

# **MRCNA 36 – Minutes**

**August 14th, 2022 at 11:00 am**

## **Opening:**

**Call to Order / Moment of Silence**

**Recognize new committee members:** Darryl! Jeff M!

## **Readings:**

**Convention Purpose:** Casey J

**12 Traditions:** Joe V

**12 Concepts:** Milena K

## **Roll Call**

**Recognize recent clean time:** Bob J 24 yrs! Patti 34 yrs! Lora 26 yrs! Milena 1 yr! Karah 1 yr!

**Vote to approve last month's minutes:** Approve

## **Reports:**

**Chair – John W.**

Hello Family,

There is one last remaining thing we have left from MRCNA 36. We do still have to negotiate and pay the Master Bill with the Hotel. Jeff M. has relayed to me the meeting to discuss and resolve the bill is set for Wednesday, August 17 th , 2022. At that time, we will have final numbers. Bill Z., can you please be sure to let me know the final number paid and the completed spreadsheet for Region? Jeff M., can you please let me know anything you wish to be conveyed to Region from the meeting with the hotel?

I'd like to thank everyone for all their hard work on getting this convention off the ground. It would not have happened without all of you putting in the work that you all did. This was a great experience and I will remember it always! I think we all felt the challenge before us once we had to postpone the convention at the beginning of the pandemic. Then of course we had to postpone again, and I think a lot of us really had to practice the theme of the convention, "Trust the Process", perhaps more than we ever had in our recovery. As always, as we do the footwork, our Higher Power leads the way, and we can see that by practicing hope and faith, no matter where we are in our recovery, we learn that we can still "Trust" in our Higher Power! We did this! Again, thank you all for a challenging yet amazing experience! I look forward to watching MRCNA 37 take shape from the sidelines. You guys will do great! Congratulations to all of you making it through these especially challenging years and helping put together another successful convention! We will likely always be able to say we made it through the most challenging convention planning process ever! We made it through! Alive, and clean! Thank you so much for the opportunity to serve,

John W.

MRCNA 36 Chair

### **Co-Chair – Fred S.**

Good Morning Family,

First let me update all of you on my past month since the convention. My wife (Susan) had a heart attack and spent 29 days in the hospital. She is finally doing better and came home this Friday. I can not make the meeting because we have an in-home PT visit today.

Next let me congratulate the committee on putting on a great convention. I would like to thank-you all of you for allowing to serve in the role as co-chair. As co-chair you don't really have any specific job only to help everyone where needed. I tried to do that to the best of my ability. I know this was the longest running convention committee oof all time and a super TY to everyone who from the start of the bid committee to all who helped at the convention and everyone who helped in between that.

I have a few items to pass along to the next person who fills this role. I am looking forward to next years convention being better than this years. Gonna be a tough act to follow. I am hopefully going to be able to make the closing meeting with the hotel and represent the MRCNA committee.

ILS

Fred S.

### **Secretary – Casey J.**

Hi family,

The Google drive folder for MRCNA 37 is all set up. I will have detailed instructions in my report for how the new subcommittee chairs can send the link to their subcommittee members throughout the next year, and I'll include the link in our email with the minutes. I'm hopeful that our new service members elected today will feel prepared and confident in their new roles because of the resources via Google Drive.

Brandon is all set up for his role and it's clear that he is going to do a great job! Thanks again to him for stepping into the Co-secretary position!

Here is a summary of the responses from the feedback survey, you can read all of the responses if you go to the Programming folder in the MRCNA 36 Drive, click on the survey, and then click "responses." I can also just email the new subcommittee chairs any relevant info from the survey to make it a bit easier.

#### 1. What was your favorite part of MRCNA 36?

- a. The Saturday night festivities, Saturday night main speaker, meditation room, and the comedy show.

#### 2. What was your least favorite part of MRCNA 36?

- a. The hotel issues, port-a-potties, difficult to hear the Sat night festivities, there wasn't a moment of silence for addicts lost to the disease, and the celebration of individual addicts. Felt cliquy and not welcoming of LGTB community.

