

NEZF April 28-30

New England Region

Sturbridge, MA

Friday, April 28th

RD-A and myself arrived late (7:45am). We arrived during the reading of regional reports:

1. Northern NJ and Tri-State are currently not present
2. Greater NY would like us to buy literature from them
3. Northern NE has no standing sub committees at their RSC's due to a lack of participation
4. MRLE 15-17 2017 Courtyard Marriott, Manchester, NH (WB will be in attendance)

Website Report:

1. Proposed guidelines went out 3/22
2. There were two people assigned to the guidelines project, one person has stopped responding
3. Conversation shifted to PR/H&I services made available through the zone. What does the zone want to do? Provide information on the services that each prospective region provides? Should we share services? Should the zone provide info on how to perform PR presentations? Delegates shared their experience with successful PR moments. This appears to be turning into a best practices discussion so how can we make sure we share the information?
4. It was suggested by the Chair that we form an AD-HOC committee to figure out the best way to get PR info from regions onto our NEZF website? AD-HOC committee is currently , Nancy (NJ) Noelle(NE) Adam(NEZF Vice Chair)

Guideline Review

Since we had some time left over we decided to move forward on some of the proposed guidelines to the NEZF rather than have to work on them Sunday.

1. Section 4:Web Servant: approved
2. Section 4: item 2: approved
3. Group reports: Approved

It looks like all the amendments and changes that were presented at the NEZF were approved. Moving forward, the guidelines appear to be close to finalization

Decided to close at 10:15 due to a power shut off at the hotel starting at 11:30

Saturday, April 29th

Open Forum

Delegates shared their E/S/H in regards to a number of things happening in their regions, areas and home groups. I jotted down a few things that stuck out to me:

1. How do we make service more attractive to members?
2. What are we doing to attract new members?
3. What are we doing to keep new members?

Fellowship Development

This is the first workshop of the day. Noelle and James (NE RD-RDA) facilitated the workshop:

1. Noelle started by sharing his experience with the Greater Worcester area splitting from the Central Mass area. although the areas separated they have still found some benefit from sharing services.
2. Jamie V, member of the New England Region fellowship development committee, started by opening with some questions from the floor. While most areas and meetings are formed based on resentments sometimes a need for services emerge from larger, more rural regions. It is important that we are mindful of the splits and local fellowships and members need to assist and help serve the new/existing regions.
3. The regional fellowship development committee appears to be a vey god idea. I think that we as a region should really have a discussion about this. Not only can we assist areas/groups from a regional level, we as a region can also become visible to our areas/groups. some questions we should ask ourselves:
 - How many members in the WNY region even know that we are a level of service? Or that we even exist for that matter.
 - How many members of NA in your area even know what the levels of service are?
 - Have you ever hear anyone take offense with something at the home group level mention that they called the WSO to get some answers? Don't you think (know) that there is a better solution to that? Something a little closer to the source that might be able to help?
 - Why do regions/our region have to be built the same way as an area?
 - Why do ur ASC/RSC agendas always have to be the same?
 - Would it be possible for us as region to eliminate some of our standing sub committees, make some of them AD-HOC, turn the current AD-HOC committees into standing sub committees and develop/implement new AD-HOC subcommittees for consideration to develop them into standing subcommittees?

Promoting Unity

Second workshop of the day, this one was hosted by Don and Bill (NE Region)

- Large group discussion:
 1. What is newer members experience with older peoples experience in areas/regions?
 - Older members stop coming around
 - Apathy
 1. What is the older members experience with newer members?
 - A lack of direction by sponsors
- Small group discussion
 1. We were broken into small groups based on clean time. 10 years or more at one table, 10 years or less at another table
 2. After a brief ice breaker we moved into the first discussion topic: *how we work with people with less experience than us?*

Some takeaways from the first question of the round table discussion:

- Promote enthusiasm.
- Invite members to service commitments
- Make service attractive and exciting
- Too kind and gentle, stop shying away from the truth
- Ask for help when it's not needed.
- Older member are not being inclusive wether they know it or not especially on area/regional levels (no room for newcomers)
- Don't discuss cleantime
- Less experienced members always seem to be GSR's/RCM's which makes sense but what can we do to teach/mentor GSR's/RCM's

Second discussion topic: *How do you encourage/bridge the gap to combine the enthusiasm and experience we know are valuable?*

Some take aways from the second round table discussion:

- We quickly went around the table and mentioned one thing that we feel could connect all members
- More project based events, less long term commitments
- Share personal experiences versus what we are doing while we serve (workshops, conference rooms etc)
- Changing the language, making service appear more attractive. Share the fun of what we do.

Social Media And Technology: Applying Our Spiritual Principles

We started this session off with a large group session brainstorm:

What are some of the principles that come into play when using social media?

Here are some of the words that were thrown out to start:

- Anonymity
- Equality
- Integrity
- Compassion
- Unity Vigilance

After the brainstorming we moved into large group discussion about applying the principles while using social media:

1. *Have we had any success stories?*

- Members were able to learn how to moderate themselves in person based on carefully choosing their words on social media
- Making groups secret/private has been successful maintaining anonymity
- Social media can reach a larger amount of addicts, our information that we collect from various service commitments can sometimes get lost; sending info out as it happens keeps the flow of information constant
- Some members have experienced personal growth from interacting with various members from across the globe in Narcotics Anonymous

2. *What challenges to applying our principles have you faced using social media?*

- Maintaining anonymity
- Respecting others anonymity
- Tempering enthusiasm
- It's a distraction
- Not everyone is on social media

The small group discussion focused on providing a solution to the challenges that we encounter based on the level of service. How do we maintain our spirituality?

- Not being on social media
- General housekeeping
- Effective leadership (from our admins)
- Being each other's eyes and ears
- Understanding that we are serving in Narcotics Anonymous setting
- Having more than one moderator or admin on the pages to monitor unspiritual actions/behaviors

Sunday, April 30th

GNYR Letter- Discussion of illicit (alternative) literature

This letter addresses the matter of the NEZF meeting in November 2016 (Mid Atlantic hosting region) where non conference approved literature, Baby Blues, Gray Form were displayed and a non zone member monopolized the entire workshop by basically allowing these members to take up most of the time at the event. Delegates were adding their input including the conscious of their region. This letter is merely used to promote discussion to the zone, there is no action or bearing to the zone on this. At some point this became personal sharing and the hosting region seems to make this their problem that they seem to manage the best way they know how. The best we can equate this to is some meetings in our area working the steps out of the big book

Prioritizing Goals and Projects

New Jersey will be hosting the next region, we brainstormed what we should discuss:

1. Future of the WSC
2. Illicit (alternative lit)
3. PR presentation to professionals
4. Promoting the atmosphere of recovery

The body was undecided on which topic we would like to have workshopped. That will be discussed at the next virtual meeting

Next zonal forum: October 27-29 New Jersey Region

Non Funded Trusted Servant Report

- There was a roll off of \$325.00
- Secretary expenses of \$42.00
- There was a collection of \$100.00 from two regions (New England & WNY)

Sharing Session

- Next NEZF will start Friday at 8:00
- Do we want to conduct business on our virtual meetings? (Chair advised us to answer that during the next virtual meeting)
- Next virtual meeting: June 25th 3:00 pm

Meeting closed at 11:59 am on April 30th, 2017