

Forum started at 9:20am

Introductions

Fellowship Concerns –

Cullen – Lonestar – No doing so well. Attended regional meeting which was a huge fiasco. Spiritually unhealthy.

Steve – Tejas – Everything going pretty well. A lot of spark and energy. A lot of areas doing inventories. Excited about World Convention in 2007. PI chair is real involved and has done a lot of good things in her area and region. We have two H&I chairs because Texas is so big.

Mike – Kentuckiana region is still struggling with it's service structure. There have been concerns that conventions are more concerned with money than recovery. Trying to find a way to stop that, looking for ESH. Looking to start a steering committee for our convention. If anyone has ESH, please see me or Lee.

Debbie – Show Me – The RCM of the St. Louis area brought up some stuff at region about racial split. It started at an area convention, and it's culminated into a huge problem. The RD suggested a workshop and is calling it Prejudice in NA.

Tim – Arkansas – Readdress brought to the region, the area that the group was involved with, there was no prejudice it was b/c someone was asked to leave because of stuff going on outside of the meeting. Dealt with it and felt there was no wrong doing. Unfortunately our RD had to move to Nebraska, hopefully we can find someone to go to California. Positions are filled, putting together a policy and procedure handbook. Welcome to Arkansas.

Mike – Lonestar – You heard Cullen the RDA. We are happy to say he is on the team. The issue he referred to as a fiasco, I've already heard several of you reference disunity and it's resulted in tragedy. Issues of people being yanked from their positions for misappropriation of funds. Things going on in my home area has distracted me from attending other ASC's. There has been a lot of disunity on the executive committee. The regional chair chose to get verbal and it blew up. Lots of finger pointing and blame being laid. It had a lot of dealing with expectations. NA does work, spiritual principles cause people to draw together and reconcile. We feel that everyone will pull together. Just heard a fantastic proposition to bring strength to the RD team that has been there in the past. A lot of growth is going to occur and every person involved will be better as a direct result.

Lee – Mississippi – A lot going on since hurricane Katrina. The Gulf Coast area is struggling to hold meetings. Meeting spaces were destroyed. There is discussion on whether Mississippi will continue to go to the forum. It's a 50/50 split. I can see both sides. Didn't have a regional convention, the first time in 23 years. Lots of people are

trying to work together and be unified, but they are kind of feeling maybe they need to worry more about getting their meetings together than going to ASC's and voting. Last ASC only three groups showed. A lot of chaos, Katrina did a lot of damage. We are really excited about the WSC, excited about some ideas associated with the CAR.

Mike – Red River Area - We've decided to wait until the next conference cycle to be a participant. It adds to more confusion about what do we do for the next couple of years. We'll just keep on doing what we are doing. Our phoneline continues to come along and when it will actually come on line. It's a any minute kind of deal.

Bob – Louisiana – Our region is coming together. Baton Rouge has three new meetings. New Orleans has moved to Baton Rouge. Thanks to everyone who has sent literature. We had to stop it, because we have enough but we are appreciative. Our region is struggling with finances. We are talking about whether we will participate with the SZF because of funds. We are starting to grow again. Only concern I have is email from the website as the RD, to sell me Viagra. It's good to be here and it took everything I had to convince them to send RDA. I had to talk to someone at the World Service office because of some saying that the SZF isn't a part of the service structure.

John – Louisiana – Another dilemma is coming from the region. I'm from New Orleans, and there has been issues with me being an RDA and living in Texas. If I'm at region, it shows my willingness to be involved. I've been asked questions regarding where I live. It was a big headache, but I got into the solution.

Zean – Tejas Bluebonnet – We are going pretty good. Tejas is taking seriously the World Convention. We postponed our regional convention to help support the World Convention. We are talking about doing the regional convention every two years because areas and meetings are having conventions. We want to set an example that it can be done every other year. We are having a regional assembly in March and we have a whole new set of facilitators, we are excited. Next weekend is our regional convention in Austin TX.

Keith – Volunteer – We have always supported this zone. Every time when the CAR workshop comes around they go to Maine instead of going here. No one is here to represent the region. This weekend we have a regional inventory going on in the middle of the state. Should be interesting. There's a lot going on in my state. We've had a person step up to be Outreach Chair person and has world level experience. We've got three or four subcommittee positions filled which we haven't had before. The fastest growing part of our state is between Nashville and Memphis. They are having new meetings starting up monthly. They have had ASC's fold. They need it, but are having difficulties because of bad blood. Not sure how to support them. A lot of traveling involved. It's great to see them blossoming up there. We had a very strong convention in Memphis. We pooled a lot of speakers from the SZF.

