



**Green Mountain Area Narcotics Anonymous
Area Service Committee
March 26, 2017**



GSR Checklist for April 2017 ASC

- Encourage group members to get involved in service at the Area level! Remind them of these open positions:
Vice Treasurer
- Make sure you're announcing these upcoming events!

An H&I Learning Day will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Brattleboro on April 22nd

3rd annual Grass is Greener picnic at Willow Park in Bennington, VT on June 17th

33rd annual Back to Basics campout! Aug 17th – 20th in Wallingford, VT.

Early registration available until July 15th for \$40, afterwards cost is \$50

8th annual BCANA Convention is October 20th – 22nd at Jiminy Peak Mountain Resort in Hancock, MA

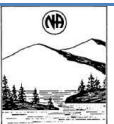
Vote on 2 nominations

- Andy F volunteered for RCM
- Ken S volunteered for RCM Alt.



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Chairperson opens ASC meeting at 1:16 with a Moment of Silence & Serenity Prayer
12 Traditions, 12 Concepts, and Basic Text version of 2nd Tradition were read.

Attendance

ASC Officers & Subcommittee Chairs

Chairperson	chair@gmana.org	Erika S	x
Vice Chairperson		Chris J	x
Secretary	secretary@gmana.org	Jacklyn M	x
Treasurer	Treasury@gmana.org	Brittany L	x
Vice Treasurer			
RCM	rcm@gmana.org		
RCM Alternate			
Policy Chair	policy@gmana.org	Jacklyn M	x
Public Relations Chair	info@gmana.org	Will S	x
H&I Chair	Hospitals_institutions@gmana.org	Greg H	
Literature Chair	literature@gmana.org	Bill T	x
Activities Chair	activities@gmana.org	James F	x
Campout Chair	campout@gmana.org	Mary B	x

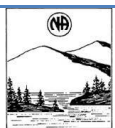
Groups

A Gift Called Life	x	A New Start	x	All Will Be Well	x
Back to Basics		Break the Chains	x	Clean not Sober	
Green Mountain Step Meeting	x	In From the Storm	x	Just in Time	
Last Connection		Living Clean		Living Free	
Living isn't Flippin Easy (LIFE)	x	Monday Night NA		Out of the Fog	x
Share the Light	x	Shot in the Dark	x	Step It Up	x
Steps to Serenity	x	That's Life	x	The Last Straw	x
The Ones Who Survive	x	Together We Can	x	We Can	x

Quorum was met with 17 GSRs present, 9 were required for quorum. $\frac{15+15}{2} = 15$ $\frac{15}{2} + 1 = 8.5$

Jackie read Feb 2017 ASC minutes. (motion to approve by Will S., second by Cecil, 17-0-0)

Public Relations collected updated Meeting List Information and Mailing List Signups. Groups can submit updates via the website at any time.



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Nominations

Vice Treasurer RCM	OPEN Andy F	Volunteered	<p>I just got 3 years November, I have a sponsor, Im working the steps, I'm a DJ. Have a sense of humor. Have commitmnets, am a GSR – I ran the meeting in Manchester for almost 3 years on Friday night until it closed. I help set up meetings, help newcomers, attend campout, helped cook.</p> <p>Britney asked why he hasn't attended ASC regularly. He'd rely on attending RSC via phone sometimes, and may have trouble attending the ASC on a regular basis due to strained finances.</p> <p>Will asks "do you like area?" Yes, I'm getting used to the atmosphere and business and have gotten to know people and feeling more connected to the community.</p> <p>Jeff asks, Is your sponsor an NA sponsor? My sponsor attends both fellowships.</p>
RCM Alt.	Ken S	Volunteered	<p>Ken mentions that he was also interested in the RCM position, but with limited transportation he has held off. He wants to support Andy's nomination, and would like to volunteer for RCM Alt</p> <p>Ive been clean for 6y2m2d. I have a sponsor and work the steps. Happy to answer any questions</p> <p>Will asks about prior service experience – Ken is GSR for the That's Life Group.</p>

Elections

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Sub-Committee Reports

- H&I** *Chair not present, no report submitted*
- RCM** *Open position (pending nominations); no report submitted*
 Region meets Apr 1 @ 11am
- PR** *Report included in [GMASC March 2017 Officer Reports](#).*
- Treasury** *Report included in [GMASC March 2017 Officer Reports](#).*
- Literature** *Report included in [GMASC March 2017 Officer Reports](#).*
 The literature subcommittee would also like to encourage members to participate in the *Mental Health/Mental Illness IP Project* survey available at <http://www.na.org/?ID=mhmi>
- Policy** *Nothing to report*



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Sub-Committee Reports

(continued)

Secretary

Minutes were sent out on March 2.

