

**MINUTES OF THE MIDWEST TENNESSE AREA SERVICE COMMITTEE (ASC)
OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS – MAY 27, 2012**

Angie E. opened the meeting at 3:00 PM with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. Dustin H. read the Twelve Concepts of Service. Angie E. read the definition and purpose of an ASC.

Roll Call – The ASC welcomed all visitors. The following new GSR's were recognized: Mike S. GSR for Newbern Never Alone, Dustin H. Alternate GSR for Jackson Sowing The Seed, and Melvin M. GSR for Jackson Never Alone. The Alternate RCM was absent. No representative was present for Savannah and Parson. A quorum was established.

Secretary's Report – Presented by Scott B. There was a correction to the minutes in April. Adam L. was not elected Alternate Secretary. The ASC nominated Lisa W. This was to be taken back to home groups for votes. The Secretary's report was accepted and the minutes of the April's minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report – Presented by Clinton S. Donations was received from the Annual Area Picnic held on May 26th. There have not been any debits from the checking account to pay for the phone line, website, or a post office box in the previous twelve months. Closing balance at the end of the meeting, after all donations and deductions, was \$350.98. Report was accepted.

Regional Committee Member (RCM) Report – Presented by Jake A. Home group votes were collected for the following regional positions: Mike R. for VRC Treasurer, Craig G. for Regional Chair, Jim B. for Vice Chair, Joe S. for H&I Chair, and Christina W. for Secretary. Current vacancies at the region include Alternate Treasurer, VRC Oversight, and Exploration Adhoc. There may also be additional service positions available. Any persons interested in a regional service position may submit a service resume to the RCM. Votes were collected on the motion to change the December VRSC meeting in Murfreesboro to be held during the VRC in November at Chattanooga. Jake collected the money from sales of leftover merchandise from VRC 29. There are still some items left for sale. Region obtained a quote for an umbrella liability insurance policy for \$3,500 per year which would cover meetings and events at region, area, and home groups. Region would be paying the premium but they are asking for additional financial support from each area to help cover the cost. The area continues not to be listed on Region's website. The next Volunteer Regional Service Committee (VRSC) meeting will be held Sunday, June 3rd, 9:30 AM in Murfreesboro. VRC-30 Annual Volunteer Regional Convention will be held in Chattanooga on November 21-25th. There will be meetings, speakers, workshops, and dances. Report was accepted.

Hospitals and Institutions (H&I) Report – Presented by Dustin H (filling in for H&I Chair). Lindsey E., Shantay V, Terry C, and David M. chaired a meeting at McNairy County Jail. Scott O. chaired a meeting at Aspell Recovery. Melvin M. is scheduled to chair a men's meeting at Jocoa. No women went to Jocoa this month. H&I need women to chair meetings at Jocoa, currently there are none. In February, someone suggested carrying meetings to the Camden Jail. In March, someone suggested carrying meetings to Cumberland Heights.

Activities Sub-Committee – Report presented by Sarah H. The area picnic was a good turn-out with \$37.00 in donations. The next area activity will be the “Annual July 4th Event” which will be at Angie E’s house in Alamo on July 7th at 6:00. Her address will be on the flyer. Everyone has been asked to bring fireworks or make a donation for the purchase thereof. Of course, anyone can bring their own fireworks; it’s not a problem where she lives. A motion was passed to disburse \$120 to cover the event. No report was turned in to the Secretary.

Convention Sub-Committee – Report presented by Jeremy P. The last supportive event did not go over very well. They broke even. The family skating party was cancelled due to financial issues. The sub-committee is now planning another supportive event which will be announced once finalized. Attendance at the Convention Sub-Committee meetings is low, with ten to twelve people. Everyone is encouraged to attend. There is plenty to do – something for everyone. Please announce this in home groups. The next meeting will be on June 24th at 7:15 PM at Sowing The Seed. The balance is about \$1,000. The hotel requires \$900 down payment with a total cost of \$5,500 which includes coffee and the seated dinner.

Jackson Clean Air: Report by GSR Adam L. No change in attendance. Donations are still low. The group was barely able to purchase literature. No donation to area.

Jackson Never Alone: Report by GSR Melvin M. Average attendance was 20 per night and they had six newcomers.

Jackson Sowing The Seed: Report by Alt GSR Dustin H. They elected new officers. Their new GSR is Joy R. and their new Alternate GSR is Dustin H. (Note: Newly elected Alternate GSR for Sowing the Seed is not the same person as the Area Vice Chair). Meeting attendance has been excellent with 20 to 40 attendees per meeting. Tuesday and Sunday’s have a lot of newcomers as a result of area treatment centers attending. Don H. will be celebrating 3 years, Baker will be celebrating 1 year, and Pam will be celebrating 1 year on June 17th at 6 PM. They have a donation to area.

