

Western Finger Lakes Area Informational Session

Agenda

- 9:05 pm- Opened with Service Prayer
 - Home Groups present-
 - Sunday Geneva
 - Monday Clifton Springs
 - Wednesday Geneva
 - Sunday Canandaigua VA
 - Thursday Newark
 - Tuesday Canandaigua
 - Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday Hornell

The meeting began with the background on why several members of home groups in the area felt breaking away from the Finger Lakes Area of NA and forming a second area encompassing Ontario, Wayne, Yates, Livingston & Seneca counties called the Western Finger Lakes Area of Narcotics Anonymous would make sense. The intention is to bring back an atmosphere of recovery, simplicity and love in our area service meetings where the newcomer is welcomed and not shot down for bringing up questions or not voting a certain way. The current FLANA area service body has been steadily changed over the past 5 years by changing how procedure is done from Roberts Rules of Order to Consensus Based Decision Making. The Area Guidelines were also rewritten and continue to be “amended” each area business meeting. The concept of having a group conscience where God is invited into the process has seemed absent for many for some time. The GSR should be the most important person at Area Service but instead several current GSR’s present at the informational session shared they were felt to be ridiculed, treated poorly and be treated with disdain vs. a nurturing environment where there service is greeted with love, gratitude and nurturing.

Tuesday, August 29, 2017
9:05pm-10:07 pm

A member shared their experience from being on an area subcommittee and they said they felt as an area we got to a place where we relied on a few people for too much regarding instituting C.B. D.M. and it went away from a group conscience to more of a dictated process. The agenda changed, and the focus really went to the Spirit of Love convention and the revenue it generates. In his view watching it firsthand the majority of decisions regarding the convention, its reserves and direction on policy were made prior to the area business meeting and then carried out through manipulation and/or enforcement of the newly amended guidelines to keep power resting with a certain few.

Another member shared their experience of being a GSR 18 years ago and in their opinion it was guided with love, he brought up the Learning Days the ASC used to have and orientation for GSR's which have all ceased. The solution in their opinion was to bring back that atmosphere where the GSR was lovingly guided and area business was conducted out of a spirit of service and unity.

Another member who has been involved in area service on a GSR level for the last 3 years said they have attempted several learning days and no one shows up.

Someone brought the question- "How is forming a new area demonstrating unity?" This sparked a great discussion for 10 minutes. Several current GSR's shared their experiences regarding ASC and how they felt belittled, not welcomed and how area business meetings take between 4-7 hours to conduct and they leave feeling angry, unfilled and questioning why they came! Others who were present including past area chairs, explained how because the new guidelines are changed and continue to be "amended" each area meeting policy has now been essentially shaped to be in the hands of a certain few. One member brought up the fact that the evidence of the disfunction in their opinion was the amount of vacancies of positions and entire subcommittees like Activities and Events that currently do not run due to lack of participation. Home groups in our own area seem to have their own events irrespective of what other home groups or A&E would put on which they witnessed first hand when they served in a regional service position. Also, area business should be 2 hours, 3 at the most if there is a crisis or elections and because service can bring out an addict's character defects it is important that the service body have "recovery based service" vs. "service based recovery" because if the 12 steps and traditions are not being applied manipulation and deceit are sure to be running through things. This dialogue led to a member asking the question- "Are we going to form our own area and break away from the disfunction of what is currently going on?"

Tuesday, August 29, 2017
9:05pm-10:07 pm

After more discussion, the members present felt each home group should go back with meeting notes from the informational discussion to discuss and vote on whether or not they wanted to form this new area- WFLANA. We agreed someone would draft up notes from the meeting and also create a form each member present could take back to their respective home groups to vote on. **We agreed to meet again prior to the Tuesday Night Basic Text Study Group in Canandaigua at 6pm on Tuesday 9/19/2017** to discuss what each home group decided on. If a new area is formed, the area business meeting will have a rotating location so each participating member home group can host it to promote unity. If we get to that point, we will also discuss if some of the members with long standing time and experience can use technology such as Skype to call into the ASC business meeting so they can take part but still keep commitments to their families and home life.

Meeting was adjourned with the serenity prayer at 10:07pm.