The secretary sought feedback on the newly included GSR checklist appearing as page 1 of this document.

Campout

Report included in [GMASC March 2017 Officer Reports](#).

Activities

Report included in [GMASC March 2017 Officer Reports](#).

Group Reports

Reports for the following groups are included in [GMASC March 2017 Group Reports](#):

A Gift Called Life

A New Start

All Will Be Well

Break the Chains

Green Mountain Step Meeting

In From the Storm

Living isn't Flippin Easy (LIFE)

Out of the Fog

Share the Light

Shot in the Dark

Step It Up

Steps to Serenity

That's Life

The Last Straw

The Ones Who Survive

Together We Can

We Can

Unfinished Business from Feb 2017 ASC

These motions are attached in full at the end

Motion to change clean-time requirement for Campout treasurer from 3 years to 2 years.

Original vote was 6-2-6 at February ASC. Pursuant to Article 5 section 5.5 of GMASC Guidelines, this motion was returned to groups for a clearer conscience.

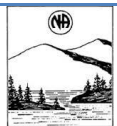
Vote: 7-6-4 Result: Motion fails (*policy motions require 2/3 to pass; see Article 5 section 5.4*)

Motion to amend Public Relations Guidelines for Online Information as follows:

Add to Section 7.3.c

ii. Prior to posting a flyer to the webpage, all personally identifiable information for event contacts is removed on each flyer and replaced with our GMANA 24 hour help line number and/or our web site address.

Vote: 7-7-3 Result: Motion fails (*policy motions require 2/3 to pass; see Article 5 section 5.4*)





New Business

Should PR submit a motion to ASC to change how the phone-line services are provided?

This was discussed on the floor. It was clarified that the Public Relations subcommittee was not required to submit a motion and it has already been granted authority to provide phone-line services for the area in whichever manner it determines best serves the fellowship. The changes in question would not require a budget increase (in fact, it would save a significant sum of money for GMANA). Since, however, the potential changes are not insignificant, Public Relations sought the guidance of GSRs to determine the best, most spiritual path forward.

A poll of GSRs was taken (this was not a motion, so they did not technically vote on anything). 4 GSRs felt that Public Relations should submit a motion to the ASC, 10 GSRs expressed that Public Relations should handle this matter internally, without consuming more ASC resources (read: time). 3 GSRs were either not present or didn't participate in the poll.

The Public Relations subcommittee thanks the service body for its guidance on this matter.

Regional Motions

The GMANA Secretary cannot find any evidence of regional motions scheduled to be voted on at the April 2017 RSC.

2 regional motions will be voted at June 3 RSC.

ASC considered that since we have no RCM / RCM Alt – is it worth spending time at area continuing to vote on these motions?

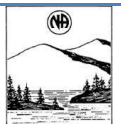
Surprise volunteers for RCM / RCM Alt appeared at this time. See Nominations section for details.

Motion to adjourn at 3:15pm was accepted.

There was no time available to vote on Regional Motions.

Cares and Concerns

There was no time available to address Cares & Concerns.





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Celebration Announcements

Ernie K	29 years	April 2 nd @ Shot in the Dark
Brad B	8 years	April 6 th @ Last Straw
Jess J	3 years	April 16 th @ Shot in the Dark
MaryAnne M	27 years	April 18 th @ In From the Storm
Martin M	28 years	April 24 th @ That's Life
Nancy S	14 years	April 27 th @ Last Straw

2017 ASC Schedule

JANUARY

1 2 3 4 5 6 7
8 9 10 11 12 13 14
15 16 17 18 19 20 21
22 23 24 25 26 27 28
29 30 31

FEBRUARY

1 2 3 4
5 6 7 8 9 10 11
12 13 14 15 16 17 18
19 20 21 22 23 24 25
26 27 28

MARCH

1 2 3 4
5 6 7 8 9 10 11
12 13 14 15 16 17 18
19 20 21 22 23 24 25
26 27 28 29 30 31

APRIL

1
2 3 4 5 6 7 8
9 10 11 12 13 14 15
16 17 18 19 20 21 22
23 24 25 26 27 28 29

MAY

1 2 3 4 5 6
7 8 9 10 11 12 13
14 15 16 17 18 19 20
21 22 23 24 25 26 27
28 29 30 31

