



NEW ENGLAND

Semi-Annual Meeting

23 May 2009

National Gathering Adelphi University Garden City, NY

Attendees: Never got a meeting list but there was about 25 folks from NE at the gathering.

1) The meeting was once again held during lunch, less than ideal circumstances. It will be again noted to the planning committee for next year's conference the need to provide adequate space and time for a productive meeting.

2) Minister Mike welcomed everyone.

3) Check In: Since it was a large group, and continued to expand throughout the meal. Each participant was asked to provide adjective name, where they were from, how long doing AVP, best AVP moment last 12 months.

4) Treasurer's Report: (Due to the length of #3 this was noted but not briefed)

1) Current balance \$2725.09

Expenses

\$44.41 in meeting expenses

\$25.00 Annual 501(c)3 dues

\$15.00 for domain name

\$105.00 in scholarships

\$500.00 for new web site

Income

None

5) Secretary's Report: (Note due to the length of time taken for #3, this was noted but not briefed) this has been a good year for AVP New England. We saw an over all decrease in the number of participants but from the reports I read the quality of work was better. In addition to the ongoing prison work community workshops were conducted in MA, ME and NH during the past calendar year. Rhode Island has expressed some interest in reorganizing an active program and we will be looking into that later this summer.

6) Minister Mike noted that help is needed in the following areas:

- 1) CT needs a state coordinator: After some discussion Funny Valentine agreed to fill the position. We assured her AVP-NE would help as much as possible
- 2) AVP-NE is seeking a co-chair and secretary and treasurer, it was noted that the Co-Chair position remains empty and Minister Mike has been doing both the Secretary and Treasurer's jobs for the past year. Also not mentioned was the need for a CLARG Rep for the coming year.

After the meeting broke up Kinetic Kameelah came forward and expressed possible interest in the Co-Chairman position.

- 3) AVP-USA is seeking a Finance Committee Clerk, members and a Treasurer

Discussion Items:

- 1) A Get well card was passed around for Dick Nethercut. It was also noted that Bill Lamontange had purchased an affirmation T-shirt for all to sign for Dick.
- 2) The new AVP-NE web site www.avpne.org was discussed and recommendations were put forth to add:
 1. a list of State Coordinators
 2. add Maps indicating where prisons were in each state
 3. add the Workshop review form to the website
- 3) What things can AVP-NE can do to help the States? The question was asked and Minister Mike requested everyone use the "Feedback" form on the AVP-NE website to answer it.
- 4) Minister Mike quickly explained the need for the CLARG report and accurate data/ He also acknowledged not fully understanding the requirements this past year. He will work on a simplified format and get it posted on the website.
- 5) It was agreed to try and hold the October meeting in Manchester, or Portsmouth NH this year to try and get the maximum number of participants. Minister Mike will coordinate with AVP-NH.
- 6) We discussed Fairfield County CT AVP joining AVP-NE. Judy Meilke has formed a local AVP in Fairfield County CT. The focus is youth and using formerly incarcerated as facilitators. These facilitators are compensated from grant monies. They have their own 501(c)3 under AVP-USA umbrella policy. This is an excellent opportunity for AVP-NE to grow in a new way with new initiatives. After some discussion and initial concerns about oversight it was agreed to support and encourage AVP-Fairfield County CT to be a part of AVP-NE

The meeting broke up with out a closing.

Respectfully submitted by:
Minister Mike