

FELLOWSHIP CONCERNS – GROUP

Lake Charles – smoking as an issue for groups, many cities enacting laws restricting smoking public areas, asks that members and especially trusted servants be aware of being sensitive to others

St. Louis – few members who want to start another area; hosted a formation workshop recently, but some of the groups in the proposed new area weren't invited; not everyone feeling involved, but also groups not being asked if needs are being met, or how to work within the current structure; also issues with area hosting a convention and there being issues of property, prestige, etc., coming to play rather than primary concern with carrying message.

Texarkana – Religious recovery – has become more intermingled recently; members who are trying to remind others to be open to other religions are ridiculed; many outside groups that are faith-based are located in the area operating their own recovery/treatment programs so there is some confusion and both sets of information are circulating

AREAS

Nashville/Middle Tennessee – shortage of people willing to do anything in service positions; people with no experience filling positions

Nashville – People not getting involved, even when trusted servants are willing to train and teach, and people continuing to do position

Lake Charles – Smoking is divisive issue in the area; causing rifts within the area to the point that is becoming the issue rather than reaching out to the newcomer; also problems getting people to volunteer to take meetings into institutions

Conroe, Texas - A year ago, was the RCM and was doing literature, secretary and other positions as well. The only position held was RCM – so stopped doing minutes and when area saw there was consequences to not having the position filled, a person stepped up to fulfill it; area as a whole doesn't take leadership qualities into consideration – if you want to do a job, you can have it regardless; currently have a new page system for hotline calls and people with less than a month carrying pagers; first thing they say when answering a call is “let me meet with you,” and sometimes they come back and sometimes they don't

REGIONS

Tejas/Bluebonnet – profanity in meetings is a hot topic today; smoking issue was solved when state outlawed smoking and meetings became nonsmoking; still the ongoing issue of having people to step up and take service positions, this weekend is Regional Convention in Corpus Christi; upcoming Regional Learning Days; Texas State Convention May 27; convention falls outside regional structure, but are establishing a convention liaison position to work with the RSC; problems with 800# with some of the areas pulling back; Esperanza Area put together a hearing impaired video that explains N.A.; Sabine Lake Area in Beaumont is new

Volunteer – same issues of not enough people to fill trusted servant positions; they have not been willing to just fill the positions with warm bodies – and trusted the process – and found the region was able to function well until they have the right person; World Wide Workshop coming in May 27-29, 2005 to Nashville; West Memphis Area forming first H&I meeting in Shelby County,

which has the largest prison in the region; working on transition as term of RD comes to a close in next quarter, being proactive with training, dividing up reporting responsibilities, getting new alternate involved early; two areas in southern state are considering merging, have been trying to pool information and share resources; have been focusing on trying to make service attractive – it's not what we say, but how we say it

Show Me – SEMO area struggling; at last RSC region provided funds to purchase literature, but more important is getting the word out to surrounding areas to support SEMO and the region sending Outreach Chair to speak at an upcoming birthday celebration; also doing a “meeting flood” where addicts from St. Louis will get in the car and drive down to support meetings in the SEMO area; KC Metro still in formation with some difficulty sharing information between the original area and the new areas; will be hosting the July SZF in Kansas City; Outreach Chair has organized committee into specific areas of support with meeting floods being one way, but also training leadership with GSR and RCM orientations; initiating a regional inventory with questionnaires being distributed throughout the region and a series of 5 workshops over the next quarter to gather input; new deaf meeting in the Mid Missouri area; regional activities committee established again, with guidelines being approved at last RSC; regional meeting directory in the process of being launched

Lone Star – issue in east Texas area with area being formed as an island within existing area; issue with phone line – using a company that was not directing calls to the appropriate place; had 1-888-NAWORKS on bumper stickers and people were putting these on cars and traveling outside the region, getting calls from outside the region confusing the provider; region has talked with the company and resolved; has been swapping regional minutes with Tejas and this has allowed the two regions to realize they face many of the same issues; believes this can broaden the base of recovery if we begin sharing regional minutes between all representatives in the zone; have World Board representative from the Dallas area; issue of a couple of areas within the region using language specific to one religion with RD contacting NAWS for guidance and the nature of that response was for other members outside those groups to show up and set the best example of NA and how it works that they can, with setting a positive example being the best response to these types of situations; issue with treasury with questions of treasurer not following policies set forth in guidelines and things not being done in a timely manner, issues of putting a person into a position without training, has been taken care of and things are now working smoothly; had a capture the banner in Lone Star with the banner going between areas rather than groups

Louisiana – dealing with racism with races; region doing quite well in terms of filling servant positions; region has purchased a photocopier that will travel to RSCs to cut down on administrative expenses; people running rogue in H&I, had a call that a person with 17 years clean had started H&I meeting with the goal of getting a job at the facility and if that doesn't happen, tries at another facility

Red River Valley – matter with 888 number in Lone Star with calls being routed from Red River region to Tyler resolved earlier this week; proceeding with preliminary formation of phone line and have been looking at tapping into Lone Star's phone line; also looking at ways to interact with surrounding regions in terms of phone line coverage; planning to attend Plain States Forum in the next quarter

Arkansas – have an alternate RD for the first time in 2 years; working on smooth transition and training; planning to attend Plain States Forum to share information with other RDs; to fill positions and make service attractive it helps to realize that service is a principle not an activity;

moving toward having a general service assembly and not can accomplish that by having an alternate, will be talking to others about how they have accomplished this in the past; language in meetings is an issue in the region as well, probably no coincidence that public image is one of our discussion topics, hopefully we'll find some solutions to this concern, obviously is a concern or groups wouldn't be talking about it; forums like the SZF and WSC are ways we can explore these issues and find solutions; all positions filled with active participants or have nominations in place for next RSC

Kentuckiana – Mike now the RD as the alternate resigned at the last RSC; drug court and how to deal with the overwhelming people who take over small meetings in small communities is an issue; dealing with predators in meetings, not the fact they exist, but how do we deal with this; regional convention is Easter weekend, program committee has accepted idea of having a service workshop where ideas will be discussed rather than a speaker, talking about issues, problems and solutions; large influx of younger people coming into the rooms, have decided to have youth and recovery workshop at convention; being careful to make sure people have the resources necessary to fill positions, not just a warm body

Mississippi – When regional convention ended in October, it was brought to the region's attention that there were some problems with funds; RD was also vice chair for the convention and there were expenses submitted and reimbursed that were not appropriate; was suspended from duty; region has been in contact with WSO as there was concern of a lawsuit from the addict's employer concerning the inappropriate receipts and funds reimbursed as it involved the employer as well; conducting discussions on topics, recently looked at the word "infrastructure" to get better understanding of what it means, changed the name of the discussions to "solutions in service" workshop, will be conducting roundtable discussion and using mind map as was done at WSC