



Autonomy Zonal Forum

Mission and Purpose:

The Autonomy Zone brings all elements of Narcotics Anonymous (NA) from its participating regions together to further the common welfare of NA by providing events which:

- Create an opportunity for Regions to come together to exchange experience, strength, and hope and collectively express itself on matters affecting Narcotics Anonymous as a whole
- Train, mentor and/or inform participants about the fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous

The AZF is ultimately responsible to the groups it serves inspired by the joy of selfless service, and the knowledge that our efforts make a difference.

Meeting Agenda	July 26, 2020 10 AM – 2 PM Zoom Call Link https://zoom.us/j/2292658822
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Attendees

Facilitator	Craig R	x
Secretary	Kim A	x
Central Atlantic RD	Dee P	x
Central Atlantic RD Alt	Randy D	x
Central Atlantic RDA 2	Sherry V	x
Chesapeake and Potomac RD	Greg J	x
Chesapeake and Potomac RD Alt	Patricia J.	x
Eastern PA RD	Merle S	x
Eastern PA RD Alt	Vacant	
Free State RD	Trish C	x
Free State RD Alt	Christian B	x
Greater Philadelphia RD	Billy W	x
Greater Philadelphia RD Alt	Clarence L	A

Greg read the concepts

Consensus decision on recording meetings and uploading all recordings to the drop box in the future.

- Introductions – see the attendees list above
 Interested Members: Rob U –
 Jonathan B.
 Jessie N.
 Sam L

Chair went over the protocols for who is recognized first
Meeting will be 10-2 with a 30-minute break for lunch – goal is to not break before noon.

Chair invited participants with an opportunity to do check ins and several people shared where they are at.



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Agenda Items

Discussion and Planning: January 2021 Zonal Meeting

- C&P scheduled to host
- Greg J. asked for RD input – asked for consideration of a 2-day event in light of COVID and not knowing where we will be - Perhaps a virtual Saturday and meeting on Sunday?
- Patricia feels planning a virtual event is a good idea.
 - Billy – agreed, we don't know how things are going to go with COVID but feels we can revisit any decision we make
 - Merle – agreed, everything changes.. but there are a lot of great virtual activities that we can choose from.
 - Trish – agreed.. safety first. Err on the side of safety. Lots of virtual options: Games, workshops...
 - Randy – agrees in favor of a virtual setting for 2-day
 - Sherry – more in favor of being flexible with some in person possibilities that can be changed if necessary (without any financial or contractual obligations).
 - Christian – in favor of beginning to plan a virtual with the option to discuss F2F on our Zoom call as more is revealed.
- Greg will look around to see if there are any options to plan a F2F. Looking to set a cut-off date though here so that at some point a concrete plan can be set.
- Patricia – not in favor of planning a F2F event at all.

Craig asked the body to throw out some ideas for the Saturday January 30th event:

- Topics can be taken from the WSC results –
- Training, Mentoring
Something similar to what was presented yesterday on the WB Zoom call regarding meetings re-opening, guidelines, hybrid meetings, www.wsc.org/virtual, challenges of re-opening and suggestions, experience, strength and hope.
- Billy reminded the body to empower Greg and Patricia to develop a program that would best serve their region, games, etc
- Greg is appreciative of the ideas
- Trish – GSR Workshop, PR presentation, speaker meeting, BMLT presentation, reopening meetings workshop, RCM workshop, hotline, phone line, professional panel

Virtual Meeting of Zones Recap: Craig, Christian

- Discussion future of zonal representation at virtual meetings
- Christian gave verbal report
- Sherry asked whether or not there are minutes - and Craig did send them out on 7/12/20 (see attached)
- Dee asked about the best practices that are being utilized around the world....
- Response was that it felt like there was more discussion regarding what is currently being done and not about moving forward. Zoom bombing, 7th



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Tradition, Hybrid Options. CDC guidelines seem to be the most widely accepted suggestions. Regions are helping groups and areas to hold the virtual meetings. Providing training, offering zoom accounts. Other zones are doing virtual presentations to assist. Dealing with people who want to meet in person vs people who don't.

- Question about discussion on creating a National Help Line.... But this is a topic for a future meeting. National HRP database. Goal is to increase our unity and services
- Some discussion also on how H&I is functioning virtually – virtual H&I Orientation – orienting new people who want to become involved in H&I – thereby increasing the participation in H&I.
 - Who is attending from our Zone? Craig felt as the zonal facilitator he was comfortable in that role and felt Merle had been supported as the second by this body.. but how does the body wish to proceed with the selection?
 - Sherry felt an excel spreadsheet in the dropbox to ensure rotation would be good. We would need to know the schedule of meeting first.
 - Randy recalls a decision to rotate being made for the first meeting of the zones back in 2018 by this body. He didn't realize we were talking about this same meeting when it was said in our last meeting that Merle and Craig were going. Felt the contact person for our zone was just a contact person for the zone.. not a spokesperson.
 - Christian felt an experienced RD and the facilitator should be the reps.
 - Craig felt he can get the schedule. Virtual meeting of the zones is quarterly. So we can put together a spread sheet.
 - Greg felt continuity was a good idea. One regular like the facilitator or secretary and rotate among RDs.
 - Dee and Greg haven't gone yet.... So Randy suggested they go next.
 - Sherry wanted continuity and mentoring.. felt the facilitator and a delegate who hasn't gone go next.
 - Chair proposed: Craig and Dee or Greg – Body decided Dee will go August 14th, 7-8:30 ET and Greg will go to the next one with Craig.

