

**Brazos Valley ASC Minutes  
November 1, 2009  
New Beginnings Group**

**\*\*Next Area meeting is December 6<sup>th</sup> hosted by High on Life Group at 1:30 PM\*\***

**\*\*Financial Sub-committee Meeting to be held at 12:30 PM before the ASC\*\***

Meeting opened with Serenity Prayer at 2:00 PM  
On Service and Service Prayer were read by Deborah R.  
9<sup>th</sup> Tradition was read by Kevin W.  
12 Traditions were read by Eddie G.  
12 Concepts were read by Parker M.

**Roll Call:**

| <b>Administrative Board</b> | <b>Groups</b>                         |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Chair – Present             | High on Life – Present                |
| Vice Chair – Present        | Hope without Dope – Present           |
| Treasurer – Vacant          | Keep it Simple – Present              |
| Literature – Absent         | Miracles Happen – Absent w/out Notice |
| Secretary – Present         | Navasota – Present                    |
| RCM I – Present             | New Beginnings – Present              |
| RCM II – Vacant             | New Day – Absent                      |
| Activity – Present          | New Freedom – Present                 |
| H&I – Vacant                | Pole Benders – Present                |
| PI – Vacant                 | Serenity Happens – Present            |
| Visitors – Lee              | Wandering Addicts - Absent            |

**Recognition of New Groups:** No new groups this month

**October ASC minutes approved without changes.**

**Reports**

**Administrative Board:**

**Treasurer:** Written report attached. Report accepted at this meeting.

**RCM I:** No written report. RSC is the 14<sup>th</sup> of this month with a learning day scheduled on the 15<sup>th</sup> – there are no details on the topic. Kevin W. added that Region is hosting fundraisers for the convention on Saturday during the RSC.

**Groups:**

**High on Life:** Meets at 501 North 3<sup>rd</sup> St. in Temple everyday of the week at noon and at 8:00 PM with women’s meetings on Tuesday and Thursday at 6:30 PM. Average attendance this month varied. \$50 donation this month. Registration for our anniversary was 81 people total.

Our group is concerned about why there was not more participation from people in our area as it had been announced since the beginning of August. Non-the-less, the message was carried and received and fun was had by all that attended. Our group will be supporting the Pole Benders campout and we are interested in hosting an Area Convention. Some members of our group have expressed concern about the Ad Hoc Policy Chair (Patric G.) not having a BVANA home group while serving in that position. We also would like to bring the idea of having unity meetings once or twice a month in order to bridge the gap between us. We suggest having a two hour meeting on select Saturdays to make travel easier. We have reviewed the proposed policy and have brought our concerns and questions today (these are addressed more thoroughly later in the minutes).

**Hope without Dope:** Meets Monday at 7:00 PM. Home group members total four. We are hoping to include Thursday night meetings if we can increase our member attendance. Please support us when you can.

**Navasota:** Meetings are Monday (Road to Recovery) 8:00 PM is a Basic Text Study, Tuesday (new meeting) is a step working meeting, Wednesday (Hump Day) 8:00 PM, Wednesday (Spanish Speaking) 7:00 PM and Thursday (No Fear) at 7:00 PM at 201 Judson St. This month's donation is \$20. We are requesting to be listed only as Navasota group on the roll call and group report lists since all of our groups are under one name legally. There were questions posed about the GSR count for the Navasota Groups since they are requesting to be listed as one. Right now there are three GSRs, one for each of the original groups. It was suggested that the separate names be dropped and all groups be called Navasota Groups for simplicity. Robert S. agreed to bring it to their next group conscious.

**New Beginnings:** Meetings are held Monday, Thursday and Friday at 6:00 PM at St. Peter's Church on Airline Dr. in Brenham. On November 21<sup>st</sup> we are having a Thanksgiving dinner at 6:30 PM at our meeting location. Everyone is invited and we ask that you bring a covered dish.

