



NEW ENGLAND

27 October 2007 Regional Meeting
Hartford Quakers Friends Meeting House, West Hartford, CT

Attendees: Bob Beudette, Raymond Boucher, Carolann Boucher, Dana Dixon, George Levinger, Ann Levinger, George Munger, Bill Patten, Mike Poirier, Naida Rivera, Bob Sawyer

The meeting started with an informal **gathering** where we each shared a little of what we do in AVP. Bob Boudette announced that at this time he would be stepping down as Co-Chairman of AVP-NE.

The meeting began in earnest at around 11:30 with Ray Boucher giving a **welcome** and turning over the meeting to Bill Patten.

With Bob's earlier announcement, the matter of **leadership for and the focus of AVP-NE** were put to the forefront.

- 1) Bill read a portion of a letter from Peg Erlinger, Vice-President of AVP-USA on the expectations of AVP-NE from AVP-USA.
- 2) Bob Boudette mentioned the need for a separate coordinator for CLARG, Committee Local and Regional Groups, it was decided to refer this matter back to Dick Nethercut and Peg Erlinger for clarification of responsibilities.
- 3) Discussed need for new officers:
 - a. Co-Chairs Bob Boudette and Mairanne Winship have both stepped down. Barbara Thorngrin (NH) and Bill Patten (MA) have volunteered to assume the duties unless objections were raised.
 - b. Bob Heath the Treasurer (NH) will remain in place
 - c. With Bill Patten moving up to co-chair the Secretary position was opened and Mike Poirier volunteered if no others wanted too.
 - d. A vote was taken by those present and the new officers were approved unanimously.

Next **reports** from the individual states were rendered. It should be noted that at this time RI and VT do not have an active AVP program.

- 1) Summaries of activities for the Fiscal Year 2006-2007 were read from MA, ME and NH.
- 2) Prior to giving a verbal summary about CT AVP Ray Boucher shared a letter from and former inmate at McDougal Corrections Center (Max Security) in CT. The letter was very powerful as the individual doing a 143 year sentence with a long history of prison violence wrote about the transforming power AVP had on his life. Ray will work to get permission to publish this letter.
- 3) Then Ray Boucher gave a verbal summary of a portion of CT activities. Because part of CT AVP is done by a group from Amherst MA Ann Levinger gave a brief update on those activities. Dana Dixon also shared on the activities at York Corrections Center (Women's) in CT.

Also discussed with the above reports was the need for **exchange of facilitators**.

- 1) The idea of a centralized list of all facilitators in NE was discussed. This seemed overly burdensome to manage.
- 2) Mike Poirier offered that AVP-MA was working on a centralized list of facility coordinators and that each state should do the same. This list would be easier to manage and when a need arose the coordinators could then ask for volunteers from their pool of facilitators.

After a brief pause for lunch (thank you Carolann) we resumed with a quick discussion on the subject of **Regional Meetings**.

- 1) George Levinger has put together a brief survey that will be sent out in the next month or so on this topic. Main concerns were the small number of attendees, the almost non-existent attendance of former inmates, and how many regional meetings do we need a year.

The final topic for the day was the need for **Recruiting New Facilitators**.

- 1) Bob Sawyer pointed out that he can not recruit facilitators only **Basic Attendees**. This made sense to all of us, for as we know not all basic grads move on to the advance training and very few are selected for T for T.
- 2) The need for a dynamic video presentation, the one (or one of them) currently available was lacking in quality to many. Bob Sawyer volunteered to look into the possibility of doing on for the region. It was noted that many church and civic groups are looking for guest speakers on the local level and that poses a great opportunity to present AVP to them. Ann Levinger mentioned that one of the ways she presents the opportunity of AVP is to tell folks it is like a free weekend in a foreign country☺.

- 3) Mike Poirier mentioned that as a former inmate he is currently not allowed to do AVP training in prisons. At the AVP-MA meeting the possibility of working with veterans at the Bedford (MA) VA hospital was addressed by June Johnson. Mike will work with her to hopefully expand this to the Large VA facility in Northampton., MA.
- 4) The need for better follow-up/after-care with those being released was mentioned as a possible source for trainers.

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 pm. A date for the next meeting will be selected after the survey is tallied.

Secretary's Request:

It would be very helpful for the undersigned if an updated mail and/or email list of the following for each state were collected:

- 1) Chairman/Co-Chairs
- 2) Secretaries
- 3) Facility coordinators
- 4) Any others interested in being on the AVP-NE update list

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Secretary AVP-NE

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