

Southern Zonal Forum Lake Charles, Louisiana Winter 2015

1/24/15

Opened with prayer, traditions, concepts

Went around the room, name/service positions.

Regional concerns

Volunteer

Regional concerns

In the process of updating and cleaning up our guidelines, which were a mess.

We still have no regional subcommittees except the convention and policy

VRC was a huge success. We'll get a final report next weekend at our regional meeting

Na in May is scheduled for the first weekend in May. To register go to nainmay.org. With proceeds from na in may we subsidize the cost of the BT and sell it for \$5

Although we have for as long as i remember rotated the regional meeting to the Vrc host city twice a year, the RCMS voted to rotate even more. So starting with our February meeting we will rotate to the different areas within the region and see how that goes... At least in 2015.

Louisiana region – swat team came and arrested someone

Show me - - lots of workshops at their regional meetings.

Few positions open; trying to file taxes for the first time ever.

Lonestar – reinstitute workshops into regional meeting.

All positions not filled. Gap with people stepping up to do service. One area has adhoc on SSP... moving away from a business for business sake meeting - to finding solutions based meeting.

Region is financially stable. Lonestar convention enables region to move money to NAWS and SZF.

Homegroups doing well, although a lot of splintering - new groups starting.

People from areas ask “what do you do for me” but they won't say what they need. H&I has a lot of women going into women's facilities, men, only has one carrying the load.

Red River – doing a lot – maintenance on policy and services, cleaning out the cobwebs (spring cleaning). When bringing info back do we keep it to ourselves or workshop it throughout the region....

RCMs and GSRs working on that. Participated in recent PR event... helping the public get more informed. Used PR info from MZSS.

South Florida

Looking into the possibility of joining the Southern zone... others in the SE zone not pleased. Maybe look into merging the 2 zones. South Florida is an awesome region. Working jointly with other Florida regions – statewide meeting list. Last region – sent \$1000 to Latin America zone. Set aside \$3000 to work with Tanzania region for translations – if they can find a method under current Lit translation

process to do that. Lots of elderly people in recovery in S FL. Florida is also working on this. Looking into possibility of joint convention. S FL very international region.

Tejas Bluebonnet – few vacant positions-not many. Not doing well in PR. PR event coming up in Austin but they have no one doing PR in area, or region. Regional convention coming up.... Area convention scheduled a few weeks before in same city – causing resentment. Regional convention not met room block. Regional assembly coming up in March. RD had to resign, RDA stepped up midterm. Confusion about terms. Her last zone as RDA... group in Houston... hosting multi area lit review workshops.

Bluegrass Appalachia – trouble is growth. Eastern KY. new area – first function valentine’s day. Another area split... they’re splitting because of growth... growing like wild fire. Too many Indians, not enough chiefs. Lucky if they have quorum at the area meeting. Unity day back in summer – lot of fun. They need “one” website for meetings in Kentucky. At upcoming assembly - Writing to inmates workshop, service commitments workshop.

Kentuckiana – brought donation to SZF. Subcommittee positions not filled. Web master/convention chair is it. One area asked for workshop about SSP. Less animosity between areas. No interest in kentuckiana to unify with bluegrass Appalachia.

Arkansas – lost their ass in the regional convention. Don’t set budget from funding from projects. As areas and groups grow stronger – less for region to do. Region doesn’t do H&I or PR... they support areas if needed. Encouraging groups in areas to work on Meetings, workshops, functions subcommittee support. Poorly managed websites suck. They have fixed the website problem. At region – if areas/groups don’t support the local committees – they will fail. Workshopping – what do you want your area to be? Business oriented or service oriented. If service oriented – what do you want them to be and how are you going to fund them. Sent out survey – on website.

Going around room to others...

Ron – H&I going into Angola prison- homegroup having fundraiser for literature for the prison. If inmates contact world – they will send them literature but it’s a process.

Members introduced themselves...

Kevin – RDA south Florida, Excited to be here. Their zone has a breakfast during symposium.

