



NEW ENGLAND

**Saturday May 28th 2008 Regional Meeting
Held at the National Gathering in Bellingham, Washington**

Attendees (L-R): Relaxed Rich, Richard Nethercut (MA), Booming Bob Beaudette (NH), Generally George Goodwin (ME), Natural Nancy Shippen (MA), Jovial Justin Holmes (MA), Magnetic Minga Claggett-Boone (MA), Peaceful Pat Parker-Roach (MA), Peaceful Peg Erlanger (MA), Brave Barb, Barbara Thorngren (NH), Minister Mike Poirier (MA)



The meeting started with a very informal **gathering** as we were only given the lunch hour to conduct regional meetings.

1) Co-Chair Barbara Thorngren welcomed all and turning the meeting over to Mike Poirier for a secretary/treasurers report as follows:

Secretary:

- A. Still looking for an updated list of facility coordinators from CT, ME, NH
- B. E-mails need to be looked at. Many at this meeting were unaware of last months agenda and plans for AVP in NE

Treasurer:

- A. Mike estimated we had approx \$3000.00 in the NE coffers
 - a. (Review of Bank Statements show we have a balance of \$3463.50 with one outstanding check for \$50.00)
- B. He also noted that no new sources of revenue were forthcoming

2) Barbara the gave an Updated report on the Summer Peacekeeping Initiative being conducted at Nashua Community College, Nashua, NH. She specifically asked for:

- A. Prayer support
- B. Financial Support
- C. Help in recruitment and getting the word out

Many of the group gathered expressed concerns over the initiative. Generally the concerns were:

- A. Getting away from the all volunteer AVP Model
- B. Paying for facilitators

Barbara reminded everyone she had:

- A. Cleared the idea with Susan Hefty in JAN
- B. Cleared the idea with AVP-NH group in FEB
- C. Cleared the idea with AVP-NE at the 26 April gathering

Dick Nethercut made a proposal that the group offer their full support for this initiative. The group did not achieve unanimous support and in principle agreed to support this as a one time event.

3) George mentioned that Jazzy June and _____ Neil are doing a pilot program with the Veterans at the VA Medical Center in Bedford, MA

4) With the noon meal drawing to a close Barbara proposed that we reassemble later and asked two questions to the group:

- A) Is there a need for AVP NE Regional Leadership
- B) If yes, doing what?

5) When the meeting rejoined Barbara again asked the consensus on the two questions and got these results:

- A) 6 responded yes
- B) 3 responded undecided
- C) Of the 6 yes answers the main reasons stated were
 - a. It pulls us together
 - b. Helps in cross coordination
 - c. It has been traditional done that way

** An observation/opinion the consensus seemed to me at least to be saying we need a Regional presence to maintain the status quo, not to be a decision making body or lead the states or locals in any way.

6) Once again the topic of the Summer Peacekeeping Initiative was brought up and opinions shared. The main points were:

- A) Volunteer vs. paid facilitators
- B) Community vs. Prisons
- C) This initiative did not reinvent the wheel; there have been paid positions in AVP before.

In the end it will be a one time opportunity unless something changes.

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Secretary/Treasurer AVP-NE

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