Camden Miracles Happen: Report by GSR Becky P. Attendance is good. They are planning a picnic on June 30th at the Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park, Shelter One. The park is located 8 miles from Camden. The physical address is 1825 Pilot Knob Rd, Eva, TN 38333. It starts at 12:00, Eat 2:00 with a speaker at 3:00. It’s possible that Nick C. and Tina I. will be celebrating one year at the picnic. The group has a \$213 donation for area.

Dresden RAW (Ready and Willing): Report by GSR Jamie S. Average attendance was 6. The group could use support from addicts with clean time. They donated a basic text book to the area and they have a donation to give to the Area Treasurer.

Lexington Survivor’s Group: Report by GSR Ryan W. Average attendance is 15. They had 4 newcomers. Gina W. will be celebrating 2 years on June 7th eat at 6:00 and Tim L. will be speaking at 7:00. They are changing their business meeting to the Thursday before area meets. Overall group support is increasing and their newcomers are “stepping-up” and doing really well. The group is having their annual group anniversary on July 21st at Cub Lake Natchez Trace State

Park. Eat at 12:00 with a speaker at 2:00 (See additional information in Old Business). They are struggling with donations but they do have a \$20 donation to area.

Milan Clean & Serene: Report by Lisa W. Their GSR and Alternate GSR has stepped down. They get about one newcomer per week. Average attendance runs from 3 to 10 people. They could use area support from other groups. They changed their Wednesday meeting format. Donations are low.

Newbern Never Alone: Report by Mike S. They are having a potluck on May 30th. No report turned into Secretary.

Paris Free Spirit: Report by GSR Clinton S. There were 120 in attendance this month. The average was 10 per meeting. They had 14 visitors and 3 newcomers. On June 8th, there will be an "Eat and Speak" meeting. Eat at 6:00 and the speaker meeting begins at 7:00. The speaker will be Becky P. They have a donation to area.

Union City Free Spirit: Report by GSR, Jerry C. Attendance is very low. The group is having their third annual picnic on June 9th at Graham Park. A flyer is attached. The picnic will begin at 1 PM. There will be speakers at 2 PM and 4 PM. The group donated a NA Basic Text to the area.

Parsons We Do Recover: No representative present. No voting privileges.

Savannah 123 Group: No representative present. No voting privileges.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Area Website: Jeremy P. and Joe B. agreed to help get a new website up and running. The web hosting is going to cost about \$130 a year and it is going to be due in October. Jeremy P. discussed the options in purchasing website editing software and he recommended software that the area would own all the rights to it and would not be dependent upon paying for future additional services. There was some discussion as to what would eventually be placed on the website once it is in place such as area minutes, meeting schedules, and links to various sub-committees. Once this information is posted, it becomes available to the general public and it is considered Public Information. It serves to inform the community of what NA is for and what the area is doing. Part of the responsibilities of the person or sub-committee updating the website will involve gathering reports and minutes from each sub-committee each month and posting that information. The advantage of having access to this information was explained. A motion was passed to purchase a new domain, MWTNA.org which will cost about eight dollars. A motion was passed to form a sub-committee to maintain the website once it is up and running.

2. Area Mailing Address: Jason might know where the post office box is. Melvin M. said he would take the post office box key to Tucker Street and see if it opens it. It does not appear that we are paying for a post office box. The area will need a mailing address in order to be register on the NA website.

