

Southern Zonal Forum

October 23, 2004 Minutes

Jacksonville, Indiana

OPENING

Meeting opened at 9:30 a.m. with Serenity Prayer. Agenda review and process for conducting meeting reviewed. Introductions and welcome to guests and delegates.

ATTENDANCE

SZF members: Zonal Representative, Facilitator, Treasurer, Archivist, Mississippi Region, Louisiana Region, Volunteer Region, Show Me Region, Arkansas Region, Tejas Bluebonnet Region, Kentuckiana Region.

Guests

Central Ohio Area, Chicago Region, West Tennessee Area, Ohio Region, Midwest Zonal Forum, World Service Office, World Board of Directors, Arkansas River Valley Area, Middle Tennessee Area, Greater Nashville Area, Western Kentucky Area.

FELLOWSHIP CONCERNS/DISCUSSIONS

Area Concerns

Greater Nashville Area – tax issue that has been recurring. Found a solution and will include that in solutions pamphlet distributed after SZF.

Memphis – 5 to 6 new meetings on the schedule; going through a period of growth.

West Tennessee Area – people who have been around for awhile sharing in meetings that they've worked all the steps and now live the principles and no longer need to work the steps – causing issues with newcomers, asking if you only need work the steps one time.

Regional Reports

Show Me Region

- Kansas City Metro Formation – United Kansas City area formed to cover entire metro area; Working to create a metro that will provide shared services for H&I, PI and phonenumber to all areas within the metro
- Outreach - Have a strong Outreach chairperson in place; Providing local fellowship development activities including GSR training sessions, RSC officer, RCM and subcommittee chairperson orientations, reaching out to isolated groups or those needing additional support
- St. Louis Area Convention (SLACNA) - Hosted first area convention in October; RSC met concurrently onsite at the convention to show regional support; Had close to 1,000 in attendance
- Literature Committee; Providing input to the World Board workgroup on Basic Text revisions
- Regional Audit - Sending audit questionnaire to RCMs for distribution to groups and area service committees; Requesting input on services provided by the Region, as well as impressions of service provided by RD; Exploring effectiveness of regional functions, communications and ideas for future direction and improvement; Would appreciate input from other regions as to what they have done in terms of service audits that has worked for them; Distributing questionnaire with October minutes with input due January 1, 2005; Will utilize RCM open forum to discuss input and any actions that need to be taken

- Convention Committee Guidelines; Our Convention Board would appreciate receiving copies of other region's convention guidelines as they review current guidelines and seek ways to improve service to the region
- Discussion Topic Workshops; RD, working with PI and Outreach chairpersons will facilitate WSC topic discussion workshops in 5 areas throughout the region; Several areas will participate in each session to allow input from all areas within the region; Discussion topics are our public image and developing leadership/infrastructure
- Writing Steps for Recovery; Prison outreach program in which inmates are paired with step writing guides who have received training via WSR orientation prior to having contact; Facilitated by contact within each facility; WSR committee is interested in presenting a WSR workshop during the SZF for regions who are interested in adapting for their own needs; One presentation to take place during the SZF to be held in the Show Me Region in July 2005; would like to offer a presentation during one of our other Zonal meetings held outside the Show Me Region
- Regional Growth; Currently have 15 areas within the Show Me Region, all actively participating in RSC; Many active subcommittee representatives from the areas; Strong subcommittee leadership in place for this cycle
- Regional Phonenumber Service; Moving forward and in the later phases of a rolling implementation; Not all areas will be started at the same time; Coordinating with PI subcommittee to make sure meeting directories and phone systems are in synch; Asking for input from regions who have regional lines that not only provide meeting information but also connect to local addicts for those calls needing an addict with which to speak
- Donation; Donation of \$600 to bring us up to date for this year
- Upcoming Events; MKACNA IX; April 29 – May 1, 2005 in Atchison, Kansas; contact Mike B (913) 367-4634; Cabin Fever Prevention Convention, February 4-6, 2005, Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri; contact midmissourina@midmissourina.org
- SZF July 2005 Meeting in Show Me Region; Proposing Kansas City as location; With new areas splitting what was once one large area and seeking to establish metro services, this would provide a needed boost from outside our region and support the addicts in these areas
- Midwestern Governors Conference; Contacted by Crista Mauk from the Plains Zone; Wants to know if we'd be interested in participating in a presentation to the Midwestern Governors Conference; Involves 13 states in the Midwest, some in our zone; Apparently a PI type presentation; Phone number emailed to Dickie (712-276-5770)
- World Board PR Strategy Workgroup; Show Me RD participating in the PR Strategy Workgroup; Will be meeting 6 times over the next year and a half; Will develop a PR strategy and framework from which NAWS public relations efforts will come; Working in concert with the PR Handbook Workgroup which will be developing tools for regions, areas and groups to use in getting the word out about NA