#### 3. What did you not like in Merchandise?

a. Shirt sizes (specifically the tiny purple shirts), lack of variety, no tank tops, would have liked more vendors, and the shirts looked like they promoted suicide. Half of the responses said they loved everything!

4. What would you like to see in Merch?

a. Other than variety, no answer was repeated more than once, so I'll send this info to the Merchandise chair.

5. If you did not go to the banquet, why not?

a. Too expensive, too crowded, and one response said "I didn't feel welcome because everyone seemed to be in their 'friend group' and not welcoming to the gay community."

6. What would you change about the banquet if you could?

a. The price, more organization, larger space, more drink options, several responses said the food was excellent.

7. What was your favorite workshop?

a. Boundaries: Setting and Accepting, LGBTQIA+, Relationships, Expectation vs Reality, Women's Rap, Gift of Desperation, Sponsorship Panel. Most responses said they loved all of the workshops.

8. What was your least favorite workshop?

a. Men & Women's Rap (too early in the day), any that didn't have AC, Recovery & Relapse b/c the speaker hadn't relapsed, rooms not big enough to fit people.

9. What workshops would you like to see next year?

a. This has a lot of different responses so I'll pass this onto the Programming chair.

10. What did you love about the entertainment?

a. Kevin, the game show, the fact that the entertainment was interactive.

11. Suggestions for MRCNA 37 themes?

a. I can bring this info to the meeting when we talk about the theme, unless you want to hear the responses now? (The Process is Change; Living the Dream or Learning to Dream; From Desperation to Hope; A New Way to Live; Lost Dreams Awaken New Possibilities Arise; I Will Be Unafraid

The last thing I want to say is just that I am so grateful we continued to work together and put on a great convention this year. Things were so stressful during the second half of June that I think we were all on the verge of nervous breakdowns, and our unity and compassion with one another allowed us to fulfill our service commitments to the best of our ability. I'm so grateful to the NA fellowship for appreciating us and the loving the convention, and it's amazing how they responded to our stress. Although this was the most stress that I can imagine having during a service commitment, this has been such a rewarding service experience that I am grateful for having the opportunity to go through. I can't say it any differently than just: Thank you for letting me serve. It has truly been a pleasure.

In loving service,

Casey

### **Treasurer – Bill Z.**

MRCNA 36 Committee,

This is the final report covering all four years this convention needed. Going forward our budget will need to include a \$25 per month bank service charge on our checking account for less than a \$25,000.00 monthly average balance. We also incurred a \$10.73 service charge for exceeding a monthly \$10,000.00 cash deposit from the convention as well as a \$15.00 service charge for a cash deposit adjustment fee due to a \$20.00 undercount on a \$5770.00 triple counted convention deposit. Region will probably need to address the excess issue with the bank. After three year total the bank says we have \$14.06 more in our account than the spreadsheet says so I guess the bank must be right :-)

ILS

MRCNA 36 Treasurer

Bill Z

### **Subcommittees:**

#### **1. Arts & Graphics - Lisa**

Hi Family,

##### Program:

- a. a. We helped create and print 1000 paper programs for the Programming subcommittee. Twice. With our tax exempted status, that came to a total of \$766.27 times two, minus "half" as the hotel is contracted to compensate the committee (\$383.14), for a grand total of \$1,149.41. Receipts have been submitted to Bill Z. on behalf of Programming Subcommittee and does not come out of A & G budget.

##### Tickets:

- a. We created and printed 1000 tickets for Entertainment and Fundraising's two events, and 250 tickets for Hotels and Hospitality for the Saturday Night Banquet and Banner Auction. Total cost was \$156.46. Reimbursement has already been received by A & G chair, but this does not come out of the A & G budget.

##### Flyers:

- a. Since December, 2021, the Arts & Graphics committee has produced five registration flyers, eight MRCNA planning meeting flyers which advertised open committee positions, and several flyers for local MRCNA fundraising activities.
- b. We are happy to begin creating a pre-registration flyer for MRCNA 37 utilizing the same QR code from this year's convention, if the A & G committee for MRCNA 37 approves. During new business we can decide on pre-registration amounts and cut-off dates.
- c. There are flyers available today for the MRCNA Banner Auction to be held in October. Regional meeting is scheduled to be held in person day after event.