JUNE

1 2 3
4 5 6 7 8 9 10
11 12 13 14 15 16 17
18 19 20 21 22 23 24
25 26 27 28 29 30

JULY

1
2 3 4 5 6 7 8
9 10 11 12 13 14 15
16 17 18 19 20 21 22
23 24 25 26 27 28 29

AUGUST

1 2 3 4 5
6 7 8 9 10 11 12
13 14 15 16 17 18 19
20 21 22 23 24 25 26
27 28 29 30 31

SEPTEMBER

1 2
3 4 5 6 7 8 9
10 11 12 13 14 15 16
17 18 19 20 21 22 23
24 25 26 27 28 29 30

OCTOBER

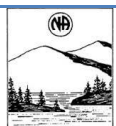
1 2 3 4 5 6 7
8 9 10 11 12 13 14
15 16 17 18 19 20 21
22 23 24 25 26 27 28
29 30 31

NOVEMBER

1 2 3 4
5 6 7 8 9 10 11
12 13 14 15 16 17 18
19 20 21 22 23 24 25
26 27 28 29 30

DECEMBER

1 2
3 4 5 6 7 8 9
10 11 12 13 14 15 16
17 18 19 20 21 22 23
24 25 26 27 28 29 30



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Motion Form

Name: Mary B

Position: Campout Chair

Second: Bobbi Jo

Position: Campout Committee Member

Contact Info: _____

Motion/Intent: _____

Motion to change the cleantime requirement for the
campout committee^{Treasurer} from 3 years to two years
clean time. The change will be noted in the campout
guidelines as well as Asc policy.



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**Green Mountain Area
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Motion Form

Name: Jacklyn M

Position: WebServant

Second: James F

Position: GSR, Last Connection

Motion:

I move that the Public Relations Guidelines for Online Information be amended as follows.

Add to Section 7.3.c

ii. Prior to posting a flyer to the webpage, all personally identifiable information for event contacts is removed on each flyer and replaced with our GMANA 24 hour help line number and/or our web site address.

Intent:

To follow our Eleventh Tradition, guidelines from the World Committee about online information, and to be consistent with the rest of the PR Guidelines for Online Information.

Discussion: (feel free to skip) (but please don't)

This section was removed from this policy following a lengthy discussion at area and a vote at the October 2016 ASC. I strongly believe this decision was heavily influenced by personalities and from a feeling that following this guideline was personally inconvenient. At the time this motion was sent back to groups, and the vote delayed twice for various reasons, I wanted to make a statement similar to what you'll read below. I was unable to do so at the time, ASC ran long for several months and I was unable to be recognized by the acting Area Chair to be heard on this matter.

I do not wish to waste the Green Mountain Area's time with a matter discussed so recently. It is with great humility, and after much prayer and discussion with other addicts, and much research and discernment that I submit this motion. I am thoroughly convinced that the decision made in October 2016 did not reflect a spirit of selfless service and did not adhere to our traditions.

Section 2 of the Guidelines for Online Information (hereafter GOI), states that "online information is currently accessible to an ever-increasing number of people".



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Section 6, discussing content of the site, states, “Upcoming area events, with their related flyers (see privacy guideline)” shall be included in site content. *Privacy guideline* refers to section 4 which says, “Since information made accessible by the Internet can be accessed by anyone, we will not include phone numbers, addresses, or photos of any individual NA members”.

It seems clear to me that the original authors of the GOI were aware that the website was at the same level of press, radio, & films, and at no time was it appropriate to publish personally identifiable information of individual NA members on this form of media. While I can appreciate that removing this information creates more work for everyone (the addict who may be unable to contact the event coordinator, the Email Coordinator who may need to facilitate such communication, and even the Web Servant who must spend additional time removing such information), inconvenience is not a sufficient reason to ignore our Traditions. Doing so threatens our message, the freedom of our fellowship, and sets a bad example for other areas and the groups we serve.

We should consider that perhaps other sections of the GOI should be amended to remove this focus on individual anonymity, rather than restoring section 7.3.c.ii. Under such consideration, we can look to other fellowship approved literature.

On page 150 in *It Works*, discussing Tradition 11, our literature warns of the trouble that may come from a member being publicly acknowledged (emphasis added):

Some organizations use celebrity members as public spokespersons, hoping to enhance the organization’s credibility by tying it to the celebrity’s status. This may be fine for other organizations. But Tradition Eleven tells us in no uncertain terms that, in NA’s public relations efforts, we must never do this—not with celebrity members, **not with any member**. If our fellowship used a celebrity member in a public announcement about NA and the celebrity later relapsed or otherwise suffered a loss of prestige, what good would that do our fellowship’s credibility? **The same could apply to any individual member put in the public spotlight on NA’s behalf**. The credibility of NA’s message can be greatly affected by NA’s messengers. In the public eye—including press, radio, films, **and all other media—we need always maintain personal anonymity**.