Collaboration between the Zones – chairperson of Northeast Zone asked the facilitator of the AZF to come and bring our ideas.

- Craig asked – Is the AZF interested in collaboration? (in this instance with the northeast zone) - Merle posted thumbs up, Greg-yes (exchange of info would be beneficial). Sherry felt we already decided this is a good idea. Christian – in favor and would like to also send a delegate or AD for mentoring opportunity. Trish in favor – also in favor of bringing in the Southeast Zonal Forum for further collaboration. Craig asked for affirmation on the body is in favor of Formal Collaboration with the Zone.
- Second question: asked for ideas regarding in what areas could we collaborate: Training and Mentoring, Holding events,
- Would the body support Craig attending the northeast zonal forum at the end of August and relaying the information we just gave them. – **Body gave thumbs up** (merle, Christian, Billy, Sherry). Sam verified anyone can attend as an observer and their protocols are similar to ours.



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- Trish asked for difference between formal and informal collaboration. Formal would be our zone would commit to plan and implement something – perhaps an event.
 - Billy asked for info on the next NEZF meeting – Last Sunday in August
 - No financial impact yet as this is a virtual meeting, but down the road if we collaborate on an event then, yes
- Sam L: RD Northern New England Region , Facilitator Northeast States Symposium Workgroup: addressed the body: NEZ discussing a Zonal Service Symposium for quite some time. A proposal was made a long time ago, but the one didn't feel ready at that time. Since then the NEZ forum has become a service based body and when the idea came up again in 2018, they still didn't feel ready but a couple of interested regions wanted to flush out more ideas and began to do some planning outside of the zone and bring the idea back to the zone as a more fully baked idea.
 - Slides: what is NESSNA – showed past events program, agenda and schedules as examples.
 - No major service learning events in this part of the country. – showed timeline since Dec 2018 to present.
 - Boston Peabody Marriott May 21, 2021 is the date.. A Posture of the Heart is the theme. (refer to recording 11:30-11:50)
 - <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd5XFcBEL6sCVCnyAGTA3zxyU1jkn8lp8gLi-oBCrm5Nf3-Pw/viewform> - planning survey
 - Responses: Facilitator mentioned the idea of having an East Coast Service Symposium quite some time ago
 - Merle wanted to know about the fact that that date is already set and what the options are if COVID is still problematic and asked about the insurance.. Sam said there is event insurance.
 - Greg asked how many regions are committed so far. Northern New England, and New England regions are committed. Western NY is onboard so far. Multi regional event, not a zonal event. Asking the North East Zone to consider contributing seed money is on agenda for August
 - Craig asked if Sam is asking AZF if we are interested in participating in the event. Do they need an answer today or can we get back to them? – Event will happen with or without, but would like our Zone's participation in any way we choose.
 - Sam said the intention for this event is that it is the first of many, but they haven't discussed how often the event would be held. Hope is that with the success of this event, other zones might commit and then it will become a multi zonal event. Sherri asked how easily this might translate into a multi-zonal event. Sam acknowledged possible complications, but workgroup is "acting as if", noted the theme. "*Service is a posture of the heart*"
 - Sam's contact info: Sam L, (207) 485-3133, selavalle@gmail.com
 - All slides can be accessed:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1sae3yTexf6DAoKzhSRFxnaki3CWf-cld/view?usp=sharing>

Break from 12:07 – 12:30



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Re-opened with the serenity prayer

Budget Development Task Team update/Sherry, Billy, Trish

- Billy presented

AZF Budget Workgroup

Proposals

7/26/20

- To approve the Budget as given, with the understanding that it will be tweaked by January 2021 as we see how things move forward and address practicality issues that arise. A final Budget will be presented to the body for approval with the election of a Treasurer.
- To approve an Interim Treasury Team to put in motion all of the operational items listed in the Budget and prepare the groundwork for a Treasurer to step in in 2020. We Recommend Trisha and Sherry to be this Team. We feel they are qualified and in position to continue the work and vision that this workgroup has built.
- To approve the opening of a Bank account for all the functions laid out in the Budget. We are recommending going simple at first with a bank account in the Interim Treasury Teams names until we figure out that issues that confront us (Non-Profit? Which State? What address? TINs, etc..). All which will be brought before the body for final approval. We feel it is the first important step to developing our Zonal Budget.
- We are asking that each Region donate to the Zone at least \$25. We are asking that this be done, if possible, by the end of Oct. This is start-up money for the bank account. If a Region can make a bigger donation, we would love it however we do understand that these are very hard times and we hope to ramp up donations in 2020.

