

THE GREATER PROVIDENCE AREA (GPA) SERVICE COMMITTEE OF NARCOTICS

ANONYMOUS April 2026 MEETING MINUTES

Next ASC Meeting is May 17th

Note that June ASC will be on the 4th Sunday (28th) due to Fathers Day

Area Meeting consisted of presentation on Reimagining and Revitalizing Service Committees [Link to this and other IDTs](#)

KEY TAKEAWAYS, ACTION ITEMS, MOTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

2 MOTIONS BACK TO GROUPS Group starter kits and motion changes. See in motion section on page 4 Apologies as IT position motion was sent in April minutes in error.

OPEN POSITIONS: Qualifications and Requirements can be found in the policy [here](#)

Website - Open

Alt. Treasurer - Open

Secretary - Open

Alt. Secretary – Open

RCM – Open

BOD Members -Open

Convention Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer-Open

MEETING TIMES

- Literature Sales: 1:00 - 2:30
- Convention Subcommittee: 1:00 - 2:30 .
- H&I Subcommittee [HYBRID]: 1:45 - 3:15
- PR Subcommittee: 2:00 - 3:00
- Activities Subcommittee: 2:30 - 3:15
- New GSR Orientation: 3:15 - 3:30
- Area Service Meeting [HYBRID]: 3:30 - 5:30

Zoom link for Hybrid H and I and Area meetings: [Zoom link pword "0000"](#)

MEETING AGENDA

Agenda was suspended for presentation.

CONTACTS

- **Chair: Marshall H. - 401-470-0739** chair@gpana.org

- **Vice Chair:**
- **Secretary: OPEN** secretary@gpana.org
- **Alternate Secretary: OPEN**
- **Website: (Acting) Johnny Wheels 401-714-9765** web@gpana.org
- **Treasurer: Brian F. 401-225-2452;** treasurer@gpana.org
- **Alternate Treasurer: OPEN**
- **Board of Directors: Robin B. ;** bod@gpana.org
- **Regional Committee Member (RCM): OPEN** rcm@gpana.org
- **Alternate Regional Committee Member (RCM): Gene F.**
- **Activities: Rene G.** Activities@gpana.org
- **Policy: Carrie B.** policy@gpana.org
- **Convention Chair: Cyndi W.** conv.chair@gpana.org
- **Convention Vice Chair: Candida F.** conv.vice.chair@gpana.org
- **Hospitals and Institutions Chair: Jenn V.** handi@gpana.org
- **Area Literature Chair: Rick D.** literature@gpana.org
- **Public Relations: Pride** PR@gpana.org

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Attendance was suspended due to presentation

REPORTS

Chair (Marshall H.) Chair Report for April '26

Hi everyone,

In my opinion the event went well. I'm grateful for everyone who came. Now with the event behind us. Please make sure groups are going over the policy motion(s) that was(were) sent last month. As we will be voting on the next ASC. Also, as a reminder. June's ASC will be on the 4th Sunday to allow people to observe Father's Day. Our

contract with the facility ends in August. So, during open forum in May. I want to get a group conscience on the overall opinion on our location for Area service. If people are satisfied. Or if we want to attempt to find and possibly move to a different facility. Besides Internet (which were supposed to provide for ourselves per current contract) I think the facility is the best to meet our needs. With parking, accessibility, close to highway and bus lines, pretty ample space for subcommittees.

ILS,

Marshall H

chair@Gpana.org

Vice Chair

Secretary (Open) My apologies for any errors in the March minutes. It took me a moment to get on the right page. Please note that I sent out a motion back to groups which had already been voted on instead of a motion that needs to be voted on.

Carrie – just filling in until we have a secretary.

Literature (Rick D.)