Arkansas Region

- Just held 13th annual campout which was successful.
- Discussing possibility of having a regional convention – possibly in Hot Springs
- Will be conducting 3-4 leadership development workshops over the next year
- Just held trusted servant elections and have filled Treasurer's position, to relieve person who had been doing this for several years
- Regional phonenumber just changed long-distance service as provider moved to Texas and it was impacting long distance fees; with change in provider cost has been cut by 2/3
- Will be hosting SZF in January 2005; either Hot Springs or Fort Smith, will have final answer at next SZF

Volunteer Region

- Doing well, but need more participation to fill trusted servants positions; currently no subcommittee chairs, but that has been ongoing for awhile; work is getting done, but need people to actually hold positions; hosting zone in Chattanooga; VRC 22 coming up in Chattanooga over Thanksgiving weekend – first time ever in this city and it's a small city, so it's amazing to see the support happening to make this event happen; just wish could get same members helping with VRC to support region by taking committee positions
- Recently government hosted an event to get the word out about recovery tools and programs, called Recovery Fest – Volunteer Region participated by providing PI type information

Louisiana Region

- Doing great and all service positions are filled
- Louisiana Convention Board met for the first time at the last region with officers elected; would like to see other regional convention guidelines; Lone Star provide a great set
- Upcoming conference at correctional facility in which the region is participating; working to show that we are not a secret society
- September is recovery month in Louisiana – special event held over a weekend, is September 30, held in New Orleans, 10,000-15,000 people in attendance, PI chair produced items for distribution at this event, areas used to shy away from these types of events, but are now seeing the opportunities

Tejas Bluebonnet

- Doing well; 501C3 final and have all the paperwork, but has brought up a lot of discussion with areas wanting to use that number
- New area within the region that is considering joining; had been participating with Louisiana and Lone Star previously
- Send RD to service development meeting in Juarez, Mexico a couple of months ago; addicts were very grateful for the assistance and service workshops
- Struggle with getting addicts with time to step up to the plate and be of service and teach newcomers
- Upcoming convention in February in Corpus Christi – visit tejas-na.org for fliers
- PI subcommittee in Esperanza area is doing great things – developed materials in Spanish, very passionate about getting the word out about NA
- RD/RDA dividing ASCs up and visiting all of them during course of their terms; one rural area having problems getting people to attend ASC due to large distances some have to drive; trying to get trusted servants to move toward consensus based decision making, but it's hard for some to release process of voting
- Concern on 1-888 helpline in Texas; recently used that number for an area PI flier day; asked the area to call the number and make sure it worked – finding that the number, when dialed in that particular area, was diverting to Tyler; concern that addicts aren't getting callbacks – concern that this is a big problem for image of NA with people using that 888 number; working to get issues resolved; suggestion to make sure if you're using an 800 number to call it from all the areas within your region to make sure it works
- Many years ago Texas State convention formed and had some controversy about whether it was accountable to the service structure; in the past year, they have been showing accountability and passing funds back to regions within Texas and NAWS

