

Background: At the Southern Zonal Forum, a concern was brought up by a region about how to better perform the function of Outreach in rural NA communities. Some discussion took place and a solution was offered that has been beneficial in another Region within the zone. The solution that was offered has been described in the following summary and provided to all regions within the zone as part of our minutes from the meeting.

"Capture the Banner"

Purpose: To reach out to groups and encourage an exchange of ideas and experiences between groups within an area and a Region.

How can my Home-Group do this:

Each group is encouraged to get Home-Group members together and make a special banner that expresses the essential nature of their group. (The banner could be displayed at their meeting)

In order for another group to "Capture the Banner" at least 5 members of that Home-Group must attend another group's regularly scheduled meeting. At the end of the meeting, they are permitted as a group of 5, to capture the banner of the group that they have attended.

A special note: You are not allowed to capture another banner unless you have your own banner with you.

If your banner has been captured, you must take 5 home-group members to the group that has captured your banner and get it back. If you would like to capture the banner of the group you are attending, and trying to get your banner recaptured, you must take an additional 5 members to get their banner. It takes 5 members to get one banner.

In the Arkansas region, this has been a wonderful opportunity to give a tangible reason to be a home group member...help us recapture our banner. It has provided an excellent platform for introducing members to a home group business meeting and the activity of making the banner.

The benefits of the time spent together to try and get another banner or to get our banner back is of great benefit to the addicts within the Home-group. A strong sense of Unity is formed through the use of this Outreach concept.

This is an excellent tool for reaching out to rural and also struggling meetings.