

WSC 2008 Regional Reports

Greater Philadelphia Region

February 2, 2008

Subject: Report to the World Conference

In the spirit of service to our Higher Power and the fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous, we bring you greetings and blessings from the Greater Philadelphia Region to the WSC 2008! To easily disseminate all the information in this report, we modeled it after the suggested report form for WSC 2008. We hope our fellow conference participants can share with us their experience with the various challenges facing our region.

Greater Philadelphia Region

Earl W. is our Regional Delegate and Paula B. is the Regional Delegate Alternate. This is our first Conference as the delegation. Currently, there are eleven areas and approximately two-hundred and fifty groups in our region. There are three-hundred and ten meetings a week. We have ninety-four H&I panels each week.

Donations and Literature

Donations from our Areas and Groups totaled \$22,693.42. Net revenue from our 2007 Regional Convention totaled \$32,919.16. Additional fundraisers and miscellaneous donations totaled \$5,493.50, giving our RSC total gross revenue of \$55,612.58. Our RSO, where our region primarily purchases literature, grossed \$131,169.74. Our RSC expenses were \$45,531.72 and RSO expenses totaled \$172,354.87. This gave our region a total net loss of \$31,104.27. We currently contribute approximately \$4,000.00 annually to H&I.

Our Service Structure

The Greater Philadelphia Region is an active participant in the autonomy zonal forum. We have a regional office incorporated in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit corporation with tax exempt, duty free status and host an annual convention with an average attendance of 3500 to 4000. None of our areas currently holds their own convention. We currently carry a comprehensive insurance policy covering our RSO, RSC, D&O, groups, areas, events, and our convention.

During this conference cycle, we held workshops about the issue discussion topics at our regional convention, the zonal forum hosted in our region, at our regional assembly. Most of these workshops have been panel discussions or small group. These discussions produced valuable information helping us plan services and assisting our groups in carrying the message. They will be discussed again at our next convention and at our CAR workshops. We hope to bring a synopsis of all our discussions to larger discussion at the conference.

Our public relations efforts over the last cycle included PSAs on mass transit, radio, and public bulletin boards. We have completely redesigned our website, naworks.org, and further publicized our phonenumber, (215) NA-WORKS. We are also focusing on assisting our groups and H&I committees with negotiating facility agreements. We are in the process of negotiating with a new service provider for our regional

**GREATER PHILADELPHIA REGION
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WSC 2008 Regional Reports

Greater Philadelphia Region

154

phonenumber. Currently, we have a system that allows a caller to talk to a recovering addict 24 hours a day, seven day a week. The goal of the new provider is to take our current system to the next level at a substantial savings. All these efforts have culminated in a substantial growth in our membership.

By the time this report is published, we will have conducted several CAR workshops focusing on both the motions and the discussion topics.

Innovations and Challenges

The subject that seems to generate the most interest and discussion has been the financial and spiritual state of our region (i.e. the lack of donations and lack of members in service). Our biggest challenges were our outstanding literature debt, the high cost of our insurance and phonenumber, an increasingly expensive RSO, a reduced WSO discount, a lack of legal representation and a lack of members in

service.

We have made a considerable effort at solving these problems. We extensively fundraised to pay off our back debt to world, negotiated for a higher discount rate, moved our RSO a cheaper location, and hired a new attorney that specialized in nonprofits. As we stated earlier, we are working with a new phonenumber provider to design a better system at approximately half the current cost. We are also shopping for competitive rate for our insurance. We conducted a bottom-up review of the entire organization to reduce expenses. The trusted servants of our RSC increased their presence at our member ASCs, subcommittees, events and homegroup business meetings.

Despite the challenges, we have had some successes. Our attendance and net revenue from regional convention increased dramatically. Attendance at our workshops has also increased. The zonal forum hosted by our region was the largest attended Autonomy Zonal Forum in the history of the zone. We successfully produced a multiregional meeting list in concert with the Eastern PA Region. Some of our homegroups started Twelve Concept Meetings. We also had a very successful Bilingual Speaker Jam aimed at building a relationship between a fast growing Spanish speaking fellowship and the wider English speaking fellowship within our region. We were also able to connect these members with other Spanish meetings outside of our region. These relationships are being carefully and successfully nurtured.

Conference Input

There are several issues and concerns for the WSC. The first one is how the WSO ship there literature to the RSOs. Another question was raised how the WSO can support Areas and/or Regions when homegroups buy directly from WSO instead of their RSO. Lastly we need input on how to handle other programs using the NA name.

Delegate Experience

While this may be our new delegates' first conference, they have wide range of service experience in many levels of service. Earl is a past co-chair of the regional convention committee, served as an RCM and is heavily involved in the operation of our phonenumber. Paula is our past regional H&I chair, served on the executive committee of our region's 50th NA birthday celebration, served as an Area Secretary and H&I Chair. Our success so far has been our involvement in the Zonal Forum and the increase in our member interest in the service structure. Our greatest challenges have probably been in translating this interest in to commitment to getting in service.

In loving service,

Earl W., RD and Paula B., RDA