

Tejas Bluebonnet Regional Service Conference February 9, 2019

Twelve Traditions were read.

Twelve Concepts of Service were read.

ROLL CALL Servants:

- Facilitator – (Vacant – resigned via e-mail on 1/23/19)
- Co-Facilitator – Present
- Treasurer – Present
- Co-Treasurer – Present
- Regional Delegate – Present (late)
- Regional Delegate Alt. – Present
- Recorder – Present
- Policy – Present (late)
- H&I – Present
- Public Relations – Absent with notice
- Internet Technologies - Present
- Adopt and Inmate – Present
- Literature Review – Present
- Convention Adv. Com. – Present
- Service Pool Ad Hoc – Present
- TBRCNA 2020 - 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 - Present
 - o Houston - Present
 - o Northside - Present
 - o Rio Grande Valley - Absent
 - o Southeast Texas – Present (not an RCM though; just reading report)
 - o Texas Tri-County - Present

ELECTIONS

Tom read and explained voting and proposals policy and guidelines. If you support a proposal with reservation, you may state what your reservation is so that it goes in the record.

Counted 24 voting members. We have 3 positions open:

TBRNA Facilitator – Nominated Tom K. Mike from Brazos Valley nominated. Tom qualified himself. Facilitated here before. Has served all group positions but treasurer. Served in several area positions. Served on convention committees. Got fired from one commitment when he was going through health issues. Left one position because he didn't have time for it. Work is tough right now and hasn't been making many meetings lately (about 1 per month). Has 30 years clean. He has time to serve as Facilitator now, but if he remains co-fac he may not be able to attend TX State Conv. Meeting. If he's elected today, co-fac becomes

Mike has sponsor. Clean date: 5-7-90. Area supports his nomination. Has served at area in almost every capacity. In 1994 he started attending Lone Star RSC and served in a couple of positions, which Randie can confirm. About 6 months ago, he switched to new homegroup. Has the means and time to serve. Last November he was elected as RCM for BVANA(?).

RD and Policy Chair arrived, changing voting members to 26. Mike won't vote, so 13 votes needed for decision. Tom 16, so Tom is elected.

Ed nominated Mike as Co-Fac. Mike is willing to fill this position until November AND to run for it again in November. Elected by consensus.

TBRCNA 2020 Cofac – Esperanza area nominated Roger S. Accepted. Qualifications: all group positions, RCM I and II, H&I, Activities, many convention positions, Clean date 7/16/2000. Elected by consensus.

TBRCNA 2020 Treasurer – Esperanza area nominated Rebecca H. Accepted. Working steps 2nd time, Served at group level. Currently treasurer for EACNA 6. Has served on other conventions. Doesn't meet cleantime requirement (by 5 months). Has not misappropriated funds. In college studying business management and has completed accounting II. Clean date 7/5/14.

David proposed a waiver of the clean time requirement. Jessi expressed concern that just like we don't give fronts, we shouldn't waive clean time requirement. Rebecca responded that she would be honored to serve and would love to with everything that she has. Keith – at SZF one thing discussed was electing trusted servants. Question – How actively are you talking with your sponsor? Response – understands the question in light of what happened with treasurer last year. in constant contact with her sponsor and she has helped her deal with lots of issues from her past. Has an amazing co-chair for EACNA and has many resources and help, has a job that she makes her own schedule and works from home, has a family with financial backing. Has never misappropriated funds. Ed C. asked what safeguards are in place to prevent theft. Christina stated that would be up to the CAC. John C. stated 3 signatures are required for checks. Rebecca stated that she is very big on accountability. Dickey suggested we ask if anyone else is interested in the position. The proposal to waive the clean time requirement for this particular election will go back to the areas because one area requested it. Gilbert said they can still elect a co-treasurer, but several people noted that the convention guidelines don't allow for a co-treasurer. No other nominations were made, so the proposal goes back to the areas.

SUBCOMMITTEE BREAKOUT – Mike has 3 rooms for them.