Mississippi

- Doing better than they've done in awhile
- Regional convention went really well and made money, after going in the hole last year; good attendance
- Over the past year have been working on policy; coming along slowly – developing subcommittee and RSC policies; have decided to do all RSC positions on a 2 year rotation basis as 1 year terms were not providing continuity
- Working on PI; chairperson has divided the state up to get the word out better; also looking at doing co-op efforts with areas outside the Mississippi region where they get radio and television stations from neighboring cities that are actually outside the region
- Good luck in the past year having regional trusted servants filling positions and finishing obligations
- Working on regional assembly that is coming up; planning on some leadership development workshops in the coming year; changed name from GSR assembly to trusted servants assembly to improve participation – people thought if they weren't a GSR they couldn't participate; at last regional assembly had 68% off GSRs show up
- Trying to find a better way to collect CAR votes
- Areas within region considering having conventions; discussion about whether it will take away from region or add to it; how will it impact rotation of regional convention as it moves each year

SZF Representative

- Wants to focus on opportunities to advance and improve our communications between zones and improving participation and understanding of what the zones do, the support we provide to the regions, training, and topic presentations
- As representative, want to be sure talks to at least one representative from another zone to see what they have done in the past quarter
- Find out how other zones are dealing with problems we have within our zone, i.e. translations, reaching out to diverse cultural groups
- Have developed survey for participants to help identify the needs of regions, ways to improve the services we provide
- Will contact Plains Zone to discuss upcoming Governor's Conference
- Wants to take advantage of the solutions and discussions we have when we come together and sharing that with others

Input from Guests

NAWS

- NAWS is at California Department of Corrections event, Cartajena, International conference of alcoholism and addiction in Venice,
- Recovery is happening all over the world and we all have very common experiences, no matter where we are – sharing our experience, strength and hope in service are very important – but we're not always good about doing that; what NAWS is trying to do is facilitate discussions, have placed discussion boards on na.org – and have many people with days and weeks clean who are posting, so please visit these discussion boards and share
- Encourage people in your regions to participate in public information type events; we need to try some new things to get the word out
- Can't keep up with all the events and growth going on – we all need to help, doing whatever we can in our parts of the world

- Just like recovery, sharing experience, strength and hope related to service will work
- Send copies of guidelines and minutes to the WSO and they put together and send out to regions in the rest of the world; they can only share with people what you share with us; they get distributed broadly to people who ask
- In trying to find out how to communicate better, there will be electronic subscriptions to NAWS News and the NA Way in November; publications are already translated into 5 languages

BOD

- As a new member of the board, had the opportunity to attend an orientation meeting which involved a lot of hard work by the office and the outgoing board to share information and provide continuity; what's going on in NA is explosive
- Very interesting to me that over the years, we have tried to develop leadership and teach the conference that there are people who are qualified to serve, who may not necessarily be physically present at the conference; saw the conference open to this concept in the past year
- Agree that we must develop better communication – use the website, the NA Way, NAWS News; amazing that people in home groups don't know of the resources that are available to them
- Had unique experience 2 weeks ago at the first Tex-Mex convention in Juarez, Mexico – discussed challenges that English speaking members face when in countries where it is not primary language
- Available for any questions you may have

Regions Outside Our Zone

Chicago Region

- Lots of activity with things changing in terms of planning and workgroups; took lead from NAWS and are writing a strategic plan for the region
- Hot topic is central service office seeking to purchase a building; looking for any input from other regions; the pros/cons and discussion of whether offices should purchase buildings, enter into trusts, etc.; this issue has caused the region to hold onto a large amount of funds the past few years and this is a concern
- Recent lawsuit by a suburban community focusing on a group that was holding meetings in that city; was able to shut the group down based on issues of public health

Ohio Region

- Biggest challenge for past 2 years is theft of funds in the region; working to appropriately resolve; have been in contact with addicts responsible and they are making amends as they are able; resolving without prosecution at this time, maybe not as quickly as some would like, but still being resolved
- Some problem with regional convention being accountable to region – have state convention that rotates between Ohio Region and Buckeye Region – no problem with funds being dispersed, but no good reporting and accountability and organization; last committee did much better job of record keeping and gave this year's group a good start
- Were looking at withdrawing from participation in Midwest Zone, but did take a vote 2 quarters ago and decided to remain

Midwest Zonal Forum

- Currently fine tuning website and getting form letters drafted for PI use – people can download and use consistent format; generally get about 2 emails a week asking for meetings
- Trying to see how to be of better service to participating regions; would be great to better define Outreach

