

GULF COAST AREA MINUTES

March 11, 2018

The meeting was opened at 11:00 a.m. by Tammy G.
 Minutes were recorded by Tom K. & Tammy T

Traditions: Rachael

Concepts: Jules

Definition of an ASC: Danny

Open Forum

Ted. Never too early group closing, New meeting starting at same location at 10.30

Cam. Are we getting group tally sheets

Jarret. New meeting starting this Thursday at freedom clubhouse at 7;00

Charlene. Turning in \$135.00 collected for young people group Thanks.

Motion to accept last month's minutes: Yes:

Chair	Tammy G	P	
Vice Chair	Matt S	P	
Treasurer	Patty K	P	
Assistant Treasurer	Doree	P	
Secretary	Tom K	P	
Assistant Secretary	Tammy T	P	
RCM	Steve H.	P	
RCM II	Andrew	P	
Activities	CJ B	P	
H&I	Shelly S	P	
Literature	Vinny L.	P	
Newsletter	Open	--	
Policy	Open	--	
P.R.	Joe R	P	
-----GROUPS-----			
-			
	A Shot of Hope	P	
	After the Rush	P	
	Back to Life	P	
	Against All Odds	P	
	Bridge to Recovery	P	

End Of The Road	A	3
Dare to Win	P	
Filling the Void	P	
Goodfellas in Recovery	P	
In the Solution	P	
It Works	A	1
Just for Today	P	
Keeping It Clean	P	
Last Stop	P	
Late Night Recovery	P	
Lehigh on Recovery	P	
Live and Let Live		Fold
Lost Dreams Awakened	P	
Never to Early	P	
New Beginnings	P	
New Hope	p	
Not Quite There Yet	P	
Rainbow Group	P	
Saturday Night Live	P	
Sick as Our Secrets	P	
Sistas Journey	P	
Together we can	P	
The Truth Will Set You Free	P	
Ultimate Weapon	P	
Under Construction	A	
Women Do Recover	P	

Establish Quorum

- **Total: 22**
- **Quorum: 13**
- **Policy Change: 18**

RCM Report

Good Morning it was a great turnout at region. We had 17 areas out of 18 areas attend the RSC. Our motion to stop the FIBT report failed. The votes were 2/11/4. We also received a check for \$2000.00 from the region for our area. The February Region began with a balance of \$31,983.00 and closed the day with \$22,300.00. A motion on the floor to send NAWs \$2300.00 passed.

There will be regional motions going back to groups. The insurance for your groups will need to be updated by May 1st. This is for the groups that need insurance. The contact person for this is the regional AD Kevin. His email is

darkstar33444@yahoo.com , you can also reach out to Andrew and I for help with this.

We have some new information and guidelines for situations with service dogs and their handlers in a narcotics anonymous meeting. I will email a copy of those with my report. Andrew will be speaking on some information that he is passing out to each home group.

All GSR's will receive ballots for CAR motions, literature/IDT survey, and CAT items. Please return all paper ballots to the next ASC. Voting can also be done online At SFRNA.net . Voting is available in English, Spanish and Portuguese online. The car and literature is done by the groups, and the cat is done individual members. Any questions. Please contact Andrew at 239-878-3517 or Steve at [239-823-9332](tel:239-823-9332).

Our H&I Learning Day is getting better every year. This year we sold 93 basic texts. Which will be distributed to the facilities in the Gulf Coast Area.

Matt A from Peace River won the spoon at the Chili Cook off.

Don't forget that on March 24th in 2 weeks is the 3rd annual Unity Day at Lakes Park. From 10-4. Pam M. will be speaking from our area. Each area will have a speaker for 15 minutes or so. T-shirts are being sold for \$15 each. There will be lots of food, fun, and fellowship. I look forward to seeing you there.

There will be regional motions going back to groups.

02-10-18

Maker- PR

2nd- Peace River

Motion reads: To approve the " SFRNA Guideline for Situations with Service Dogs and Handlers in Narcotics Anonymous Meetings "

Disclaimer: Narcotics Anonymous does not enforce the law. This listing of the law, and the consequences for groups not complying with the law, are included so that your group can make a fully informed choice. This is in line with Chapter 4 in the Basic Text: "We believe that the sooner we face our problems within our society, in everyday living, just that much faster do we become acceptable, responsible and productive members of that society". Additionally, Narcotics Anonymous supports the right of every addict to find recovery through Narcotics Anonymous. To assist Groups and the NA service Structure to fulfill Tradition 3 and Tradition 5 in reaching out to those with Additional Needs, the following guidelines are being provided. This guideline is only a general guidance on a complex set of issues. Groups and Service Entities may find that their situation may not be covered in these guidelines. In these cases, or at any time, it is highly encouraged to contact your Area, Region, SFRSC Public Relations Additional Needs Point of Contact (POC) or NAWS to obtain further assistance.

