing well. We had our last Region Meeting Oct 8th. We have several positions open at our Region but we also filled the Secretary position and the RDA position! So with that, I would like to introduce you all to Tommy N, our new Nebraska RDA! I'm excited to start working with him! We also have a lot going on in the upcoming months. Our next Region Meeting is Jan. 14th, 2023, Close Encounters of the Clean Kind is Feb 24th – 26th , 2023 in Omaha. (pre-registration is online at nebraskana.org) There are lots of Thanksgiving events going on in our Area 's... and one neat PR event is in Lincoln they are doing a bus (city transit)

campaign... so I'm looking forward to watching that take shape.

The Zonal CAR/CAT in Nebraska is on track. I'm just waiting to hear when the planning committee will be meeting and I can complete the information on the flyer. I reposted the save the date flyer. I'm excited to see you all! In grateful loving service,

Brenda, Nebraska RD

- OK -

EVENTS

Fall Spiritual Retreat – After being cancelled each of the last two years due to covid, the event finally occurred again this last weekend, November 4-6. It was well attended and from all accounts very successful including ending up with a profit of around \$1,500.00.

General Service Assembly – Like the FSR, this event has been cancelled each of the last two years but is scheduled to take place February 17-19, 2023.

OKRCNA – The 37th Annual OK Region Convention will be held on March 30 through April 2, 2023 at the

Sheraton/Marriott Reed Center located at 5800 Will Rogers Road, Midwest City, OK 73110

Clean & Crazy Campout – As always, this event is scheduled for Father's Day weekend, June 16-18 2023. It will be held on Tenkiller Lake at Cherokee Landing located at 28610 Park 20, Park Hill OK 74451.

OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE

OK Region has made the decision to completely self-fund the RD Team's trip to the WSC.

PR racks distributed to probation offices are doing well, plans to do a loop and revisit some in person this month. Adding QR code to our meeting lists on the bottom of the rack just in case meeting lists are missing.

Elections are in December

We discussed different options on how best to gather the OK Region's consensus on CAR/CAT motions. The decision was made to stay with Group tally this cycle, but that may change in the future if Group participation remains at a low percentage.

- South Dakota -

We are going to remain SD region and work diligently to help unify the region. After the convention the topic was discussed, and we worked hard to become a region, and we will continue to go forward. We have a few new meetings in the East part of the state, one in

Sisseton, on the reservation and one in Mission, on another reservation. East River is hesitant to

become an area, because they do not have all of the people needed to fill all of the elected positions. We discussed smaller areas, and have our next meeting by Zoom on December 4th. In

Service, Carol P

- ❖ Old Business o Inventory / Planning
 - Review of Processes o US Zones Proposal – See Facilitator report
 - Survey Question – Did your Region vote on the collaboration of the US Zones?
 - Deadline – Dec. 1st, 2022 (extended deadline)
 - Iowa Region – yes
 - Nebraska – yes
 - Best Little – yes
 - OK – yes
 - MidAmerica – no
 - South Dakota - no
 - o CAR/CAT – Nebraska
 - Combine with Virtual Event with US Zones – Southeast Zone, Midwest Zone, Southwest Zone have voted yes to the joint CAR/CAT workshop.
 - If we join this, we will need to coordinate with each zone for the planning of this event
 - Hosted by Southeast Zonal Forum (in person)
 - Denver would attend our CAR/CAT in person
 - No WB member would be attending our CAR/CAT in person
 - What is the benefit of meeting in person, if we join a virtual meeting? Discussing before & after meetings and on breaks
 - Regardless if we join the Southeast Zone, we have the ability to ask questions to motion makers

- Benefit – value of having the questions from other people. May have the regional motion makers present to speak to their motions. More

WB member presence. Everyone working together

- Drawback – Too many people, more personal experience with WB members with a smaller group. It's the same day as our event, may not have as many board members present. We could addicts from other zones choose to join us in person as well

- Opposition to collaboration – none. The proposal will go forward. Barry and Brenda will note our comments/concerns and send them forward

- Suggestion – Have some CAR/CAT questions prepared ahead of time

❖ Open Forum

- o Can Nebraska have \$500 for the CAR/Cat? Yes, it was approved last meeting.

- o PR/Sally – Do we want to start looking at tablets (topic in report)?

- Look into providing NA literature via the tablet vendors as a standard offering to reach more addicts

- There is consensus for Sally to pursue this activity o Is S. Dakota financially sound?
Carol - yes

❖ Nominations / Elections o IT – No nominees currently.

- o Intent to fill still open

❖ New Business o Meeting Schedule – 2023 – Nebraska, WSC, Best Little, Virtual

- o Zonal Rep for WSC of Future Workgroup

- Resurrect the Future of the WSC workgroup where 1 participant is chosen by each zone

- This workgroup would begin after the 2023 WSC and follow the same cycle

- Barry B. was our previous representative on this workgroup

- Barry B. expressed interest on re-joining the work group

- There are benefits to the previous experience on the work group

- Ben T. expressed interest on joining this work group

- There are benefits to rotation of service

- Vote by secret ballot – Barry B. was voted in as the Zonal Rep for Future of the WSC
- o Guidelines Policy – Beth and Natalie will work together to start this work group
- Sally will be involved as well to address the PR sections o SBTW funded travel – Sam was not at the previous zonal meeting to discuss the travel budget.
- 2-yr cycle – No gas or flights needed - approved
- ❖ Disbursements o NAWS donation – Treasurer recommendation
- Proposal from OK Region – Send all funds over prudent reserve forward per guidelines \$10,640.77 - approved
- o Travel for Nebraska Zonal
- If needed prior to Feb Zonal, contact Natalie ❖ Review of newly tasked items
- o Guidelines Policy Workgroup meeting – Beth/Natalie
- o IT – Intent to fill still open
- o Inventory Workgroup Meeting – Pam o Zonal Human Resources Pool Form – Tonya/Sally
- o Research NA Literature available on inmate tablets through tablet vendor - Sally o US Zone survey question completion – each Region completes the survey o Combined Feb CAR/CAT virtual event – Barry/Beth
- ❖ Date and Time of Next Zonal Forum Meeting o In person – Feb. 6 in Grand Island, NE
- ❖ Closed with the 3rd Step Prayer