

MIDWEST ZONAL FORUM

October 16-18, 2009

Stevens Point, WI

Saturday – Workshop Session 1 and 2- “Rural Recovery” from: 12:00pm – 2:15pm (75+ attended first session and 50+ attended 2nd session). MZF business 3:00 The Servants Worker’s Prayer, a moment of silence, the reading of The Servants Worker’s Prayer, introductions, 9th Tradition, and reading of the 9th Concept - **Sunday** the Zonal forum began at 10:00a.m. with a moment of silence.

Roll Call: All regions were represented by a RD, RDA, or both except Michigan. All trusted servants were present.

II. MZF-TRUSTED SERVANTS REPORTS:

A. **Co-Facilitator I:** I forwarded the nomination of Marc G for WSC Co-Facilitator to NAWS Human Resources Panel. I worked with Bill, Derreck, and Jason on the Rural Recovery workshop format. We also decided to do the second workshop on Building Communications. We are using the format developed by NAWS. I continued to monitor the plans for the CAR Workshop to be held in Chicago in early February. Grateful to serve, Louis H

B. **Co-Facilitator II Report:** I apologize for not submitting a written report for the July MZF minutes. I will get better at that. To summarize my July ’09 report; I hadn’t done anything worthy of reporting. However, I needed to make amends for some irresponsibility on my part during a previous MZF participation in the year 2000. I was an out-going RD, responsible for hosting the after conference MZF and providing hospitality. I set up the meeting (only a one day MZF) and after everyone showed up and the meeting commenced, I left. I’m sure business was conducted just fine but some folks travelled great distances to be there and I left them to fend for themselves.

This irresponsibility had weighed heavily on me for nearly a decade. I came back to the MZF in January of ’06. The forum, in their immanent grace allowed me to come back and participate, even entrusting me with the checkbook for two years as Treasurer. Never have I experienced such profound forgiveness and acceptance as here in the MZF. It is with this application of spiritual principle that I humbly serve in gratitude for what NA has given me.

As far as what am I doing now, I did send Blynn some input on the Service Profile project, and have prepared for the WSNAC workshops. Grateful to serve, Derreck K.

Questions/Comments: None

C. **SECRETARY:** Minutes went out. Mailing list has been updated. No copy and mailing expense this time. Purchased a flash drive to store all MZF documents.

D. **TREASURER:** Treasurers Report: Not much to report. The only thing we have left to do with the change of MZF administrative positions is to add Dianne Halverson as a signer on the account so I have the signature card. I condensed the paper report to only include the current conference cycle. I will have some other things to discuss during the topic discussion on the revised financial guidelines. I am requesting reimbursement for lodging: \$100, travel, copies. In loving service, Blynn E. **WEB CONTACT:** Midwest Zonal Forum Web Report October 18th, 2009 Hello Everyone,

As most of you know, our new MZFNA.org site has finally gone live since the last meeting. Our site currently has over 70 registered members. Our site has the ability to protect certain downloads to prevent outside individuals from gaining access to our minutes or other information we want to keep internally. In order for this to work, we have to establish user accounts with access to download. This becomes a challenge, as we don’t necessarily know who each new user is at the outset. For this reason, we have setup a request form for users to ask for access to the download area. It’s an internal messaging system so we know for sure the username attached to the account in question. So far it seems to work well. We can setup different roles for different access is needed but right now we seem to only need one role which either gives you access or not.

We put last set of minutes on our website, but our website needs to be updated with all the previous minutes if we want to make them available. As we mentioned, all minutes are protected from just anyone downloading them. A user needs to be part of the download group of the site. The other download areas for flyers and workshop materials are open for anyone to view. We have also created some discussion boards on our new site. The discussion boards have seen a little activity. If you want to be involved with any of our discussion boards, you can subscribe to certain threads. We did receive a request from Bob to put up a History discussion board. We have done this and set Bob as the moderator of that forum. We also setup a web discussion board to facilitate discussions regarding our website. This will be a good place for the web committee to give feedback and request new features etc. Additionally, we might want to create a place for RD’s and MZF officers to upload their reports and other relevant information.

