

MIDWEST ZONAL FORUM

March 14 -16, 2009

Merrilville, IN

Friday – no meeting. **Saturday** – Communications and Leadership Workshops from 11:00am – 2:00pm

Saturday the Zonal forum began at 3:05 p.m. on Saturday afternoon with a moment of silence, the reading of The Servant Worker's Prayer, introductions, 7th Tradition, and reading of the 7th Concept.

Roll Call: Saturday- All Regions were represented by an RD, RDA, or both. All trusted servants were present. 10-15 other participants present.

Sunday morning recovery meeting at 9:00am. MZF started at 10am or so.- Forgot to take roll call but most Regions were represented by an RD or RDA. There were a few other participants present at some point during the meeting. Read Traditions, Service Workers Prayer and 12 Concepts.

II. MZF-TRUSTED SERVANTS REPORTS:

A. Co-FACILITATOR 3rd ¼: Lewis. (Verbal) We passed policy last summer to send out flyers and agenda in plenty of time. If you did not get the flyer or agenda, your e-mail may not be correct or you are not on the list. I put together communications materials for the Saturday workshop. Maybe at GRCNA do their leadership workshop. Does this body think this is useful time? Lastly, began process of CAR workshop. We are looking at suitable sites. Maybe Hyatt, Chicago with free meeting space, however, it is not the cheapest place in terms of room rates and package deals. Still checking for other region activity conflicts.

Questions/Comments: How do I get on the mailing list? The Secretary will go over that.

B. Co-FACILITATOR 4th ¼: John (Verbal) Talked to Lewis a bit and looked over flyer and agenda.

Questions/Comments: None

C. SECRETARY: I purchased a computer and read over the guidelines. That was about it. Looking forward to serving. Hug, hug. Dianne-- Outgoing Secretary's report: I finished the minutes from October this week and have paper copies here. The minutes are not very thorough. I was waiting on reports people were supposed to send and I hadn't taken good enough notes to not finish them quickly. I will send electronic copies and mail any paper copies to people from the mailing list that weren't here. Also, anyone who ever attends a Midwest Zonal Forum is considered a member and will continue to receive the mailing list for as long as they want. It is our policy however to purge the mailing list approximately every 2 years. The minutes I send out will include a request that anyone that wishes to continue to receive the minutes should notify the secretary immediately. I have turned over all the MZF archives to Dianne, the new secretary. I am turning in a request for reimbursement of \$48.44 for copies and envelopes. I will turn in an additional request at the next MZF for postage and any additional copies that are required. Thanks for letting me serve, Blynn

Questions/Comments: None.

D. TREASURER: Derrick has brought me the treasurer's stuff and we have received the signature card from the credit union so we can get the proper signatures on the account after the election today. I will also have our mailing address at the credit union changed to Dianne's. Please let everyone know any contributions being mailed to the MZF need to go to Blynn Morris 5460 Low Gap Rd. Martinsville, IN 46151. I am turning in a reimbursement request of \$94.76 for lodging and travel. See the attached Check Register and Flow for the expenses and income up through the first quarter of 2009. In loving service, Blynn

Questions/Comments: Has all archives. Needs to make address change to receive bank statements. Q1 Are guidelines online?

A1 Yes. Q2 Is there guidelines when minutes should be out. A2 Standard is within a month. Guidelines say prior to next meeting. Comment: Adhoc should have been formed to audit books before passed on to Treasurer according to guidelines.

E. WEB CONTACT: Hello Everyone, As I mentioned in my last report, we hope to update to the MZF site. We still need access to the domain in order to make changes. We hope the MZF will consider moving the site to our servers. If we host the site, we can add features like a mailing list for the MZF, as well as implement a new website much more freely than using another server. We can, however, work on another server if need be. I host quite a few NA websites and charge a nominal fee for annual hosting (\$60 a year). I could donate it too.

MZFNA.org Site

The current design, as seen in the following graphic, needs improvement. We would take the existing content and build it into a Content Management Solution (CMS). The improvements would not only include graphical, but also allow the MZF to host a forum, contact form, and improved link structure.