Fort Worth RCM – struggling financially. Disunity in area. Finding people to commit to service is a problem. They implement things they’ve heard from RD team. They get 15-20 minutes at first of ASC looking for solutions.

Stacy – most regions experience apathy it seems,same in hers. Stunned by addicts in meetings who have no idea there is any service other than making coffee. They found NA via helpline, H&I but still do not

grasp that someone had to answer the phone for them to be able to find NA. Struggles are with people, resources and not just financial.

Nicholas – money handler for region. Without an alternate. Felt under attack since he took the position. 20 people telling him how he wants it done. Last region finally got together and put some expectations in the policy – now it's clear. Major concern is he has no alternate. Concerns at area also. GSRs in area have no idea about what area's supposed to be about. Glad region is finally moving towards workshops so RCMs will have it to take back.

Ricardo – trying to put together FD team – putting all under one umbrella.... Statewide. At least convention – made \$22,000 before bills out. 530 registered. Room block 200. Next convention using suggestions Ricardo got from MZSS. Info gets bottlenecked. Skip rock on water or throw it and let it go down. Keep being diligent. If we don't do it, who's going to do it. We're all we got.

Lori – she just wants to cry – her area is so messed up. There are some People with time who know traditions. But many with time know nothing about traditions. She's area chair and exhausted. Already has things to take back... like workshops idea.

Doug – talked about traditions issues in his area (same area as Lori's) so doesn't get involved any more.

Mickie – GSR of lake area.

Technology (Lucy & Kory)

What is interest level: High

Lonestar interested in technology – save money, reach addicts...

Show me – they have used adhoc committee solely by using technology....

Only heard one person talking about this in his region.

Arkansas – several talked about it. He does it for business. Very helpful. Good thing. Talked about it as a Region. Also talked about how we could leave someone behind... don't assume everyone is as fortunate as we are. This would be good, at some levels. But not all.

Kentuckiana-Janeen/Mike – when RD can't attend – he could have been there... how many f2f, how many remotely? Didn't talk about using it instead of attending – maybe cut down on travel. Fantastic between KY and

BGA – lack of knowledge. Who do they train how to use it? Looks like plenty of experience on using it around the fellowship. Once people see you don't have to drive 4 hours to get there – they might be on

board. A lot of fear and lack of knowledge in using technology. At world convention in Philadelphia – guy from Tasmania was piped in on big screen. We just need to know how to do it

Heidi – convention planning, include more people around the region instead of just people in that area. Regional h&l and PR subcommittee meetings. At least regional learning day – used “gotomeeting” example – very small turn out... did similar to last zonal meeting. Kind of awkward but if she’s never done it before and figured it out – first skype meeting ever a couple nights ago. We need to be openminded...

Volunteer region - .25 a mile for subcommittee chairs to come to regional meeting. What we could do with this – getting FD teams going – no wear and tear on cars. No worry about hotel, weather. Great for networking. State is long. Long drive. Technology is like a train – either you get on or you get left.

Jeff – really good when alt delegate is technology sponsor.

Kevin – convention committee exclusively using web conferencing. Free conference call and skype both called.

Needs/wants – 1) long driving distance from one part of state to another. Strong subcommittee structure – if they could connect – they could bring in a few more voices. They’ve tried it limited...
Convention committee – doesn’t like to drive – they would embrace it. Subcommittee will benefit
2) regional workshops/webinars
3) zonal level. Open mind – break bubble –

Mike – barriers – if we were doing it today – how would be establish connectivity in this location?

In his neck of the woods – the majority involved their only internet access is a phone.... Some don’t even have that. Personal concerns – licensing – proprietary or open source – compatible with windows/linux. Likes non proprietary – cause free to adapt. Websites talked about in fellowship concerns. Most you can plug in a module that will do what these paid? Services do. Some of this is problematic....

Absence members, inter regional communication, use to teach, planning, remote speakers, increased geographic participation, webinars.... Anything not mentioned.

Show me – we could have an extra meeting for zone – how about April. Once we learn we can train.