##### Signage:

- a. The A & G committee borrowed the GGRASCNA printer and established a printing post in the Merchandise room at the convention. There, we processed all sign requests real time, and were responsible for creating and posting dozens of signs around the facility for parking, bathrooms, hospitality suite, smoking areas, and all speaker rooms and podium signs.

Banners:

- a. The auctioning of Freedoms I, II & III at MRCNA 36 was a great success, and raised approximately \$650.
- b. The remaining banners are currently being stored in PVC tubes in a climate-controlled area of Casey J. of the South's basement. Thanks again Casey and Justin for your help with the banners!
- c. We have created a flyer for the upcoming Banner Auction fundraiser to be held at Trinity Methodist Church, scheduled for October 1, 2022. We have confirmation that the regional meeting will indeed be held here in Grand Rapids the following day, with location TBA.

Budget:

We worked with Entertainment and Fundraising to create signs for the comedy shows and created a Welcome sign we put next to Tickets and Registration. Reimbursement for those items, totaling \$48.07, has already been provided to Lora V. by Bill, but still comes out of the A & G budget. I am submitting receipts today for \$168.28 today for the following items:

\$99.40 2 replacement printer ink cartridges for the borrowed GGRASCNA printer  
\$22.85 4 Poster boards  
\$14.29 Broad tip Sharpee markers for banner signing  
\$5.29 Print proofs from Staples  
\$20.14 Party City 1 dozen balloons  
\$20.60 Poster prints from Walgreens  
**\$182.57 TOTAL**

\$1098.00 was the original amount in the preliminary approved budget proposal for the Arts & Graphics committee for MRCNA 36. Total amount A & G committee spent was \$812.91, for a difference of \$285.09, and Region no longer has the monthly rental of the CubeSmart storage space for the banners. Additionally, sale of the banners at auction will provide a nice start for fundraising toward MRCNA 37. I'm honored to have served as the A & G chair, and to have worked with such a talented group of dedicated people during this most challenging convention. Thanks for letting us serve,  
Lisa M., Tori G., & Taylor A.

*Discussion:*

Discrepancies of totals and budget items under the wrong subcommittee(s)

**2. Convention Information - Bob J**

\$100 under budget, Square is the best way for us to do business. Bob is pro app and willing to help.

**3. Entertainment & Fundraising - Lora V**

Hi Family,

I have attached the budget request form with my updates on it. I find it really hard to use so added my own spreadsheet that shows all the expenses and all the money collected from fundraising and from the ticket sales for the entertainment.

I'm really proud of our team with fundraising. We only had 3 ½ months to do fundraisers and we made \$3,479.38 and had 12 fundraisers during that time. The basket auctions did really well and people seemed to love them. I am willing to continue making them for events for whoever takes over as E&F chair. I have a bunch of empty baskets and some items already collected for them if we choose to continue doing them.

E&F used to be responsible for doing centerpieces for the banquet. We didn't do anything but Sue did make up some beautiful flower bouquets. My personal opinion is that this should be an H&H duty. I also would vote to not spend money on centerpieces at all.

We didn't end up doing the Escape room. We did add a meditation room. It was amazing and I have a bunch of pillows and lights if someone wants to do it again this year.

We lost \$1200 that was going to the entertainment from Vegas as they purchased tickets about 2 weeks prior to the beginning of Covid. The tickets ended up expiring and couldn't be used. Unfortunately there was nothing we could do about it and had to eat the cost. He did agree to come back and do 2 shows and play music during the banquet for \$1200 which was a great deal. Matt was super grateful to be a part of our convention. We did end up giving him a free room for 4 nights, and gave him free banquet tickets and registration. We didn't have enough room sales to cover all the free rooms between E&F and programming so I added 2 room nights to my expense report. We gave him the 4 nights because he did 3 things for us. Normally the entertainment performs for an hour one night so we got a lot for our money.

I have a tote with some tshirts and have the books that were donated from the Saginaw area. I will hold onto everything until we decide what to do with them. My suggestion is to do an event during MRCNA next year that is an auction. Schedule it right on the program so everyone knows when it will be.

