

## **Tejas Bluebonnet Regional Service Conference May 12, 2018**

Twelve Traditions were read.

Twelve Concepts of Service were read.

Welcomed new participants.

### ROLL CALL Servants:

- Facilitator – Present
- Co-Facilitator – Present
- Treasurer – Present
- Co-Treasurer – ?
- Regional Delegate – Absent with notice
- Regional Delegate Alt. – Present
- Recorder – ?
- Policy – Absent with notice (graduation)
- H&I – Absent
- Public Relations – Present
- Internet Technologies - Present
- Adopt and Inmate – Present
- Literature Review – ?
- Convention Adv. Com. – Present
- Service Pool Ad Hoc – Present (Tom)
- TBRCNA 2019 - Present
- Representatives (Regional Committee Members aka RCMs)
  - o Brazos Valley – Present
  - o Central Texas – Present
  - o Coastal Bend – Present
  - o Esperanza – Present
  - o Freedom - Present
  - o Hill Country - Absent
  - o Houston - Present
  - o Northside - Present
  - o Rio Grande Valley - Absent
  - o Southeast Texas - Present
  - o Texas Tri-County - Present

Patsy explained change to agenda.

Tom passed around the contacts list.

Changes to the minutes? Tom: Texas State Convention Advisory Board sent 2 checks in error. Need to return funds.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

- RD – (absent to attend his wife's graduation)
- RDA – Brandon read Dennis' written report. RD team facilitated multiple CAR workshops throughout the region, including one at TBRCNA. Thanked Lynn S. and Paul S. for their assistance. Had Regional Assembly March 10<sup>th</sup> in Victoria with great turnout, and walked away with great sense of the region's conscience. Attended WSC and participants said this was the best conference that they'd ever had. Very spiritual experience seeing RD's from all over the world and hearing the serenity prayer in every language. For the 1<sup>st</sup> time ever, a region was able to participate in the WSC virtually, though it took some work to iron out some technology issues. There were translators with some delegate teams in the risers. India is interested in getting an office closer to them since it currently takes so long to get literature. Prioritized projects to be worked on, determined IDTs, re-elected several board members and a few new ones plus co-fac. Next SZF is in Kansas City, MO, July 28-29. MZSSNA is in Omaha, NB, in the fall. Details on the flyers. All info distributed at WSC is now accessible via Dropbox. Brandon and his wife have decided to relocate again. Grateful for the time they had with this region. Thanked all groups who participated in CAR workshops and provided group tally sheets. Looking to increase group participation and communication each conference cycle. At WSC, first day was tour of NAWS and presentation regarding the history of the Basic Text, which is recorded and can be heard via Dropbox. Second day was a review of procedures and passed procedural motions. Next day was review of all motions from the CAR and amendments, and they were done with old business that same day in time for dinner. Incredible accomplishment, because that normally doesn't happen. Next day they handled the FIPT. Board wanted to know if FIPT should be changed. Delegates said no. Suspended the rules regarding record inspections until next conference. Elections held ballot style (not by clickers). Resumes include videos where candidates introduce themselves by video. New business was biggest change to conference. Under 35 new proposals. Were asked to prioritize them, rather than vote on all. Workgroups will work on topics committed to the board throughout the conference cycle to present them in the next CAR. Went over results of the Fellowship surveys and conference participant surveys, providing the top 2 responses for each item. They are available for review via the Dropbox. There's a link to it on our website. Took pictures of all the displays throughout the conference. Brandon's moving to Alabama today. Kristina's been in Birmingham for almost a month already. An RCM asked how many terms a board member can have. Brandon said only 2. The RCM asked about the reason the board was resistant to allowing the region to do the inspection they requested. Brandon answered that it was mainly monetary reasons. Translations take a lot of resources; not so much financial as human resources. We need more trusted servants. A couple of board members and the Florida RD talked and agreed to narrow down the scope of the inspection in order minimize the use of finite resources. The inspection is going to happen. The RCM asked if any new literature on the subject of the Concepts is being considered. Brandon answered that it

seemed to fall low on the survey results. Went over the estimated costs to produce the literature projects that were approved. Another RCM asked about the inspection scope. Brandon explained how they were informed that they had agreed to limit the inspection to one year of records and that it won't involve lawyers or anything extensive. Some of the hardest points at the conference were with regard to the seating of regions. Passed proposal to allow a zone that has 2 or more regions that are unseated to represent them. It was a very spiritual experience. An RCM thanked Brandon and Kristina for all they did for our region. Brandon shared that there is potential for real growth in the valley. He hopes people will step up and not get scared away. Paul talked about how much Brandon and Kristina did for the Rio Grande Valley and that the area will need ongoing support from our other areas to help keep the momentum going there. There are 9 meetings/week in Edinburg and McAllen. You can check out their meeting schedule on their website.