Red River Region

- Went from being big area of Lone Star to being small region
- Exploring best ways to maintain contact with service structure
- After a little more than 12 months; have submitted application for recognition to WSO
- Looking into phonline, running into some of the same issues as Show Me – different alternatives, automated and live people options

PRESENTATIONS

Leadership Development

- At WSC this cycle, we had the beginning discussion on leadership. As we've developed our strategic plan, we've realized you don't get a lot done without leadership. We do have leaders, but what does that mean? It's something we don't talk about and our current literature doesn't provide a lot of direction.
- There will be articles about leadership in the upcoming issues of the NA Way. I certainly consider my sponsor a leader. When I look at your list of topic discussions and issues, they all take leaders to get them accomplished. In all our travels throughout the world, it's amazing that we share the same issues, not only in recovery, but in service. How do we get the word out about NA other than through treatment centers? How do we foster discussions and start looking at leadership differently? Therefore, there are not a lot of background materials to give on this topic.
- At the conference, we started the thought process about what qualities leaders have, where they come from, etc. What we need to do is look at what the fellowship sees as leaders. What qualities do they want leaders to have, what do you want them to do?
- Exercise to determine what this group thinks about leaders. Qualities identified include trustworthy, motivator, education, strong NA message, ability to train effectively, insightful, listening skills, sense of humor, unbiased, integrity, communications skills, level headed, principles not personalities, determination, ability to listen, encourage through example not power and control, ability to complete tasks, patience, ability to accept criticism, tolerance, confidence, integrity, humility, egoless, open-minded to another's knowledge, gentle but firm, committed, consistent, compassionate, recovery, delegates, visionary, mentor.
- How do we foster leaders? Mentorship – sponsoring people, but on service; training our trusted servants, talking about the benefits of service, teaching our sponsees about service, sharing on service at sharing meetings; if you need a specific position filled at a service meeting, ask if someone can help out just for that meeting, i.e. taking minutes, demonstrate qualities of leadership, ask discerning questions, resisting warm body temptation, set an example, support and mentorship, sponsorship, encouragement and support
- What do we need to do to get people involved? Is NA Working for you? New people and people who have time but aren't currently involved: attitudes toward authority, equating leadership with authority, inability to delegate, ineffective election process, disrespect, poor leaders currently in place, complacency, apathy, reluctance to let go, shortage of qualified candidates. We set people up by asking who is willing rather than who is qualified. Our internal perception of service and leadership is poor. Reminders of spiritual benefits, incentives, feed them, personal contact, resumes and pool resources, willingness list.

- What gets in our way? Reluctance to ask, fear of judgment, attitude toward authority, election process, disrespect, resentment, judgmental, poor leaders/illusion, complacency, apathy, reluctance to let go, perceived rules, finance/resources, lack of qualified people, attitude of people with time, perception of service, internal PR, treatment of servants, us versus them, automatic rotation, environment in service (not fun), personalities over principals, lack of prayer, infrastructure, need for guidance and education.

PRESENTATION 12 CONCEPTS

(Attachment Mike B has the complete PowerPoint document) and Travis has additional notes.

FACILITATOR'S REPORT

- In the last quarter worked with World Board contacts regarding logistics for attendance.
- Still working on host organizer document that will give direction and guidelines for the local communities where the SZF is held.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

- Secretary position in transition. Hopefully we will be electing a person to take over this role as the secretary was elected to move into the representative's position.
- Currently sharing responsibility with John S. to get the minutes typed with Travis handling the higher functions of facilitating communication in the zone and creating the solutions pamphlet.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- Submitted request for Tax ID number and still waiting for that paperwork. Once that is received will get it onto our bank account.
- Bank statements for the previous quarter distributed.
- Balance as of this day \$1,778.98; donation to NAWS \$278.98 leaving balance of \$1,500