I’ve also created a mail alias for the secretary. Email sent to secretary@mzfna.org forwards to our existing secretary’s email address. This makes it easier for RDs and other to send on their reports after/before the MZF business meeting. We might want to also consider other mzfna.org emails based upon roles of individuals. For example, co-facilitators@mzfna.org might be a good alias to create.

Site Analytics

We have been tracking the activity on the site since its inception. The traffic to the site continues to grow. From July 27th to Oct 14th the site receive 2,376 unique visits. The majority of the site traffic comes from na.org, with a smaller percentage finding us through Google and other search engines. On average we have 30 unique visitors a day.

Mailing List

The mailing list is also setup and ready to use exclusively. The secretary can fire off the minutes to the mzfmembers@mzfna.org email address and everyone will receive the email. To subscribe to the list send an email to mzfmembers-subscribe@mzfna.org. Alternatively a person can unsubscribe by sending an email to mzfmembers-unsubscribe@mzfna.org. You can only send messages to the list from the email address you signed up with. In Service, Joe Y. Questions: List link to offices within zone? Size? 20mg on attachments. Registering. Minutes posted as draft or after approved?

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III. REGIONAL REPORTS:

A. CHICAGOLAND: Midwest Zonal Forum 16-18, Stevens Point – Wisconsin, Greetings from Chicago land Region: Since the last Zonal Forum, we have had only one Regional meeting in September. Our August regional meeting was cancelled because of the Regional picnic which was held the same week-end.

We are implementing the recommendations from our Audit. We have come to a conflict in regards to who the Financial Manager should be. The Region placed our past Treasurer in that position, and the Board believes it should be a Broad Member, so this is still being worked on.

Convention: We have started an Adhoc Committee (July 2009) to find out the feasibility of the Board of Directors to take more responsibility in regards to the Regional Convention. The Region will be voting on the recommendations direction of the Adhoc Committee next week. We have asked the Convention Committee to have flyers for the Convention and they still do not have them. They claimed they would have them at the next Regional Meeting in October.

Chicagoland Website: The Rd Team now has its own web page on the Regional website at Chicagona.org, which contains NAWS News, Midwest Zonal Information & links.

Car Workshop 2010 We have locked in the date with the Hotel, Hyatt Regency O'Hare and contract is signed. Rooms are already being booked for this event. If anyone has any questions please see Kathy (RD) and or Remy (RDA) with any questions regarding the CAR in Chicago. Event at Workshop: Super bowl Party on Sunday or Social on Saturday. We have had NAWS confirmation, they will be attending, and who is still pending. Chicago is a great place to visit during the Fall and Winter, please come out and attend some of the great events, located on our website – www.chicagona.org. Kathy B – Chicagoland RD, Remy M – Chicagoland RDA

B. METRO DETROIT: Hello Family, Greetings from Metro Detroit. We are doing ok. Still looking for better support (Manpower and Financial). Our Convention is over the Thanksgiving weekend at the Marriot in downtown Detroit (hope I see you there). Our World Unity Day function was lightly attended, but those that did attend were very pleased. Louis was awesome. Our office has seen a 20% down turn in sales and our region is down 50% in donations in the last 2 months. Our office is now online and accepting business. Dave is still recovering from his lung surgery – doing great. In loving service, Gene D & Dave C.

C. GREATER ILLINOIS: Greater Illinois Region Regional Delegate MZF Report October 18th, 2009 Hello Everyone, The Greater Illinois Region is gearing up for our 13th annual convention to be held at the Decatur Conference Center November 20th and 22nd. We have even allotted time for a dedicated MZF sponsored workshop. The workshop can be on any topic. Our Region will be talking with a member of the sponsorship program from the ShowMe RSO. They'll be giving us more information on their policies and procedures for handling a behind the walls type sponsorship program. The representative should be at our December RSC meeting.