Cathy – lack of communication bane of society. As tool to increase communication between meetings to start off... use it a lot at work. Real easy to not be engaged when you’re on mute. – some challenges – be on call but not be on call. Easy to forget.

What is our cost range?

Yearly if we were going to purchase – what could we spend....

Henry - Money fluctuates... currently budget has to do with travel. If its something the body wants – if the region wants to fund it – then the money will come.

Initially – try free first.... Conference call... needs to bring some value. If funded at zonal level – all regions can use it. Need to make sure it will be used.

Mike – we already have websites... zonal forum has one. We can work something out using chats, message boards... but that didn't seem to work out.

Where do we go from here? Adhoc committee?

Kory – 250-460 range.... Is that something that you feel your regions would step up and increase
KY – can there be 2 meetings going on at the same time.... On website – click here to enter meeting.
Some have break out rooms...

Sounds like regions are interested... but don't know what they need. This is an interest – we need to move forward.... Define what we need. Practice it. Get adhoc committee together...

Arkansas – thinks it would be good thing. Doesn't know how it happens he just pushes a button.

Handout confusing....

MZSS – each workgroup used their skype account. Will need calendar – reserve spot.

Bluegrass would support – sounds encouraging.

“sell it to the region” one of talking points – allow assessibility to knowledge and less travel expenses.

Cost split between regions....

Adhoc committee – will talk about in business session... if we move forward – using one of the forum meetings.

I would put this portion in the minutes.... Instead of all the comments folks said...

Web meeting and technology discussion

Interest level

Yes

Technological obstacles

Who teaches?

Suggested uses

- Absent members can use
- Inter regional communication

- Use to teach web use
- Convention planning
- hrp and PR meetings
- Remote speakers and presentation
- Increase geographical participation rather than local participation in discussions
- Webinars
- Increase number of meetings by supplementing with a web meeting
- Increase communication between meetings

Questions of access

Do we provide access?

When would we do it and how?

How do we go forward?

We need to also teach how to act on these meetings

Can it be used by more than one group at a time?

Simultaneous meetings

Costs

What can we afford?

If the regions increase donations we can do it

Ad hoc committee - yes

Disruptive and violent behavior....Ricardo & Glenn

Started with a reading from our literature?

What is disruptive behavior...

Handout – “What is disruptive behavior”

3 scenarios – divided into groups to come up with solutions. Read over the disruptive and violent behavior SP.

*See Attachments”

Traditions... Janeen & Rob

Background... (8)

Grouped up and each did 2 tradition mini’s. Traditions 7-12

Information/Session Profiles found at: www.na.org/?ID=trads_project

See Attachment

Business.... Part accomplished on Saturday

Scott has flyers for tomorrow – 10 rooms reserved – not far from airport – Lexington. Crown plaza - \$91

Buffett in morning (free)

Topics for Summer 2015 SZF:

Unity (come together) Heidi (if she's still here/Stacy /Ricardo)

How to chair a meeting, how to deal with old timer that thinks he's not an equal. –Mike/Scott/Marvin

Welcoming all members/DRT Rob/Janeen

Tshirts, send Henry design and size options. Do you need seed money? Yes. Shirts will be tie- dyed.

38 shirts. "Large is the new small"

Pat P – SZF to submit his name for World Board.

MZSS: All Regions within the SZF would like to see MZSS happen again!!!!

SUNDAY

Treasurer's report

We have an EIN # and a new bank account...

Randie will send spread sheet...

If you want to mail a donation...

Randie Benno's new address

159 Merritt Rd.

Hunt, TX. 78024

SZF Minutes from Fall 2014... read and accepted them.

IS timeline on website, can't find? Answer, Timeline has not been posted. Once it has been adjusted it will be reposted

Flyer for July? Will be posted to website.

Request to send contact list with minutes

Regarding website – email steve webservant@szfna.org to include flyers etc?

Idea to have a virtual workgroup to talk about website expectations, what we want on it, etc...