The baskets, books and banner auction during the convention did really well. We made \$630 for the banners, 2 books \$420, silent basket auction \$630 and the newcomer basket auction \$250. I would love to see all these things continue next year especially the newcomer basket. I didn't love doing the auction during the Saturday night festivities but would love to see the newcomer basket auctioned that night. I think it could be really powerful.

Entertainment ticket sales were \$2,355. Our total money collected from fundraising, Ticket sales, Silent auction and regular auction was \$7,784.38. Our expenses were \$2343.47 for a profit of \$5440.91.

As awesome as making over five thousand dollars is I'm more happy about all the fun and participation that everyone seemed to have at all the events. I want to thank everyone that was on my subcommittee and helped make it so much fun. I loved having new and fresh ideas and was so grateful to be able to count on each and everyone to help out.

Im so very grateful to have been able to be a part of mrcna 2020, 2021 and 2022. It was a very challenging but a super rewarding experience. The friendships I made on this 3 year commitment are priceless. Thank you to everyone on the committee for sticking it out through the tough times. We all fucking rule!!

In loving service,  
Lora V

#### **4. Hotels & Hospitality - Dave W**

Hello Family, As many of you are aware the final bill with the hotel has not been paid yet. A meeting is scheduled with the hotel for Wed. I will be there in person, Jeff will be there via Zoom. Specific areas of discussion for redress include the missing beverages from the welcome pizza party, and reducing our service fee on food and bev to the 20% as stated in the signed contract, not the 23% on the bill. Other areas include the myriad of issues with the condition of the hotel, the bathroom issues, the condition of the guest rooms: the lack of air conditioning, TV's, missing sinks and loose hardware etc. The bill as it stands: We are credited with only 207 RMN's not 210 because of the cut off date of 6/9/22 not the extra week discussed with Patrick in the spring. After all adjustments including state taxes our bill for rooms (8) is \$984.84, Thur night Welcome Party Pizza is \$1330, Banquet \$4375. Service charge on both meals is 1312.15. A/V 2023.91, Scooters \$508.80. This sub totals out to \$10,544.70. Subtracting our down payment of \$1000 and their \$414 room rebate (207 RMN's times \$2). The bill before negotiation is \$9130.70. I also returned \$52.39 leftover from the \$400 for the hospitality room. I have every confidence we will get back at least a few hundred from the missing beverages and services charges. Dave W

#### **5. Huggers - Joe V**

No report.

#### **6. Merchandise - Patti K**

Hello family....

WE DID IT!!! I have never been prouder to be a part of such an amazing committee... We stuck and stayed for 3 years, and the end result was magical. I usually get to hear the complaints in the merch room... I really don't remember any coming in. Not even about the port o potties... ew.

This cycle was not the same as normal cycles because merchandise had to start over a second time because of time the bids we acquired were null and void. I also didn't order any pre-convention fundraiser merchandise because we had so much old and pre from MRCNA 35. I did an inventory of all the pre-convention and old MRCNA 35 convention merch and it is as follows: I have 16 pre-convention shirts left. Sizes are all so wonky that are left. See me after if you are interested in a color or size. Old MRCNA 35 merch I still have 35 shirts in various styles, color, and sizes. I have mostly 4X in sizes. However, golf shirts we still have small medium large and 5XL. NOW THE CURRENT MRCNA 36 MERCHANDISE.... I SOLD OUT OF EVERYTHING EXCEPT 5 LITTLE PURPLE LADIES T's. I also sold all of the thumb drives Great idea. When people realized what it was, they were interested. Thanks to everyone who helped me sell merchandise. It was sooo much fun. I really enjoyed myself. And a big shout out to Jake who helped me get my printer working... We could not get it to work year 2 in Bellaire I just thought it did not work. Jim said he asked Jake and now registration printer is working... Next time I would wait so long to ask for help. Its true you can teach an old dog new tricks.

