

Zonal Forums

In 1992 at the World Service Conference in Dallas, Texas the concept of Zonal Forums was expanded from three already formed ones to several more that were mapped out. The Canadian Assembly, the Asia Pacific Forum and the European Delegates Meeting were the groups of regions that were involved and working through the kinks of newness of actions prior to 1992. In Dallas the idea was put in the TWIGS (Temporary Working Guide to Service) that we used at this time. As we are so apt to say, "Now the Work Begins!"

Our forum consisted of Lone Star, Oklahoma, Best Little, Louisiana and Mississippi regions. Today we still have three of the original regions along with seven others. Why did the three stay? Why did the other seven come? Only they can answer this. What do we do? Who gets the bang for the buck?

Having attended other zonal meetings at the WSC and in their home regions I was fortunate enough to see first-hand their development. The things that they chose to do as they also had no direction of what or how to do next. The Zones that never were before 1992 started from scratch. Our Service structure changed as we were trying to figure out what to do with this new body.

The Louisiana region attended but chose not to join the forum. Whatever that meant. We came, we hosted and we stayed. Our choice at the time was the same as I've heard from other regions. Resolution A was a big factor at the time. We did not want to be left out or behind. Having zonal representation not regional was a possibility.

After this storm passed our focus was "What do we do now?" Having NO prior experience to rely on we have struggled some. The actions that this forum took was geared by the topics that we as a body needed help with. Asking for help

from outside this body was a wonderful experience but as the needs with the growth of NA we were not able to have World Service participation continue.

Looking around we realized that we could help ourselves. Today we facilitate workshops and presentations from within our geographical boundaries.

Our other opportunity was to further the discussion of the World affecting topics. We take a real hard look at ourselves and try to help with our inner growth. Fellowship development we found that it takes place at home as well as abroad. My guess is this realization was harder to visualize at first. As we started doing workshops we as a body began to realize our topics mirrored that of other forums that were doing what they called "Fellowship Development."

The Southern Zonal Forum now finds itself in a position, in my humble opinion, where we need to expand what we do here. We have positioned our body to be a voting entity if that is where the service structure takes us. For the longest time there was a vast amount of traffic coming through this body. Now

we find that we have several members who have been here and know who we are and what we do.

Other forums have done something along the lines of making up list of volunteers for different services that take place in NA. A thought was to remake subcommittees like we once upon a time had; H&I, PI, Literature, etc.....

Our needs are somewhat different at varying times. One region has PI needs and three years after focusing on their needs they put on a workshop for other regions that helped them previously. Same with H&I and other committees.

So our opportunity for our future comes with new needs, new technology, and new passion for recovery with a clear direction for helping the next addict who has yet to darken our doors because we are so anonymous. Serious discussion about these ideas and any new ones are where I believe forums as a whole need to look.