At our Regional level, Jason took our outdated design and implemented a CMS. A CMS can prove beneficial because users can be assigned roles in the backend of the system. A username and login can grant them access to several features, like the

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ability to update articles (text of the website), install new features, and maintain permissions. This means a person could update the site without any extra software to download on their computer. It's a seamless solution used by many, many sites online. The best part? The open source solutions cost nothing. Take a look at the new Greater Illinois Site:

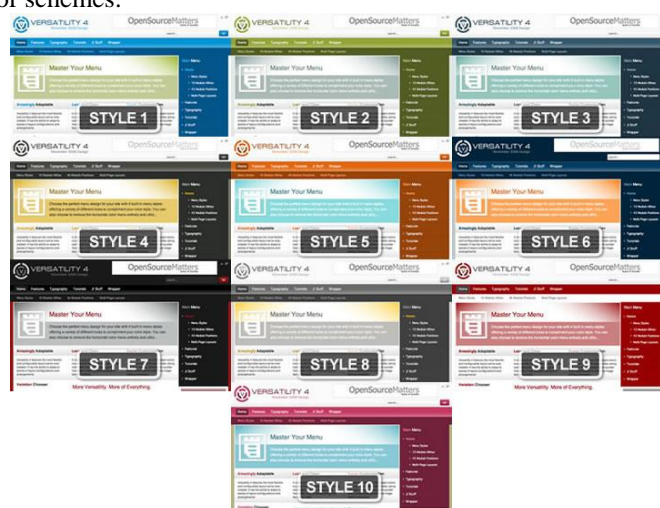


We can do something similar for the MZF site. We've put in a few themes we think might adapt well to the MZF motif. These are just suggestions, not final products.

Possible Template Layout for the New MZF site:



This can be done in various color schemes:



In summary, the site needs updated, but I do not have any access at the moment. If the MZF desires, the site can be hosted on my server. I can also provide a mailing list for members to use, so they could email service@mzfna.org to communicate with the entire group. I'm looking for direction and opinions on where to take the site, what steps to take, and whether a move makes sense. In Service, Joe Y.

Questions/Comments: Q1. What auth does the Web Contact have? A1. Committee has auth for layout, color or any formatting change. Other stuff must come before the MZF. John read a guideline. Q2 Can someone explain how we developed or established a Web contact and Web Servant as separate roles. A2 Because we needed someone who could come to the MZF meeting and tell us what was up but didn't need technical expertise. The WEB Servant needs technical experience but doesn't have to be at the MZF meeting. Q3 Who is my committee? A3 Send an email to list announcing meeting and agenda. Responding people is your committee.

III. REGIONAL REPORTS:

A. CHICAGOLAND: Greetings: The Chicagoland Region RD team has been very busy since Minneapolis.

Since our last Zonal Forum many new and exciting things have taken place within our Region. We have begun the process of unifying all of our regional service body's policies, into one complete document.

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The Region hired an Auditor, who checked all three of our accounts and made recommendations. We replied to those recommendations and set up a time frame in which to implement the plans. We consolidated our financial entities and have set up an Adhoc committee in order to put together a Financial Management Plan/Policy.

After the workshop in Minneapolis our team made a commitment to bring workshops to our regional service body and the Areas within the Region. The Region Purchased a projector so that the RD team could put together Power Point Presentations for the workshops and the other committees within Region could also benefit from the purchase.

On January 25, 2009, the RD team presented a brief workshop to the Region to give the RCMs an idea of what the workshops could teach their area members.

On February 7th, 2009 we facilitated a leadership workshop hosted by three of our areas. Not bad considering we have fifteen areas. Interest has peaked lately for workshops.

Chicago Regional Convention was successful and proceeded without too many problems. As with any large event we ran into difficulties, however they were handled quickly and professionally.

The weekend of February 28th the RDA attended the Worldwide Leadership Workshop, in Oakland, Ca., and received materials in regards to the new Literature Project – Living Clean – the Journey Continues, we how to put together a workshop to present this material to the Region, so that they can have input to this new, and exciting project.

We also need some input on putting together the CAR workshop in February 2010.

