

Pacific Northwest Conference Business Meeting

June 22, 2002

Voting Members: Maureen (BC Yukon Area 79 Alt. Delegate), Gwen M. (BC Yukon Area 79 Alt. Chairperson), Rad M. (Washington State East Area 92 Chairperson), Gene D. (Washington State East Area 92 Delegate), Madeleine P. (Idaho Area 18 Delegate), Jo P. (Idaho Area 18 sitting in for Idaho Area Chairman), Andy (Western Washington Area 72 Delegate), Debbie (Western Washington Area 72 standing in for Chairperson), Eric K. (Oregon Area 58 Chairperson), Hank E. (Oregon standing in for Area Delegate)

Attendees: Stan T., Bruce, Colleen D., Rusty K., Jack F., Paula T., Mike Mc., Sharon T. Kitti P., Guido, Jim, Jill M.,

Called to Order by Chairman Rad M. at 1:30 P.M.

2001 Minutes were read.

Maureen asked for a correction to minutes as related to the 2001 PNC Chairpersons report that incorrectly noted that the 1999 PNC was held in Eastern Washington. The correct Area should have been recorded as B.C. Yukon.

Bruce made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected.

Dave B. 2nd

Vote was taken and the motion passed.

2002 PNC Chairperson Report - Rusty K.

- Tough PNC as attendance was considerably down from last year.
- 130 registered, 77 Saturday Dinner, 65 Sunday Breakfast.
- Started negotiations with hotel by looking at the numbers from Boise PNC in 2001, and felt comfortable with blocking hotel rooms for 50 people and setting meal counts at 100 for the Lunch, Dinner and Breakfast. Looking at the numbers two weeks ago it was obvious that these seemed too high. Re-worked contract with hotel to set room block at 30 and lower the meal counts to 70 lunch, 105 dinner and 70 breakfast. Reduced the amount of conference space (meeting rooms) to help lower costs.
- Last week found it necessary to cancel AI-Anon luncheon due to only nine registrations.
- Moved AI-Anon speaker to Saturday evening before AA speaker.
- Would have cost \$11,000 to cancel this PNC two weeks ago.
- \$5800 was the number given by the hotel that we needed to meet in room blocks to make conference and banquet rooms free.
- Meal costs are separate from the \$5800.
- Needed to meet 80% of the 30 rooms in contract. Did not meet that number, currently only 13 rooms are booked under PNC.
- Will need to pay for conference rooms and banquet facility since we did not meet the minimum.
- Will have final numbers on Tuesday or Wednesday after meeting with hotel conferencing manager. Hope to negotiate more on these numbers. Hotel has been very helpful and has given us time to pay balance.
- Bank account is at \$5133 including \$1,138.77 in seed money from Idaho Area 18.
- Looks at best guess, to be in the negative about \$4200 to the hotel.
- Would like to thank everyone for their support in purchasing meals and basket contributions.
- (questions regarding the 2002 PNC will be addressed under new business)

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Jo P. reported for Carl O. on the motion from the 2001 PNC Motion

Produce new PNC guidelines to correct mistakes and typos and to add 2001 PNC motion as follows: "PNC Chairperson will send a packet of information to the next PNC host Area Delegate Chairperson within 60 days after the conference. The packet will include all minutes, registration list, guidelines, and financial statement"

(Please see attached letter and Ad-Hoc PNC report)

Jo read the letter and the report.

After the reading the following discussion was held:

Hank E. suggested that the committee table the motion until next year as he was appointed to the Ad-Hoc committee and yet this was the first time he had seen a report, nor had he been contacted at any time to contribute to the Ad-Hoc committee.

Madeleine P. stated that she had heard from Carl O. that he had attempted to contact members of the Ad-Hoc committee but was not receiving replies.

Hank E. stated he had given his contact information to Carl within minutes of the committee's original formation.

Bruce was confused over the order of the motion. Who appointed who to the committee?

Guido stated that each Area Chairperson was to appoint one member to the Ad-Hoc committee and send that person's information on to Carl.

Rad M. suggested moving the unfinished business into new business in order to complete the advisement of the 97-98 Ad-Hoc committee and the motion from the 2001 PNC committee.

Rusty K. said that the Ad-Hoc committee has been an ongoing factor for the PNC. In 1999 it was passed on to Boise. The same concern of how well the Ad-Hoc committee functions were brought up and passed on to the next committee to address. It seems to be continual.

