

Southern Zonal Forum

Tejas Bluebonnet Region / San Antonio

Saturday, October 28, 2017

Opened @ 9:15am

Henry acting as Facilitator, Stacie was unable to attend.

FELLOWSHIP CONCERNS:

Show-Me -Tom RD – Resetting our Regional Website. KC Metro donated \$1,654.00 to Tejas Bluebonnet to assist in aiding Areas within their Region affected by Hurricane Harvey.

Mississippi – Chris RD- Regional Convention went well. Next one will be in 2019. Adding workshops during Region-ways to train-making Region more productive. How do we get all groups to vote on the Conference Agenda Report and Conference Approval Track? Imagine starting off with a clean slate- how do you go about it- asking for ideas from others.

Arkansas- Delores RD- Trying to improve and not focus on concerns/problems. An Area within the Region is having a learning day- Workshops/Subcommittee meetings are happening... Donation made to Corpus Christi, affected by Harvey

Red River- B.J. RD- Oldtimers are not a part of much anymore. Seems to be a transition that takes place in between being new and old. What is not attractive?

Tejas Bluebonnet- Dennis RD- 11 Areas within the Region, 5 were affected by Hurricane Harvey. These included Beaumont, Houston, and Tri-County/ Galveston. Narcotics Anonymous World Services offered assistance to the Region thru the Delegate Team. Groups in need of literature could request it. Communicated with all Areas that the CAR & CAT is happening- Offering workshops.

Volunteer- Tim RD- excitement is increasing, rebuilding is taking place, attempting to remove apathy. One Area meeting reads one concept per month and discusses it. Great Secretary at the Regional level **SEE ATTACHMENT**. Wonderful example of streamlining information. This example will be included in the minutes. Looking forward to having SZF in Nashville, January 2018. VRC Thanksgiving weekend.

Kentuckiana- Kevin RD-Two Regions (Kentuckiana & Bluegrass App.) both have been working together for about a year on ‘Unification’ Both Regions created polices as well. Some members have surfaced creating problems. Concern over the FIPT/S. Florida.

Louisiana- Kory RD- RD Team doing what “we” do. Facilitating Issue Discussion Topics in Areas within Region. Did 3 last year and about 10 this year. Learning Day happening in December. Asking to do workshops at functions instead of having a speaker. Allowing others to see their

connection to World Services, SZF, etc... Seeing people have a change in perception. Region is going for not-for-profit status. Would like to know how this is being handled by everyone else.

Lone Star- Rob- RDA- New Area joined-Trinity. Nominations are due in January. RSC is moving around the Areas. Next one will be in Texarkana Area. February 10th CAR/CAT Workshop. Working to get members to attend the Southern Zonal Meeting in Nashville, January 2018. RD/AD Team is going to different Areas each month to ask and answer any questions the fellowship may have. Lone Star Region is both a learning and training body.

St.Louis Area-Kristin-Shared how St.Louis Area is having a Group Service Forum every other month. First one was in September. Workshopped Tradition One from "Guiding Principles".

Arkansas-Dyanne- RDA- Her Area is having a Learning Day to help train / share knowledge. Members from all over will be presenting.

Red River-Steve- Public Relations Workshop presented at the July 2017 SZF served the RDA well. Felt blessed to of been a part of it, shared at Regional Meeting.

Member-Paul- Apathy in Service. Started group, "Spirit of NA Service". Breaking down the concepts of service. Nov. 4th, sharing the PR presentation. Likes the message from the Membership Survey, percentages, etc.

Brandon- Tejas RDA- Self-Sufficiency- I.P. 28- Henry-Funding of NA Services has been a huge help.

Jennette- Lone Star Member-Trying changes that had been done before. Enjoying the change. Vacant positions, draws concern. How to get groups more involved-missing members and groups-Positive to hear about Service Forums- Areas holding a two-day event. Some people say or think "I don't hold a position, so I have nothing to say". Region has a Weekend Assembly-great turnout- Issue Discussion Workshops done, lots of participation. If we want to change, we must be the change.

Member-Tom- Concerned about our members medicine, abstinence- pure abstinence "complete". Mental Illness/Mental Issues.

SZF Representative- Henry- IDT's (issue discussion topics) were created from us, for us to find solutions. We get tools to help us and then we do not use the tools. You have to go out locally as a Delegate Team.