There was talk at our last Region about creating our own TV PSA. We would like to ask the MZF if they would be interested in helping in anyway. We have a PI committee in a member Area that would lead the project, but we're more than willing to work with other PI committees within our Zone to create a truly great TV PSA.

As the RD, I've asked each Area to bring a contact list for their groups. This list would enable me to call the GSR, GSRA, or the group contact to invite them to our CAT/CAR Workshop. By placing a phone call to each GSR, we're hoping to stir interest in a sometimes overlooked part of service. A personal call can also give the added touch of accountability.

GIRCNA XIII, Decatur Conference Center , 4191 W US Highway 36, Decatur, IL 62522, **November 20 - 22, 2009**

Region's new mailing address in case anyone missed it prev. Greater Illinois Region , P.O. BOX 973, Springfield, IL 62705

Summary Our Region has most positions filled at this time, with attendance around 15 to 20 members at each meeting. Our RSC meeting is well attended and continues to rotate quarterly to our five member Areas. In Service, Jason F. Reg. Delegate

D. INDIANA: Greetings from the Indiana Region,

Our Region is working on funding as many people for the multiregional car workshop as possible with extra hotel rooms or per diems. I have 4 women in my room already.

I will be ordering 30 cars for our region as soon as they are made available. Our vacant positions are vice-chair, treasurer elect, P.R. and Lit chair. We do have nominations for Lit and vice-chair. I have preregistration flyers for ISNAC march 12,13,14, 2010 in Merrillville, IN. In Loving Service Wendy H. RD

E. MICHIGAN: Hello family, I am sorry that the MI region did not attend the meeting in MN as we felt the benefit was not greater than the expense of getting there.

The MI region currently has 13 areas, 247 grps, holding 350 meetings. We finished our regional inventory questionnaire and are in the process of the fellowship answering them and getting the info back to us. The question was asked weather the regional body alone should fill out the survey, but it was decided to have as many voices heard as possible so we included a section for the home group member. I have attached the questionnaire to this report.

Our convention in July actually lost money this year (less than \$30) which primarily could be traced to the expense of the entertainment vs. the number of addicts attending said entertainment so this year the registration price has gone up \$5 and the entertainment is included with the registration. We are also looking at having a lower priced barbecue instead of a banquet to encourage more people to attend that function as well.

Our February regional meeting will be held the second Sunday rather than the normal first so Les and I as well as any other regional member will be able to attend the CAR in Chicago. Looking forward to seeing you all then. ILS Dave T

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Regional Inventory

RCM's may decide to send this to home groups in their Areas or simply answer the questions themselves using the 1 - 5 scale such as:

1. Not at all
2. Needs Improvement
3. Adequate
4. Outstanding
5. Excellent

When the numbers are totaled for each question, the Region can see what most needs improvement, and what is working well.

How well does the Region serve the Areas?

How well does the region communicate with areas? _____

How well does the region respond to the needs of areas? _____

How well is the region managing the funds entrusted to it? _____

How well does the region mentor its trusted servants? _____

How well does the region encourage areas to ask for help? _____

How well does the region assist areas with public relations issues? _____

How well does the region foster communications with areas? _____

How well do RCM's improve that communication? _____

How well does region assist areas in outreach? _____

The following questions are to be answered in a paragraph or two.

What function does region provide other than putting on a convention?

Should the convention be held on a holiday weekend?

How can the region improve the way information is passed on to areas?

Should the regional meetings be held quarterly rather than bi-monthly?

Should the regional body host more workshops/learning days?

What suggestions/solutions do you have?

For the Home Group Member

What is the regional body's primary function?

How well are you informed of regional activity?

How well does information flow from areas to home groups?

How well does the regional body serve the areas?