Literature Sales Report	
SUB-COMMITTEE EXPENSES	
AREA	\$0.00
ACTIVITIES	\$0.00
CONVENTION	\$0.00
BOD	\$0.00
HOSPITALS & INSTITUTIONS	\$298.16
PHONELINE	\$0.00
POLICY	\$0.00
PUBLIC INFORMATION	\$0.00
PUBLIC RELATIONS	\$0.00
GROUP SALES	
GROUP SALES	\$1,781.37
NAWEARS	\$2.75
TOTAL GROUP SALES, SUB-COMMITTEE EXPENSES & MEETING LISTS	
EXPENSES	\$298.16
GROUP SALES	\$1,784.12
TOTAL GROUP SALES & EXPENSES	\$2,082.28
RESTOCK COSTS	
NAWS RESTOCK	\$1,845.04
NAWEARS RESTOCK	\$2.75
GPA MEETING LIST RESTOCK	\$165.00
TOTAL LITERATURE RESTOCK	\$2,012.79

Treasurer (Brian F.)

GPANA Treasurer's Report				
04/19/26				
Opening Balance				\$2,955.49
Plus Income:				
	Literature Sales		\$1,802.27	
	Contributions		\$388.63	
				<u>\$2,190.90</u>
				\$5,146.39
Less: Prudent Reserve		\$1,700.00		
Set Asides:				
	Activities	\$250.00		
	Hospitals & Institutions	\$350.00		
	BOD Insurance	\$500.00		
	Public Relations	\$300.00		
				<u>\$3,100.00</u>
Operating Balance				\$2,046.39
Minus Expenses:				
	Printing (Meeting List)	\$165.00		
	Zoom	\$18.18		
	Rent	\$100.00		
	Literature	\$1,844.93		
	Web Hosting	\$125.94		
	IP Address (Per Month)	\$5.99		
	Storage	\$193.00		<u>\$2,453.04</u>
Ending Balance				-\$406.65

Convention (Cyndi W.)

RCM (Gene F. alt)

2026.04.28 Alternate RCM Report to Area

Regional Service Committee met on April 12. Nine out of 11 areas were present.

Report Highlights

1. Spending plans for discussion at next ASC
2. Motions
 - a. Line of Credit - Did not pass
 - b. Travel Planning Motion - Did not pass
3. Money Matters
 - a. Fraud claim filed with police and bank for a NERNA check
 - b. Projected Cash Balance 5,989

Report:

1. South Shore Area has hired a special worker to be the Treasurer.
2. NEMA: \$23,907 Revenue from Convention
3. Chair: policy revisions regarding CBDM and counting abstentions or present not voting
4. Finance: A \$153 check for meeting lists was intercepted and doctored to \$8,553 after the printing company moved addresses. A fraud claim has been filed with the bank and the police.
5. Treasurer: Balances are estimates until the fraud claim is settled.
 - a. Starting Balance: 7,386
 - b. Contributions: 594

- c. Paypal Cont: 307
 - d. Proj. Expenses 2,298
 - e. Proj Cash 5,989
 - 6. Regional Delegate: World Service Conference Unity Day Flyer on NERNA.org
 - 7. H&I: New chair Patti M
 - a. 220 Commitments in the Region
 - b. Sponsorship Behind the Walls position is Open
 - 8. Public Relations:
 - a. Presentation at Brown Medical School was a success. Looking to make a presentation at other medical schools in the Region. Ad Hoc is working on this.
 - b. Spending plan (see below) reflects a 15% increase in literature prices from World
 - c. Together for Hope event April 29 and 30 at Hines Convention Center Boston
 - d. Cape Cod Symposium in August in Providence
 - 9. Convention: Teresa Chair
 - a. 6 open positions
 - b. March 5-7, 2027
 - c. Ending Balance 7,803
 - 10. BOD: Brenda
 - a. Convention has been approved for direct billing of \$30,000
 - b. Prepayment amounts due
 - i.\$2500 Paid
 - ii.\$5,000 June
 - iii.\$5,000 December
 - iv.\$9,000 14 Days before the event (Early February 2027)
 - c. **Line of Credit Motion - Motion fails 6-6**
 - d. 1 open position for at large member
 - 11. Ad Hoc Travel Planning
 - a. **Motion fails 7-2, no consensus under CBDM**
 - b. GPANA and Metro West were opposed
- Open Forum
- 1. RD/AD - please contact them (Jim and D'lanor) about the central question in the CAR.
 - a. Predatory behavior
 - b. Social Media
 - c. Perceived Gap between medical standard of care (DMT/MAT) and NA total abstinence
 - 2. Is Region or subcommittee meeting hybrid in the future? Do we need an in person host in August? Table discussion until June
 - 3. Voted to update the requirements for Regional service committee meetings to be accessible.

