

AGENDA

Saturday Business convenes at 9 a.m. – started at 9:16 am 5/21/2016

Sunday Business convenes at 9 a.m.

Saturday

1. Opening Prayer Serenity/Service Prayer

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference.

God, grant us 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 - in order that no addict, anywhere, need die from the horrors of addiction. (Facilitator.)

2. **Mission Statement:** The mission of the Lone Star Region is to provide its members a diverse forum for training and support while cultivating leaders who can more effectively carry the message to the addict who still suffers. (Facilitator).

3. **Vision Statement:** We shall create unity throughout the Lone Star Region and fulfill the vision of Narcotics Anonymous as a whole. (Facilitator).

4. Reading of 12 Traditions – Read by HOT RCM

5. Reading of 12 Concepts – Read by FW RCM

6. Roll Call

- a. Facilitator - P
- b. Co Facilitator - P
- c. Notes taker - P
- d. Money Handler - P
- e. Money Handler Alternate - P
- f. Regional Delegate - P
- g. Regional Delegate Alternate - P
- h. Regional Communications Liaison - P
- i. Regional Communications Liaison Alternate
- j. AAHTXNA - A
- k. Dallas Area - P
- l. East Texas - P

- m. Fort Worth - P
- n. Heart of Texas (HOT) - P
- o. Lakeside - A
- p. Piney Woods - A
- q. Rose City - P
- r. Texarkana - P
- s. Board of Directors Chair - P
- t. Convention Administrative Committee (Odd) - P
- u. Convention Administrative Committee (Even) - O
- v. Board of Directors Representative - A

7. Open Discussion

New RSC members:

Dusty – Fort Worth RCMA

Tabby – HOT RCMA

Richard – Rose City RCMA

Denise – East Texas RCMA

Lakeside will be removed from roll call as decided in the January 2016 RSC. They will remain on the meeting schedule.

8. Area Reports

1. AAHTXNA - Absent
2. Dallas Area – RCM read the report. Is the Seagoville unit being covered by Dallas Area H&I (providing a panel member)? No not yet.
3. East Texas – RCM read the report. There were no questions.
4. Fort Worth – RCM read the report. RD asked for contact information on the new area (Trinity) that has been formed. FW RCM advised that they are still forming their area committee and have not established a contact person yet, but there is a member that can be contacted. The RD team is working with Fort Worth Area to make suggestions for the mini-assembly timing for Dallas/Fort Worth. Moving the timing to November was suggested and also contacting other centrally located groups to host the mini-assembly was mentioned. Dallas RCM is reaching out to Irving Group since it would be ideal as a centrally located group for DFW.
5. Heart of Texas (HOT) – RCM read the report. No questions.
6. Piney Woods - Absent
7. Rose City – RCM read the report. No questions.
8. Texarkana – RCM read the report. No questions.

9. Administrative Reports

- a. Facilitator – Facilitator read the report. No questions.
- b. Co-Facilitator – Co-Facilitator read the report. No questions.
- c. Regional Delegate – RD read the report.

How will IDT's be used for the mini-assemblies? RD suggested one topic be "the future role of Zones" and choose two other topics. The latest IDT's from WSC will not be available by the time the mini-assemblies are conducted.

What about Tejas Bluebonnet wanting to merge with Lone Star? Tejas Bluebonnet is struggling financially as is the Lone Star region. If Lone Star applied for WSC seating today, we would not qualify as we are not fully self supporting. We rely on funding from the Lone Star Regional Convention to support this body. With the WSC struggling to seat all the regions, it makes sense to discuss merging which would help the fellowship as a whole.

East Texas team asked for the RD team to come out for support. RD team could not come at the time due to work constraints and getting ready for WSC. The RD is willing to reschedule and reached out to the RCM from East Texas to discuss new timing for the RD team to attend an East Texas ASC.

FW RCM brought up that bringing in more areas will require more time for discussion. There are ideas to reduce the amount of time for the RSC, this could impact the idea to reduce the RSC to one day.

The moneyhandler suggested that the Admin committee attend to gather information about the Lone Star/Tejas Bluebonnet idea to merge. The next Tejas Bluebonnet RSC will be held on August 13th at Our Recovery Place in San Antonio, TX.

Will the RD team communicate their findings via email? Yes. Will there be a financial impact to Lone Star Region for this fact finding trip? The RD team says there will not be any financial impact.

There was a question about GoToMeeting service. The Southern Zonal Forum purchased the service for a year. The RD team advised that the service is available for Lone Star Region to use as well. Lone Star member Areas can also use the service. We should consider using the tool particularly for members who have had to travel great distances.