- Facilitator – Emailed report. Last region it was brought to our attention that there was misappropriation of funds. Was asked to contact the treasurer, so she did. Has been in contact with Cyndi H. Read letter that she sent to Cyndi via certified letter asking her to attend the RSC and discuss the findings of the audit. Cyndi responded that she could not attend the RSC because she was moving out of state but would be glad to answer any questions via email. Patsy responded with as much compassion and empathy as possible, thanking her for her response. She provided the results of the audit to Cyndi. Cyndi's response was that no one had attempted to contact her and that her none of her contact information has changed. She explained that NAWS was the one who suggested to her that she make payment via cashier's check after a previous check had taken a long time to clear. Asked that we reach out to NAWS and ask them why each of those cashier's checks were not recorded to the TBRNA ledger, since each check had "TBRNA" on the memo line. Patsy asked her if she had misappropriated any funds, and that was her response to that. There's been no more communication. Patsy asked to be the point of contact to ensure that they had a clear chain of communication in case they went a legal route with this. The initial letter was May 7<sup>th</sup> (emailed AND certified mail on the same day). Response was May 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. What Cyndi was asking us to do has already been done by the Treasurer. During the audit, emails had been sent to Cyndi previously and Cyndi had not responded. Patsy explained that she used her experience as a legal secretary to ensure that all communication was clear and professional. An RCM questioned why she felt that she should be the only contact with Cyndi or why someone else couldn't reach out to her. Patsy stated she and Kari had been working together to decide what was going to be said. Then she told the RCM "I know you don't know me but I'm not a renegade and I don't act on my own." She clarified that she copied other members of the admin body on every email. She stated that she serves this body and will follow its conscience, whatever that is. There is an area here that has asked her to step down. Kari stated that she will present the evidence in her report and will explain the new way she will report as the Treasurer going forward to re-establish trust. Someone explained that what Patsy is doing is being the "single point of accountability" for this process. It's not that she's "in charge" or making the decisions; she's just the contact. Patsy assured everyone that she's doing her best.

- Co-Facilitator – Tom assisted with the audit. Spent time on phone with the bank regarding the checks that were cashed. Got info from a friend who had a similar experience with a non-profit and from other regions that had similar experiences. The Texas State Convention Advisory Board had a hotel walk-through on April 28<sup>th</sup> in Pflugerville and it's very nice. They also discussed archival items that will be placed on their website from 2012 to now. This year's convention is close to filling their room block. Continued work on convention committee guidelines. TSCNA inadvertently sent us 2 checks for their contributions of \$1,095 for the 2016 convention cycle. It was decided last RSC to pay them back \$1,095, but we were below prudent reserve. At the audit, we were above prudent reserve, so the Treasurer wrote a check and he turned it in and got a receipt. At the last RSC, Brandon asked to check the status of the Harvey relief donation made by the Kansas City Metropolitan Area. The check for \$1,654.59 was deposited in our bank on November 14, 2017. An RCM asked if we have a co-treasurer now. Answer: Yes, Debbie T.
- Audit Report (Kari) – Printed report was handed out. First thing in the report is the NAWS contribution history. Spoke with Rochelle, bookkeeper for NAWS, whom she has worked with for 15 years. In 2016, a check for \$14,248 that was designated to NAWS was actually cashed and taken. 11/23 a check for \$869.40 designated for NAWS donation was actually cashed and taken. 2/20/17 a check for \$5,000 designated for NAWS donation was again cashed and taken. 5/22 a check for \$6,526.84 designated to NAWS donation was actually cashed and taken. On the same day, an area donated to NAWS in the form of a money order \$1,526.84. That money order was held onto for exactly 90 days, brought into the bank, deposited into the account and then immediately turned around into cash and taken. Total loss is \$28,171.08. This theft happen because no one checked to see if the NAWS donations had ever been received by NAWS. Going forward, this task will be done by the TBRCNA Treasurer and provide a paid invoice at the next RSC. Provided findings to show how easy it was to do. The first pages are NAWS records of our contributions that they received, showing that only 2 donations were received while Cyndi was Treasurer. The rest was taken. So, now it's up to this body to decide how to handle this. It was clarified that our policy requires 2 signatures on checks, but our bank doesn't require it. Kari explained that what prompted her to look into things was that NAWS informed her that we owed money for AAI. The checks were all cashed at the same bank. Patsy stated that we should not wait 3 more months to address this and asked that recommendations be written down and given to her and Tom. Kari clarified that we never would have caught this if we hadn't checked with NAWS to ensure that the donations were made. Tom said he spent 2 ½ hours on the phone with the bank checking transactions prior to the ones that Kari found, and those were the only ones. Explained how they could determine if a cashier's check was purchased with the cash if she did it with the same teller or even if she went to another teller. Tom spoke with people who have experience with this type of theft to see what legal action we could take. One person told him that they just spoke with the District Attorney. One option was to sue, but it's expensive. One RCM recommended going through the DA's office. Another RCM stated that we may never get any of the money back, even if we do take legal action. Merry stated "That money is gone", but it's important to follow through with legal action. (There was a lot of chaotic discussion and then clarification that we have 2 options: prosecute or not