Jerry- Esperanza Area- Concerned about members (GSR's) getting ridiculed and mocked at Area by Admin., very discouraging.

WORKSHOPS:

SHARING OUR EXPERIENCES

Special Note: We decided at the SZF in July our first workshop of the day, following Fellowship Concerns, would be an opportunity to address those concerns expressed. Regions sharing their experience, strength and hope with other Regions. This was our first time having this type of discussion. It turned out to be a great success and we now plan to do it at every SZF in the future. Except not during our January CAR/CAT Forum prior to the conference. The following is what was discussed.

CAR/CAT-

Kory-accept we are not going to get a lot of responses. RD/RDA is responsible to get the word out, one of the responsibilities of our position. Use of electronic tally sheets. The simplest/ low tech. as possible (texting votes, etc.). Have a workshop in each Area both formal and informal. Get tally sheets in the hands of all members- and ask to be given a physical tally when possible. Louisiana Region provides physical copies to each Area. The Area then chooses what to do. The more hands-on the better. Members need to feel “my voice counts”

Some Regions do one addict, one vote. Others do one Area, one vote.

Reach out to members, contact and follow up, call participants or even attend groups.

Dennis- Continuity, importance of a bigger vision. RD, RCM, GSR -important that information flows, we have a spreadsheet already created.

Jennette-Make it attractive.

WHO IS MISSING FROM OUR MEETINGS AND WHY

This was an IDT 2006-2008 or so. Buy literature in Spanish to at least offer in meetings for Areas that do not have any non-English speaking meetings.

Jim- Shared H&I experience into institutions. NAWS- packet- resources on what to do when you carry a message into non-English speaking communities.

Henry- had Spanish speaking meetings within Region, those Spanish speaking meetings created an Area- have a Spanish Convention.

C.J.- It is good to always have Spanish literature available.

OLD TIMERS / NEW TIMERS

- Seeing a gap during clean time countdowns
- Grab addicts-bring them in <----> thru workshops, make it fun, food.
- Take a personal responsibility
- Use the language of EMPATHY/ LOVE
- Oct. 2007: na.org
- Alphabet soup- acronyms spell things out. Issue Discussion Topic. Go to na.org
- We check on the newcomers, why not those who have been around a while

DISUNITY/ APATHY

SOUTH FLORIDA REGION

- Sent letter to NAWS to inspect NAWS. Some background shared: In April 1993 allowed NAWS to be a legal guardian of our (FIPT)Fellowship Intellectual Property and Trust. There was a provision that any current Region can request information. South Florida formally asked for a more in-depth breakdown of financials. NAWS is responding with what they have to follow/only have to give per lawyers.
- Motion in 2016 CAR was not approved at WSC, some of the letter did not pertain to FIPT.
- This is about transparency -specifics-pennies. We have always been given transparent information.
- The budget comes out so what is really driving this?
- S.Florida Region and some others want to know if Literature costs are \$11 for the Fellowship and if Hazelden gets books for \$5.
- We are the beneficiaries of the FIPT, **all** of the Regions within our Worldwide Fellowship. Simply, one Region cannot ask, it must come from all. This continues to come up and time and time again the Fellowship as a whole does not agree (WSC).
- What we have is two groups, NAWS and South Florida Region and both feel they are right.
- Narcotics Anonymous is a corporation – there is a business side. We elect people to be on the Board. Literature breaks are the same for whomever, \$40,000 of purchased Literature.
- Are we against applying Spiritual Principles Before Personalities?
- Even though our financial reports are given in lump sums we want more. Motions have been made, etc. We continue as a Fellowship to say what it is we want. Why are some people continuing to push?
- Legally there are ways that corporations must respond. We are a corporation. We need to come up with a way to find out how we can get the information while protecting our copyright at the same time.
- We need to also ask, “How is this info going to help me in my recovery?”

PUBLIC RELATIONS

- Public Relations is a solution to a lot of our problems, not Public Information.
- PR/PI – it was never “mandated” for Regions and Areas to change the name of P.I. to P.R. This is the reasoning behind why some Areas continue to use P.I.
- This was simply implied. Very much like when we vote updated literature in, the older version becomes obsolete. Example: Basic Text, 6th Edition
- Public Information is not enough
- Public Relations is internal and external

QUESTIONS BY A MEMBER,

“Why Things Are the Way They Are?” Moving World Service was one example given. Moving World Services to Waco, TX, Waco being the center of our Fellowship locally, however, not Worldwide.