- d. Regional Delegate Alternate – Joint report with RD.
- e. Money Handler – Money Handler reviewed the report. Money Handler suggested that based on available funds and items budgeted for the remainder of the trimester, if all the budgeted items for the remainder of the trimester were expensed (paid) the bank balance would be negative.

How was the prudent reserve of \$5000 established? MH says that the bank has a minimum balance requirement of \$5000 to avoid bank fees.

There was a question about the report not being available one week before RSC. With the financial situation as it is, the body would have had an opportunity to review the report and have an opportunity to formulate thoughtful questions about the situation. Previous money handlers were held to this standard and the standard should be applied to all subsequent money handlers.

Should our prudent reserve be set based on a trimester's worth of expenses? In a previous RSC (to be verified), there was an idea on the floor to put the prudent reserve amount up to \$5000 to avoid bank fees. This is how the amount for prudent reserve was established.

Should donation checks be mailed into the Money Handler? The checks can be sent by mail to the RSO and the money handler picks them up.

\$2418.56 worth of checks are being paid today for H&I and RD Team reimbursements. Donations to WSC and Southern Zonal Forum and other expenses can be reviewed and either postponed or reduced.

Co-Facilitator noted that members who need reimbursements do not have to provide banking information to receive electronic checks. The member's address can be provided and the bank will send a paper check to the member. The committee asks that once received the check be deposited within 48 hours so that the bank balance can be reconciled in a timely manner.

Does anyone need a money handler workshop to be able to understand the report? No.

- f. Money Handler Alternate – Joint report with Money Handler

- g. Communications Liaison – Communications Liaison read the report. MH Alternate asked for verification of the CL email address.
Rwwhite151@gmail.com
- h. Communications Liaison Alternate - Open
- i. Notes taker – Guidelines correction was added to the last RSC meeting minutes. There was no Guidelines meeting at the last RSC.
- j. Board of Directors Chair – BOD chair read the report. East Texas asked if the novelty items will be brought to Lone Star for review. BOD Chair advised those items are available for review online.

The CAC Even member was removed as Treasurer of the convention but was allowed to be on the board as Assistant Treasurer. Why is this? It was determined that although the member had some personal issues, after addressing those issues and reaching a group conscience of the board members, it was decided that the member can serve on the board as Assistant Treasurer.

The RSC guidelines are not complete due to missing requirements for CAC positions on the BOD. Specifically what are the duties and responsibilities of the BOD liaison? BOD chair noted that the RSC should set up the requirements for the BOD liaison, not the board.

What is the understanding of the Board's position on how the BOD is to serve the RSC? The board is supposed to serve the Region. However legally the board was established as a 501-3c and the Region is not, so legally the board makes a lot of the decisions. But the decisions are made in the spirit of unity with the RSC.

There is a concern from the RD that the member who was removed from the CAC position due to lack of qualifications has been appointed to another position on the board which requires more qualifications than the position from which the member was removed. The BOD chair answered that the BOD Treasurer believes that the member is qualified and the conscience of the board confirmed the confidence in the member's ability.

FW RCM expressed that there have been other examples where unqualified members or members who have misappropriated funds as money handlers go right into other money handler positions at other levels of service in NA. In some instances when members have not been elected to CAC positions at RSC

due to concerns of the body they have gone to the BOD and been elected into money handling positions there. Is the BOD prepared to bear responsibility if the member misappropriates funds there? The BOD Chair is outgoing and is not in position to answer the question.

The CAC Odd member expressed the extent to which the member who was removed from the CAC Even position mishandled their previous position. The CAC Odd member was not consulted by the BOD to share his perspective on the work which was required to rectify the errors and mistakes of the member who was removed.

- k. 2015 Convention Chair Report – The Convention Chair read the report. There was a question about a savings account which was not reported. There was an answer about access to the savings account. So technical issues with access to the savings account was provided as the answer. Issues with getting the legal name of the account straightened out are ongoing. Additional information about the savings account balance was requested. The RD will attend the next BOD meeting to get more information.

Are any of the convention prudent reserve funds to be used for the RSO? No. But a prudent reserve is being established for the RSO as well.

Discussions about the disposition of funds under the control of the board was held. It was revealed that the cost of the Lone Star Convention is about \$35K and this amount is held as a prudent reserve to make sure the convention never loses money. The prudent reserve amount is determined based on the budget for the next convention. The budget for next year's convention has not been finalized. Once the budget is finalized a review of the available funds will be done and a donation to RSC may be available. But no donation is available for RSC today. The RD will go to the next BOD meeting to get additional details of the situation.

The convention chair added some clarity to the situation with the member who was removed from the CAC Even position and then elected to the Board as Assistant Treasurer. The Assistant Treasurer position was filled immediately instead of having the position posted with the Region to find other members interested in serving. Ideas to have notice of the open position sent out to the Region were shut down.