3. Area Phone Line: Angie E. said she would check on the phone line this month.
4. Updating Websites: Scott B. reported that this past month he has created a spreadsheet and has listed the various websites that contain meeting schedules and has identified which meetings need to be updated. He will begin contacting the webmasters of these sites in June. The other websites will not be able to be updated until the area has its own website. Until then, those sites will continue to have dead-end links.
5. Group Registrations on the NA Website: Newbern is now registered. Scott B. passed out registration forms to Milan and Sowing The Seed. Registration will add the group's meeting schedule to the NA website.
6. Lexington's Group Anniversary: Lexington has decided to have their group's anniversary on July 21st eating at 12:00 with a speaker at 2:00 at Cub Lake Natchez Trace State Park. The GSR was instructed to coordinate this with the convention committee since the group is offering to co-host the function as an area fund-raising event for the upcoming convention.
7. Milan's Tradition Workshop: Milan's GSR and Alternate GSR has stepped down. The group will re-evaluate this after they have elected new officers.
8. Donation of NA Basic Text Books: Each group was asked to donate a Basic Text book. Dresden RAW and Union City Free Spirit each donated a brand new book in exchange for use of the area meeting room provided by the hospital.
9. Meeting Schedules: According to the Area's Guidelines, updating and copying the meeting schedules is a function of the Secretary. However, in the past, and most recently, this task has been delegated to Eric W. and Melvin M. Unfortunately, Eric did not provide updated schedules in March or April. In May, Eric was not present and he sent a message stating that he has stepped down. Joe B. accepted the responsibility of creating an updated meeting schedule. Melvin M. confirmed his responsibility of making 250 copies at area expense. The secretary will continue to assist in making sure the meeting schedule is current and accurate.
10. Changes to the Meeting Schedule: A meeting schedule was passed around and GSR's verified and annotated any changes. Delete meetings in Trenton, Big Sanday, and Dyersburg. Add Newbern 8 PM on Wednesday. Add Savannah 7 PM on Thursday. Change Savannah's meeting time on Wednesday from 7 PM – 8:30 to 7 PM to 8 PM. Change Parson's Friday meeting from 8 PM to 6 PM. Change Parson's address to 708 Georgia Ave S. Change Union City's address to 230 S. 1st St. Change the city from Bemis to Jackson on Sowing the Seed's meetings.

NEW BUSINESS

Home Group Business Meeting Format: Lexington asked whether there was a group business meeting format available. Scott B. will distribute a sample format, provided by Paris Free Spirit, to all GSRs.

GSR and Alternate GSR Orientation: The ASC discussed adopting the Chattanooga Area's GSR Orientation Booklet. Scott B will be distributing a copy to all GSRs. A motion was passed for GSR's to present the booklet to home groups to vote on whether the area should adopt it. If it is adopted, then the first orientation will be at 2:30 prior to the area meeting on July 29th. All current GSRs and Alternate GSR's will be asked to attend.

Secretary Expenditures: A motion was passed to provide the Secretary \$40 a month to cover expenses such as paper, ink cartridges, envelopes, stamps, folders, copies, etc without requirement to provide or turn-in receipts. This change will be incorporated into the area guidelines. It was confirmed that the secretary will help keep expenses down, in accordance with the ACS guidelines, by mailing out documents only to those who do not have a computer, an e-mail address, or a printer. The majority of communications is done via E-Mail, text messaging, and phone.

Area Guidelines: Scott B. agreed to create a new cover sheet removing the word "draft", adding the area's title, and adding a revision date. He also agreed to make the change regarding Secretary's Reimbursement for expenditures. Melvin M. agreed to make copies of the guidelines at area expense and distribute them at the area meeting in June.

Voting Privileges. It was discussed and confirmed that in accordance with the Area Guidelines, the only people who can cast votes in the area's meetings are home group GSR's or Alternate GSR's. Executive Committee Members and Sub-Committee chairs or co-chairs do not have voting privileges. When a GSR votes, he or she is voting in behalf of their home group, not as an individual. This practice is in keeping with the twelve traditions which ensures that the operations and decisions of the ASC primarily rest with home group members. When votes are cast, the majority rules. If there is a tie, the Area Chair makes the final decision.

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS:

Convention Committee Chair - Groups voted to keep Jeremy P. as the Convention Committee Chair.

Treasurer – A motion was passed for Clinton S. to continue to serve as a GSR for his home group and as the Area Treasurer simultaneously. There is no conflict of interest in terms of voting since Executive Committee Member's do not have voting privileges.

Alternate Treasurer - Melvin M. is currently the Alternate Treasurer and he has just been elected GSR for his home group. A motion was passed to accept nominations for his replacement. There is a two year clean-time requirement.

Alternate Secretary: Lisa W. was nominated in April and elected in May.

Outreach Chair: Don H. was nominated in April and elected in May.

H&I Chair: James M. was nominated in April and elected in May.

Public Relations: Vacant. No nominations.

A motion was made to close the meeting. Motion seconded.
Meeting adjourned with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.

Prepared By:
Scott B., Area Secretary
May 29, 2012

Reviewed By:
Angie E., Area Chair
May 30, 2012

Additional Instructions: Please submit any corrections to the Secretary.

Distribution: Distribution made by E-Mail and/or First Class Mail to each active member of the ASC. A copy has been filed in the ASC's archive folder entitled "Area Minutes and Supporting Documents – May 2012".

Approved: _____ Yes || _____ No (Approval is obtained by vote at the next area meeting)

Date: _____