prosecute.) Patsy clarified that our current treasurer and co-treasurer are now being transparent and doing everything possible to prevent any future theft from happening. An RCM said that they were being defensive, and Patsy replied that there are proposals to remove them from the admin body and to sue them. (There were so many simultaneous conversations that it's impossible to understand much.) Tom asked if the body would entertain the proposal from the Northside Area: "To refer the issue to the District Attorney in Travis County ASAP, as she may abscond". Tom explained consensus based decision making prior to asking if there is consensus. The proposal had consensus. Tom read the other proposals. "Before referring for prosecution, how much can you pay back?" She's not admitting to theft. She's just telling us to look further. "Prosecute the thief, not the admin or region." "Prosecute those who were serving for not overseeing her properly." They're already gone. "Pay for 2-signature confirmation banking. Revise policy."

- Recorder – Vacant
  
  - Treasurer – Keri read written report. Used excel. Starting balance \$9,720.13. Donations received \$10,341.50. Working balance \$8,914.61. Described the attachments to her report: 1) Account activity, 2) TBRNA donations, 3) copies of last 3 bank statements (minus blank pages that just say "left intentionally blank"). Went over checklist for TBRNA Treasurer. Prudent reserve \$1,500 for RD travel is now zero, because it was used up last cycle, and then some. RSC \$1,500, not sure what that's about or what for. TBRNA account activity. Donation to TBRNA \$1,340.61 collected last RSC. Cost \$30 to print up the full report. Jessi stated that the policy allowing up to 7 days for deposits should be reduced. Steve requested that the images of all checks front and back be provided. Vyki asked if our checks have carbon copies, and Keri stated that they have stubs, not carbons. David asked if we can do electronic payouts for donations. Keri said we can't do that because of the 2-signature requirement. David said that their area does it. Tom clarified that they will have the donation check made out and signed with 2 signatures at the end of the RSC and there's never a need to make a check out to cash or get a cashier's check. An RCM asked about a particular check, and Keri explained that it was a check from the TBRCNA (convention) account. Keri also explained that every time Tom gets a check from us, he donates it right back to us. Keri said that if an area sent us a check and it's not shown in her report, they should void it because she didn't get it. There was discussion about who the signers on the account are and who should be added. The RD needs to be added. Patsy said we need to reign in this discussion. If you want something changed in policy, please submit a written proposal. We've spent too much time on finances.
- **Proposal:** From HASCONA. Change the time limit to deposit funds from 7 days to the next business day of the month after the RSC. Intent: To keep accountability of funds.
  - **Discussion:** Sometimes you just need a couple of days to make it to the bank.
  - **Proposal Failed (No consensus)**

- **Proposal:** The policy be changed to reflect that a 2-signature requirement be obtained through banking facility at paid cost monthly added operating account. Reason: To put safeguard in place to ensure safety of regional funds.
- Discussion: Some members thought this was a matter that had to go back to the areas. Patsy read the policy regarding what types of proposals need to go back to the areas. It was agreed that this proposal would have to go back to the areas.
- **Proposal:** The policy be changed to reflect that treasurer's report include a specifically written report, including Quickbooks reports, bank statement from the bank with account numbers redacted, and copies of cleared checks. This is what Keri's already doing, but we need to update policy with it so that future treasurers will continue to do the same.

Patsy, and Dennis, and Debbie need to be added as signors on the bank account. Facilitator, Co-Facilitator, Treasurer, Co-Treasurer, and RD are the 5 people who should be signors on the account per policy.

- Policy – Layna read Christina's written report.