One might argue that these statements are not directed at “ordinary” members, instead applying only to members of a certain level of notoriety. Page 3 of the Service Pamphlet *Social Media & Our Guiding Principles* clearly disputes such an argument. It states (emphasis added):

While some of us may maintain the perception that this type of anonymity is only important for celebrities or “high-profile” members, this is not the case. The Eleventh Tradition essay in *It Works: How and Why* reminds us: “wherever we go, we always represent NA to some degree. ... we want that reflection to be a source of attraction rather than a source of embarrassment.” **By revealing our NA membership online, we become representatives of the fellowship whether or not we want to be, and any of our individual behavior or opinions can be misunderstood as reflective of NA as a whole**.





Green Mountain Area Narcotics Anonymous Service Committee



Some members of this service body have argued that the intended audience of the website is other addicts, and as such it should not be treated with the same caution we use with other forms of media. Earlier in the same Service Pamphlet (on page 2), our fellowship offers explicit guidance on this.

The level of accessibility of information on the internet can vary widely from completely open, publicly viewable websites to highly restricted, password-protected sites. In some cases, **information posted online is just as accessible to the general public as, say, a television program or a local newspaper article**, while in other cases sharing information is more like sending a letter to an exclusive group of friends or family members.

With that in mind, honoring the guidance offered by our Eleventh Tradition calls on each of us as individual members to be mindful of the public visibility of our online interactions. Some members are not very concerned about sharing personal information in a very open and accessible manner, but our Eleventh Tradition reminds us that when it comes to membership in NA, the credibility of our program of recovery can be greatly affected by the actions of individual NA members.

The gmana.org website has no access control and is completely accessible to the public. Anyone with access to the internet can easily find our website through any major search engine, and has full access to everything posted. There are no password protected areas (except for the Web Servant to make edits).

Even the PR Handbook agrees on this matter. On page 93

The area needs to consider that **the website is a public forum, and certain information should be kept private**. Password-protected areas can serve as a private space on a public website (privacy is not the same as security—secure websites can be useful but can involve more management and greater costs). **Meeting minutes containing the names and contact information of members, for instance, may best be kept private through password protection.**

And again on pages 95-96

- Another use of NA Internet technology is **communication among service bodies**. Bulletin boards, chat rooms, and email lists are commonly used to hold service meetings, especially in areas encompassing large geographic distances. An unmediated forum, however, is like a service meeting with no chair or facilitator—if there is no set agenda, the focus can easily be lost. **Addresses for email lists can be created based on service titles instead of an individual's name—for example, vicechair@thebiggestheartofNAarea. This allows for continuity when members rotate service positions.** The anonymity of members in these forums can be protected through the use of a sign-up process or passwords.
- If an area is thinking about posting **non-fellowship-approved information** such as **flyers or local newsletters, trusted servants may want to consider how that type of information might affect NA's public image**. Member-focused literature may not always be the kind of information an area wants to publicly display. A group conscience is a good way to make decisions about whether or not to post non-fellowship-approved information on a local website.





Green Mountain Area Narcotics Anonymous Service Committee



After this review of our literature, I hope I've made 2 things clear. First, that our website is public media at the same level of press, radio, and films, and should be treated as such. Second, that the Eleventh Tradition applies to all members of our fellowship, not just "high profile" members with substantial public attention.

As a member of NA, you might consider how this information may apply to personal posts that you make on social media platforms. Many of them have obscure privacy settings that are difficult to understand, and may not be as private as you believe. Even if your posts *are* only seen by friends and family – if you identify yourself as a member of Narcotics Anonymous you become a representative of Narcotics Anonymous whether that was your intention or not. This representation does not end with your next post, it follows you through relapses or even just lapses in judgment. You must come to your own conscience which course of action is appropriate. I do not mean to give guidance here, only food for thought.

As a group, we must also come to a conscience about this issue. In doing so, we will be setting an example for the groups and members we serve, and for other service bodies. Our area is quickly finding itself becoming a leader in how our fellowship makes use of technology. I believe we have a responsibility to set a clear example for those who may follow in our path. I hope I've been able to provide some clarity on this issue. I'll leave you with one last quote from our literature. On page 63 of our Basic Text, discussing the Second Tradition, our fellowship has written these wise words:

In Narcotics Anonymous, we are concerned with protecting ourselves from ourselves. [...] We are mismanagers and not one of us is capable of consistently making good decisions.



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