

A Brief History of the Tejas Bluebonnet Region of Narcotics Anonymous

Description of Region:

There are 9 member Areas of the Tejas Bluebonnet Region of Narcotics Anonymous: Brazos Valley Area, Central Texas Area, Coastal Bend Area, Courage to Change Area, Esperanza Area, Houston Area (HASCONA), Northside Area (NASCONA), Rio Grande Valley Area, and Texas Tri-County Area. These Areas cover most of the South and Southeast parts of Texas. The Region stretches from South Padre Island to Beaumont (a distance of 456 miles), and from Huntsville to Corpus Christi (290 miles). Austin, Brownsville, Bryan/College Station, Conroe, Galveston, Harlingen, Houston, Humble, Huntsville, San Antonio, and San Marcos are other cities in Tejas Bluebonnet Region.

Regional Formation Committee:

In 1988, Lone Star Regional Service Committee created a sub-committee to research forming another region, but no action was taken. At the April 1993, LSRSC, a "reformation" committee was created to look into the feasibility of a regional re-organization versus making drastic changes in the current structure. No concrete changes were made, so in 1993, a group of addicts in the Houston and Northside Areas decided to see if there was interest in forming a new, southern region. They thought that Lone Star Region was geographically too big to serve its member Areas effectively, that there was little support for struggling Areas, there was a lack of unity, and that too much money was spent on seed money for the regional convention, instead of serving the addict who still suffers.

The first meeting of the Regional Formation Committee was held on August 22, 1993 at 3:10 PM. The Houston ASC met at Alive and Kicking Group that day, and this first meeting was held immediately after that ASC. There were 15 members present at that meeting, all from HASCONA or NASCONA. Their names are taken from the sign in sheet from that day: Steve D., Margaret H., Pam W., Jeff B., Krazzi David, Roy S., Johnny B., Mickey P., Robert S., Steve B., Bo D. Eugene M., Willie T., Fernando C. and Max K.

After a sharing session, a motion was made by Steve B. and seconded by Krazzi David, that we form a new region. This motion passed unanimously. Steve D. was elected Chair, and Margaret H. was elected Secretary.

A decision was made to make phone calls to surrounding areas to assess their interest in joining the new Region. Houston's ASR, Jeff B, and ASR-A (Max K.) were assigned this task. This was followed by a letter, which included a time and place for the second meeting. Information was collected from the WSC

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Policy Committee and from the LSRSC regarding procedures used to form new regions.

During this same time period, "town meetings" were being held in Central Texas Area regarding forming a new region. The ASRs from CTA and HASCONA exchanged information at the LSRSC and decided to combine efforts.

At the second meeting of the RFC, September 19, 1993, 18 members from 6 areas were present (Basic, Central Texas, HASCONA, NASCONA, Southeast Texas (SETASCONA), and Tri-County).

Our October meeting was at the Lone Star RSC, and was held at 10:00 PM in Steve and Margaret's motel room! It was really crowded! Many members of LSR, from 14 areas, were present, as well as the RSR for Lone Star Region. Everyone got a chance to share their concerns, issues and ideas, and to ask questions.

In December, several Areas brought back Area consciences that they wanted to join the new region. Two workshops were held: **One defined the purpose, function, and goals of the new region. The second defined logistics, elections, RSC rotations, site selection, etc.** These definitions are still the guiding principles of Tejas Bluebonnet Region. This is what we decided, taken directly from the minutes of that meeting:

Purpose:

- * Carry a clear message of NA recovery to suffering addicts
- * Provide help to Areas to keep the doors open.
- * The purpose will be carried out by providing a business entity (i.e. service structure) to respond with things necessary, as requested by the Areas.

Function:

- * Create more unity within the region
- * Expedite good communication between Areas in the Region.
- * Expedite functioning phonenumber service and literature distribution.
- * Financially help struggling Areas.

Goals:

- * Outreach to rural/small/new/struggling Areas (and/or Groups, if needed)
Includes making sure chips and literature are available.
- * Make sure needs of all Areas are met.

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- * Provide forums/workshops to teach Area members the message of NA recovery.
- * Share our Experience, Strength and Hope regarding the business end of running an Area or Group.

Logistics:

Some suggestions were:

- * Meet at smaller, cheaper hotels or at group meeting places, provide alternative housing, subcommittees meet at same time as RSC
- * There will be Quarterly RSCs, one day long, which will be rotated around the Region. There will be funding available to help the hosting Area.

On February 12, 1994, at a meeting in Humble, Texas, 6 Areas (Basic, Central Texas, HASCONA, NASCONA, Rio Grande Valley and SETASCONA), by a roll call vote, formed a new Region. Two Areas, Esperanza and Tri-County, did not yet have an Area conscience. Vic. R. was elected as our first Regional chair. At that point, the RFC was adjourned.