Eric K. asked if it was possible that we don't need an Ad-Hoc committee. He stated that it's possible that we don't need a motion to make corrections to the guidelines. He asked if we/they are not trusted servants that can make these changes.

Rad stated that the committee could make corrections to the guidelines.

Madeleine P. asked who was responsible to make these corrections. Is someone different responsible each year?

Rusty K. reported that getting the information out in 60 days was an issue that was brought up last year. Information was not getting forwarded or put in the PNC Archives. Carl O. was to look at guideline content because it seemed vague. Carl's suggestions were related to how PNC is run and in needing to have clear guidelines. Barry W. was to get information and update the PNC Archives.

Rad said that the last committee chair should have been the one to make corrections to the guidelines. Maureen was struggling with the fact that there were much more important issues to talk about. She was there from BC Yukon to discuss the viability of the Conference so that BC/Yukon Area 79 would continue to support it.

Rad noted that we have a committee that is charged with making corrections and before moving on to new business the committee needed to make a decision in regard to the unfinished business at hand.

Bruce asked if the committee needed a motion to accept this report.

Jill (*acting as secretary*) stated that she thought the committee had a motion to table the report?

Hank, clarifying the earlier statement, said it was only a suggestion to table, not a motion.

Guido made a motion to accept the report from the 2001 Ad-Hoc committee. He said that the committee can accept the report as written, it doesn't mean that we have to adopt the suggestion.

Gwen- 2nd

Vote was taken and the motion was passed.

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NEW BUSINESS

Discussion regarding the 2002 PNC self-support shortfall as stated earlier in the committee chairman report.

Hank said that next year's PNC committee is up and running and feels they have time to get facility numbers in line and keep the commitment to the hotel to a minimum.

Madeline noted that her Area operates on a pretty thin budget yet they are very supportive of sending their officers to service functions, but that they only fully fund two officers to the PNC each year. She asked if the PNC need is being met. There is a difference between the need for the PNC and a demand. The women's conference in San Jose lost \$30,000 and members put costs on their personal credit cards and continued to receive letters after the conference asking for further assistance to pay off the bill, and the conference in Atlanta lost \$11,000. She said if we can't truly support it then it's sick and it's going to die. If it takes special effort to raise the funds to pay off these events then it's not being truly self supporting. We may need to look at the issue of financial prudence to our Areas. No one wants to be the one to say this is not healthy and it should go away, but are we looking at it realistically or are we looking at it like we've done traditionally

Sharon T. said that she didn't think that the numbers truly reflected the PNC. We did not receive much information up in District 1 (Area 92), very few flyers or registration forms and it was late when they got them. She said that her Area does not fund her to PNC, but since PNC is held so close she could afford to pay her own way to the PNC. She said that she couldn't afford getting to PRAASA if it wasn't close. Sharon stated that we need to get reenergized and get others to come and experience the PNC. She asked about holding the PNC in other facilities besides a hotel, like churches or other community buildings, adding that maybe simple is better.

Maureen said that she called GSO and received a lot of information about the history of PNC and after reading it felt that we may have gotten away from the original intent of the conference. She said that she asked past Delegates about the PNC but the feedback she got was mostly their reflection of the personal benefit that they received from attending not the practical benefit of carrying the message and explaining what AA's purpose is to others. The purpose of the PNC has changed and she asked if there was still a need?

Bruce stated that he hadn't heard much about carrying the message, just a lot about the money. He said the committee changed the dates to accommodate those that said the 4th of July weekend was going to be a conflict. He asked where those people were and stated that attendance had dropped. He asked if the committee made a mistake by changing the date for a few. Bruce has attended PNC for years and has received invaluable information from the sharing and the exchange of ideas from meeting with others.

Andy stated that Area 72 has said no, they won't support the PNC. It does not fund any member to be here. They did send \$200 a few years ago under great duress. Area 72 will not support PNC because it is viewed as a fun event not the service event it was originally intended to be. He said that just that morning he heard that Area 72 will be hosting in 2004? He said that he had heard nothing prior about that and that he was surprised and was sure that his Area would be too when he goes back and tells them. He said the issue of PNC feasibility has been discussed for years and asked if it's fulfilling a purpose or is it merely a desire?

Gene D. said that this was his first PNC and that he has enjoyed himself. He noted that the committee does need to look at the financial numbers, but added if someone made a motion to cancel further PNC's he'd be hard pressed to know how to vote without the conscience of his Area. He said he could feel the fear and believed we need to stop talking and take this question back to our Areas and get their input.

