



Subject: **Fellowship
Concerns**

**KENTUCKIANA – TEJAS BLUEBONNET-
SHOW ME – LOUISIANA – VOLUNTEER
ARKANSAS – LONE STAR – MISSISSIPPI**

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Forum / Fellowship Concerns started at 9:30
12 Traditions/12 Concepts read

T-shirts for sale, and discussed an option of hotel providing lunch @ \$10 / per plate
If you are not aware, there is an ongoing document, an “Agreement Guide” we use to keep up on things we have discussed in the past. It includes the definition of the SZF and contains a loose structure of some guidelines on operating within the Forum.

Introductions

FELLOWSHIP CONCERNS

GROUP CONCERNS

Keith –GSR for his homegroup. He wants to share something positive, a solution to a concern. His area has conducted a workshop on “How to chair a meeting”. Has turned out to be more than that and has turned into an activity that everyone is getting excited about. They are putting problems on the table. Everyone gets a voice . Great place to learn on how to get into service. Learning how to get more information in the meetings and to make sure that the newcomer feels the atmosphere of recovery. It’s really working for them. They are hoping to get better chair people out of their meetings. Gives them the opportunity to critique their behavior in the meeting, and helps everyone stay on the same page. Things are good in the area and will be having a convention, “Recovery on the River”. (West Tennessee Area)

Mike – Homegroup has decided to do a group inventory, but has never done one. He is asking for experience strength and hope to take back to the group.

Lee – Problems in homegroup. There is a lack of members with willingness to do service work. Had member move away, was gone for a year and joined another homegroup where they had moved. Moved back to town and became a homegroup member of another group. Member has been attending this member’s homegroup meetings even though they were not a member of this group and was voted in GSR-Alt. Not everyone was present. Is it a problem electing someone who is not a homegroup member? Because this member was absent, he is getting several calls from other members on what they should do? Is there a policy on this issue? Should the homegroup make it a policy? Does anyone have any experience with this?

Facilitator went over how we discuss concerns. Topics are created for future SZFs.

Kristin – Has something positive to share. Fellowship member came from Brazil. Struggling there, so the group has decided to pass the basket once per month for books to be sent.

Danny – Person shared at homegroup on her birthday about all her negative past experiences. Another homegroup member actually interrupted her, and asked her to share some experience strength & hope instead. This created a roar in the Greater Nashville Area. People are starting to come back. Though some thought she was right for being able to share whatever she wants, others thought otherwise.

Chris – Member has decided to discuss non NA approved literature. Over the last year the area has decided that if groups continue to do this, they would be taken off the meeting schedule. Looking for direction.

Travis – Lots of meeting to choose from in his area. Only found two that aren't saying the Lord's Prayer at the end of the meeting. He has strong beliefs about that. Has tried to say something, but not in the business meeting. Has said things to other people in the group, and how he felt it compromised a person's decision to choose.

Doug – Has expressed concerns about group paying to send newcomers to go to a convention. He feels it goes against what the basket is really for.

Lee stated that the WSO would send you a packet on group inventories or at different levels of service. Is not WSO approved and you will get a letter with it.

AREA CONCERNS

Zean – (CTANA) - The Area is struggling with no one wanting to do service work. No VC or RCM II. Haven't had a treasurer's report in three months. There are a lot of concerns there. It was ruled not to disperse funds and was overruled by the body serving as chair for this Area. Took an Area inventory the way he saw it. Feels area is not being responsible and is afraid area will end up not having an ASC. Members are not being held accountable.

Mike (Nashville) - Lack of communication and circumventing the current structure to get what they want. Chair was approached by another Area in regards to hosting VRC25. But area is fairly strong and subcommittees are intact and making a contribution to the area. Newsletter concern, threw May Newsletter in trash. Chair threw in some outside issues. There were quotes from Impaired Lawyers Group and information from AA. Should only be NA stuff in the NA newsletter. He is hoping to take SZF information back to the area.