#### • SUBCOMMITTEE BREAK OUT –

#### • AREA REPORTS

##### o Brazos Valley –

o Central Texas – Steve N. – All service positions are filled. Have 46 groups. \$1,067 donation. CTANA didn't bring a donation for the last year, so we're playing catch-up over the coming year. Hosting TBRCNA in Pflugerville. Only 8 homegroups turned in CAR tallies. We're hosting the next RSC on August 11<sup>th</sup> at 9am-5pm. Introduced Ed F. as new RCM II.

o Coastal Bend – Bill - Taking H&I into a facility. Thanks to this region and the RD team for doing CAR workshop. June 30<sup>th</sup> speakers. June 23<sup>rd</sup> in Victoria fundraiser speaker meeting. RBS camping on the beach July 27-29<sup>th</sup>. Register online at [www.CABANA.org](http://www.CABANA.org)

o Esperanza – Larry – Have 48 groups. Open positions Lit Review and Alt Treasurer. EACNA will be in the same location as the last 3 years. Registration open. Frolic In The Woods registration is open. Three upcoming events. June 9<sup>th</sup> speakers. June 16<sup>th</sup> Nooners anniversary with speakers. Summer dance June 30<sup>th</sup>.

o Freedom – Lisa – Have 5 groups with 9 meetings. No events scheduled. Hoping to schedule a pancake breakfast in August. No donation today because of everything that was going on with the treasury. Apologized for her area to Patsy for miscommunication. Never intended to blame or attack anyone. Read portion of her written report regarding regional financial policy.

##### o Hill Country (absent)

o Houston – Dawn, elected last week. Fundraiser for HACNA every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday. Out of prudent reserve. Treasurer was absent. Meeting called Jekyll and Hyde for service members (on base) with PTSD though it's an open meeting and they need men to attend who can sponsor. NAWs has meetings listed in their area that they've never heard of. Tom explained steps to take to get that updated.

- o Northside – Several open positions. Fellowship by the Lake.
- o Rio Grande Valley – (Absent)
- o Southeast Texas – Vyki – 9 groups, 15 mtgs/wk. Meetings on website are up to date. H&I is taking meetings into 4 facilities/month. Several open area positions. New Activities Coordinator. March campout was postponed. May 19<sup>th</sup> Way To Freedom Group is having an oldtimers' panel. New Life anniversary bbq is June 9<sup>th</sup> at 10am. Area is getting more financially stable and hope to make first donation in a very long time at the next RSC. Held a CAR workshop. Attendance was low, but it was a very interesting and informative event. Big thanks to our RD, Dennis, for his travel to this event. Asked if an area is covered by the regional insurance or just groups. Tom explained that to be covered, a group must be in the BMLT, and it covers accidents.
- o Texas Tri-County - David – 13 group and 89 meetings/week. ASC meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday. H&I Appreciation Day/fundraiser being planned. Increase in Spanish speakers in area. Had lit rack and PI/H&I booth set up at a college. Put on by ROSC Recovery Oriented Service Committee of Brazoria and Galveston County who are helping educate the community about the recovery process. Over 100 people visited our booth and we handed out a lot of literature. Grateful for the CAR workshops that were held in their area. Convention Committee had no one step up. Elected new treasurer. Texas City has Day on the Dyke monthly with bonfire.

- OPEN DISCUSSION – Patsy stated that the policy currently doesn't allow our treasurer to do what the body has requested her to do, bringing copies of the checks or changing the account to require verification of 2 signatures on checks written. An RCM read from the November record that there was a proposal in November that any proposal of a financial nature would be taken back to areas, but the proposal did NOT reach consensus.

Proposal: "That policy be changed to reflect that a 2-signature requirement be obtained through banking facility and paid cost monthly." Someone said they checked with the bank that they don't even offer that option. They can order checks with 2 signature lines, but that won't stop the bank from processing a check with a single signature. Costs \$26 to order 2-signature checks. Tom asked for consensus. Someone said no. Further discussion about wording of proposal. Someone said it's worth \$26 to prevent the kind of loss we recently experienced. Someone said that this is not what the proposal is about. If they flag the account for 2 signatures, it's not a guarantee that it won't go through with one signature, but it MIGHT stop it. (Lots of people talking over each other.) Tom read reworded proposal: "That policy be changed to reflect that a 2-signature requirement be obtained through banking facility." Stand aside because we are the ones who need to be accountable, not the bank. Passed by consensus.

Proposal: "Policy be changed to reflect that Treasurer report includes specifically written report with Quickbooks reports, bank statements with account numbers redacted, and copies of cleared checks."

Take back to your areas the proposal regarding the time allowed for deposits to be made.