In Loving Service, Kathy B, Remy M, Chicagoland Region

B. METRODETROIT: Hello family, Metro Detroit is doing fine. We had a successful convention over Thanksgiving weekend. More than 1,600 addicts registered, with about 1,800 attending the main speaker meeting. The financial gain was small (\$3500) but the message was carried to all. We had three different New Years dances (different areas sponsored); all were well attended and the basically broke even financially. The region lost over \$3,800 and the RCMs decided not to sponsor a dance this year. We have distributed all the new SPs for comments to our areas along with the new book worksheets. Our service office is doing nicely. We make a little money every month (very little) and hope to be on-line shortly. We have had difficulty in merging our inventory system, credit cards and QuickBooks accounting system. We operate with one full-time staff, a part-time manager, a part-time staff and a VERY committed board that puts in about 24-32 hours per week, plus works. The conventions we vendor (Michigan, DACNA, Metro-Detroit, SWMACNA). We may start bidding on some out of state conventions in the future. Although we can't offer large financial incentives to these conventions, ALL THE MONEY STAYS IN THE NA FAMILY. Call the MSO at 1-248-544-2010 if you are interested. HOPE TO SEE YOU AT DACNA XVII at the Dearborn Hyatt over Easter Weekend APRIL 9-12, 2009. IN LOVING SERVICE, GENE D.

Questions/Comments: Merge inventory paper/online purchases- working with Quickbooks, adhering to laws, credit card charges- combine so one program keeps books/inventory of point-of-sale and online purchases.

C. GREATER ILLINOIS: Hello Everyone, Our Region has some concerns related to recent updates from the World, including the website changes and increase to literature costs. We've also updated our services to our member Areas.

New Domain Name-The girsna.org site works well for service members in our Region, but it really means very little for those outside of service. For this reason, we purchased www.centralillinoisna.org to host the Regional pages. The old domain, girsna.org, redirects to the new domain. The new domain should be used in place of girsna.org on correspondence, other NA sites, etc.

Updated Regional Website-We've changed our site to improve our PR image with the outside world. The changes include moving the site to a new Content Management System, updating the look and feel, protecting download areas, making changes simpler, and putting information into easier to find locations. We've already noticed an increase in Public Information requests. We also have changes to the meeting directory waiting in the wings. This would include integrating our meeting list with Google Maps, so members could see the location of the meeting, and push a button for directions, meeting times, etc.

New PO Box-Our Region has changed our mailing address. We no longer have the Peoria PO Box. We now have one in Springfield. Greater Illinois Region, P.O. BOX 973, Springfield, IL 62705

Concerns Regarding the MZF-Our Region recently gave \$200 to the MZF. As a request, we would like to see more transparency in the efforts of the MZF. If we're to continue supporting the MZF financially (and sending our RD/RDA to the meeting), we need to see how the money is spent and see the direction of the MZF more clearly.

New NA.org-Members of our Region expressed concern over how the WSO has handled updates to the website. We feel a focus group could have benefited the entire fellowship with the technology, graphical, and other improvements made to the site.

As our Regional webservant, I wrote an email detailing the problems with their new site URLs, change of links in general, and lack of input from the fellowship on technology related projects. We have many members in this Region and across the world with experience that could have been used at no cost.

My biggest concern was the awkward URLs, like <http://web.na.org/?ID=ips-index> rather than <http://web.na.org/na-literature.html>. The URLS should be something that makes sense to humans, at least. Also the change in the site's file structure should be done with great care, as many, many sites link and index NA.org, not to mention the harm it could do within search engine results. I brought all this to the attention of the webmaster and Board.

While I did not receive a response, our Region hopes the MZF members will back us in finding ways for us to improve communication in this area. We hope we can all agree to proceed with a motion for the next conference, or come together as a whole to push for more input in the process.

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Updated Literature Costs-The sixth edition basic text now costs \$11. Members of our Region question how the other fellowship can offer a larger text for less than half the cost. What drives the cost of our literature so high? Can we find a cheaper solution? We would also like to know if the WSO could make available a cheaper version of the English version of the Basic Text.

While we understand literature sales contribute a large portion of the NAWS operating funds, we would like to see cheaper alternatives for all literature, like IPs, White Books, etc.

