

NEZF

Date: 6/15 – 17/2012

Friday, June 15, 2012

I. Orientation

Saturday, June 16, 2012

I. Roll Call/Introductions (12/13 present)

II. Minutes/Secretary Funding

a. No issues

III. Regional Reports

a. Q&A

i. Rewriting of Regional By-Laws (Why?)

ii. Insurance issues

iii. Literature Sales – no office – How does the Region handle sales?

iv. As our region rewrites its By-Laws, can we get shared info on the responsibilities of the RD and RDA?

v. How do we remove the names of the Regions no longer participating with the zone or no longer exist?

vi. Phonenumber/Helpline Issues – how are extra charges handle and why do they exist if it is a toll free #?

IV. Issue Discussion Topics

a. NA Conventions

i. Issues

1. How is it regions and areas continue to find it difficult to fill service positions, while convention committees fill the service positions?
2. Money management issues include the decrease of funds raised by the conventions. Conventions that were once raising significant amounts of income are now showing a decrease in raised revenue. Based on an independent survey by a member of the Zone, the reality of theft of NA funds associated with conventions is increasing, how is this being dealt with throughout the Fellowship?
3. Some convention committees hang onto the income and there is conflict between the service entities. How is such an issue being handled?
4. It is clearly evident that the number of conventions is continuing to increase. This increase is contributing to duplication of service events and is impacting the Fellowship as a whole especially regarding fund flow?

5. **What about the image of NA? Many venues don't want us back, why? How is it that we have arrived at a place in our Fellowship's development that has taken us to the need to bring in paid security before we would be allowed to hold our event at certain locations? See NA WAY**
 6. **The issue of convention subcommittee autonomy causes conflict. Many areas and regions have found that their committees are not taking direction and feel that they don't have to answer to the body that created it. There seems to be this belief that they don't serve the bodies to which they are responsible.**
- ii. Solutions**
1. **Use of a convention inventory (planning tool)**
 2. **Attend the planning stage – ask the tough questions before electing individuals to service positions**
 3. **Attend regular convention subcommittee meetings – hold the subcommittee accountable**
 4. **Think and act locally before reaching out nationally or globally**
 5. **Reduce spending regarding merchandise and registration packets – focus on the message of recovery and not paraphilia**
 6. **Seed the convention committee with members who have complaints – be part of the solution not a verbal response/not part of the problem**
 7. **Build awareness regarding the reality that the trusted servants serve and be clear and concise as to who it is that is being served**
 8. **Be inviting, send day registration packets to the areas or to the home groups**
 9. **Prior to the convention ask the areas/home groups if the convention should be a fundraiser or not. Use this as a starting point.**
 10. **Project Management needs to be applied – show up and be part of.**

(It should be noted that the discussion included a majority of the delegates sharing on the importance of conventions and the positive impact of conventions on personal recovery.)

V. WSC/SSP

a. Sharing Delegate Perspectives

- i. **Experiences ranged from the simplicity of the blessings of being part of the spiritual experience to the wow of being over whelmed and emotionally exhausted – words don't seem sufficient**
- ii. **Most definitely an historic conference**

- iii. CBDM seemed to lessen the voice of the regions – it was counter productive
- iv. Regional re-unification seems offensive, but is it really.
- v. It wasn't until you got involved in service work that somebody told you that personal recovery depends on NA unity and that unity depends on how well we follow our Traditions. Our common welfare should come first and that welfare is the common thread that holds our fellowship together.
- vi. How do we get what we learned at the Conference to our members? Think globally and act locally. Talk to the members – we can take a page from the USFC.
- vii. We need to talk between meetings and when we talk we need to talk about what it is we are doing. The WSO asked us to give them feedback and input – not to just wait until we come together to discuss the issues. How can we do this – how about through our technology? Take a look the WSC Delegate Survey and how many RSC said that their regions were operating effectively (17%) and the areas (7%). If this isn't a red flag then what is?