Subcommittee Spending Plans

In April, the subcommittee spending plans go back to Areas for review. Please review these plans for discussion at the next ASC.

Fellowship Development Delegate Team Spending Plan June 2026 - June 2029

Event	New England Zonal Forum	New England Zonal Forum II	New England Zonal Forum III	New England Zonal Forum IV	New England Zonal Forum V	MRLE	WSC
Date	10/23/26-10/25/26	4/23/27-4/25/27	10/22/27-10/24/27	4/28/28-4/30/28	10/27/28-10/29/28	12/1/28-12/3/28	4/29/29-5/6/29

Ask Date	10/9/26	2/14/27	8/15/27	2/13/28	8/13/28	10/15/28	2/11/29
Location	Portland, ME	Northern New York	Buffalo NY	Albany, NY	Central Atlantic	Nashua, NH	Los Angeles
Registration	0	\$70	0	\$70	0	\$70	0
Airfaire	0	\$600	\$800	0	\$800	0	\$1000
Mileage	\$154	0	0	\$200	0	\$200	0
Ground	\$23	0	0	0	0	0	\$120
Hotel	\$700	\$700	\$700	\$700	\$700	\$700	\$2400
Per Diem	\$450	\$450	\$450	\$450	\$450	\$450	\$1350
Zonal Contribution	-\$500	-\$500	-\$500	-\$500	-\$500	0	0
Event Total	\$1,827	\$2320	\$2,450	\$1920	\$2,450	\$1420	\$4,870
Yearly Total		\$4,147		\$4,370			\$8,740

Public Relations Spending Plan 2026

Event	New England Association of Recovery Court Professionals	Cape Cod Symposium	Together For Hope	Other Literature Restock	Misc. PR Travel
Fees	\$1,000	\$0	\$400		
Travel	\$150	\$250	\$0		\$675
Hotel	\$0	\$440	\$0		
Literature	\$345	\$518	\$230	\$435	

SubTotal	\$1495	\$1208	\$630	\$435	\$675
Total					\$4,468

BOD (Lizzy D.)

Activities (Rene G.)

H&I (Jenn V.) Active Committee Contact Sheet Attached PDF

Policy (Carrie B.) Policy report April 2026

Policy did not meet this month. Policy is working with H and I and Convention to help revise their subcommittee guidelines.

Public Relations (Pride I.)

Website (Acting) (Johnny Wheels)

Ad Hoc Improving Area

MOTIONS

No motions were presented in April due to presentation

Group Motions 2 motions sent back to groups in March are included here

2026-03-15-1

Submitted by: Debbie L.

Seconded by: Carrie B.

Change current new group starter kit

Current Kit includes 1 set of readings, 1 group booklet, 50 meeting lists for a total cost of \$7.34

Change to 1 set of readings, group booklet, group treasury book, group business meeting IP, Group trusted servants roles and responsibilities, 1 book of choice, 20 lps, 27 keytags (3 of each), 50 meeting lists. Total cost of \$51.49. Put the money in set aside so this is available as needed.

Intent: To provide a new group starter kit to new meetings with the literature needed.