Sponsorship by Mail-Our Region has been discussing the possibility of starting a sponsorship mail program for those incarcerated in our Region. The ShowMe RSO hosts a similar program in their Region. We're hoping to have a volunteer from their Region come to our June meeting to discuss the basics of this program. After we hear how its done there, we hope to have the support of our member Areas to begin the program in our Region.

Summary-Our Region had strong support at the last meeting – one week ago. The attendance was high, and many members stuck around for two workshops that followed. The workshops focused on training phoneline volunteers and sponsorship.

In Service, Jason F.,Regional Delegate

Questions/Comments: 1. Two MZF checks sent to Chicago. 2. Region wants more information from MZF. 3. The NAWS website transition did not require review or input from the fellowship.Q1 Does this body want to put motion together to present to NAWS that they have a focus group to transition to new technology? A1 Discussed as topic on Sunday.

D. INDIANA: The Indiana Region would like to thank the MZF for putting on the workshops. The Indiana Region is hosting a workshop on the area planning tool at the Crossroads Spring dance on April 11, 2009 in Kokomo. A new area is forming in Indiana. The Michiana area came to the last regional meeting but did not meet requirements to be seated as of yet and more will be revealed. Events are on the Indiana Regional web site <naindiana.org>. All nominations are open except RD, RDA, and Treasurer Elect. In loving service, Wendy H. RD

Questions/Comments: Q1 There is an area splitting near new area. Exchanged contacts.

E. MICHIGAN: Hello Family, First let me apologize for not being there in person. I was really looking forward to being there, but I had carpal tunnel surgery yesterday (Fri.) and don't think I would be worth much to anyone in this condition. I would like to introduce our RDA Les P. who is attending his first MZF and I know you will all make him feel right at home. The MI Region currently has 196 groups holding 313 meetings as well as 46 H&I meetings. Our last Regional meeting was held Feb 1st at which time we elected new admin. Positions. Our Regional convention has a theme which is "Silver Recovery Freedom XXV". It is of course our 25th annual convention and will be held at the Grand Plaza hotel in Grand Rapids MI July 2-5 2009. Anyone wishing to submit artwork for the t shirt design can still do so by either attending the planning committee meeting in Grand Rapids April 15th or sending it to the committee via electronic means by going to michigan-na.org/mrcna We do have a \$100.00 donation to this body and will be discussing a method of making a more consistent donation here. The feeling was that if we as a Region are going to participate at this body we should support it financially as well. I mistakenly endorsed the check to the mzf when I was cashing other checks, but I don't think it will be a problem to deposit it. Bob should be thrilled to meet Les as he is somewhat of a history buff and should be able to supply him with a lot of Washtenaw Area history at least. I will be attending a multi-regional learning day in Canton Ohio Mar. 28th. We were invited to participate to help them have the four regions needed to invite the WSO to attend. I am not sure if the WSO will be sending anyone or not. There will be several workshops throughout the day and a guest speaker in the evening. I imagine I will be seeing Dave and Dale there but who knows. I will see you all in Ohio in July either way.I.L.S. Dave T.

Questions/Comments: None.

F. MINNESOTA: Hello everyone at the MZF. My name is Caleb B and I am an addict. I am the new RD-A for the Minnesota Region of NA. If you need any contact information of me, please see JJ. Caleb Black, 421 North 18th Ave East Apt 2, Duluth, MN 55812, 218-590-9899. <bigdaddyman75@gmail.com>

I would like to report that our region has passed new guidelines and are officially a project based region. As a few projects that we are going to be working on is getting our Basic Text into libraries, getting literature to ER rooms and some are talking about making a new website with a secure chat room. We are talking about have a Regional Assembly soon and JJ and I are going to be putting on the Our Freedom and Our Responsibility workshop at that time. This is going to be a new experience with us going project based but we felt as a region that this is the best way to go to start getting things done. We are very excited and energized to get things on their way. This is all I have at this time. JJ, take it away.

Thanks to the MZF for their support of our hosting them and NAWS in Minnesota it was fabulous. It was a huge success. We look forward to our full participating in the future of the MZF. Our Google map meeting list feature is the bomb and we have had nothing but positive feedback. We did have some problems with our web site but all seems under control as of the moment. Please visit www.naminnesota.org as we are redesigning and updating. There you'll find links to our interactive meeting list finder as well as a calendar of events and our recently passed guidelines.