What RDs/SZF participants willing to serve on this virtual workgroup? Stacy, Mike, Janeen, Kristin – figure out how you're going to put it together – when meet, how meet, etc...

South Florida has requested to officially join this zone..... Much applause. Would like to wait to be added to our website until they let the F. Symposium know
This means S Fl will be in rotation....

Timeline...

Bluegrass – July 2015

October – Arkansas 2015

Need to add Show-ME back....

After Arkansas – Kentucky.

Dickie is redoing the schedule.... Will address during our Virtual Meeting “trial” in April

Present to virtual meeting in April , Are we really doing this? Yes

We’re on a quarterly basis, but miss the April meeting....

MZSS was Show-Me’s time.... To host

If we’re going to add S Fl – they would be under them.

If Multi -Zonal goes back to St.Louis, - take into consideration...

What do we want the zone to be?

Participate in direct services, like a PR event when the zone meets? Opportunity for more direct services. Educational Forum-what we already do.

Enjoy the workshops... how do we get more involved? Would hate to see us change Saturday format.

Zonal representation...

Learning tool for RDs and exchange info between regions.

20% of our member regions are not seated and likely will never be (zonal representation)

Could be zonal representation, zonal representatives will take voice for all regions...

I’m from a region that wants more regions seated, not less. Would like to see Discussion of conference issues – GTWS, minutes, etc... using webinars (Area H&I, etc) regional admin, regional admin network using online tools.

Once we get practice using webinars, many possibilities arise. We can reach really far.

Benefits of zone? Coming here as AD made a big difference. Training here is invaluable.

Issues with PR in region (and areas).... S FL has strong PR presence. Coordinate exchanges between strong H&I/weak H&I regions.... Exchange of experience.

MZSS coming to St. Louis area – those who were there from St. Louis it was a great experience.

Build up the ESH coming from Zone to the region we are attending and invite the area (region) to come participate.

That’s what we do in asking for topics from the hosting area/region.

Are we asking the right questions to RCMs of needs in area.... Send back to area to get list of topics...

Big part of communication is listening to our member’s issues and helping them understand there are solutions. When RCM’s tell us about issues and we find an opportunity to help them.. Just asking them what kind of workshops doesn’t connect with helping them with what problems/issues they are having. We can offer solutions.

Dickie – we’ve been languishing so long. We need to hit the ground running, like with timeline. Kory wants to do virtual thing – he’s excited about it. Plains zonal forum does a PR presentation on Friday. If we’re going to do that – we need to remember that much of the regions are rural (no airport).

We need to sacrifice.

Going to Lexington, if a few came early – could they put together something in a rural place and car pool out there.... Kentuckiana will talk to Scott with Bluegrass – maybe Friday night?

Talked about secretary not coming – if secretary doesn't come that opens up the funds. RD/AD would be responsible for minutes.

Virtual meeting in April – who is the moderator?

Kory suggests skype. Agenda coming through Henry

Small group meeting virtually in March with Kory. (21st)

Jeff on small group adhoc that will meet in March...Kevin, Cathy, BJ, Lucy

From Kory – in march meeting. Need topic.... What needs? Program? What types of setups?

Discussion board or chat with video?

Different members to research different programs.

Decide which program to use

Train the trainers – assign them some RDs RDAs to help them log on?

Date/time for April meeting? 4th Saturday, April 25, 2015, between 10am and noon.

Inconsistency in guidelines – one says people coming for position don't have to be present..

When looking under the position, it says they have to be present. Kristin will send out updated guidelines.

Willingness for facilitators done at this forum...

Henry willing for another term.

Taping at next forum...

Anyone object? none

Dickie charges forum \$200 and gets \$25 per CD set. Forum pays for secretary set.

ILS, Kristin and Lucy ☺

Special thanks to Lucy for assisting in taking minutes. Between Lucy's notes and my "pen to paper" old school notes we were able to get the minutes completed!!!! Please remember if you are presenting workshops, send a copy via email to secretary@szfna.org or kdpooker@sbcglobal.net. Thanks ☺