Tom reminded everyone to keep the contacts list moving.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

- Facilitator – Previous facilitator resigned via e-mail stating that she will send all of her notes to Tom or send with the CTANA RCM. Ed stated that did not happen. Proposal that Facilitator take responsibility as point of contact for the ongoing legal action along, with some assistance from admin who live in the Austin area. Accepted by consensus.
- Co-Facilitator – Tom didn't make it to the Texas State Advisory Commission, but the meeting was canceled, per Jessi. Explained why we have the Co-fac as a liaison to the convention, and explained a little history. The next convention meeting is the Saturday after the Regional Assembly. Heidi added that she is over half way through the May 2018 record. Keith suggested that we start using voice to text software for future RSC's.
- Recorder – The record is my report. Reminder that side conversations should be taken outside or they make it difficult to make a record from a recording. The Nov. Record will not be posted for another week so that revisions can still be made. Difference between record and minutes was explained, and we have a record since we are consensus based.
- Treasurer – Kari introduced Debbie. Term will be up in November so wants to make sure her report is exactly how we want it. Reports are getting more detailed. Deposits made within 7 days, paid invoices, prepared RSC report. Account activity, NAWS report, bank statements, checks to NAWS front and back are all included. 2019 insurance is paid in full. Deposit for \$1000 was not cashed for hotel. Check for hurricane relief hasn't been cashed. They told her they don't really need it. All bank statement copies have banking info on it, so the blank pages weren't provided (so pages may be 1, 3, 5, etc.). PO box is not active and someone used her home address for adopt an inmate. Kari provided home address for reports. Ed C. provided an address to send AAI requests to. Kari hasn't quite figured out how to provide info about which subcommittees spent what, but she will have it for next RSC. She's working on 3 years worth of that info. 2nd page is account activity. Next page is all donations received. Next is 2 NAWS donation receipts from Rochelle. Tax filing, no late fee. Pages of bank statements. On last 2 pages, 3 checks cashed by NAWS. What more do we want? Kent loves checklist on front. Asked about franchise tax. Ed F. why are there 2 donations to NAWS on the same day? Kari explained that we didn't decide on that total in one shot at prior RSC. Ed asked about the check to Michael S. Tom stated that Michael's a member of the CAC. Kari stated that she reimbursed him for gas and asked how she was supposed to know whether he should be reimbursed or not? Tom asked if we could move the discussion to open discussion. Larry asked if we have a list of people who are supposed to get reimbursement. A member read the list from policy. Larry stated that we reimbursed someone we shouldn't have and it shouldn't happen again. George asked that we encourage the Florida area to either send it back or cash it and send it into the funds flow. Kari called to find out where to send the check. Dennis spoke to Harold and told him we were going to send the check. Kari will reach back out to them and ask that the cash it or

return it. John explained that the reimbursement to Michael S. was for travel to a hotel that they were looking at. So, it was an appropriate use of funds. Kari will revise the reimbursement request form to ask for more detail of what the reimbursement is for. Tom verified that what we're going to address in open discussion: rerun moratorium, prudent reserve, and

- Policy – Christina read her written report. (emailed) Requesting Zoom meeting with admin body to go over the change log vs. the current policy. Tom – we'll have some new proposals to deal with today and should have a polished policy next RSC. Keith noted that the RD team reports were skipped. We'll have those done just before the subcommittee reports. Dennis stated that SZF has purchased service for online meetings at no charge to us, which we will use for the policy meeting.
- CAC report – Upcoming meeting March 10th and April 7th at 5pm. Uses Zoom (better than GoToMeeting). Checks were lost in the mail. Requesting a check for \$1,000 and that the lost check be cancelled. December 30th _____ TBRNA committee meeting. 2020 convention will be at the Elegante. They're giving us the run of the hotel. They love us. John agreed to send an invitation to the CAC meeting to all at TBRNA. The rotation is listed in our policy, so 2021 will be in Brazos Valley. John usually creates the Zoom meeting about a week in advance. He's using his personal Zoom account. Should we have our own Zoom account? Should we use the SZF account?

Tom explained that we give an area funds to reserve a room for the RSC, but we don't provide \$ for food. He put out a donation can to cover food. He also asked that since this room only cost \$75, we might entertain a proposal in new business to increase that amount by the amount of money they saved us on the room. There was discussion regarding how an area should be reimbursed for the RSC venue. So, Mike will give receipt to his area for reimbursement, and Kari will write check to the area.

- TBRNA 2020 report – Gilbert read his written report (see email) Will be at the Omni Colonnade.
- Tom added to Open Discussion the topic of directing the CAC to create a position of Co-Treasurer.

TBRNA 2019 – Absent but member of committee will read report. (See email) Who is providing paper goods? Ed C. expressed concern _____. Keith expressed concern that the math doesn't seem to match. Debbie explained that they had to pay the hotel up front and will have to walk into the convention with almost a zero balance. John explained that in the industry hotels used to allow them to pay after the convention. They now require advance payment. Would like to propose to give them more money as a buffer in case of an emergency expense. Steve said he was told by Beth (chair) that they will provide beverages and all paper goods. Hotel wants \$9,806.90 in advance plus on the 21st they want 20% for contingencies. George asked if we meet the room block, then they give us back the discount for that. Confirmed. Keith clarified that incidentals is \$1,961.30. We already paid half, so the balance of that is due on the 21st.