- l. Convention Administrative Committee – CAC Odd provided a report.

m. Board of Directors Representative - Absent

10. Coordinator Reports

- a. H&I Coordinator – H&I Coordinator read the report. There were questions about coverage of the Seagoville unit panel position. Some members of the Fort Worth Area advised that members have been going there. Information from these members needs to get to the Region H&I Coordinator so that he can confirm that this is taking place. Communication needs to be provided in the report. The body requested a budget proposal from the Region H&I Coordinator for 2017, based on the needs of his subcommittee. This is in light of the financial situation and helping to determine expenses for next year.
- b. Pen Pal Coordinator – Open. There was a discussion about the lack of activity for this position. There was an idea from the discussion to have the position to be inactive. There was no opposition to the idea. The position is now inactive.

11. Work Group Reports – No active work groups at this time.

12. Old Business (New Business if time allows)

- Regional Assembly – RD team is going to Rose City, Texarkana, and DFW to conduct mini assemblies. One topic that has been suggested is “The Role of Zones”. Another suggestion is the “Role of our Basket”, which is timely in light of the current financial situation of the region. Ft Worth area RCMs suggested “Unity (Tradition One)”. The FW RCM further elaborated on fostering unity at the Lone Star RSC. Those topics were confirmed as the workshops for all three mini-assemblies.
- Regional Guidelines Approval - There were questions about the timing of turning in receipts for reimbursement. If the timeline cannot be met due to the receipts will not be received before the deadline, the member may ask for funds in advance. There was a discussion about having the money handler requirement to have the report a week in advance of the RSC for the members to review. This would provide an opportunity for RCMs to understand the report and formulate questions in advance. The flowcharts will be labeled. Another question was about decision making when a consensus cannot be reached and an idea goes to a vote. It was confirmed that the guidelines say that the vote is RCM’s only.
So these items were included in a compromise:
 - a. If the timeline cannot be met due to the receipts will not be received before the deadline for reimbursement, the member may ask for funds in advance.

- b. Seven day requirement on money handler submission of the money handler report before the RSC.
- c. One area more than half must be present to make decisions. Four or less areas, no decision can be made (based on 8 member areas currently). In the rare case of a tie vote, the issue is to be laid aside.
- RSC Budget 2016 – There were amendments to decrease RD Team travel budget and increase Lodging budget. RD travel decreased from \$2600 to \$1800. Lodging increased from \$4800 to \$7600. Idea Accepted.
 - Fort Worth Area – Accept
 - Texarkana – Accept
 - East Texas – Accept
 - Dallas – Accept
 - HOT – Accept
 - Rose City – Accept RD decrease, Reject on lodging increase
- Proposed Lodging for the 2016 RSC – Moved to New Business discussion

13. RSC Guidelines Workshop Discussion (after the close of business) – The compromises discussed in Old Business will be added to the guidelines. There will not be a separate workshop discussion held after the close of business.

Sunday

14. Opening Prayer Serenity/Service Prayer – started at 9:23 am

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference.

God, grant us 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 - in order that no addict, anywhere, need die from the horrors of addiction.

15. Roll Call

- A. Facilitator - P
- B. Co Facilitator - P
- C. Notes taker - P
- D. Money Handler - P
- E. Money Handler Alternate - P
- F. Regional Delegate - A
- G. Regional Delegate Alternate - A
- H. Regional Communications Liaison - P

- I. Regional Communications Liaison Alternate - O
- J. AAHTXNA - A
- K. Dallas Area - P
- L. East Texas - P
- M. Fort Worth - P
- N. Heart of Texas (HOT) - P
- O. Piney Woods - A
- P. Rose City - P
- Q. Texarkana - P
- R. Board of Directors Chair - A
- S. Convention Administrative Committee (Even) - Open
- T. Convention Administrative Committee (Odd) - P
- U. Board of Directors Representative - A

16. Elections

- Co-facilitator - Carlotta P and Becky were the nominees. Becky removed her name from consideration. Carlotta P was elected as Co-Facilitator
- Money Handler – Jeanette was nominated and elected. No other nominees.
- Money Handler Alt – Connie was nominated and elected. No other nominees.
- Notes Taker – Greg was nominated and elected. No other nominees.
- Notes taker Alt – No nominees.
- Communication Liaison – Ron was nominated and elected.
- Communication Liaison Alt – Felicia was nominated and elected.
- RSO BOD Liaison – Open (member who was serving as an interim BOD liaison was not present to be elected)
- CAC Even – election for this position in September
- H&I Coordinator – election for this position in September
- Pen-pal Coordinator - Inactive

17. New Business

- a. Fort Worth Area -To activate a Regional Outreach Coordinator Position – to help struggling areas and bring unity to the region. \$600 budget requested.