2026-03-15-3

Submitted by: Policy

Seconded by: Not Required

Amend GPA Policy with the following

Intent: To provide clarity regarding motions and voting as there has been ambiguity noted in recent motion processes as to which motions are supposed to go back to groups vs being voted on by GSRs at the ASC. The intent is to allow group trusted servants (GSR's) to carry their group conscience but also determine circumstances when a larger group conscience is preferred. Additionally, the voting policy is amended to allow area trusted servants to fully participate in the decision making process.

1 - Delete from section 3, What is policy?, the 3rd paragraph ~~Area Policy vs. Administrative Policy/Guidelines Since policy includes a very broad range of things, it is not always easy to determine which policies should be decided at the ASC and which should be decided by the groups. In general, if a policy is purely administrative, or only affects the internal functioning of the ASC, then the motion can be decided at the ASC meeting. However, if a policy affects the way the ASC interacts with groups, other areas, regions, the WSC, or those outside NA, then the policy should be returned to groups for a final decision.~~

2 - Amend Section 4, Rules of order, with the following

Motions Needing Clarification Any motions needing clarification should be referred to the Policy Committee for clarification ~~before being voted on. it goes back to the group level for a vote.~~

~~Non-Administrative Business~~

~~All motions not administrative and not needing clarification by the policy committee should be brought back to the group level for a vote.~~

The following types of motions are sent back to groups for a vote

1. All money motions over \$350
2. Motions directly affecting group functioning or the Area as a whole
3. A group or individual request for funds. This would not include requests for funds or reimbursement for an Area trusted servant utilizing monies to fulfill their responsibilities

4. Any motion can be sent to groups if the body determines that it is the best course of action

3 - Amend Section 4 under GPASC Participants with the following

Definition of G.P.A.S.C Participants

Participation (asking questions, speaking, etc.) is open to the GPASC officers (Exec. Comm.), and their alternates, GSRs, and their alternates, SubCommittee Chairs, and any other individuals recognized by the A.S.C. Chair.

GPASC voting members Administrative Business; A motion is considered

Administrative Business if it only affects the internal functioning of the ASC and its subcommittee's. ASC Vice Chair, ASC Treasure, ASC Secretary, (alternates in their absence). All Sub Committee Chairs, GSRs, (alternate GSR in their absence).

G.P.A.S.C. voting members Non-Administrative Business; If a motion affects the way the ASC interacts with groups, other areas, other regions, the WSC, or those outside of NA then it is considered Non-Administrative and is voted on ONLY by GSR's. GSRs carrying group conscience as defined by their group, alternates in their absence. Only the area chair and vice-chair are required to relinquish their position as a GSR (if applicable)--subcommittee chairs and other administrative committee members will be allowed to serve as GSRs, with the understanding that they will only vote as a GSR.

2026-03-15-2 was sent out in March Minutes in error. This motion was voted on in March and passed.

Submitted by: Policy

Seconded by: Not Required

To add to existing policy the position of Information Technology (IT) Information Technology Qualifications:

Must have Computer/Software skills Two

(2) years clean time requirement

Information Technology Responsibilities:

Manage access to all area emails via Google Workspace (or equivalent).

Include creation or deletion of email accounts as required.

Build, edit and maintain area website (wordpress or equivalent) including maintaining and facilitating payment for domain, ISP, security software etc.

Manage any crisis response (site outage, DOS attacks etc).

Yes 16 No 1 Abstain 2 Motion Passes

Presentation on Reimagining and revitalizing service committees

[presentation powerpoint can be downloaded here](#)

Large Group Discussion

1. Question - What changes have made service more attractive or accessible, and improved our efforts to carry the message?