F. MINNESOTA: October Minnesota Report to the MZF 10/17/09--Since our last meeting our RDA Caleb has been legitimized by the Region in a number of ways perhaps the most important is his presentation of the "Our Freedom Our Responsibility" workshop to our newest ASC, The Voyagers Area in International Falls. It was a great success and the ASC wants more. The additional support we have received is by unanimously approving RD & RDA travel to this weekend in Stevens Point, in February in Chicago and our RDA going to the WWW in Boston. So things have changed somewhat. MNNAC XVI donated over 13000.00 to the Region which has generated extensive budget discussions. This is an unprecedeted donation and we need to be cautious to not expect it routinely. Despite our desires donations to the MZF have not made the budget. I will be able to motion for such donations in the future.

Speaking of MNNAC, MNNAC XVII will be in Mankato once again and will the GREATEST MNNAC ON EARTH, April 16-18, 2010. We have flyers here and will have registration and pre-convention merchandise available on Sunday. MNNAC XVII 2011 will be in St. Paul, MN (Area Of Hope).

The Region is undergoing projects in the areas of Professional Conference table sitting, ER/ University literature distribution, CD Business cards, Living Clean literature development, Predecessor re-engagement, web-site redesign and meeting list needs. The project based Region is working through its bugs, yet seems to be going well.

Our Minnesota GSR Assembly is scheduled for March 27th in an Area that has been struggling yet is emerging as a strong participant, WEE Are Here northwest of the Twin Cities. With this, the Assembly will be in a project form and will include the CAR reviews and Area visits. I would like to remind this body that Minnesota held the 1st ever GSR Assembly in NA history. We look forward to the implementing the Session Profile and workshop on Rural NA Communities. The workshop at WSNAC seemed to be a huge success. We support the NAWS donation of \$150.95. The Minnesota Region is grateful to be a part of the MZF. See you in Chicago!JJ-MNRDCaleb-MNRDA

G. OHIO: Ohio Region Midwest Zonal Forum Report Oct. 18 2008, Greetings from the Ohio Region, Our last quarterly meeting was held on October 4th & 5th. 13 of our 14 areas attended. We have all trusted servant positions filled except vice chair and vice secretary. Since the forum's last meeting we held our state convention OCCNA XXVI in May and our annual 12 Step Spiritual Retreat last weekend. Both were well attended. We ran into a problem at the 12 step retreat. We always rent the campsite in the 2nd weekend in October. This year the contract we signed was for the 3rd weekend and another group had the campsite for the 2nd weekend. This wasn't known till we showed up Thursday to unload for the weekend. Flyers with the wrong date had been distributed throughout the year and pre registrations were taken. We were able to meet a compromise in which we rented another campsite for the other group. While the cost of the additional campsite will affect the money retuned to the Ohio region the event was successful and a learning event for all.

We held a leadership workshop at our July regional meeting and will be doing similar workshops at our area's ASC meetings. We also are getting a good response to doing IDT workshops in our areas during this conference cycle. Our areas are still experiencing a lack of trusted servants and we hope these workshops will be a start to solving this problem.

We are seeing a need for better communication in our rural areas that include several small towns. Two of our metropolitan areas are divided on issues that threaten their unity. One area is looking at metro type division. We had one area split which

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resulted in an area with two meetings. We would like to know if any regions have any requirements that are recommended for forming a new area. We have five areas that are less than ten years old. Their rate of growth varies and we as a region are becoming more supportive as a resource. We hope to receive some strength, hope and experience on this problem this weekend. Our regional H & I and PR subcommittees are active. We are holding workshops, doing conventions in prisons and presentation for the communities in our region. We have a \$100 donation. In loving Service Dale W RD and David L RDA