\$4,903.45 was already paid. John asked if Debbie had a number in mind for a buffer. Proposal to provide \$1,000 cash for any contingency for the convention. Do we get it back? Kari we have \$2896.37 (\$4011.30 after donations received). Proposal to give the convention a \$1,000 loan. Keith let us know that he'll need airfare reimbursement at next RSC. H&I will need \$250 for an event. Dan: Let's make it \$300 for H&I. Proposal accepted with consensus. John suggests that in August we may need to increase the seed money for the convention. Keith suggested that he bring some historical data to justify it.

Previously skipped reports...

- RD – Dennis thanked Brazos Valley for hosting. Read written report (see email and flyer for the Regional Assembly). Last donation to SZF was February of 2018, so we need to donate \$400 per policy. The workshops at the SZF resulted in great feedback. The RD team is here for you. When Tri County had an issue, Dennis suggested that we hold workshops to help with that issue. Encouraged RCMs to do some of these workshops in their areas. Encouraged areas to request these workshops. WSC passed motions to have service and sponsorship days. Put those days on your calendar and maybe areas can do something for them. Discuss how your area would like to celebrate those days. Sponsorship day is December 1st. PR week is first week in June and service day is May 1st. Unity day in September. Upcoming web meetings: RD participant meeting 11am to noon pacific time today, so they'll miss it since they're here. World Board meeting today. 2018-2020 conference cycle April 1st is deadline to be recognized as a new Conference Participant. Regional Motion deadline is August 1st (for the CAR). If we have any proposals, we must have them ready at the May RSC. Larry asked how to bring up something at the WSC. Dennis explained that we would work through any CAR motion here before it would go to the CAR. Keith further explained that the process usually starts at the group, then the area, and THEN the RSC.
- RDA – Emailed report and would rather not print them if he doesn't have to. Next RSC will make only 5 copies to save paper and money. Read report (see email and flyer for next SZF in July). Nursing students really enjoyed their presentation and wanted PI to keep presenting at their classes. Encouraged participation in the literature development process with the Spiritual Principle A Day project. SZF is not a 501c3, but the area is. If you need help with issues regarding your 501c3 status, seek professional legal help. Zones are in our service structure now. Only if they have 2 or more unseated regions do they get a vote. George and Dennis explained the process and criteria for becoming a seated region at the WSC. TBRNA was a split from Lone Star. To be seated, a region must be voted on by WSC. We don't ask enough questions when electing trusted servants to ensure that they aren't just qualified but also capable. The discussion at the SZF was be firm, fair, clear, kind when we're. Ask ourselves why are we "running"? We're here to serve. It's not about ego. Did a workshop on attracting members. He'll get us notes from the record when he gets it from the SZF. He'll be doing these workshops at the Assembly. DRTs are a real challenge now. The medical community is really hot on this method of treatment. It's not an outside issue because those in treatment are coming to us. Read quote from the PR Pamphlet. The

purpose is how we make MAT/DRT members feel in meetings, not whether it's good or bad. How do we act toward them? Raise awareness of Traditions. Focus on unity in meetings and what actions can we take to make them feel more welcome and stay long enough to get our message. Business session was Sunday (see minutes). Minutes aren't out yet since meeting was just 2 weeks ago. Will be electing new facilitator and Zonal Rep at next SZF. Nominations are still open, though current servants are willing to continue. On the CAR/CAT weekend in Dallas, other regions will be invited. Keith missed the end of the SZF. RCMs need to get the same information that the RD team does and ensure that it flows to their area. Request for bids for Multizonal host. Volunteer is putting one in. Do we want to put in a bid to host the MZSSNA? RCMs noted that RD reports were over the time allotted by policy. Keith attended CTANA this month and provided report. For MZSSNA, host should have an international airport nearby. Keith doesn't have experience with bids to host, so he hoped someone with experience might want to put something together. Keith will follow up on the bid process right away. Dennis – It was brought up at SZF that we should throw workshops in with events instead of just having speakers. Have workshops connected with events to get a good turnout. Todd O. mentioned that we should always have a CAR workshop at TBRCNA. There are members who have experience with the DRT/MAT issues and are willing to travel to help with workshops. You can just wing it. Must practice. George asked if they could get the billboard budget to him. Kari asked how to get our donation to the SZF.

• SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

o H&I – Dan H. read written report (see email). 7 of 11 areas were represented at H&I today. Writing policy for regional H&I. Looked at other policies for guidance. Using H&I guide for now. Question of whether we do a meeting or not if only one person shows up for an H&I panel. Concluded that it depends on the facility. How do we approach new members to get them to participate? Make a personal invitation to join a panel, rather than just announcing it. Trust the coordinators to make those judgement calls. Bought H&I Handbooks for all H&I Chairs so they all have the same info. Represented region at 3 events. Will attend another on March 16th. TDC orientation coming. Bring ID and know your SSN. No pre-app required. If Dan gets a list of 5 to 10 inmates, they can get one to speak as a Behind-the-wall speaker. Tommy O. will speak at convention this time. Asking for \$250 to buy books and supplies to help at next event. Question: Does Southwest Cactus Area still exist? No.

o Adopt an Inmate – Gets letters asking for sponsor. Has list of people that he can refer these to so that it really is “adopt” an inmate and not just literature. Sends form letter out to ask if they want a meeting schedule for their home areas so they can get that connection as soon as released. Ed will start writing the chaplains and sending fliers to get the info to inmates. Created email account for AAI (in his report). Tom said that we will create a regional email address for AAI. Ed said he also ideally wants to try to help them find a sponsor in their area. Ed asked for the number of books he's mailed out. Ed has a spreadsheet and will start including that info in his reports again. Tom reminded everyone that anyone can donate to AAI online. Kari does not

get any donations for AAI and actually pays every AAI bill. Tom said he will look into that. Larry asked to clarify that money could be donated directly to AAI.

o Public Relations – Debbie read Paul’s written report (see email).

o Internet Technology – Vyki read written report (see email). Is YAP compatible with other areas that don’t use YAP? Tom says yes.

Literature Review – Lynn S. read written report (see email). Ed F. asked how we can access them online. Lynn re-read the web address from her report. Deadline for input on Mental Health is May 18th.

o Regional Service Pool Ad-Hoc – Tom will work on locking it down so we can start using it.

• AREA REPORTS

o Brazos Valley –

o Central Texas – All positions are filled and Kent L. is RCM II. Thomas S. is new H&I chair and Tony C. New PR chair is Joey N. couldn’t be here today. Forgot area donation but will get it to us asap. Area has 75 meetings/week (forty-something groups). Manning hospitality suite 4-6 on Saturday at convention. Encouraging all GSRs to attend Regional Assembly. Area has H&I t-shirts to sell for \$10 each. Kari encouraged to send the donation check.

o Coastal Bend – Troy read written report (see email and RBS flyer). Got temporary # from Steve to try at his area and it’s awesome. They’re trying it out and will probably implement in a year. RBS is last full weekend in July.

o Esperanza – Larry read written report (see email).

o Freedom – Steve P. read written report (see email).

o Hill Country – Dickey read written report (see email). Introduced new H&I Vice Chair, Jesus.

o Houston – Dawn read written report (see email). The area mails their donation directly to the regional treasurer. Kari confirmed receipt of the last donation.

o Northside - Brenda no written report. Just got elected. Fellowship by the lake is April 26-29th. Campsites are paid for. Anyone is welcome. Only pay entry fee. See nascona.org for info. H&I chair was here but left.

o Rio Grande Valley - Absent.

o Southeast Texas - Vyki read written report (see email). The H&I chair and PI chair are not here. Keith asked if the region can do anything to help. Vyki explained that Newton is far from Orange. Larry suggested that maybe some experience members could come and assist. They have an outreach committee working with those groups. Keith offered to do do workshops there.

o Texas Tri-County - David read written report (see email). There are 4 or 5 groups struggling with spirituality in the meeting. Keith said this could provide some good input for the workshop “Who’s missing from our meetings”. Suggested that they talk by phone. Keith doesn’t just want to share his opinion in a workshop. He needs input.

• OPEN DISCUSSION –

Rerun moratorium – George expressed concern that someone stepped down from a service commitment and would like policy to have a moratorium on someone running for a new service commitment after stepping down. Larry proposes a 3-year moratorium for people who leave a regional position. Keith said we need to address how we nominate people who are qualified but not capable. Cameron said he doesn't think it needs to be in policy because we almost always ask the question "Have you not fulfilled any commitments?" Ed C. reminded everyone that the Service Pool will address these issues. Tony read out of the Concepts regarding effective leadership. Dickey stated that the responsibility lies on US to make better choices when electing trusted servants. Larry clarified that the proposal is just that if someone doesn't fulfill their commitment as an RSC servant they can't serve again for 3 years in a position elected at the RSC. Lots of discussion about how to word a proposal. Steve called for the proposal to be taken back to areas. Kari suggested that we just use the verbiage from the Guide to Local Service. No servant can serve at the regional level for 3 years after resigning from a regional commitment.