**New Freedom:** Meets Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday from 6:30 to 7:30 PM at 503 Freeman St. in Caldwell. Birthday celebrations are the first Sunday of the month. Average attendance on Sunday is 20 and it varies during the week. We are having group conscience meetings every other week preparing for our upcoming anniversary which is on December 5<sup>th</sup> at Just Like Jeff's.

**Pole Benders:** Meetings are held Friday night at 6:00 PM at Big Creek Park. There is free entrance at the gate for the NA meeting with a minimal charge to stay and fish afterwards. We are having our 1<sup>st</sup> annual Catfish tournament and Campout November 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>.

**Serenity Happens:** Meetings are held Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday at 9:30 PM, Wednesday at 8:00 PM (Step Study) and Sunday at 4:00 PM at 1405 W. Main Street in Brenham. Average attendance is 10-20 people. We have a speaker meeting the third Sunday of the month at 4:00 PM. Our group conscience is the last Sunday along with our birthday meeting.

**Wandering Addicts:** (Sent by Peter G. delivered to Secretary by Kevin W.) Meetings are held on Monday night at 8:00 PM at First United Methodist Church in Bryan. Average attendance is 1-3 members. \$10 donation. We will email the Secretary with updates.

#### **Sub-committees:**

**Activity:** The learning day that was being planned for November has been postponed due to location availability. We are looking into rescheduling it in January of 2010. We are trying to

get a feel for interest in a Building Strong Home Groups workshop. Please get with me (Kevin W.) to let me know if you are interested so a date can be scheduled for that. It is suggested to conduct the workshop during a regularly scheduled meeting. Please review the current version of the meeting schedule for corrections. Our area has been approached about hosting a fund raiser for the Regional Convention. I would like to get feedback on this. I would like to get feedback on the possibility of having an Area Convention in November of 2010. (The reminder was made at this time that we discussed at a prior ASC that until all ASC positions were filled it might not be a good idea to try to fill convention positions). There will be an Activities sub-committee meeting on November 11<sup>th</sup> tentatively to be held at New Freedom at 7:30 following their regularly scheduled meeting.

**Policy:** No report.

## **Old Business**

### **Policy:**

- There was discussion about HOLNA's concerns about Patric not having a home group and being Ad Hoc Policy Chair. Patric pointed out that there was nothing in either policy that stated this was necessary. It was also pointed out by another member that it was known at the time he was voted in that he was new to the Area and did not have a home group.
- It was suggested to have the working policy voted in with amendments made immediately if necessary from the information that HOLNA brought to Area. A member pointed out that there is a policy in place even though it had already been mentioned that this policy was diluted and out of date. HOLNA expressed concerns about voting in the policy before making the changes. A member reminded the body that there had been several prior sub-committee meetings that the changes could have been brought to. It was suggested to move forward with reviewing HOLNA's concerns and then vote on the policy.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> point of concern; clarification of wording on page 1 under Membership and Committee Members – *Therefore, membership in the ASC is limited to those trusted servants elected by the groups to represent them.* It was agreed to change "limited to" to "comprised of".
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> point of concern; Page 6, Section VI, C – it was agreed to change the amount of time to announce meeting times and places from one month to one week.
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> point of concern; Page 16, 5<sup>th</sup> Paragraph – The sentence "*Remember: there are over 24 groups in the BVA*" is incorrect. It was suggested to change the number but after discussion it was agreed to remove the sentence.
  - 4<sup>th</sup> point of concern; Page 2, Section IV – It was agreed to change the sentence wording as suggested ("*As a spiritual body we believe that a flexible approach invites a loving Higher Power into our group conscience (It Works, p. 138 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph).* Therefore, we try to reach all decisions via consensus believing that this process takes into consideration the needs of everyone

*concerned (It Works, p. 136 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph).*) This change was made although there was a general concern that it was being done so to appease only one member of the Area even though it was agreed by this body that the original wording and the new wording had the same meaning. No other members of any other groups or the ASC body had any concerns with how the original wording was. In the end, it was agreed that the new wording was accepted since it came straight from the literature which lessened room for confusion or debate.