SZR REPRESENTATIVE

- In the past quarter has been working to create our SZF survey form which was sent out with the minutes; still taking input – this will provide information on the understanding people have of forums, if they've ever attended, what the RDs would like to see, etc.
- Interested in keeping up the practice we've started of ranking the discussion topics presented in the early Saturday sessions, then using those to help identify and prioritize presentation topics
- Compiling information on other forums to better facilitate communication – interested in attending other forums, but believes other members of our forum should attend as well
- Next Midwest Forum is November 14 in Illinois, mzfna.org will have the information
- Point of information that the forums might want to consider posting to the events calendar on na.org

WEBSITE REPORT

- Send suggestions for improvements to the webmaster
- Annual fee due to the host (\$50)
- Domain name registered for 5 years
- All RDs need to send webmaster email addresses to keep them current
- Increase in number of registered participants

ARCHIVIST

- Copies of the agreement guide are available on szfna.org
- Solutions pamphlets are available as well

TOPIC DISCUSSION RANKINGS

- Communication/participation between areas, groups, regions
- Apathy and unfilled service positions
- Generating support between areas
- PI and professional event participation

- Input that it would also be good to host discussion on our public image/PR strategy as that's one of our two WSC discussion topics – and infrastructure development as well
- Request to discuss Tradition 2
- Discussion that all of these topics dovetail into leadership development, our public image and infrastructure. If we don't have the infrastructure in place to support our PR efforts, they won't work.
- Also need to establish a topic for Tennessee so they can start getting point people together and have a better discussion
- Request that we have one of our topics at each SZF from now until next WSC be related to the two discussion topics, realizing that there are many sub issues under each topic
- Agreement for one Louisiana topic to be “our public image”
- Local topic request from Louisiana of Tradition 2
- Need to coordinate people to present in Louisiana – Doug and Bob willing to handle Tradition 2; Tejas willing to handle our Public Image
- Topics for Tennessee will be infrastructure and Tradition one
- Mike B and Travis will coordinate Tradition 1; Arkansas region will take on infrastructure
- Topics for Show Me: our public image and need to come up with a regional topic request

ROTATION SCHEDULE

- January 29-30, 2005, in Lake Charles, Louisiana at the Agape Group's meeting space at 317 Pine Street, Lake Charles, Louisiana 70601. Travel Inn, 1212 North Lakeshore Drive, Lake Charles, Louisiana. 337-433-9461 or 1-888-436-2580 (hotel). Room rate \$54.95 plus tax, mention SZF. Shuttle will be provided by local NA members from and to the airport. Contact Bob L. 337-478-1101 and cell 337-515-3959
- April 2005 Volunteer
- July 2005 Show Me (Kansas City, Missouri)
- October Tejas-Bluebonnet

FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

- Discussion on decreasing number of meetings to three each year
- If we simply remove the April meeting held in non-conference years, it would reduce the number of meetings to 3 – because in conference years, our April meeting takes place during the conference just among the RDs attending – so it's not a full meeting anyway
- Keith will re-do the rotation schedule dropping off the April meeting for us to review in January
- Discussion that if the number of worldwide workshops is decreased, it's important to keep this forum active and out in the communities
- Information provided by NAWS that they are moving forward with WWW outside the US – as they are well attended by multiple countries or regions, while those within the US are

much smaller tending toward 100-150 people; is it our best use of money to do a big production for a WWW in the US – or rather smaller, focused discussions in the US and bigger productions outside the US

- Zones are good at getting out to the different regions, seems that it would work well to do what we did yesterday meaning hosting a learning day on a specific topic
- Board has committed to attending 2 zonal forums a year; with the topics left up to the zones
- If we make the most of this participation and get the word out to the local fellowships, we can get a broader range of input from our members
- Use our zonal/world board joint participation to do “learning days” twice a year
- Don’t forget that we have past RDs who are in the zone who would be great resources for us as we explore these topics

ELECTIONS

- Secretary position open
- John S. and Travis are willing to share the work involved; with John S. taking minutes and Travis facilitating communication and creating special communications pieces the SZF does
- Point made that we see this as a solution that will get the work done, but would like to see someone step forward to take on the full responsibilities in the future

MEMBER SURVEYS

- Travis will get SZF survey out to RDs for wide distribution and input from the members, groups, areas