

Conference Call Notes  
Faces & Voices of Recovery  
Thursday, March 27, 2007

### ***Rally for Recovery Organizing Network***

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**NOTE: This call was taped and you can listen the actual call at your convenience. This will be especially helpful if you missed the call! Please read the notes even if you were on the call as we've included helpful links and information that was requested on the call.**

Listen to the call by clicking here:

[http://www.facesandvoicesofrecovery.org/mp3/Faces&Voices-Org\\_Network-3\\_27\\_08.mp3](http://www.facesandvoicesofrecovery.org/mp3/Faces&Voices-Org_Network-3_27_08.mp3)

Depending on the speed of your network connection and computer, it may take a minute to for the call to start playing...be patient.

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### **Goals and Purpose of Organizing Network**

The Organizing Network meets the last Thursday of every month at 3pm Eastern Time. The purpose of these calls is to assist you in planning for your Rally for Recovery event. In addition, we'll share ideas and information with you about how you can use your Rally for Recovery as an opportunity to advance the current advocacy agenda. Everyone has also shared how important the calls are to learn about what others are doing around the country with their events and many have incorporated things they've learned on the calls into their rallies. This year's Organizing Network will focus on how you can include our national theme and project called Recovery Voices Count as part of your rally. The project is all about making the recovery community the constituency of consequence we know it is.

### **Today's Topic: Building a Successful Rally for Recovery**

We invited three speakers to share about their rallies.

#### **Phil Valentine, Executive Director, Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery (CCAR)**

[www.ccar.us](http://www.ccar.us)

The Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery (CCAR) envisioned recruiting 50 people to walk near their state capitol to "put a face on recovery" five years ago. Amazingly, 700 people showed up. The walk struck a chord that continues to resonate within the heart of the recovering community. The next year, on a picture perfect Sunday five days after 9/11, over 2000 people joined us for Recovery Walks! Together, we proclaimed our support for recovery and stood firm as Americans. In 2004, more than 3800 people in recovery, their family members, friends and allies rallied, marched and celebrated, publicly declaring their support for recovery from alcohol and other drug addiction. For years Recovery Walks! has painted the recovering community in the light of respect using the broad strokes of courage, healing, hope and love.

They've learned a lot about organizing recovery walks – lawn signs are the best way to spend our advertising dollars (they also took a full page ad out in the Hartford Courant last year which was paid for by sponsors), the event should be as family-friendly as possible, the program short (4 hours), you should use vendors instead of trying to prepare your own food, and much, much more! To see pictures from CCAR's 2007 Recovery Walks click here:

[http://ccar.us/recovery\\_walks2007.htm](http://ccar.us/recovery_walks2007.htm)

Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery (CCAR) has put together some really helpful

materials that you can use to plan your event. Follow this link to the materials:  
[http://www.facesandvoicesofrecovery.org/resources/recovery\\_walks.php](http://www.facesandvoicesofrecovery.org/resources/recovery_walks.php)

**Ken Jones, Operations Director, California Association of Addiction Recovery Resources (CAARR)**

[www.caarr.org](http://www.caarr.org)

CAARR's Rally is called "Recovery Happens" and began in 1994 with just 6 information tables as thousands of people attended. The event now draws 5,000-6,000 people a year. The event has been extremely successful and has attracted the recovery community as well as the general public. They offer a free pancake breakfast across from the capital every year. The Rally also includes visibility with t-shirts and recovery wrist bands.

Ken added that the event is special for people in early recovery that have a few months time that get to see thousands of other people in recovery at the state house. The event really shows the strength of the Recovery Community by attracting a large attendance.

CAARR has included an advocacy component by inviting prominent elected officials and government representatives to speak as well as taking advantage of the exposure to the state Capitol building. They are creating awareness by approaching State Legislators and making them aware that as people in recovery that are paying taxes, working, and contributing to society. They also have a recovery booth to show that recovery is possible by collectively showing the amount of time in recovery they have as a community. They have name tags that people can fill out with their recovery date prominently displayed.

You can see pictures from last year's rally and get more information about the CAARR Rally here:  
[http://www.caarr.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=65&Itemid=69](http://www.caarr.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=65&Itemid=69)

**Jeanette Grimes, Community Organizer, Friends of Addiction Recovery New Jersey (FOAR-NJ)**

[www.foarnj.org](http://www.foarnj.org)

The rally started in 2002 as a march in downtown Trenton. 175 people came the first year with a purpose of creating public awareness which was very encouraging for the organization. FOAR-NJ has been promoting advocacy from the beginning, by having a speaking program every year.

Since the first walk the Rally has attracted more and more members of the Recovery Community as the event in 2003 had 2000 people where they started conducting voter registration drives, as well as having an action center to email legislatures right on the location.

Faces and Voices of Recovery teamed up with FOAR-NJ for the National Hub Event last year. An advocacy tent was added to the Rally which always draws a good crowd, and the advocacy in recent years has been more successful because they had volunteers with clipboards engaging the public and guiding them to the advocacy tent. They've dedicated a specific section of their website where you can see the details of last year's rally. Follow this link  
<http://www.ncaddnj.org/2008/Celebrate/Afterrecoverywalk2007.asp>

**Aaron Kucharski, Field organizer for Recovery Voices Count** talked briefly on the theme for Rally for Recovery this year. Recovery Voices Count is one part of our national movement to make it possible for even more of our friends, neighbors and family members to experience long-term recovery from addiction by building recognition of the recovery community as a constituency of consequence. Growing numbers of recovery community organizations and recovery advocates across the country are getting involved in nonpartisan voting activities so that their voices can be

heard in the local, state and national arenas. This year the recovery community will register voters, educate candidates for public office about key issues, and turn out voters in growing numbers. We will have an even greater impact on the lives of people who still need help with their addiction, people in long-term recovery, and their family members. We will be focusing on three major components in this project, Voter registration, Voter Education, and Voter Participation. Each of the remaining Organizing Network calls will be used to discuss one of these major components.

We have developed a guide (available at [http://www.facesandvoicesofrecovery.org/pdf/2007\\_recovery\\_voices\\_count\\_final.pdf](http://www.facesandvoicesofrecovery.org/pdf/2007_recovery_voices_count_final.pdf)) that provides detailed information on how to organize your Recovery Voices Count campaign. You will also find a link to Register to Vote on the Faces & Voices website. Please think about putting this link up on your organization's site. Faces & Voices will keep track of the people who register from your state and forward names and contact information to you. Voter registration deadlines as well as information on how to organize a voter registration drive can be found in the guide.

The call adjourned with a discussion about our next call. The Next Call is April 24<sup>th</sup> – 3pm EASTERN – Topic: Recovery Voices Count – Voter Registration

Here is a list of the rest of the calls this year, please mark your calendars.

**2008 Conference Call Schedule** *(All calls are at 3pm EASTERN)*

4/24: Recovery Voices Count - Voter Registration  
5/29: Recovery Voices Count - Voter Education  
6/26: Recovery Voices Count - Get-Out-The-Vote  
7/31: Rally for Recovery Media Outreach  
8/28: Wrap up / Final Plans