Tejas Bluebonnet Region:

TBRs first meeting was called to order. After some discussion, all 34 people present unanimously chose **Tejas Bluebonnet Region of Narcotics Anonymous** as our new name. Trusted servants were elected: Vice Chair: Pat G; Secretary, Margaret H.; Treasurer, Erica M.; and liaison to LSRSC, Bob. L. At our second meeting in May, Steve D. was chosen as our first RSR, and Arthur S. was chosen RSR-A.

From the first meeting, input and discussion from members present was encouraged regarding issues, concerns and solutions. Even from the beginning, many decisions were made by consensus. There have been many discussions about how consensus based decision making should be practiced, and many people are still uncomfortable with the practice. We create unity by open communication and by valuing all input.

One way TBR has served its member Areas has been by active involvement in giving H & I or PI workshops, as requested, in all Areas. A Regional list of group meetings, time and locations was developed and provided not only to each Area, but to contacts in prisons and treatment facilities. Another way we have been of service is to facilitate several meetings to help 2 areas resolve differences in a positive way.

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In April 1995, TBR was seated at the World Service Conference. This was a big day for TBR!

There has been active involvement with members from the Mexican Fellowship. In 1995, TBR was asked to present workshops in Monterrey, Mexico, and sent Augustine and Danny C. to this function.

In 1997, TBR began the process of moving to a new Regional structure in conjunction with the changes occurring at the World Service Conference. We tried many of the ideas suggested, kept some, and eventually found a structure that works well for us here in TBR. It is a combination of the old and the new.

In November 1999, TBR joined the Southern Zonal Forum.

In August 2001, we were proud to be told that San Antonio, Texas was chosen as the site of the 2007 World Convention of NA! We are eagerly awaiting that event!

And in August 2002, TBR was chosen as the site of the Worldwide Workshop we are all attending today. Both of these functions are a great honor for TBR! Thanks for having faith in us!

Anniversary Celebrations

One burning issue for TBR since its formation has been how we use our funds to carry the message. We did not like the idea of large amounts of money being held for the purpose of holding a large convention. And we did NOT want to become dependent on convention money to function as a Region. We did want to celebrate our recovery, so we decided to hold a one day celebration in conjunction with some type of service workshop. Our Activities and Outreach Committees worked together with addicts in the hosting Areas to plan these celebrations. **TBR celebrated its first Anniversary in conjunction with the World Additional Needs Learning Day on Feb 17-19, 1995.** In 1996, we celebrated with a Steps and Traditions workshop. As time went on, our celebrations became longer, culminating with our 5th and last Celebration in Houston, which was 3 days long and really a convention with a different name. One thing all of these celebrations had in common, though, was that they did not start with much money up front. All were put on with no or minimal seed money. Fun functions and t-shirt sales were used to raise the money needed for the Celebrations, and we held them in inexpensive motels so that more addicts could afford a room.

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One thing TBR tried to do at each celebration, and now at our conventions, is to have an H & I workshop or "a Behind the Walls" speaker, a PI workshop, and various other service workshops.

Conventions:

In 1999, a decision was made to have an official convention. Our first regional convention was held in San Antonio, TX on Feb 4, 5, and 6, 2000. Since that time, the TBRCA convention has been held the first week in February each year to celebrate TBRs anniversary and our collective recovery. The convention committee is composed of members from the hosting area, who are now given \$5000.00 seed money from TBR. The rest is earned by hard work! All proceeds go 1/3 as seed money, 1/3 to the RSC, and 1/3 to the WSC.

TBRCA IV will be in 3 weeks, Jan 31, Feb 1 and 2 in Houston, TX., at the Sheraton North Houston 15700 John F. Kennedy Blvd.

As with all parts of the service structure, we have had to deal with misappropriation of NA funds, service commitments that were not fulfilled, and with the death of one of our RCMs (he died clean). Several Areas (Basic and SETASCONA) which were part of TBR from its formation days have folded. And a new area, Courage to Change, has been created in San Antonio.

If you have questions, please see me after this meeting. This material, along with a copy of all TBR documents from our first year, will soon be available on a CD. Thank you for letting me share.

In loving service,
H.

Margaret

Regional Chairs:

Name

Dates of Service

Vic R.	Feb 1994 to Nov 1995
Pat G.	Nov 1995 to Nov 1996
Mike G.	Nov 1996 to Nov 1997
Earline R.	Nov 1997 to Nov 1998
Vic R.	Nov 1998 to Nov 2000
Jimmy C.	Nov 2000 to Nov 2001

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Max K.

Nov 2001 to present

Regional Delegates:

Name

Dates of Service

Steve D.
Arthur S.
WSC.

May 1994 to May 1995
May 1995 to May 1996. Resigns prior to Steve D. and Jimmy C attend WSC as lame ducks.

Steve D.

August 1996 to November 1997 (moves to Montana)

Jimmy C.
Margaret H.
Ruben P.

February 1998 to May 2000
May 2000 to August 2002
August 2002 to present