- NAWS - Our payed servants only get a fraction of what those outside of NA get. We seem to think “it’s NA, they shouldn’t get paid much, if anything”.
- State laws/ Government laws, etc. There would be a lot to change and think about. Much more involved to move, look at all things involved, especially the cost pertaining to all those changes.
- Show-Me Region had a motion pre-2016 Conference Approval Report. Motion was voted down because the Region felt it was not feasible.
- Any member can create a motion and give to their homegroup, the homegroup can vote, pass to Area, etc.

DEATH THREATS

Done Via Facebook to a fellow member by an anonymous “masked” person. Very scary...

“NA would be better off if you were dead.” Seems to happen when we question what certain members believe to be true.

- Those usually withdrawn from World Services, Region, etc...doing their own thing.
- Death threats were made to World Board members during the 2016 World Service Conference.
- Despite having 18-hour days, arguments, we have our own opinions. We need to hear each other.
- Service Pamphlets (SP’s) on Social Media and Disruptive Behavior in Meetings.
- The Admins on Social Media can allow or not allow. Facebook is an outside issue.
- Some use Facebook as strictly a Public Relations tool, a tool for homegroups, etc.

OVERCOMING APATHY BY USING OUR RESOURCES: Fulfilling Our Primary Purpose in Challenging Times – Tim & Jim (Volunteer Region) see attachment

TRADITION 5 / GUIDING PRINCIPLES- Dennis & Brandon (Tejas Bluebonnet Region)

See attachment

SUNDAY BUSINESS MEETING

Meeting opened at 9:15am

July SZF Minutes were ok'd by the body.

24 t-shirts were left to be sold. Thanks to Tom, Tim, Brandon and Delores for taking them back to their Region to sell.

Henry is still getting "kickbacks" when sending mail thru all@szfna.org. Kristin shared that addresses are updated often, and Steve makes the necessary changes.

Randie brought up that we need to take a look through our Operating Guidelines to be sure everything is correct and current.

Kristin asked if we could do that during the January SZF.

Will be put on the agenda for Friday evening in January.

TREASURER's Report given: **See attached**

Go to Meeting- keep on the agenda for January. Great tool for Regions to connect with Areas. Volunteer Region (Lucy) helps with this. Two Areas were connected during their last Region. RD-Tim mentioned they also have a mic and camera connected as well.

Kory brought up Zoom, their cost has come down dramatically. World Services uses Zoom for their Webinars. Do we want to look at this again as a possibility? Our renewal for Go-to Meeting is in the beginning of February. Zoom is approximately \$20 a month (less than \$240 per yr.). SZF does not have not-for-profit status. Go to Meeting is \$468.00 yearly.

Zoom – more presentation based

Go to Meeting- friendlier and business friendly as well.

Kory will be checking more into this for us.

Is there a conflict with the SZF allowing a Region w/ 501c3 to purchase Go to Meeting or Zoom for a decrease in cost? Lone Star and Volunteer shared they both plan to check on this with their Regions.

Henry- SZF Rep. needs photos (updated) from service gatherings within our Regions. Email these to Henry.

Request to send someone from World Services was sent and given the ok. Someone will be at the SZF to present the CAR/CAT (conference agenda report/ conference approval track). This will be in Volunteer Region, Nashville, Tn. at the next SZF in January.

TIMELINE:

Show-Me Regions topics for July 2018 in Kansas City, Mo.

Discussion of Solutions (experience strength and hope) to Shared Fellowship Concerns

Apathy in Service- Volunteer Region (Tim & Jim)

Conference 2018 Review- Henry & Tom

Suggestion given to the body to send out a questionnaire for concerns, then prioritize them.

Dickie had been put in for Human Resource Panel. We will ask Dickie to come and record during the Winter SZF in Nashville for the CAR/CAT. Henry will touch base with him.

Reminder: We will meet during the Multi-Zonal next year in November.

Please get in touch with me in case I missed or left out anything in the minutes.

In Loving Service,

Kristin