H. WISCONSIN: WRSC Report to the Midwest Zonal Forum. Greetings Family,

Welcome to Wisconsin and WSNAC. Chris won't be able to join us and sends his regrets. We'd like to thank the WSNAC BoD and Host Committee for their cooperation and service and for being so gracious in hosting us. We'd like to thank you all for your encouragement and participation in the Rural Recovery workshop. This issue is rising up to meet us. We hope you all got something from it you can take home with you. The ideas and tools we develop here and in your own Regions will help us all in our efforts to better fulfill our Primary Purpose of carrying the message of recovery to addicts and establish new meetings in our rural areas. We filled 2 service positions at our last RSC. We now have an H&I chair and a PR chair. We are still discussing the funding of Trusted Servants, and are looking forward to the discussion tabled from July. Your experience in this area will be most welcome. We have developed a timeline for facilitating CAR reviews with both the RSC and the Areas. Scheduling for Area CAR reviews will begin in November. So far in 2009, we have 15 new meetings. Growth in rural areas has been much slower than the growth in urban areas. Several of our 16 member Areas are dealing with declining membership, Group representation, Area participation, and Regional participation. Some of these Areas may no longer be viable in the near future. The Greater Milwaukee Unity Convention (GMUCNA) will be held in Milwaukee on February 12-14, 2010. Please check our website for additional information. Fliers are here at the convention. The Rock River Convention (RRCNA) will be held on March 12-14, 2010. Further information will be forthcoming.

It is an honor and a privilege to serve., Chris K. (RD), Bill O. (RDA)

IV. SUBCOMMITTEE / ADHOC REPORTS:

A. SERVICE PROFILE Discussion pursued about the service profile form and guidelines. The purpose is to have a pool of people who are qualified for various types of service. Guidelines were approved. Service Profile Guidelines (These will be added to the revised Approved Guidelines)Any member of Narcotics Anonymous within the member Regions of the MZF may submit a service profile.

At least one reference must be a member of the MZF at the time of submittal.

The trusted servants of the MZF will be responsible for checking the references at the time of submittal.

The secretary of the MZF will be responsible for maintaining the profile records.

The records will include the profile, the notes from the reference checks, and a brief synopsis of the candidate's qualifications by at least 2 of the current MZF trusted servants.

Any group, Area, or Region of the MZF may request suggestions for potential service commitments from the MZF.

The secretary will pull all potential candidates and provide their name, number, e-mail and the synopsis to the requesting service body.

Update and/or purge resumes every 5 years.

B. HISTORY- MZF Ad Hoc History Report In an effort to jump-start our stalled History Project, per our discussions at the last MZF we have implemented a discussion board to establish a dialogue among NA members interested in developing a comprehensive history of NA in the Midwestern US. As the dialog on the discussion board develops, we will get a sense of how NA history is being documented throughout the Midwest. Once we establish a dialogue, we plan to begin archiving electronic copies of current history information which has already been collected. Additionally, depending on how our conscience develops, we could package the information and post it on our website or store it electronically and make it available on request.

In order to facilitate development of this dialog, I will develop a list of specific questions and topics to post on the board. Over the course of the weekend I would like to receive input from MZF participants on the content of these questions.

Now that we have a platform to initiate our history project I will actively seek direction from the MZF regarding how to proceed. Please spread the word to NA history buffs in your regions, areas and local NA communities about the discussion board. There are a lot of members of the fellowship in the Midwest who have passion for learning about and collecting information about NA History. Our hope is to give people an opportunity to share information, and begin taking steps to develop a comprehensive history of NA in the Midwest US.

ILS, Bob M.

C. POLICY CHANGES – None

V. PRIORITIZE LIST OF TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

VI. BASIC SERVICES:

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Approved.

B. ELECTIONS. None

C. FINANCIAL DECISIONS: Approved \$25 for candy for the workshop. Approved cost for guideline draft copies.

D. NEXT MEETING:) February 5-7, 2010 at the Hotel, Hyatt Regency O'Hare in Chicago, IL

VII. TOPICS / DISCUSSION:

1. Mail minutes- yes, continue to mail. Blynn will do the July's since Dianne decided it was too hard right now.

Post minutes as draft-October will be posted as draft. The group was not sure if this matters so it will be discussed further in a work group.

