

NEFA "Acting" RCM Report 7/27/2016

I attended OFF MONTH Regional on 7/9/16 as a fill in for NEFA's RCM, Becky who moved away. She advised you of this in previous months & it was agreed that I would go since we do not have an RCM II. There were 6 Areas present.

NEFA was on the rotation to host the August Regional meeting & NEFA RCM mentioned it on her last report; however she did not make arrangements or flyers for the location, set up's etc. Our Special Event's chair & I quickly got the flyers & secured the location (here). I paid for the flyers & handed them out that day at Region. Special Events is reimbursing me \$40 tonight & they will be reimbursed by Region in August.

REGIONAL ELECTIONS & VOTING: Next Regional on Aug 13th at Faith Community Church from 10-4 (where Hamilton Noon meets). The church asked that Hamilton Noon move upstairs for that particular meeting only. We ask that their group announce the move for that day so not to disturb the Regional meeting.

I am willing to fill in as RCM for a few months if there is no RCM that will step up at elections. I cannot do it for a full year, as I typically go to FL in winter months.

REGIONAL POLICY:

I am still working on Regional policy with the Regional Chair. We discussed having it complete by Dec & implemented by Jan. I will put forth a motion at Aug's Regional meeting (either as your fill in-RCM or as ad-hoc policy member) to create a timeline for completion. All regional members agreed.

Discussion:

- Traditions Workbook: available for sale in October 2016 !!
- Our sincere condolences went to our RDA for the loss of her husband, Kay, which is why she was not at the last full Regional meeting. As mentioned by RCM last month, attendance at June's full Regional meeting was so minimal that a quorum could not be met & the meeting was cancelled.
- Active PR Chair for Regional Event (Tuerk Conference, literature & refunds for expenses)
- Roll call is a part of off month current regional policy. Most thought only at on-month.
- Old Biz: participate in Zonal Forum & funding / reimbursement discussed \$159 per night, each person. Phil Zonal is now a 2-day event & already voted in the past that both RD & RDA to go.
- CAR/CAT results: I have a copy of the lengthy discussions at the WSC (World Service Conference) & its results from CAR/CAT voting by NA members & Regional Delegates (RDs). I assume our former RCM already gave these to you. If you would like to see them, please see me. I'm sure it's on World's website, too.
- The NA Way Magazine from World: REMINDER: if you were getting it in the mail & electronically, you must renew your "snail-mail" subscription, as only your electronic one will remain.

- Treasurer's Report: for MAY: \$0 from NEFA. I do not have June, but will get it at August's Regional
- Regional Webmaster: After many years of service, our webmaster moved & has now advised he was no longer able to maintain our website. He offered to help train someone, if needed. Linda P (current Balto Area webmaster) is interest in taking the webmaster position at Region. Linda advised she uses different software than our current Regional webmaster & asked us to look over the Balto Area's site to check it out. We will hear from her at the elections in August & if approved, vote her in. She will be a "special worker" which means she is paid a fee by the Region. Visit baltoareana.org to view their site.

FIPT: Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust

This is not new. This has been in my notes from years ago when I was your RCM & has been in existence since the '90's. It was of great discussion at Region:

- Voted by the NA fellowship in the early 1990's to protect the copyright of our literature.
- This was created to protect us from others AND from our own NA members from copying NA literature. I was around when all of this took place & some of it was the result of the "Baby Blue" book which was an illegally re-printed copy of our Basic Text without the stories (hence the "Baby Blue"), sold as NA Literature but never approved to be copied or sold by WSO. This later led to the creation of the Free State Region & separation from C&P Region. It is a sore spot for many of us & yet in some areas around the U.S. it is well accepted & even was a Regional motion on the CAR this year, but did not pass. Do not be confused, it is not the small souvenir blue book given at one of the World Conventions banquet meetings for those with the most clean time at the table.
- An NA member said this to me: Basically, it's like the musician who doesn't want their song downloaded for free & whose main income is from music rights & sales; so is our literature to NA.
- At World Conference (when they discussed the CAR/CAT) much discussion on this. They reported again at the recent Zonal forum that they estimate there have been **3 MILLION illegal downloads** of NA literature.
- Literature is the WSO (World Service Office) main form of income (88%). With that income, we reach NA communities all over the world. The "PIE" shows a circle of where all the money comes from & goes to from your donations in the basket, to the literature sold at meetings & from World. Literature is the major piece of that "pie".
- Per NA: By allowing or participating in the illegal download of NA literature, we are taking away from carrying the message of recovery.
- Zonal forum discussed this at length. RD & RDA (Regional delegate & alternate) came back to advise Region of the legal intent of WSO to enforce the FIPT put into place in the '90's.
- It is their intent to contact each website's domain that posts any link to download (which can then be printed) of our Basic Texts, IP's or any literature (other than flyers or discussion pages) & have the domain shut down.
- They are saying: **WSO has the legal right to contact the domain & shut each & every website down for breaking the law which NA put forth years ago. That means losing the website.**

- I struggle with advising all of this because of my admiration of our NEFA webmaster, but as a servant for NEFA, I must give you the facts discussed at Region. By no means am I questioning the expertise of our awesome Area webmaster. His endless service speaks volumes. I am merely presenting the facts from Region:
- NEFA continues to remain an offender of this & our name came up several times. This was discussed years ago both in my former RCM reports, at NEFA meetings & at Regional meetings. NEFA's webmaster feels WSO does not have the right to do anything about it. Now, WSO is willing to move forward with taking action.
- Our RD's tabled it at Zonal but we do not have time to table it here. We need a decision tonight which will need to be carried to Region in August which will then go back to Zonal in September. 90% of the RD's at that Zonal meeting were FOR THIS. Only our RD tabled it. This WILL pass. I am only giving you fair warning that if we (NEFA) do not take down our link to NA literature, we are in jeopardy of losing our domain. The FIPT also says it will prosecute. I doubt it will go that far.
- See attached copy from July 2014 which was sent to several emails, including NEFA's webmaster asking us to remove the link & explaining why; however we did not hear from about this until I (the RCM at the time) went to Region & they advised no one is responding to WSO (Steve Rusch)'s email request.
- **SOLUTION: For NA literature (per above): NEFA could just provide a LINK to World's website only & take the direct link off NEFA's website. This would stop any illegal downloads from NEFA's site & send folks to WSO site.**
- There has never been a motion from NEFA to our webmaster to remove this feature on our website. I encourage you to take this to your home groups & discuss. I know this will come up again.
- If I represent you at Aug Regional, I will need to know if you continue to believe in the FIPT we all set forth years ago to protect our copyright literature.

Again, I am willing to go to August Region as your "Acting RCM", especially since this is elections & one of the most important Regional meetings of the year. I am happy to fill in for NEFA when I am in town, but cannot commit to a full year. I can train someone & encourage you to consider service on a Regional level.

I hope to see you at Region, sponsored by US! Right here, in this room (Faith Community church) on Sat, Aug 13th.

10-11 GSR assembly / 11-12 subcommittees / 12-1 Lunch / 1-4 main regional meeting.

Reminder: NEFA's policy: subcommittees must attend 4 out of the 6 regional on month meetings.

LOOKING OVER: NEFA website: Don't see our current policy. Cannot pull old documents up. Will ask on Wed.

Phone line fee: Regional Policy has \$60 & NEFA policy (for many years) has \$65. I think Regional is off. I will find out.

In Service,

Helene
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