Steve N. asked about the process for making a proposal to go into the CAR. Tom explained that it would originate at an area and be presented at region. Discussion: Just because you submit a proposal for the CAR doesn't mean that it will make it in the CAR. They'll review it and may ask that you rewrite it. You can call NAWS and ask for assistance with the process. Talk to the RD/RDA to address any world level issue.

Treasurer stated that we have \$3,683.51 to work with

- SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- o Convention Advisory Committee - John – CAC met twice this quarter. Next mtg. on June 24<sup>th</sup> at 4pm online. Working on guidelines. Met with TBRCNA 19 in Corpus. Has items for auction.

- o TBRCNA 19 - Emailed report. Committee met a few times this quarter. Selected a theme and design. At 92 preregistered for the convention. Can register today. Selling TBRCNA Strong t-shirts. Hoping to leave here today with checkbook and other treasurer stuff so they can work on 2019 budget. Hotel informed her that they couldn't speak with her since she wasn't the one who signed the contract. Bryan signed the contract. Randie contacted the hotel and gave them permission to talk to her. All financial decisions must go through Randie. The committee will survey members on types of merchandise to offer at convention. Henry H. has generated a list. Tom K. doing the web stuff. Attached to report is financials up to this point. Got a PO Box and reimbursed the person who got that box. Guidelines state I'm accountable to CAC and TBRNA. Randie is no longer chair of the CAC. John is and he communicates well with me and we work well together. I'm accountable for it. In the future, we probably need to ensure that the person who signs the contract is the person who will be dealing with the hotel. Need to prevent this from happening in the future. Tom- TSCNA is going to use Bank of America point of sale, access to Clover Gateway. Their registration and stuff on their website will be linked to the bank. Will find out how it goes after their convention. There is a percent fee on each sale. This convention has \$9,983.80 to start off with instead of \$10,000 because they were charged a fee for such a large deposit. Dates: February 22-24<sup>th</sup>. Bill – At the last RSC, stated he is hospitality chair and needs help with hospitality room. Sign up for 2-hour slots to bring AND serve food.

- o Literature Review – Tom read lit review report that Lynn emailed. Apologize for not being at region. Two lit projects were both approved at WSC, so this cycle we'll be working on these. If your area has a lit review committee, please have them contact me.

- o Information Technologies – Viki – RSC virtual subcommittee meetings trial run today. Event submission feature is now live on the website. Once submitted, it will be reviewed/approved. Need help with translator for the BMLT (English/Spanish).

- o H&I –

- o Internet Technologies –



o Public Relations – Paul – Attended several events with the regional display. Made flyers for various events. Updated website with events. Let your areas know to check the list of events on the website before planning an event. Lots of speaker jams and events in June. You can go to the TBRNA website and scroll down to request a workshop or PR display. Attended a workshop on phonelines with reps from several areas. Going to help an area do a workshop on the Do's and Don'ts for phonelines. Recommend having learning days and will be glad to help with them. Get event flyers to him and he'll display them at the booth. Will have newcomer survival kits. Will have a CD of the Basic Text as a door prize. If you have donations for newcomers, get them to him. Working on a regional newsletter to distribute via email to include events and clickable links. Will allow members to subscribe to it. Any group can request an insurance policy via the website. Ed asked why clarity statement is placed in newcomer's bag. Paul answered that it's to help the newcomer, but he'll remove it if directed to.

o Adopt an Inmate – Requests have really dropped from 40-something to the teens. Wants a po box near him rather than the Austin po box. Once he gets the mail, it's easy. But mail isn't making it to him. Not sure about a solution. AAI is donation-driven. Patsy is going to stop by the po box tomorrow to find out if it's not being forwarded like it's supposed to be. If there are any letters, she'll take a picture of them and send them to Ed. They know letters have been sent to the po box that have not made it to Ed, so there is definitely a problem with the forwarding. It's important to keep the po box and just fix the forwarding problem, that way we have a consistent address and it doesn't change every time the AAI chair changes. Might check with other regions that have AAI as to how they do it.

Treasurer update: \$3,683.51 is working balance after all bills paid. Ed asked if we dropped below prudent reserve. Tom – WSC travel is prudent reserve and that was spent. Will send 20% to NAWS by policy. Bill made a proposal to send \$3,000 to NAWS. Treasurer confirmed that taxes and insurance are paid up and we still have our prudent reserve. Proposal has consensus.

o Regional Service Pool Ad-Hoc – (no report)

- ANNOUNCEMENTS

- o Next Regional Meeting: August 11, 2018 in Central Texas Area

RSC after that will be November 10<sup>th</sup> in the Houston Area