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2 Links to office on website – This was a yes.

3 Regional trusted servant funding – Regions shared if and how their RCMs were funded to attend area service meetings. Will set up forum on MZF website.

4 Midwest Zonal Forum-Report to WSC 2010

Greetings from the Midwest Zonal Forum (MZF). We are grateful for this opportunity to share some information about ourselves, and our recent development, with the WSC and the fellowship as a whole. During the current Conference cycle, the MZF has continued its evolution from its humble beginnings as the Midwest Caucus in 1987, into an effective and dynamic service body. Our current focus includes:

- Providing an opportunity for discussion and exchange of information on problems and issues confronting NA – particularly in the Midwestern United States;
- Facilitating communication, cooperation and growth among regions in the; Midwestern United States and between the regions and NA World Services;
- Helping Regional Delegates prepare for the World Service Conference, by learning from each other, former delegates and other experienced trusted servants;
- Assisting local NA members and communities who have questions about NA service or how to handle challenging situations;
- Conducting workshops and learning days on various topics in NA service;
- Sponsoring multi-regional events with participation from NA World Services;
- Serving as a point of contact for public relations requests.

Current participating regions in the MZF include Chicagoland, Minnesota, Greater Illinois, Indiana, Metro-Detroit, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin. We also occasionally have visitors from other surrounding regions. We have no formal seating criteria. When a regional service body says they are part of our forum, we welcome their participation. Participation in the MZF is not limited to Regional Delegates, and RD Alternates. Any addict who attends has full participation rights at the MZF. Since our inception –at WSC '88—we have been able to remain a consensus driven service body. In other words if any participant is uncomfortable with a proposed decision, we do not implement it. Nonetheless, we generally find common ground and move forward, albeit slowly at times. We meet two to three times per year including an informal meeting that takes place at the WSC. The meeting at the Conference remains informal because many interested addicts from the Midwest U.S. would not have the opportunity to attend. We feel that to conduct business at this meeting would go against the spirit of our practice of allowing any interested addict who attends to have full participation rights at our meetings. Our other MZF meetings rotate from one region to the next. The MZF established a permanent regional rotation at our July 1999 meeting in Detroit, Michigan. We also formalized our trusted servant rotation at this meeting. We currently have two co-facilitators, a secretary and a treasurer, as well as a web coordinator.

During the current conference cycle, the MZF moved beyond its original focus of facilitating communication between the regions of the Midwestern US by hosting workshops to assist local NA communities, enhance leadership skills of trusted servants and further the NAWS mission by sponsoring issue discussions. The MZF had initiated this practice in the previous conference cycle, but on a much smaller scale. We have begun working with regional convention committees to have time set aside at conventions to host dedicated workshops in which no other convention events compete with our time slot. In addition, through careful planning and cooperation with hosting regions, the MZF has conducted successful “stand alone” workshops in Minnesota and Ohio. Attendance at these workshops has ranged from 80 to nearly 250 participants.

In other business, the MZF has revamped our website at www.mzfn.org. The updated site includes discussion boards which facilitate communication, problem solving and sharing information between meetings. It also contains an events calendar. The site has retained background information about the MZF, minutes from our quarterly meetings, information on our mission, guidelines and history, contact information and links to participating regions..

The next formal meeting of the MZF will take place on ...

The specific location will be posted on the World Services Calendar, as well as at www.mzfn.org

5. Written report from RDs and trusted servants – Bring 8-10 extra copies of your report to the meeting ☺

6. Financial Guidelines – A couple questions and some discussion took place regarding F6.02 reserves for travel and receipts for meals. Will approve later.

7. Iran convention email – decided not to do this as a MZF.

8. PSA effort between regions

9. WSC nominations – Louis for co-facilitator

10. Procedural Guidelines – There was a consensus to approve as presented by John H.

11 MZF Open Forum – having one so people can come and ask questions.

VIII. CLOSING BUISNESS