SFRSC has a guideline for service dogs (SD) in meetings. However, several situations have occurred across the Region that the guideline did not cover. Therefore, this additional information is being supplied to further aid groups.

First, who should ask if the dog is a service dog? It is highly suggested that only trusted servants use these guidelines to inquire, and insure, that a dog coming into a NA meeting is a service dog and that the dog is potty trained and displaying quiet, obedient behavior that is conducive to an atmosphere of recovery. Trusted

servants would be the equivalent of a store employee, as in cases involving ADA law, as ADA law does pertain to NA groups. So, greeters, room openers, GSR, etc., are all group trusted servants.

The most important thing to remember is that it is the HANDLER that has the access rights of having a service dog that accompanies them, not the dog. The dog has NO rights.

It is best if the handler is met outside the door to the room by the trusted servant. If it is not obvious what the dog's task is (for example mobility, guide dog, etc), the trusted servant can then ask the following 2 questions (word for word is best so that there is no mistakes):

1) Is the dog a service animal required because of a disability?

2) What work or task has the dog been trained to perform?

If the handler replies "no" to the first question, then the dog is a pet and, according to the group and building/landlord/rental policies, can be excluded from the meeting. The handler is free to come back into the meeting without the dog/pet.

If the handler replies "yes", then ask the 2nd question. The handler should reply with tasks the dog does, such as "brings my medicine, counterbalance, sees for me, hears for me, diabetic or medical alert, etc". If the handler states the dog is for "comfort" or "anxiety" and gives comfort, that is an Emotional Support Animal (ESA) and not a service dog. ESAs are NOT covered by ADA nor Florida State law for public access and therefore are considered pets. Again, emphasize the dog cannot be admitted to the meeting and the handler is free to come back into the meeting without the dog/pet. Remember that certifications/registrations are not any proof of the dog being a service dog. Only answering the trained tasks the dog does to mitigate the disability.

How to respond to other answers:

1) HIPPA says I do not have to answer: We are only asking what trained task the dog does to mitigate the disability. We are NOT asking their medical diagnosis. By both Federal and Florida State laws, the handler is required to answer the question. However, if the handler still chooses not to answer, the dog can be denied access.

2) Who are you to ask me? This is why it is highly suggested it is a trusted servant that does the asking. Trusted servants do have the right, given to them by the group, to represent them. Therefore, the handler does have to answer the trusted servant. Please do not have any group member ask. First, they may not know the right things to say and cause a situation that could turn into a legal situation. Second, they do not have the group's elected representation and therefore cannot represent the group.

Again, the handler may still choose not to answer the question. Inform the handler that, by not answering, the dog can be excluded from the group meeting place.

If it is determined the dog is not a service dog, do remember to tell the handler that they are welcome without the dog.

What if the handler has already entered the building? Attempt to ask the handler to please come outside to discuss a "matter". Then follow the steps given above.

What if the handler does not want to step outside? Get another trusted servant (or any group member if no trusted servant is available) and calmly, quietly and privately as possible ask the questions and follow the steps.

If the person is inside the building and the dog is determined not to be a service dog: Advise the person that, in accordance with group policy and the rental lease, no pets are allowed in the building. They will need to remove the dog and feel free to return to the meeting.

What if the person refuses to remove the dog: First, attempt to have the person understand that bringing a pet into a no pet building can jeopardized the ability of the group to continue to meet there. Emphasize that the lease/rental agreement specifically states "no pets". If the person still will not remove the dog, 2 spiritual

considerations can be done:

1) For that meeting only, have a few members go outside and hold a meeting for the handler. At the end of the meeting, restate that the dog no longer can come into the meeting building.

2) The whole group goes outside until the handler leaves (no more than a 5 minute wait). If the handler still refuses to remove the dog, police may need to be contacted to escort the person out.

What if the dog is determined to be a service dog and later growls, bites, barks or causes other disruptive behavior during the meeting or while in the building:

If the handler does not take immediate corrective action, a trusted servant, on the spot, can ask the handler to please take the dog outside and settle the dog. Then the handler may return with the dog. If the handler chooses not to correct or settle the dog, the dog can be excused for the rest of that meeting only. Again, if the dog has been determined to be a SD, the handler will be allowed to return to the next meeting with the dog. DO take video of the dog's misbehaving (remember, the dog, not the people in the room) as proof. If the dog does the same bad behaviors each meeting, please contact your Region Additional Needs POC immediately for further guidance. Please remember that, if the dog has been determined to be a SD, it could be the dog just has a bad day. Addicts should well understand that!

Anything after this, or if the handler causes a commotion or uses the words, do call your Additional Needs POC, Rose Marie B, at 321 567 4112. The words "lawyer/lawsuit" being used is an immediate call to Rose Marie. DO NOT handle it yourself! You will get guidance on how to proceed. Rose Marie has been trained to handle those situations.