VI. Open Forum

a. Questions on Regional Reports and...

- i. I'm a well-informed member especially regarding service and I don't know. The question that must be asked is "why?"
- ii. The service system proposal is about sharing services. Now it is the time to figure out how to share those services. Just may be the SSP will help us figure it out.
- iii. Would it be possible to produce a survey participants would be able to answer regarding the use of CBDM and GSUs?
- iv. Conventions – those individuals involved at the end get set up usually at their own raised tables/dais and get to pick the readers –they set themselves apart from. Isn't this a contradiction? Also, if we can raise more money through the 7th Tradition basket then maybe we would not have to depend so much on conventions. Maybe part of the issues in service is that we are using old tools to tackle new problems. Maybe putting 15 -20 words into the format to raise awareness might help create a different response.
- v. Incorporation – what about the legal issues surrounding incorporation such as law suits? Maybe we can come up with an inventory to identify the questions that need to be answered; such as, why it is important for certain entities to incorporate.
- vi. What is it that the New York Delegate group actually doing? Developing an approach to share services. This was the direct result of the WSC 2010 and the SSP. It was a response to what if.
- vii. CAR/CAT TALLIES – How were the tallies tabulated to determine the conscience of the region? During this conference cycle there were at

least 3 /4 ways to calculate the conscience. Some seem to violate the concept/principle of conscience. How can this issue be resolved?

- viii. Where is the mentorship? Please what I don't need to hear is what we used to do. What is needed is your experience.
- ix. What about the gaps that are going unfulfilled; such as, the generational gap? Are we carrying a positive message? Everyone here has a problem we need to go back to our regions with at least one solution. If we want to bridge the gap we need to communicate solutions.
- x. Check out NAWS Bulletin #32 for tax information and Bulletin #29 or 30 for info on theft of NA funds.

VII. More NA Conventions and WSC/SSP

- a. Regarding a solution: positives lead to and breed success. Those that are at the table are those that you need to work with. The work that is done with those at the table will be the very thing that creates the attraction. Focus on a real task, create immediacy, and utilize the skills/talents those around the table bring to the table.
- b. What about scaling back the number of conventions by allowing the areas to host the RSC convention? Maybe this could be done on a rotating basis. This idea could serve as a model of collaboration between service bodies at different levels.
- c. What about at our conventions putting out a 7th Tradition basket jugs that when people register they can put in 10%-20% of the registration. This could be adapted by the region; for example, the region automatically takes 5% of the funds turned over to the region after the convention closes.
- d. Can we refine what we do at the Zone to bring back things that will impact the areas and regions we serve?
- e. Take a page from the East Coast Convention – it is bare bones and the monies raised go to the purchase of literature for hospital and institutions. The literature if any is left is then distributed to the East Coast.

Sunday, June 17, 2012

- I. Roll Call: 12/13 present
- II. Old Business
 - a. Proposal – Standing Subcommittees (the proposal's origin has been cited as from one of the splinter groups of the USFC and was originally tabled due to the SSP and the upcoming WSC)
 - i. Due to the nature of the discussion and the lack of definitive information regarding the origin of the proposal it will be tabled till next meeting of the Zone at which time it will be addressed.

III. New Business

a. NEZF Zone Wide Workshop Proposal

- i. Discussion – the workshops provide concrete results beyond shared discussion and it is highly desired and recommended that workshops become a reality of each Zone**
- ii. Straw poll: 12/12 in favor**
- iii. One or two topics will be determined by the hosting region and one or both determined by the Zone if the hosting region is undecided**
- iv. Should any excess funds remain the excess funds will be turned over to the hosting region to defray the costs of the ZWW**
- v. Should workshops be a regular zonal activity then it needs to be a written proposals and can be addressed at the next Zone**

b. Purchase of 12/12/12 Posters

- i. No real discussion**
- ii. Straw Poll: 11/12 in favor**

c. Adopt the Vision of NA Service to be read at the Zone as a regular part of the Zone's format

- i. No opposition – proposal carries**

d. NEZF use a formal proposal form when proposals are being made (in accordance with the Zonal Guidelines)

- i. No opposition – proposal carries**

e. Formulate through discussion a method of moving forward as a Zonal Body that delivers services to the local Fellowship hosting us each time we meet. This conversation should happen at the winter NEZF in Northern New York.