Jim said that after attending many service functions he'd noticed when money became a struggle it was the first sign that a function was getting away from its intended purpose of service. He asked where the

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newcomers were. He's seen a lot of old timers working harder than ever but no newcomers. He can come to the PNC and hear a lot of elegant speakers but is it being of service or is it showing that it's suffering and getting sick.

Eric made a motion to have the 2003 PNC in Portland.

Bruce 2nd

Eric (*speaking to the motion*) said that he had come with an open mind and no opinion about the value of the PNC, but his opinion has moved strongly in favor of continuing the PNC. It is an exercise in twelve stepping the host area and growing in service. Our PNC Chair has attended nine prior PNC's and is well aware of the concerns with the financial realities.

Guido asked Eric if he would like to add to the motion "Take this back to Areas and discuss and bring back the conscience to the Portland PNC."

Jill (*acting as secretary*) asked the maker to clarify the motion as he wants it stated.

Motion

"The PNC Steering Committee members will come to the next PNC in Portland with feedback from their Areas regarding the future of PNC."

Jack F. 2nd

Vote was taken and the motion was passed.

Maureen asked if Oregon would consider adding this to their panel presentations for PNC 2003 as a way of getting out the message of PNC.

Rusty said that the current economy has played a part in the low attendance. Other conferences (non AA) held here at the hotel were down 50% in attendance. It isn't just the lack of information.

Jack F. said his District is a farm community and everyone he talked with wanted to come but that each had made charitable contributions since 9/11 and felt that they did not have the finances to come this year. Also he was a little angry, he said that this was his first PNC and from what he's heard it seems we've lost the true purpose of the PNC. He attended the Yakima Round-up and couldn't see how PNC was much different. It seems that this discussion of whether we are truly a service function has happened over and over and nothing has been done to change it.

Sharon T. stated that the committee owes money and asked who was going to pay the bill.

Rad noted that the PNC guidelines state that the host Area is responsible.

Sharon T. said that Area 92 can't afford it and it doesn't have the money now, nor will it any time soon, not in 90 days unless they cancel the July Quarterly or the Assembly or perhaps not pay the Delegate for his expenses for carrying the Delegate's reports. She asked what Area 92 was going to do.

Paula T. said that she heard from a lot of people over the phone while working registration that changing the dates for this PNC really kept those people from attending due to the fact that in the past they made plans and scheduled vacation time for the 4th of July weekend so they could be here.

Hank said that the Portland PNC is 90% certain of a 4th of July 2003 date.

Kitti P. said that this is not about what happened last year or what is going to happen next year, she said the committee is in the hole now. She asked the committee in the spirit of love and humility to go back to their Areas and Groups and ask if they have an extra \$10 that they send it to help, and in the future the committee will be able to help them if the need arises.

Mike Mc. asked the committee to look to their groups and ask for the spiritual dollar to help with this PNC.

Jill added as DCM for her District she would be hard pressed to go back to them and ask that they give their dollars to a event that they don't see as a benefit to still suffering alcoholics, and then tell them that this PNC has not been self-supporting but we're going to have another one anyway. She enjoyed the speakers and the topic discussions but for her to ask someone else to help pay for that experience is too hard. She didn't feel that this is something her District should be responsible for since they did not vote to have the PNC.

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Hank stated that a fair amount of newcomers have attended in the past and that PNC does help him carry the message because he has learned something new each time he has come.

Gwen asked if other Areas are having concerns over their own conventions. Her area is struggling with this same issue and maybe our spiritual dollars could be better spent somewhere more prudent. She feels refilled from the experience here and is ready to go back and carry the message.

Colleen said that she feels that newcomer attendance is down due to lack of information getting out in a timely manner about the PNC. She asked if we are going out and personally inviting the newcomer to attend.

Debbie stated that PNC means more to her than PRAASA and feels she would not be in service if not for her sponsor Phyllis who took her to her first PNC and volunteered her for a panel. At that time each panel had a member from each Area.

Rad stated that the committee was out of time and asked if there were any announcements.

Rusty said that he would get out the new financial numbers as soon as he meets with the hotel on Tuesday or Wednesday.

Hank made a motion to adjourn

Bruce 2nd

Vote was taken, motion passed, meeting was adjourned.