Drew – Bluegrass Appalachian – We have decided since we touch the Volunteer and Kentuckiana region to ask to be put on the rotation schedule. Our conventions are now

on a two year schedule. The decision we made last year was that we were putting too much effort into a yearly convention. Also we decided to discuss the fact that a lot of effort put into convention and not service. We are going to have a block of meetings topic'd around service and that's it. You only have a choice of going to go to a service-related meeting. We want people to understand more about service and that it's fun. We are hoping to bring more people in and show that their opinions and votes count. All are welcomed whether you've been there or not. You can't shut people out just because they don't hold a position. The message in service that some people lose is that everyone wants to hear only subcommittees and no one invites the people who count, the members. A lot people who just attend the SZF, have the best ideas. That's the kind of atmosphere we are trying to convey. That's how you gain people into service is show them that they do matter. We can't wait to become a part of this body. PI & Outreach have to be put together. Greg is doing that and is doing a good job.

Sandra – NW Arkansas – We've tried to open a Spanish speaking meeting. They don't want to be segregated.

Jason – NW Arkansas – We are one of the fastest growing Areas. Got subcommittees back up and running. Trying to tackle PSA on the radio. We have purchased PSA's for TV now we just need to get them on the air.

Greg – Bluegrass Appalachian -Rolled PI and Otreach together. Two regions in our state and almost immediately I found out I could do stuff statewide. Want to make sure all our bases are covered. Looking for ESH at that level of cooperation.

Mike B – Lonestar – I would like to develop relationships with anyone who has ESH with Spanish speaking meetings.

Travis – Some concerns after hearing everyone share and as a participant and sharing in services provided by the SZF. What are we doing to help those area's who have constraints? If you look in our Solutions Pamphlets from the SZF is that we want to make sure we get those solutions to those who need it. That's our primary objective. If a region is struggling, maybe we should go there to support rather than asking them to come here. There are lots of options. Another thing is that Bob mentioned about the SZF not being in the service structure. In our pamphlet is a definition of the forum to help those who have strong arguments. I would charge us with the task for helping those regions who can't make it to the SZF. I heard the Spanish speaking meetings, we have a huge amount of literature regarding how to open a Spanish speaking meeting.

Mike – Red River – We've got concerns as a non-conference participant, and we are still riding the fence about being a member. We admire the region who did join, but we have no other place to meet with World Board members and WSO personnel. We have no other way to have someone go to the WSC to make a report. We have no idea if we will ever become a seated WSC participant. This is very important to us.

Tim – The local fellowship has some item auctions, please help support the area. Half of the proceeds will go to this body.

Tom – I'm concerned about Lonestar. A while back when I was involved with the Arizona region I was asked to go to New Mexico. Internally, an inventory was not going to work. I was privileged to be asked to go over to New Mexico and give some impartial feedback. I encourage you to keep Lonestar in your prayers. Here at the SZF there is a lot of experience available.

Larry – Texas State Convention – Looking for female speakers.

Michelle – From the website, I'm troubled by people sending emails for not responding to their emails late at night.

Mike P. – Asked if the Texas State Convention is having a Convention in 2007. (Answer was yes, around Memorial Day somewhere around Amarillo)

Mary – NW AK. – It's real important for me to share – Literally there were only three people who held positions. In GOD's time, almost every position is up and running. It does happen, but I'm learning that I have to get out of the way. I have to deal with what belongs to me and let everything else work itself out.

Deonna – The Genesis group is part of the AK region. We have 21+ meetings. The thing that has concerned me the most is leadership and qualifications. We have someone right now that does not have the qualifications, we are getting ready to implode from the inside out. A lot of disrespect and negativity. It's softening the message. Too much "That's OK, That's OK". The beating down of trusted servants. I'm still here because I don't know any other way to live. The disease that's going on is painful. There is no way I can tell my sponsees' to go to a group conscience that does not represent leadership. Drug court has shut us out and the treatment centers too. Because of violence and predators. We have done a group inventory, but my greatest concern is losing the old-timers.

Dickie – Talks about how this is our meeting, please don't be scared. You are a part of whether you are a member or not. We don't care. We provide information. We've been watching the website. We can't delete stuff just because we don't like what is said. Please go to our website: www.szfna.org