Treasury balance now \$2,761.37

PO Box: UPS offers a mailbox that you can have forwarded to any other address. Ed C. got a PO box with his own money for AAI. Tom said we need continuity when we change trusted servants. We will do a policy ad hoc Zoom meeting and will discuss this topic also to come back with a proposal at the next RSC.

Ed F. proposes that the CAC add to their policy a position of Co-Treasurer and that the Co-Treasurer be approved by the TBRNA body. Accepted with consensus. John will present this at the next CAC meeting. Christina will propose that we change clean time requirement for Co-Treasurer for RSC to be 5 years so that they can fill in for Treasurer if needed.

Michael misinformed his area that they had \$250 to host region, not realizing that the money wasn't for food. They spent \$300 on food and \$75 on room. Proposal that we pay \$156.21 to this area to cover the extra expense. Accepted by consensus.

Dennis – Proposal to allow the RGVANA to attend the RSC via Zoom. They would be considered present and be able to vote. Would this apply to other areas? Policy change? Dennis explained that they have only a few trusted servants. He said we can hold off on proposal and gather more info. Keith – it's hard to participate virtually if there are multiple conversations simultaneously.

New Business:

The Recorder read the following proposals that were mailed out to the RSC in January

Proposal #1:

Replace the first 2 paragraphs of the “Reports” section of TBRNA policy with “All reports to the RSC are to be emailed to the tbrna email address prior to each RSC” and delete the sentence “All reports are to be emailed to Recorder and Archive Facilitator when possible.”

(Rationale: there is no Archive Facilitator, and the Recorder will receive all reports that are sent to the tbrna email.)

Consensus

Proposal #2

On page 14 of policy, remove “All RCMs are elected by their Area in October at their ASC.”

(Rationale: The RSC has no authority over how/when any ASC business is conducted.)

Consensus

Proposal #3

On page 5 of policy, remove the “RECORDINGS” paragraph.

(Rationale: Recordings are already fully addressed on page 8 under the Recorder responsibilities, so this is redundant and unnecessary.)

Consensus

Proposal #4

Delete “2nd Saturday and the Following Sunday for a learning day.. 9:00 AM -6:00 PM Saturday. 9 am till 3pm on Sunday.” from the November RSC on page 14.

Delete “, 2nd Saturday, one day only.” from the February RSC on page 15.

Delete “, 2nd Saturday and the following Sunday for a learning day.. 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Saturday. Sunday 9am till 3pm.” from the May RSC on page 15.

Delete “, 2nd Saturday, one day only. 9:00 AM- 6:00 PM” from the August RSC on page 15.

(Rationale: Cleanup, since we eliminated the pre-scheduled learning days, and the RSC dates/times are set forth at the top of page 4 of the policy.)

Consensus

Proposal #5

Delete “Archive Facilitator” from the list of trusted servants at the top of page 15. *(Rationale: We no longer have that position.)*

Consensus

Proposal #6

Add to the paragraph “Regional Assembly” on page 15: “The RD will schedule the date and venue for the assembly in consultation with the RDA, Facilitator, and Recorder. The RD will make a reasonable effort to select a venue that is relatively central to the region in order to make it as accessible as possible to all GSRs throughout our entire region. This would generally be in or near Victoria.”

(Rationale: The RD should ensure that admin members who are required to attend will be able to. We also need to be mindful of the fact that GSRs often do not get funded or reimbursed for their travel. We don't want to make participation in the assembly cost-prohibitive by making someone drive 5 hours each way and possibly requiring a hotel stay, when everyone can drive about 3 hours or less if the assembly is in Victoria.)

Consensus, with stand aside from George because he didn't see a need for a Regional Assembly apart from the RSC, and a stand aside from Christina.

Proposal #7

Change the May RSC back to being held on the 2nd Saturday.

(Rationale: According to the change log, we changed it to the 3rd Saturday in 2015 because we used to hold workshops on the following Sunday, which was always Mother's Day when it was the 2nd weekend in May. [Some of us wanted to be home with family for Mother's Day.] Now that we no longer hold workshops the following day, we could return to holding the RSC on the 2nd Saturday [as all other RSCs are]. The funny thing is that the policy was never updated when we changed it to the 3rd weekend in May, so we don't need to make any change to policy. We just need to note in the change log that we changed it back.)

Consensus

• ANNOUNCEMENTS

- o Regional Assembly: March 9, 2019 at 906 George Bush Drive, College Station, 9am-3pm
- o Next Regional Meeting: May 11, 2019, 9am-5pm (location??)