Is there someone interested in serving in the position? Yes.

What is the \$600 for? Anticipated travel expenses such as gas. This would also include any literature requests.

Dallas and Fort Worth areas have Outreach coordinators but the smaller areas do not.

There was discussion about the duties and guidelines of the proposed position. If we elect a position without clear guidelines then the chances for success will be limited. The Co-Facilitator noted there are old guidelines available from when the position was active in Lone Star Region.

East Texas RCMA noted that they also have concerns with making sure there are clear responsibilities for the position and the need for the position. There was a suggestion to create an idea to go back to the areas which includes the duties and responsibilities of the position and details on the budget requirements.

The idea will be refined so that more information can be taken back to the Areas. On Sunday, a list of duties and responsibilities was formulated to take back to the Areas for the Outreach Coordinator position. There was a discussion on how the Region can measure the effectiveness of the position. Some suggestions included getting feedback from the areas this position will serve and making sure that the Outreach coordinator is also touching the drug courts, probation offices, etc. The Outreach coordinator will report the requests received for assistance and the outcome of the requests. This idea will go to the Areas and those areas interested in activating the position can request additional duties and/or clarity to the position. There was a question of the \$600 budget for the position. Currently the Region is having financial issues. **Idea to be taken back to the Areas.**

- b. Rose City Area - To rotate the location of 2017 RSCs to various groups around the Region.

The Co Facilitator said the costs of rotation of RSC would be more than having a central location. Rose City RCM noted that moving to a more central location like Desoto would save room nights and travel. The Rose City RCM has a presentation available to share which will detail the savings.

HOT RCM noted that their travel was 203 miles.

Do the changes that were approved today help or hurt the finances in light of this proposal? This is not clear at this time. How much was paid for last night, Friday night? Meeting space is \$944, the cottages are \$1755 for the weekend. There was a suggestion to see if the areas are willing to fund their RCM teams.

HOT and Texarkana took back the idea to rotate and brought the conscience of their areas back. **This idea was laid aside.**

- c. Rose City Area - To hold the September 2016 RSC at a centrally located group. Compromise idea – Hold the next RSC (September 2016) at the RSO office. The RCM's are asking the Communications Liaison to get information regarding lodging for the participants. Ideally the cost will be \$700 or less. There will be a workgroup to formulate a plan for long term facilities. The workgroup will communicate with the Communications Liaison team on progress and benefit from their experience. It was confirmed that the RSO office is handicapped accessible and there is internet access. **Idea accepted.**
- d. Rose City Area - To continue having RSC at Mill Creek Ranch Resort in 2017 but utilize off site lodging. **Idea withdrawn**
- e. Rose City Area - Eliminate the many non-business related activities surrounding future Lone Star RSCs.

What activities specifically is the idea seeking to eliminate? Saturday and Sunday morning meetings, speaker meetings, cookouts, etc. This should be a business meeting only. Another point of view is that these activities promote unity and fellowship. No member is obligated to participate in other activities outside of the business. There was a big discussion about different points of view of how unity and fellowship are supported. **Idea laid aside.**

18. Announcements

For the 2017 budget discussion, the RD Team, Administration, and H&I will submit their detailed budget proposals within 7 days after this RSC. Their submissions should include an itemized list of proposed expenditures. A proposed budget with all proposed expenses and projected income will be sent out to the RCMs for review by June 30, 2016. The budget will contain projected income and expenses and will balance to zero or show a surplus. The RCMs need to bring the conscience of their areas by the September 2016 RSC.

There was a review of the financials as of Sunday, May 22, 2016. \$1759.80 is the remaining bank balance including expenses paid and income from group donations. Upcoming expenditures include Grasshopper \$880.00 which leaves \$879.80 (above prudent reserve). There was a discussion about how to manage expenditures during this time of low bank balance. H&I will need to split up literature purchases during the trimester to \$600 each purchase, not to be purchased until confirming with the Admin committee. The RD team has agreed to absorb the cost of lodging on the Kentuciana trip and ask for no refund. In

addition the WSC and Southern Zonal Forum donations will be canceled for this trimester. This means the donation will not be made up at a later date. No opposition from any Areas on this decision. Any travel receipts submitted by the H&I Coordinator will be refunded but there may be a delay in receiving payment.

There was a discussion about the admin committee members attending all three mini-assemblies. The admin asked the body if it is OK that there be admin representation at each mini-assembly but not require all admin members be at every mini-assembly. There would be time, availability, and financial constraints for some members. So it was decided that each admin should attend one, which is their initial commitment.

19. Closing Prayer/Adjourn