Debbie (SW Missouri Area) - Area has improved in a lot of ways, H&I functioning better. Phoneline went to an 800 service and can keep existing number for 15 years as well as have an 800 number. PI is doing well after not functioning for 5 or 6 years. PI chair has stepped in and done well and having PSAs after not having for 15 or 16 years. All positions terms have recently become open. They don't have a chair, vice-chair, treasurer, RCM alternate or an Outreach chair.

Sam (Cross the Rivers) - Big groups that have been intimidating. They came up with a motion that the Area not give any financial support to the region if the funds drop under a certain amount. Problem is that several people have another problem with these same two groups who spend a lot of the areas money frivolously. They are not supporting the area, and are buying literature on their own. Group came up with a motion to set aside a prudent reserve of a couple hundred dollars, but motion also stated that it would be the executive position holder's decision of where this money should be spent.

Alayne – Observed t-shirts being sold with crosses on them. Is it OK for homegroups to do this?

Lee (W. Kentucky Area / Kentuckiana Region) - Huge division in the area that has been boiling up for a couple of months. The Vice Chair should have moved into the Chair position, however a couple months ago there was a rumor that this person was using. Everyone came to him (Lee) asking him what to do. He told them to let the disease handle it. If he is using, then it will become evident. They weren't OK with that response and came to the area meeting, people who have significant clean time. It became ugly and lots of unspiritual things were said at this area meeting. He feels these people have done more damage to the area, than that one addict who may be using, taking the area position.

Dee Dee (United Kansas City Area) - Area has gone through a major change. At one time area had 36 groups and had a workshop on "metro-ing". Four areas are now being serviced. Kansas City has been struggling with growth. Meeting had 21 meetings, other fellowship literature was being found. There has been violence at this meeting. There was a stabbing and a rape. Held a workshop meeting that would create an atmosphere of recovery, as well as conducting group inventories. Went from 21 meetings per week to 14. Another group popped up a block away and is having a lot of meetings at the same time creating competition. Wants experience in diffusing situation. One group has a meeting that is 100% NA and is on the meeting schedule, and another meeting that is NA & AA that is not on the meeting schedule. WSO encouraged members to go there and share a clear NA message and flood meetings. If they are caring a message of recovery, then how they do it, is their own call.

Kristin (St. Louis Area) – Needs help. They are starting an Area convention, their second one. There has been a lot of money, property and prestige. Issues because a lot of money was given to this convention last year and the money has not been donated back. It is being used to hold another function. Area is looking at a solution regarding Outreach going and trying to promote unity.

Chris (Greater Smokey Mountain Area) - The amount of resources needed to put on a convention reduces support in our areas, creating financial issues. There is a lack of service commitments being filled. Only the "fun" positions are being filled, not the serious ones. Area is having a campout to raise money for VRC. Have their own bank account and money raised goes directly to the VRC. Area has never been able to manage their finances. They are always under prudent reserve. Wants to bring "Recovery on the Ridge" under the umbrella of Activities, in order to split the monies with VRC and the area.

REGIONAL CONCERNS

Zeal (Tejas Bluebonnet) – Has concern about convention committee, the train has started but it is late. Austin has an attitude, that if it's "Austin", people will come. Doesn't like that perception in his region. RSC is in two weeks. Sent him to WWW in Burbank instead of last forum. It was great. Well attended by World Board, and is looking forward to conference soon. Has a concern about last convention. Unapproved Basic Text that was auctioned at convention called the "Baby Blue". The Central Texas Area apologized for auctioning this and offered to reimburse the winner of this item. It was decided to include in the convention guidelines that no unapproved NA literature be auctioned. Tejas has decided to have a liaison with the Texas State Convention. There was a proposal that the region would have a policy on how to become an area within our region that failed.

(866) 79CTANA Central Texas (Austin) helpline number, you get a live addict.

Mike (Volunteer) – Has a Chair, Vice Chair, and Treasurer in place. All is going well. PI is doing very well. There will be a vote to establish a regional website. One area has a lot of billboards on interstates and PSAs are being done. Phoneline phone bill has been reduced by \$500.00 per month. Put a request on website for experience, strength and hope in the area of regional inventory. Currently looking for someone to be a facilitator for this event. Will be taking the information back to their region. There hasn't been an inventory in about 4 years. Excited about establishing lines of communication, and are hoping the website will be effective in communication. Rural meetings need help and support. Nashville had the opportunity to hold the WWW, and are appreciative that they were able to be a part of that. In a nutshell, there was a lot of love. Attendance

from the local members was a little disappointing, but they were able to get a look at something that they haven't been a part of before.