As Caleb mentioned we did pass the project based regional reformation and will be having elections of our Fellowship Services Team (FST) on April. The Minnesota Region was able to donate \$22000 to NAWS in February. As a result of the lack of trusted servants and the advent of a Regional Report on the functioning of our Service Office the Upper Midwest Service Office (UMSO) no longer will be processing mail or web orders.

We hope to see you at :

MNNAC XVI April 17-19, 2009 in St. Cloud, MN

MNNAC XVII April 16-18, 2010 in Mankato, MN

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ICUC September 2009

Questions/Comments: Q1 What is a project based region. A1 No standing committees. Executive committee and project leaders meet 6 times per year.

G. OHIO: Greetings from the Ohio Region, We are looking forward to hosting the July 25th, 26th MZF in Columbus. Our request for World Service participation has been approved. We have flyers available to take back to your regions. We have been doing leadership workshops in our areas. They have been well received. With the July MZF doing three workshops "Our Freedom , Our Responsibility" , Living Clean project and Our Service System we hope to have good attendance from our region. We are extending invitations to The Buckeye and Tri State regions who have expressed interest in joining the MZF plus all the other adjoining regions.

Our last regional meeting was attended by 12 of the 13 areas. We also have two sub committees that meet (H& I and PR) on Saturday afternoon while we hold the RD/RCM meeting. The restructuring of our RSC with the sub committees is going well. Communication between the area subcommittee chairs is helping them to grow. Our region PR committee is doing a booth presentation at the National Alliance for Mental Illness conference in Columbus Ohio in May. These events are helping train our area committees to do similar presentations in their areas. Better public relations with the professional community in Ohio are needed. We are not looked at as a viable resource by some professionals that are more familiar with other twelve step programs. We are having a positive RSC experience quarterly.

Our areas are still experiencing trusted servant problems. Lack of participation and experienced members are two of them. We hope the leadership workshops will help with this. We had an area that was talking about splitting and it was along racial lines at our last RSC. We decided to hold a leadership workshop (Session One) and afterwards have a forum to discuss the problem with the RD and RDA facilitating... After the workshop members of the area took turns reading "Traditions One" from "IT Works: How and Why "in its entirety. You could have heard a pin drop when we finished. The literature humbled everyone" the ultimate authority" was present and the discussion was positive .The split was replaced by talk of unity and future cooperation by all who attended.

We will be having our 2nd Spring 12 Traditions Retreat at Tar Hollow State Park May 8 -10.

We have a \$100 donation. In loving service Dale W. RD and Dave L. DRA

Questions/Comments: Email workshop flyer with minutes.

H. WISCONSIN: Bill and I would like to thank ISNAC for hosting us today. The MZF will be meeting at WSNAC this year in October. As part of the MZF's participation at WSNAC, we have been working with the WSNAC host committee to develop a round table workshop for the MZF to present during the noon time slot. We will be proposing a session profile for this workshop for further development. Details, fliers, and an agenda will be worked out in the coming months.

The Wisconsin Region funds and attends several professional conferences each year. This year is no exception. In May we will be attending the Wisconsin Association on Alcohol and other Drug Abuse training conference in Oconomowoc. In June we will be attending the National Rural Institute on Alcohol and Drug Abuse in Menomonie, WI for the third consecutive year. This conference is particularly significant as it addresses the specific challenges to recovery in rural communities and the progress being made to overcome them. This is the 25th year for the Rural Institute, and only the third time Narcotics Anonymous has been present. The information we both get from and bring to this conference brings us all a little closer together. More specifically, NA is all but unknown in many rural areas and the professionals have little or no information about us. This conference gives us an opportunity to create relationships with these professionals and present a positive image of NA.

This ties in directly with the WSNAC host committee's request for a workshop focused on rural recovery to be presented at WSNAC by the MZF in a dedicated time slot. We are presenting a draft today of a session profile for a Rural Recovery Workshop for consideration. It is modeled after the Leadership workshop. It is designed to fit into a 90 minute time slot. The 18th annual Rock River NA Convention will be held on April 3-5, 2009, at the Cliff Breakers Riverside Resort in Rockford, IL. Further information can be found at <http://rragsna.org/index.html>.

