



## NEW ENGLAND

26 April 2008 Regional Gathering  
Worcester Quakers Friends Meeting House, Worcester, MA

**Attendees:** Bob Beudette, Sybille Barlow, Jo-Ann Della Giustina, Chad Montrie, Richard Nethercut, Bill Patten, Mike Poirier, Naida Rivera, Babara Thorngren, Chris

1) The meeting started at around 9:20 with Barbara giving a **welcome** then with an informal **gathering** where we each shared a little of what we do in AVP and the reason for attending:

Bob hoped that AVP NE could help get AVP back into the MA MTC

Rich wanted to work on developing the AVP NE process

Sybille wanted to reconnect and turn over the reigns of temp treasurer

Chris (who was recently released) wanted to continue the investment he'd made in AVP while incarcerated and to seek opportunities to facilitate

Mike wanted to determine if there is a real need for an AVP-NE

Jo Ann wanted to network and work on developing AVP in the College Criminal Justice program at Bridgewater State where she works

Chad wanted to network and work on developing an AVP Program at UMASS Lowell where he works

Bill wanted to do housekeeping (scholarships, etc.)

2) We then discussed the need for an AVP-NE. Mike stated that the only clear need for Regional Representation in NE at this moment was the CLARG, Committee of Local and Regional Groups, (Barbara Thorngren) to support AVP-USA. Beyond that if we (AVP-NE) is only going to dole out scholarship money out of our dwindling coffers, have little or no support for the bi-annual meetings and not be active in promoting and developing AVP he felt the AVP-NE board should be dissolved. Chris said he looked at AVP-NE as a coordinating body for the six NE states. Barbara stated she would like to see AVP-NE more active in the promotion of AVP. Our mission statement for AVP-NE is: **To liaison between AVP-USA and the New England states in order to facilitate local growth of AVP through communication and networking.** WHAT DO YOU

THINK? Your opinion counts and we'd like to hear it. What ideas do you have to help us in fulfilling that mandate?

3) The matters of treasury were next discussed. Greg Heath had resigned as treasurer of AVP-NE and Sybille Barlow had stepped in for the past month or so as acting treasurer. Sybille noted she did not want to continue in that office and was just doing it because of a very persuasive individual☺. Since all the AVP-NE mail was going to his PO Box, Mike P. volunteered to take over as treasurer until another volunteer can be found.

## **THANK YOU GREG AND SYBILLE FOR YOU MANY YEARS OF SERVICE TO AVP-NE**

4) Treasurers Report: Account Balance: \$4501.00; Debts: \$92.00 for travel reimbursement to Bob B. for last Octobers AVP-NE meeting in West Hartford (it was agreed travel reimbursement will be on a case by case basis); 45.00 for food for this meeting to Mike P; \$50.00 donation to the Worcester meeting house for the use of the facility.

5) Scholarships were next and Bob B., Barbara T., Richard N. and Mike P. have all been granted conference scholarships by AVP-USA. AVP-MA will provide the travel scholarship for Richard N. and AVP-NE will provide a 300.00 travel scholarship to Barbara, Bob and Mike, no others applied.

6) Copies of the CLARG report were handed out (SEE ATTACHEMENT) by Barbara to every one. As you can see two of the six NE states have no active programs, one (CT) failed to respond to the request for data and MA, ME and NH's data is shown. It was noted that AVP-MA (June \_\_\_\_\_) had conducted a one-day workshop at the Bedford VA hospital. Others stated they had had one day refresher workshops for inside facilitators.

7) AVP involvement outside the prisons and in the community was the next topic. The focus was on getting AVP into the colleges. Barbara shared a hand out Peacebuilding Summer Institute that she will be running at Nashua Community college in this summer. Chad mentioned getting UTEC (United Teen Equality Center) at UMASS Lowell involved. Jo-Ann discussed integrating AVP into the domestic violence programs at Bridgewater State College. Also discussed was the availability of HIP Manuals, Youth Manuals, and the little know fact that there exists somewhere in MA 50 certified HIP Facilitators.

8) Chris talked about hoping to find a single place to get AVP information. Richard stated that there was a AVP-NE web page at <http://avpne.org> which was news to all assembled. The web page is in need of major updating, anyone interested in volunteering to be our web master please contact Mike P. He has the contact information. In addition Bob Beaudette volunteered to take the existing NE data base and contact everyone on it to insure it is up to date.

9) Barbara shared a handout/flyer specific to AVP-NH (SEE ATTACHED) and let all know that they were free to copy and modify it to suit their individual states.

10) Lunch of pizza and salad was provided.

11) A new exercise was shown to us by Barbara it was named The Cup Pyramid and six of us had fun working together with only slight bending of rules ☺ to get the pyramid done.

12) We renewed a discussion from last October on the need for a clearer updated AVP-NE video presentation. Nothing has been heard from those at that conference as way of an update. Chad volunteered that he taught a course in documentary film making at UMASS Lowell and could possibly arrange to have that added to the curriculum for March of 2009. We will keep you updated. In the mean time please begin to collect any photos, stories etc from your AVP experiences.

13) The growing need for Spanish speaking facilitators was again discussed and AVP-USA has offered help in funding travel for such individuals, as well as facilitator exchanges.

14) The NE data base is still a work in progress. Alan Taplow requests each state provide names and addresses of inside facilitators so they can get on the Transformer Mailing List. Also he is diligently trying to update the active facilitator roles in the National database. Each state secretary should have a copy of their roster if not let me know.

**15) The next meeting has been tentatively scheduled for 10am – 2pm 11 October 2008 in Nashua NH Food will be provided.** The continued poor attendance at AVP-NE was discussed. It seems unless folks are from that immediate area they just do not come. A suggestion was made that one way to encourage support was to try and get a guest speaker (someone unique to that area to share for 30 minutes or so). This idea was shot down. So why not support AVP-NE, or more to the point why are you not and what can we do to change that?

The meeting ended at 1:45

Michael (Minister Mike) Poirier  
Secretary/Treasurer AVP-NE

Contact Info:  
AVP-NE  
PO Box 905  
West Springfield, MA 01090-0905  
413-331-0433