



## **NEW ENGLAND**

11 October 2008

Nashua Community College, Nashua NH

**Attendees:** Richard (Radiant Rich) Nethercut, Bill (Bouncing Bill) Patten, Mike Minister Mike) Poirier, Naida (Natural Naida) Rivera, Barbara (Brave Barb) Thorngren

1) The meeting started at 10:00 with Barbara giving a welcome then with an informal gathering where we each gave our adjective names and anything we felt led to share

2) We then discussed the individual state reports:

CT: No updates since CLARG report

MA: Dick briefed that MA has moved beyond Fox news report; some facilities require changing inmate facilitators to helpers; inmates no longer sign certificates; will be asking national for funds again this year for programs at MCI Norfolk and Old Colony Correctional Center along with the newly established program at the VA Hospital in Bedford MA (These requests will be sent to Barb for endorsement and forwarding to CLARG )

ME: No updates since CLARG Report

NH: Barb said some changes may be on the way for inmate facilitators but nothing concrete as of this date

The Summer Peacebuilding Initiative Workshop was held in July at Nashua Community College. Participants received \$1020.00 in scholarships; 35 folks participated in the Pre AVP workshop, 15 in the Basic 9 the Advanced and 8 completed T for T. Overall it was a success. The President of the College and all the participants had many great things to say about AVP. At this time, there are no plans to go forward with another AVP/NCC collaboration.

RI & VT: No Active programs

3) We reviewed the CLARG report in conjunction with the individual state reports

4) Treasurers Report:

Account Balance: \$3413.50

Debts: \$44.11 for food for this meeting (You all missed a Panera Bread Lunch)

Income: \$0.00

Mike gave an overview of AVP-USA marketing and fundraising groups efforts since the Annual Gathering in WA. There is an AVP-USA brochure in the works, a fundraising letter going out soon, an effort to put together an annual report, plus other items that when done should help regions and locals to be on the same page and have a better understanding of where to gather resources for recruiting volunteers, fundraising, and name recognition.

Dick mentioned that his church had contributed nearly 60% of the funds used to this past National Gathering in WA and he was planning on presenting another request to them this year.

5) Bill opened discussion about the AVP-NE web page at <http://avpne.org>. **The web page is in need of major updating.** The need for one centralized place for folks in NE to go for information is clear. On the other hand after some discussion it was agreed that the Web Page is in such disarray that if no one can be found to update and maintain it should be removed as an eye sore. Anyone **interested in being our web master** please contact Mike P. He has the contact information. There may be some funds available to help in this matter.

6) Once again the need for updated information on the Email list/NE Data Base updates was discussed. Send your updated information to Alan Taplow in VT at [ataplow@vtlink.net](mailto:ataplow@vtlink.net) and cc a copy to Mike for our list.

7) National Data Base workshop updates. Every year there comes the dreaded call from the regional rep to CLARG asking for a report. This year make it easier on yourself and have the information already updated in the National Database. Just go to the AVP-USA web page at [www.avpusa.org](http://www.avpusa.org) move your cursor to the left side of the page and click on AVP/USA and then click LOCAL CHAPTER DATABASE in the window that pops up. From there click on the Local Chapter Workshop and Editing Instructions.

8) 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. In the April meeting Chad Montrie stated 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 recently contacted Chad and will keep you updated in this much needed item.

9) Go **GREEN** with an electronic version of the transformer. Contact Alan Taplow for information [ataplow@vtlink.net](mailto:ataplow@vtlink.net)

10) The final issue for the day was the need for a new co-chair for AVP-NE. Barbara Thorngren has stepped down from her duties as Co-Chair and Regional CLARG Rep. (*Sec Note: Her passion for this work will be sorely missed by me at the Regional level. Barb plans to continue to be active in AVP-NH.*)

To avoid any conflict about "appointing" another co-chair we are **ASKING FOR NOMINATIONS**. So by November 30<sup>th</sup> submit the name or names of those interested to Mike.

Note Barbara was also the CLARG (Committee of Local and Regional Groups) Rep for NE and we will need to fill that position soon. If you have any interest in working with folks at the national level contact Mike for more information.

11) The next AVP-NE meeting will be held at the National Gathering in NY State May 2009. Location TBA.

The meeting ended at 2:00

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

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