The 8th Annual Journey's Convention will be held on June 12-14, at the Pointe Resort & Convention Center in Minocqua, WI. Further information can be found at <http://www.woodsandwatersna.org/index.html>

WSNAC, our State Convention, will be held on October 16-18, at the Ramada Inn & Convention Center in Steven's Point, WI. We look forward to hosting the MZF. Online registration is available at <http://www.wsnacna.org/index.htm>. You can also find a link to WSNAC on our Regional website at <http://www.wisconsinna.org/index.htm>.

That's all for now. It is an honor and a privilege to serve. Chris K., RD / WRSC, Bill O., RDA / WRSC

Questions/Comments: Brought meeting list. WI has enhanced search engine for meetings. We have been talking things over with WSNAC. Will give us 90 minute timeslot instead of noon speaker. They want workshop on rural recovery. Suggested the leadership model. Session profile handed out. Touches on traditions and concepts and presents questions, 11th tradition and some concept. Worksheet not worked up yet. Pg 4 is a map from our new search engine on the website. Challenges outlined at the beginning. How do we get meetings in the holes where there are no meetings. The map shows these gaps and holes. How do we get the info into the addicts hands, counselors hands? Needs clarification and are looking for input on what people think. Everyone said what Bill presented is great. Will give to secretary to handout. Will send out word and pdf.. No Friday meeting. Saturday workshop, 3 hour business meeting, Sunday.

IV. SUBCOMMITTEE / ADHOC REPORTS:

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A. SERVICE PROFILE – The form itself has been approved. Guidelines draft will be ready in July. Give input to Blynn.

B. HISTORY- In an effort to jump-start our stalled History Project, per our discussions at the last MZF we plan to establish an e-mail group to establish a dialogue among NA members interested in developing a comprehensive history of NA in the Midwestern US. I set up a “Google Group”, but after discussing the management of the group with our Web Contact, some potentially better options exist. Specifically as our website develops, we may be able to attach a group directly to the MZF website. Depending on how the MZF decides to update the site, we will determine how to proceed. If the site remains as is, I will go ahead and launch the Google list.

As the e-mail group develops, we will get a sense of how NA history is being documented throughout the Midwest. Once we establish a dialogue, we can begin archiving electronic copies of current history information which has already been collected. Then, 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. I will work in conjunction with the web committee and as the MZF site develops, and we launch the e-mail group, we will initiate an e-mail discussion to develop proposals for what to do with the history information we gather. ILS, Bob M.

Questions/Comments:

V. PRIORITIZE LIST OF TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION – We will do this after the planning is completed.

VI. BASIC SERVICES:

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Approved with changes.

ELECTIONS – Co-Facilitator postponed from last meeting. Read responsibilities. Q. Are there term limits? A. No.

Nominations: Jeremy, decline. John accept. Derrick- accept. Derrick is elected.

B. FINANCIAL DECISIONS:

NEXT MEETINGS: July 25 -26, 2009 Columbus Ohio (Workshop) -Crowne Plaza Columbus North, 6500 Doubletree Ave, Columbus, OH 43229. Comments: Free meeting rooms, no coffee, maybe free shuttle from airport. Fundraiser afterwards. Topics on leadership, living clean project from old timers, and the service system. \$99 for room. Has restaurant. If you have confirmation NAWS is participating they will bring all workshop materials. Everything is confirmed with NAWS. Things are shipped in advance. Hotel wants to know how many rooms. (10 to 20 rooms). We need to solicit this among regions.

General practice is that rooms are compted so it is self supporting. Friday night-informal to help set up workshop. Saturday-workshop from 9am – 5pm. Sunday – Business meeting 10m to 2pm (recovery meeting 9am to 10am)

October 16-18, 2009 Wisconsin-WSNAC (workshop) Bill. (Verbal plus handout) We have been talking things over with WSNAC. Will give MZF a dedicated 90 min timeslot instead of noon speaker. They want the workshop on rural recovery. Suggested using the leadership model. Session profile handed out. Touches on traditions and concepts and presents questions based on something, 11th tradition and some concept. Worksheet not worked up yet. Pg 4 is a map from our new search engine on the website. Challenges outlined at the beginning. How do we get meetings in the holes where there are no meetings. The map shows these gaps and holes. How do we get the info into the addict’s hands, counselor’s hands. Clarification /looking for input on what people think. Everyone said what Bill presented is great. Will give secretary the handout to send out. Would like input on the worksheet.