- Technology, specifically zoom.
- Groups having different positions. Ad Hocs at a group level.
- NESSNA
- Getting people active in service – and when they make a mistake – don't beat them up!
- Creativity. Learning days and service slams having fun activities. Creative workshops
- Welcome people that you don't know
- The fellowship is attractive. Putting camaraderie and encouragement first
- NA has allowed me to have relationships with people I normally wouldn't have
- Good mentorship made all the difference
- Everyone's voice matters
- Flip the script! – it's not service WORK – it's Hey! Let's Go!
- Cheat sheets can help
- CBDM (Consensus Based Decision Making) can help ensure all voices are heard

2. What changes have made service delivery more difficult or less accessible?

- Service can be intimidating and there's a commitment involved
- The old way isn't the only way – that's the way we've always done it
- MAT and DRT – running people out of the rooms has been seen in our area and it's not necessarily happening in other regions.
- Standing on principles – sometimes you stand alone
- Groups needing support – and language matters maybe it's not effective to say we're in desperate need – is that attractive?
- Technology turns some people away
- Meeting lists are not always updated
- Who is in the room? The environment for our recovery. It can be especially challenging to send women or parents with their children to meetings when it's known that some members present have engaged in predatory behavior
- Keeping principles before personalities

- The lack of willing participants. Results in people with less knowledge and poor behavior being elected to positions. Other people notice this and wonder why is this person in the position? The opposite of attracting people to service.
- Burn out
- Challenging to find meeting spaces due to stigma and our own behavior
- Accessibility and helping people be active when they have physical or mental challenges
- Lack of mentorship. What is a GSR? What should they do? Electing people without a mentor. Shadowing someone in service is a thought.
- Bad mentorship – just go get the literature and sit through the meeting.
- We used to have an outreach committee
- Language can be a barrier. Sometimes things may be beyond someone's comprehension, or they could be unfamiliar with the terminology and process

Small Group – Breakout discussions

Broke the issues up into 3 items that were prioritized – Education, Atmosphere and Accessibility

Group 1 addressed Education

Educate a newcomer

What are positions and what do they entail

Have a system that includes shadowing trusted servants

Encourage asking if what's happening is understood. Does the member understand the process?

Readings are a place to start

Encourage people on DRT to keep coming

There is no cost for this

Group 2 addressed the Atmosphere of recovery

Objective: Everyone's voice should count

Have seen area meetings devolve

How we want to start votes at area – move from all in favor 1st to all abstaining and all opposed then all in favor

GSR Orientation is not happening – it should happen every month

Have an area greeter. People walking into the room don't know where to go.

Have an area time keeper during discussion/debate

Zoom needs to improve

Zoom changes are a potential cost

Group 3 addressed Accessibility

3 categories of accessibility – Physical, Mental and Information

Ideally all meetings would be accessible.

Educate members and groups what accessible means – No Steps, ramps leading to OPEN doors, bus routes.

Barriers to access include lack of meeting spaces and cost of accessible meeting spaces

Website is not streamlined and meeting lists are not always accurate

How do we get information to and from groups that don't attend area?

Create cheat sheets for things like accessibility, how to find resources and how to get involved. Maybe a lingo glossary

How does someone get phone numbers to ask for help with service or accessibility issues

Minutes could start off with a question or 2 every month or a piece of information. Like has your group considered? Or Did you know?

Website could have a greatest hits page – one page with all the most looked for information

Consider project-based service

Create a fellowship development committee

Propose to continue the current ad-hoc committee and suggest they address changes to the website, cheat sheets, revision to minutes and getting and keeping meetings updated

Identified meeting hall rent as a potential cost

Some final thoughts

Ad Hoc should carry on

Think outside the box

How we talk about service in our personal sharing matters – What have you gained from being of service?

Mentorship and training are key

We can hold meetings like this regularly

We can go to groups and do training sessions

We can have a Fellowship Development committee

Moving forward

Let's make some proposals and carry the momentum forward.

Time keeper at area is a priority.

Helping GSRs is also a priority

Check out this new pamphlet - [Group Business Meetings](#)

And this helpful resource - [Planning Basics](#)

Area Committee Meeting Closed 5(ish)