Now the financials: 2019-2020 I sold/had an income of \$962.89. 2020-2021 no sales. 2021-2022 I sold/had an income of \$9838.00 which of course includes the convention. Total income for this whole cycle was 10,800.89. My budget was \$7600. Merchandise cost \$4325.77. That is \$3274.23 under budget. Now we did not get preconvention merch this cycle however it still would have been way under budget. Total income after expenses is \$5312.23. Mission accomplished.... And a great time was had by all.

Now for the experience. I believe we sold out of the shirts for 2 reasons. 1. I was conservative with the number of shirts and mugs. And 2. We had a kick ass logo. People really liked it. That is key. When choosing a logo is it something that people will want to wear. For instance, our dandelion logo was great however we knew not all men or women would want to wear it. So, we also had a Freedom logo. 3. We trusted that the t-shirt company knew what they were doing helping to match colors and quality that would sell. MRCNA 34 we had a great golf shirt. Pretty much sold out and they were really nice quality and fabric. MRCNA 35 we went with a different company, and we could not feel the material and it looked great in the shop color and fabric and it ended up not the best. At all. and it did not come close to the golf shirt of the previous year as far as quality It is more than just choosing a logo and bam its on a shirt. 4. Keeping the choices of different style of shirts to a minimum really helped. Too many choices ask for leftovers. After we pick our theme, it would be helpful to announce keeping the logo awesome and simple thinking about "would I wear this"? We went back and forth on this logo for quite a while before we got it right. It was loved by all. I now have custody of the merchandise from the huggers and the serenity guides. I have inventoried them. We have 49 serenity guide shirts left in all sizes and 18 Hugger shirts only L XL and XXL left. It has been common practice for the merchandise committee to take custody of all merchandise left over as it is this committee's duty to attend as many MRCNA fundraisers as possible to sell the leftover merchandise at a discounted rate.

My experience this last cycle of 3 years has been long and yet I am so grateful to have the opportunity to sit on this committee. I thank you all for your service and thank you for allowing me to serve. Inventory I have the cash drawer, the printer, the square stand, the iPad, the square reader, and a money bag.

In loving service,  
Patti K

## **7. Programming - Brooke B**

Hello,

Thank you to everyone for their selfless service during MRCNA 36. I walked away feeling filled up and successful. I look forward to another year of working towards MRCNA 37 with everyone who is able to stay at this point in their lives.

Programming seemed to be a big success during MRCNA. I had many people come up to me and thank me for the diversity, the different types of topics, and putting long thought into workshop speakers and mains. I did have one man talk about some ways that he would like to integrate the way workshops were ran in the earlier days of MRCNAs. I encouraged him to come, he said he was planning to- I hope you are here today because in the frenzy I have forgotten your name! Casey J has reported to me that the survey has produced great feedback with minimal complaints in regards to programming. All opinions will be considered and conveyed to the next programming subcommittee.

\$1532.61 was spent on programming printing. This is clearly over budget as I had only requested a \$700 budget originally. We had to pay a little over 760 each time of printing, which happened twice. The second print was due to the hotels error of space and our committee having to change things around a

bit. This was a decision made by the entire committee during an emergency meeting via zoom during the two weeks leading up to the convention. The hotel did agree in writing to pay \$375 of the reprint cost and take it off of the master bill. I did not include this in my report as I am not going to be working on the master bill with the hotel. Our original intent was to only go over 60 something dollars due to print costs rising due to lack of materials at printers offices. I encourage the programming subcommittee to budget for around \$1000 if they plan to print. This is so it reflects the research that our Arts and Graphics chairperson did. She priced out our quad fold programs at many places and all quoted anywhere between 766-1100ish.

We also incurred an extra cost for Johnny Times room that was promised to him at the hotel for Friday and Saturday night. There had been some miscommunication with H&H and the hotel and they thought that Johnny was coming Thursday and Friday night. When Johnny arrived on Friday night hotel staff told him that there was no room for him as they assumed he wasn't coming when he didn't show up Friday night. He ended up being able to get a room at the crowne but the air conditioning didn't work so the hotel decided to put him at Springhill Suites by Marriott. After he arrived he was told that they were only planning to pay for one night. I made an on the spot decision and told him we would reimburse him for the night they did not cover, this amount totaled \$149.15. I believe I got the ok from our chairperson after the fact but just wanted to make it clear all that went down. Our treasurer did write the check and it was given to Johnny times. I have submitted the receipt to treasurer at this time as well.