- i. It needs to be noted that the NEZF has become a meeting of regional delegates, but may be it needs to be the place where other trusted servants meet to discuss matters significant to fellowship matters such as H&I, PI, Conventions, and so on. This may be a transitional piece that provides the forum for discussion that it was once originally intended to provide. (See the Guidelines for definition of member participants).**
- ii. If this proposal carries it will have impact on the next zone topic discussion and those that follow thereafter.**
- iii. Reference to the Zonal Planning Tool was made – see the NEZF on the website**
- iv. No opposition – proposal carries**

IV. Website

a. There is a primer for delegate use only

b. There is a link now for WSC materials

c. The site is visited at a high rate, but the DB is under utilized

- i. Facebook groups are used by most members – maybe we need to address this medium**
- ii. Redirected email is self-defeating once a response comes from the personal email. Recommendation is to use webmail.**

V. Nominations/Elections

a. Chair

- i. Bill - current Vice Chair and Richie – currently seated as an RD**
- ii. Qualifications**
 - 1. Richie’s history and ESH are significant**
 - 2. Bill’s history and ESH are lengthy**
- iii. Q&A**
 - 1. Richie – would you have a problem serving as the VC if not elected to Chair position – No.**
 - 2. Richie – why are you interested since we have seated VC who has been mentored for 2 years? My vision of service/I have nothing to say that is negative of the present nominee.**
- iv. Vote: 11 for Bill and 0 for Richie**

b. Vice Chair

- i. Richie – see above**
- ii. Jeremy – has history of service/ESH**
- iii. Q&A**
 - 1. Focus was on Jeremy’s health possibly interfering**
- iv. Vote: 7 for Richie and 2 for Jeremy 2 abstentions**

c. Secretary

- i. Dennis – current secretary**
- ii. Qualifications: EXP**
- iii. Vote: no opposition**

VI. Next Hosting Reports /Bids

a. Winter 2013 Northern New York

- i. Location: Holiday Inn 441 Electronic Parkway Liverpool, New York 13088 Phone: 1-315-457-1122**
- ii. Date: Jan 25-27,2013**
- iii. Rms: \$90**

b. Tri-State

- i. Zone Wide Workshop 2013**
- ii. Date: June 28 -30**
- iii. More will be revealed...**

c. Topic Selection

- i. 2 Topics: A.M. and P.M. (Guidelines state select one – note the Guidelines are suggested)**
 - 1. Issue Discussion Topic**
 - a. Collaboration**
 - b. Principles before Personalities**
 - c. See New Business item (the issue here is how we want to see this gathering delivering services – does this not imply that we are another level of service)**
 - 2. Collaboration was unopposed as a topic**

- VII. Hosting Region Report**
 - a. Expenses: \$1439.04**
 - i. Cost entirely covered by hosting region**
- VIII. Non-funded Trusted Servants Expenses**
 - a. Expenses: \$600**
 - b. Donated: \$350**
 - c. Variance divided amongst the servants**
- IX. RD Rolling Off Sharing**
 - a. Jimmy – Conn. (the value of the experience is unmeasurable)**
 - b. Andrew – New England (the impact of the experience is wonderful and you all will be missed)**
 - c. Jeremy – Northern New England (as Chair of the Zone Wide Workshop I'll be present – see you then. It is difficult to put into words what the NEZF has meant to me...)**
- X. Chair's Closing Report**
 - a. Sharing of gratitude and heart felt appreciation**
 - b. Challenge: Do not leave the zone as it is but move forward...**
- XI. Motion to Close: 11:50**