Two additional points to remember: A NA meeting is considered a "business" by ADA Federal law. Therefore, we should abide by the law as much as possible. And, a church is exempt from ADA law. So, insure the church is ok with having a SD in the building. The majority of churches nowadays have no problem but will ask you to ensure that the dog behaves and is potty trained. If the church declines service dogs, contact Additional Needs for further guidance.

Last but not least: A NA meeting should insure that the atmosphere of recovery is present. A misbehaving dog does interrupt that atmosphere. At the same time, any situation that occurs in a NA meeting should be met with spiritual principles in mind. Many times, a spiritual solution will resolve a situation prior to it becoming a legal one.

Financial Impact- None

Intent- To provide information to groups that will protect them legally as well as guide them towards a spiritual solution when handling Service Dogs and Handlers

Motion 02-11-18

Treasurer suggested to make Prudent Reserve \$16,000.00

MOTION- To raise our prudent reserve to \$20,000.00.

Maker-Shark Coast

2nd- South Broward

Motion to table to groups

Maker - South Dade

2nd- South Atlantic

In Loving Service,

Steve and Andrew

Sub-committees

Activities: Attendance: CJ, Meagan, Rachael, Ashley, Sam, Todd, Britton, Shaylynn

Glow party brought in \$365.67
After paying the DJ \$95.00
Area donation is: \$270.67

Next event will be held on
Sunday May 6, 2018
10am-3pm
Ft. Myers Beach
Access 17

Bracelets will be available the end of this week.
\$5.00 a piece and it will get you a hamburger or a hot dog and a drink.

H&I We had 50 members present at this morning's h&i subcommittee. There is a lot of willingness and participation. We voted on a motion to be payback the ASC for the \$665 that we requested for t-shirts. Motion passed and that money was given back today. And we also voted to use the remaining money to buy basic texts for our facilities. That motion passed as well. At our h&i I learning day we sold over three cases of basic text. And those will also be distributed to facilities who need them. Thanks for letting me serve Shelly

- **Policy:** NONE

P.R: We began this meeting with three new members.

School Flyers have been suspended until further notice.

Helpline is doing well.

Website is up to date.

We'll be looking into a West Coast learning day in the near future.

Will follow up with our Audio and Video PSA's in our local radio and TV stations. Please check our local Gulf Coast Area website for an important note about Service Dogs at our meetings.

ILS, Joe Rollo

- **Literature:** H&I ordered \$115.20, area lit order was \$1006.75 and with a total of \$1,121.95 ILS Vinnie.

OLD BUSINESS

Area motions

Motion 02-04-18 19-2-4 PASSED

Motion 02-05-18 23-1-1 PASSED

Regional motions

NEW BUSINESS

BACK TO GROUPS

Regional motions

02-10-18

Maker- PR

2nd- Peace River

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Financial Impact- None

Intent- To provide information to groups that will protect them legally as well as guide them towards a spiritual solution when handling Service Dogs and Handlers

Motion 02-11-18--- Maker-Shark Coast 2nd- South Broward--To raise regional prudent reserve to \$20,000.00.

Nominations

Nominations open for Policy and Newsletter..----NONE

Elections

NONE

Group Reports

- **A Shot of Hope:** We are doing fantastic, meeting attendance is through the roof. We would like to have more support from NA MEMBERS WITH EXPERIENCE as we have a lot of newcomers showing up.

Against All Odds: No report

- **Back to Life:**
- **Bridge to Recovery:.**
- **Dare to Win:**

- **Filling the Void;** No report
- **Goodfellas in Recovery:**
- **In the Solution:**
- **It Works:** No report
- **Just For Today:**
- **Keeping it Clean:** Meeting attendance is good and the home group is growing.
- **Late Night Recovery:** No report.
- **Last stop .** Group is growing every week. Attendance is good. Welcoming all new comers!!!
- **Lehigh On Recovery:** No report
- **Live and Let Live:** No report
- **Lost Dreams Awakened:**
- **Never Too Early:** Meeting closed
- **New Beginnings:** No report.
- **.Not Quite There Yet:** No report
- **On Solid Ground:** No report.
- **Rainbow Group:** no report
- **Saturday Night Live:** No report
- **Sick As Our Secrets:** No report
- **Sisters Journey:**
- **The Last Stop:** No report
- **The Truth Will Set You Free:** We decided to split up our home group member celebrations into two weeks. 3/29/18 Lexi M 1 year , Chad S 1 year , Natalie C 2 years and on 4/5/18 Bob A 5 years , Dana S 7 years, and Bruce F 34 years. We have added several more new home group members and our meeting attendance continues to grow
- **The Ultimate Weapon** Meeting and attendance is good. Message of recovery is being carried.
- **Together We Can:**
- **Under Construction:** No report
- **We Do Recover:** No report.
- **Women Do Recover:** No report

Announcements--None

Meeting closed at 12:07

Next Area Service meeting will be April 8th.