- There were concerns from HOLNA that the working policy mirrored HASCONA's policy too much and that their needs are very different from our own. It was questioned if we might be crippling ourselves with too stringent of a policy when we have so many struggling groups. It was pointed out that this policy is definitely not set in stone and is merely a starting point. It can, and most like will (many, many times), be amended to fit our needs as we grow and change. It was also pointed out that the groups that are struggling now have been struggling since before this policy and that it is unlikely that this policy has anything to do with that. It was agreed that the policy is not too stringent.
- The working policy was accepted via consensus with the provision that the changes discussed in this ASC be made first.

#### **Open Positions:**

Treasurer – Patric G.; was nominated in September but not voted on since he was not present at October ASC. Votes – Yes – 4, No – 0, Abstain – 1. Patric G. is the new Treasurer. He will get with DeAngela and work on getting the books and the bank documents taken care of.

RCM II – Jack declined the nomination; no others at this time.

H&I – no nominations or volunteers at this time

PI – no nominations or volunteers at this time. There was much discussion about the importance of filling the H&I and PI positions.

**Secretary's Book:** Jennifer will get with the previous Secretary to try to figure out where the book might be. If it cannot be located, another book will be started with documentation beginning with June of 2009.

**Losing Members to Other Fellowships:** It has been suggested that the Building Strong Home Groups workshop can help with this by helping us figure out what is missing in our meetings. It was also pointed out that attraction is the main principle used in bringing in new members and the best form of this is one addict helping another. We were reminded that many an addict has come to our rooms and stated that the man or woman who carried a meeting into their treatment facility or jail/prison through H&I was the reason they are with us now. It was suggested that we go to Region and ask for help with our H&I and PI programs. There was much discussion, debate and speculation on this topic as to why people leave and what we can do to keep that from happening. One member stated that since we are an Area that is going through growing pains we may not have the answer to these questions right now or for a little while longer. It was suggested that we stay focused on strengthening our Area and helping it

grow and in the process the rest would fall into place. For future reference, Mary B. and Allen P. have already expressed interest in helping in any way that they can to help us build these sub-committees.

## **New Business**

**RSC Funding:** The RCM I has requested extra funding to cover an overnight stay at the next RSC to attend the learning day. He has requested a maximum of \$150. The vote: Yes – 5, No – 0, Abstain – 0. This body has agreed to give the requested \$150. We will have to get with DeAngela to secure the funds.

**Point of Interest:** Minutes to be typed ASAP to change bank account signers.

**Saturday Unity Meetings:** It was suggested to make these part of the Activities Sub-committee's responsibility. There are concerns that Area groups won't support the meeting based on previous functions. We would like GSRs to take the idea back to their groups for a vote of confidence for support. It was pointed out that HOLNA's intention for this was not to have a function but to have a regularly scheduled meeting. This would be done at a group that already has Saturday meetings and extend it an hour or if there is a group that has access to a meeting facility on a Saturday that can host it periodically. Concerns were raised about the fact that Capture the Banner has a lack of participation so why would this be any different?

**TBRCNA Fundraiser:** The cost of the function would be covered from the proceeds first then the profit split between the convention and our Area. This body has agreed to forego this at this time since we have a difficult time getting groups in our Area to support our own Area functions. Maybe next year...

**Financial Sub-committee Meeting:** According to our policy (newly voted in), we are to have one every quarter. Since we missed our November meeting, it was suggested that we have it in December before the ASC at 12:30. This body agreed. Everyone that is essential to the ASC is also essential to the Financial Sub-Committee Meeting. It would be very beneficial to have the Administrative Board and all GSRs at this meeting since it will concern the Area's money.

The 7<sup>th</sup> tradition basket was passed and \$18 was donated to New Beginnings Group.

Meeting adjourned.