February 5, 2009 Chicagoland CAR / CAT workshop -. Still looking into a place. We would like to have a business meeting on Friday night. CAR all Saturday with the CAT on Sunday. Finish business on Sunday. Still in planning stage. Email Kath or Remy with ideas. Dates conflict with MI region mtg. Still the least conflict weekend of others.

VII. TOPICS / DISCUSSION:

1. How much do we give world? Expenses for yesterday’s workshop? Guidelines need updates and do not match our practices. Blynn-will come up with a draft of changes and send out before next meeting to be ready for a draft in Ohio. Per our practice, suggest 176.53. Need a budget that fits our expenses plus workshop costs to make sure what we send to world is appropriate. Guidelines say 10% plus....Practice is just 10% of our balance coming into this meeting. \$22??83. \$1800 left even after expenses and 10%

Consensus is to send to world 176.53.

Consensus that Treasurer will form an adhoc to put together financial guidelines for our next meeting.

Note: Budgets for workshops should be handed in ahead of time. Just turn in expenses for this time.

2. Registered Agent-John will continue to be the agent. John explained what it is.

3. Web-content/Web hosting- Suggested to change content maybe some history possibly reports maybe password protected, mailing lists. Put service resources on there. Workshop sheets as a learning tool so maybe areas can use them on their own. Also we want Google to be able to find us. Also use as resource within our fellowship. With guidance we will go ahead and work something up for next time. Comments– Minutes are suppose to be posted minus the mailing list. Discussions have taken place in the past without a consensus. Do we want our face to be just internal, external or both? Wants a proposition brought back. NAWS already has that; would it be a duplication of efforts. NAWS is complicated site. Should be in both so we have resources internally and its available to external. This body needs to see a proposal. Go ahead and do the formatting stuff. We can agree to change the host site and that should get you going so you can start making a proposal that this body can look at. We want it to focus mainly on inter-zonal audience. Peripherals are gravy.

No objections to changing the host. Boom. Done. No reason why he can’t set up email group and history group on the

hosting site. No objections. Done. Joe Y is the Web contact. He will set up a test website that everyone can look at. It will

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be internal but make it so Google can find us. Static website provides links so the maintenance is low Vs Active website. Show of hands of those willing to be on the web committee. Add list from Bob. Joe is comfortable.

4. NAWS Webpage

Greater IL – Review and input before NAWS changes the website that affects other website. If a motion can be established giving them some direction or inquiry, deadline is August 1st for region motions. Looking for MZF endorsement. Maybe come together in an adhoc to put something together to put in the CAR. Needs to go out to the RD's before meeting in July. The MZF is not a collective voice—need a consensus from the regions. We can present it as a forum only. The motion should be something that can be accomplished—actionable event or motion. Goal is to get them to look at the process they use to get the info to the fellowship. MZF can present nominees and give a report but not put a motion in. Conference Participant Board may be a way to get feedback. Maybe an online discussion to see if other regions are concerned. Each region could contact their BOD contact to say we have an issue with the process and that may be heard. What is the process to putting a motion on the floor? 110 regions total. We are 9 voices right here. What do I take to region from this discussion? Put a technology work group in place so less problems when it rolls out at the World. No expectation to take anything to their regions.

5. Guideline update

2 page of meeting format elections, 11 pages of financials with forms. Blynn taking care of. 1 page of committee guidelines. Suggestion: need to change how we meet 3 vs 4 times/yr— schedule and elections need to be changed. No consensus voting in the guidelines. Suggest John makes suggested changes and bring back. John will bring a draft. Rotation will not change even if new regions are seated at the MZF. Suggested that it be brought back to regions. John will put in draft first.