Debbie (Show Me) – Something that came up was violence in meetings. Kristin will be doing an orientation. Accounting issues have been brought up. Three different entities are doing business, and would like to have everyone working on the same page. Area having a problem getting regional business done on an area level. Everyone is in a hurry. John discussed an idea from SZF, if they wanted to come back with a presentation. Ad-hoc committee formed about getting an 800 phonenumber for region. Adhoc chair felt she was finished and PI at the regional level has taken on this responsibility

Donny (Mississippi) - Has three positions open, and are excited about that. PI, H&I and Vice-Chair. Hate that they missed the SZF rep coming down to Mississippi. There was a miscommunication there. There is a concern as to why their region is sending the RD's to the SZF so often.

Keith talked about the Delta Area of the Mississippi region putting on their first convention. Said that is wonderful.

Doug (Louisiana) - Not enough funds to send RD.

Mike (Kentuckiana) – Most problems in the region has already been brought up by other members. Problem with people selling merchandise (Non-NA) outside the meeting. Doesn't know what to do about it. Concerned about a "cut" NA message. That it's being diluted with religion etc. Need old-timers to go back in and share in the meetings about the basics. 20th regional convention will be next Easter, and are working on trying to make it special. Lee added that this convention will be hosted by the area that is having so much dissention. Believes the disease is attacking these meetings. Service positions are filled!! People are excited about getting involved in service.

SZF REPRESENTATIVE

Going into next forum, will be talking about language barrier. Several regions deal with this on a regular basis. One of the things we tried to do a few years ago, our solution pamphlet, to "soluciones". Looking for help in supporting this translation. This is a piece of information that can be distributed within the regions to help use as a solution for similar issues. Need addicts who speak fluent Spanish. Would like to have multiple copies available translated to Corpus.

About Mississippi and the efforts to attend their regional. We decided at last forum to attend to offer information and a solutions pamphlet. Went down their on Saturday and it was held on the one time a year that they met on Sunday. Was able to meet with some service members and gave out solution pamphlets and minutes and what the forum had to offer and the resources that we could provide to them. We needed increased information so that we can continue to give the information about why we meet and the solutions workshops we can provide to the regions. Has a desire to constantly work on our communication.

Keith added that he attended the Volunteer region. They are solid and always have been, most represented at the SZF. Feedback that he got from RCM was that it was a good idea, maybe as a warm-up. Stated that John is involved in the PR handbook. It's out for review and input, and would like the SZF to be involved in this review. Is on the editorial review board of the NA Way Magazine and wants this body to be more involved in that. Is constantly being asked about things like Writing Steps in Recovery and would like an article about that to appear in it. Place a section for discussion on the website, and replies about this were negative. Just wants the information to get out there about this body. Encourage everyone to visit the website to get information about the SZF.

DISCUSSION

Danny – member of homegroup just featured on Good Morning America. I identified as an addict, but didn't mention that he was associated with NA.

Zean – Has noticed more emails being sent out regarding discussion topics on the website.

Sam – Regarding effective communication and the 8th concept. Noticed a need with help on group inventories. A good place to start on an inventory is the 5th tradition. Tells you how to do a group inventory and what to ask for. Did one for his area, and participation really bad. Ended up being the one who wrote and got help from the WSO, but received only examples, not guidelines.

Kristin – PI talked about at regional level. Updating meeting directories on the World Database. Thinks it's an important issue. How do we go about doing this?

Steve – Every area and region can appoint someone to be the web contact to update meetings and to update and change service members. You can go to www.na.org and print your region or areas meeting list, by day if needed.

Member stated that they have had issues with addicts going onto the website and changing or removing information.

Donny – Asked question about meetings that may or may not be existing. How do we know if they are meeting??

Mike – Lady at NAWs is Katy Kirkpatrick Ext. 156. You can call her if you need help updating your groups.