I would also like to highly suggest that we always purchase insurance for all flights that are purchased by this committee in take future.

I was given two flash drives of all the speakers at the convention by our taper. I gave one flash drive to the previous co chair of programming who served on the bid committee and two years of co chair, Gabe B., because he was unable to attend. I have the other. I was also given two spools of all cds of the convention. My homegroup is planning to do an event in the future that will be a MRCNA fundraiser and we are working integrate an auction or raffle of these items amongst others.

I am proud to have served as the programming chair since August of 2019. The adversity we faced and the way we came together in unity is why I love you all and am so proud of each of our recovery programs. I believe if any newcomers were watching us- they way we held ourselves with integrity and kept our characters in tact then we definitely fulfilled our primary purpose. Thank you all for allowing me to serve on this life changing service commitment.

In loving service,

Brooke F.

*Discussion:*

WRSO gave us \$625 from their sales. The Hope2Go taper gave us money back as well. Consensus is that the taper and WRSO are amazing vendors for our convention. We vote to use them again.

**8. Serenity Guides - Carlos V**

Absent, no report given.

## **9. Tickets & Registration - Jim N**

Good Morning Family. First of all I would like to say that because of all the hard work our little team performed our convention was a rousing success. I would like to thank Molly Jo as well as Aaron H for all of the assistance during the four days of the convention.

After speaking to our treasure I have a few numbers to share. The first two years T&R generated 2,000 dollars and during 2022 T&R Generated 20,508 for a total of 22,508. During the Convention T&R generated 14,530 dollars of that total. That was not only attendance but tickets to the banquet as well as the entertainment. Based on the swag that was left over I would guess that there were close to 625 people there. Not all of them paid the full price. I am just happy they showed up and enjoyed themselves. My expenses totaled 6,717.72. I just want to say thank you for allowing me to serve.

Jim N

## **Elections:**

### **1. Chair**

Fred S was nominated. There are concerns about his ability to show up consistently, taking constructive feedback well, and responding to communication in a timely manner. Fred agreed to manage these things and was voted in.

### **2. Co-Chair**

Brooke B was nominated and voted in.

### **3. Secretary**

Brandon L was nominated and voted in.

### **4. Co-Secretary**

There were no nominations or willingness.

### **5. Treasurer**

Jeff C was nominated and voted in. It was mentioned that the body should keep him motivated from time to time.

### **6. Co-Treasurer**

There were no nominations or willingness.

### **7. Arts & Graphics Chair**

Taylor A was nominated and voted in.

### **8. Convention Information Chair**

There were no nominations or willingness.

### **9. Entertainment & Fundraising Chair**

Doug C was nominated and voted in.

#### **10. Hotels & Hospitality**

Jeff M was nominated and voted.

#### **11. Huggers**

Joe V was nominated and voted in.

#### **12. Merchandise**

Patti K was nominated and voted in.

#### **13. Programming**

Casey J was nominated and voted in.

#### **14. Serenity Guides**

There were no nominations or willingness.

#### **15. Tickets & Registration**

Bob J was nominated and voted in.

**Thank you to the MRCNA 36 team and a huge welcome to the MRCNA 37 crew!  
The following positions are still open, please announce these at your homegroups:**

**Co-Secretary, Co-Treasurer, Convention Information**

#### **New Business:**

1. Discuss the budgets, some items are in other subcommittee budgets in ways that don't make sense. (Ex: tickets for entertainment in E&F, not A&G; centerpieces for banquet in E&F budget)
  - Anyone who had a position for MRCNA 36 should review their budgets and their duties in the guidelines to explain what changes should be made. We will change the guidelines and then submit it to Region.
  - Lora and Lisa are going to work together to make the budgets and guidelines coincide correctly.
2. Any discrepancies in A&G's financial totals.
  - Settled above
3. Chair & co-chair need to review guidelines and tell Region what things haven't been done, or put it in place to get those things done.

**Next meeting is September 18th @ 11 am**