6. Derrick expenses

Proposed. Audited his expenses. Last quarter noticed that he had not been overpaid \$66.45 over what entitled to. Proposal will bring a check or won't ask for reimbursement one cycle. One thinks he should give a check and get reimbursements as entitled. Noted should represent what it costs so people should get reimbursed what their entitled so regions know actual cost. Consensus that Derrick pay the \$66.45. Secondly, discussion pursued regarding what should be allowed for reimbursements. Point made this discussion is the administrative staff only. Trusted servants can't be forced to turn in receipts. The drafts will be sent regarding the guidelines before next meeting. Even if \$\$ not used it should be a line item.

7. Goals, Mission, Priorities and Budget (workshop)

Article 3. of current guidelines read. Timelines for these things. In metro Detroit planning for next conference cycle. Now that we all like the workshop then we need to put new guidelines in place including budget. Each zonal forum we plan out 3 in advance and that works out better.

8. Basic Text Cost

Region wants to know why we can't have a cheaper version. Would have to be a motion in the CAR. AA produces millions- Hazelton publishes it cheaper than what NA can get. NA went to China to keep the cost as low as it is. AA is second most copies of book. \$11.00 is 50% less than a book of the same. The price is less for less fortunate countries. There is a NAWS sheet that knew what was happening and why the cost is what it is.

CLOSING BUISNESS

Bring nominations to the next MZF.

Do we want to have 2 plus car and then 3 the next cycle. Need to talk about next MZF. Would have to be a policy change. Length of terms – change to number of meetings instead of number of months. John will put something in guidelines.

Announcements and closed with a group hug.

MIDWEST ZONAL FORUM

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Saturday Leadership/Communication Workshop Notes

What Works in Leadership #1

- Raise awareness – need to bring in new blood – old timers need to get involved
- Service mentorship learning day service mentorship book from NAWS under locally developed resources (Santa Clarita ASC)
- Raise confidence in new members - allow them to reinvent the wheel
- Develop list of experienced mentors who can come back short term
- Flyers with bullet points of topics
- Food
- Rejected inappropriate candidates
- No elections “on the fly”
- 2-month process with resume
- Rotate Regional hosting ASC – interest is increasing, having workshops
- Gotten away from “good-old boy”
- Split and diversity of clean time
- Through sponsorship and mentorship

What Works in Leadership #2

- Making sure that every nominee understands requirements, expectations, responsibilities
- Everyone else understands the requirements
- Build strong home groups workshop with leadership triangle
- Participating in the link of communication sent by NAWS.
- Deliberately leaving positions unfilled

What Works in Leadership #3

- Using Area planning tool
- Anonymity in elections
- Group approval of decisions and reports prior to dispersal
- 4th concept reminders

Anonymity in Elections

- Body passes written question to facilitator to ask – “ask-it-basket”
- Send resume out to groups
- Ask question before nomination is accepted
- Open dialogue between nominees and the bodies voting on them
- Occasionally they may need to leave the room
- Two-cycle process between nominations and elections
- Have service resume and have nominee fill it out before the election
- Send nomination back to the groups
- Submit sensitive questions to body chair or facilitator
- Require nominee to attend 50% of meetings from previous year
- Have an HRP process (Human Resource Pool)
- Take breath before electing someone – slow down

Sponsorship and Mentorship

- Set-up guidelines with specific duties at group level – including alternate duties
- Service trainer available to go to committees or new people elected to show them tools, background, and anything that would help them
- Stop misinforming trusted servants about responsibilities
- Stagger elections

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Good Communication Practice

- Email – Website to distribute information
- Timely distribution of information
- Summary of events /cover page
- GSR mentoring and training through packet and experience
- Rotation
- Committee meeting on meeting list
- Group binder

Reports Do's and Don'ts

- Avoid Acronyms (alphabet soup)
- Spell check/Addition check
- Written report/oral report only?
- How to report problems?
- Do put where report is from and to whom it goes
- Standard format reports
- Report ahead of time
- Invite support

Strategies for Distribution

- Condense – Summary
- Learning Day
- Email tree
- Group consolidation
- Contact info for follow-up
- Bullet point – 1 page
- Divide Receiving groups
- Consider Audience
- Website
- Flyer table