Overall Discussion following Billy's Report

- Sherry said there are still items on the table to be further explored. PO Box, address, etc and those details will be brought back after this vote
- Dee asked if there are differences in any of the 4 states we occupy. Team criteria is to find a bank that works in all states, can be electronically utilized, free,
- Greg, mentioned their region hasn't met again so he hasn't had time to review this proposal yet and their budget is already in place. – Billy responded: at the Zonal level, as a zonal member, do you find this acceptable as a loose guideline? This will be very flexible going forward so if we are comfortable, we can approve based on our own consciences.
- Billy this is intended to be looked at as an interim budget, with interim treasurers.
- EPARNA in support and wants to bring this to their region when they meet in just a couple of weeks.
- Sherry reiterated CARNA didn't send to groups for a vote; only for review and input so this body can make the final decision.
- Randy: #2 – questioned why we aren't voting through the usual election procedures for the interim treasurer team
- Sherry and Billy said there is a timeline that backs up why they want to make decisions today.
- Dee spoke about the secretary being the treasurer in the interim with Trish instead of Sherry who will be the new AD by December. Billy and Sherry responded they feel secretary already has her hands full with the website (which sherry said needs attention) and the secretarial duties.



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- Chair called for straw poll on each item.

Proposal from Workgroup: #1: To approve the [Interim] Budget as given, with the understanding that it will be tweaked by January 2021 as we see how things move forward and address practicality issues that arise. A final Budget will be presented to the body for approval with the election of a Treasurer.

Discussion

- Only concern brought up came from C&P – Greg opposed since he feels he needs his region’s conscience. This is a money matter and his region must be allowed to weigh in.
- Dee wanted to see the budget before voting. – billy explained the numbers are place holders; Workgroup is actually just asking for the line items; the structure of the budget is what they are requesting approval on.
- Straw poll:
There were two members with reservations so there is no consensus at this time. Billy also raised his hand

Decision

- 2 Opposed – Proposal #1 Fails

Proposal from Workgroup: #2: To approve an Interim Treasury Team to put in motion all of the operational items listed in the Budget and prepare the groundwork for a Treasurer to step in in 2020. We Recommend Trisha and Sherry to be this Team. We feel they are qualified and in position to continue the work and vision that this workgroup has built.

Discussion

- Dee asked if the two separate ideas be separated out.... The recommendation shouldn’t be voted on in the proposal
 - Check the recording
- Straw poll:
- Chair asked for opposition. Only one member in opposition –

Decision

- 4 in favor – Proposal #2 Passes

Proposal from Workgroup: #3: To approve the opening of a Bank account for all the functions laid out in the Budget. We are recommending going simple at first with a bank account in the Interim Treasury Teams names until we figure out that issues that confront us (Non-Profit? Which State? What address? TINs, etc..). All which will be brought before the body for final approval. We feel it is the first important step to developing our Zonal Budget.

Discussion

- 4 RDs in favor of moving forward with this proposal
- Chair opted to allow for discussion on resumes and procedures if the body wanted



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- Billy not opposed to adding secretary's name to account as well.
- Merle: discussed and felt the group agreed secretary already has a lot of duties and that it's not in our best interest to have her also be partially responsible for treasurer duties.
- Christian: agreed with Merle stating the body has already voted to approve the interim treasury team
- Greg: piggybacked felt that somewhere we need to make the treasurer position formal and we need to start getting resumes.
- Billy: referred to their past notes regarding the timeline for electing the treasurer. Hoping to vote in new person by Jan. 1. (workgroup's proposed time line will be sent out to everyone later)
- Some discussion regarding elections and the 2-term limit policy. Craig and Kim won't need to submit resumes for their positions because they are already in place.

Decision

- 4 in favor – Proposal #3 Passes

Virtual WSC Discussion

– put on agenda for virtual call

Training and Mentoring

– at 2:18 Craig said this can wait.

Regional Reports

CARNA

Central Atlantic Region Report For Autonomy Zonal Forum July 26, 2020

The Central Atlantic Region consist of 16 areas in parts of Maryland, North Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Our Regional Service Committee continues to meet virtually. We have not missed a meeting. We meet every other month on the third Saturday except for October and April and then it is the third Sunday with a GSR assembly in April and workshops in October.

Our larger, long time events have been cancelled. This includes the Almost Heaven Area convention, scheduled for Aug 2020, Blue Ridge Campout, scheduled for July 2020, and the AVCNA our regional Convention scheduled for Jan 2021.

We have a Regional Speaker Jam scheduled that will probably be in a hybrid format scheduled format. See car-na.org/events for more info.

Plans have started for the October 2 day that will entail follow up of our regions strategic planning and Public Relations training.

Our PR committee posted some of the guidelines for restarting meetings.



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The region is voting on whether to go to a different phone service.

The delegate team split up the info reported with the RD and RDA reporting on the conference and the RDA2 reporting on the AZF and presenting a packet on the AZF, Futuristic budget, and the D&R of a proposed treasurer's position.

ILS

CARNA delegate Team

C&P

Autonomy Zonal Forum Meeting: July 26, 2020 Chesapeake & Potomac RD/RDA Combined Report

Good Afternoon:

Number of Areas – there are 11 Areas within the C&P Region, and at the moment, most of the NA meetings and ASCs are being held meeting virtually. According to the regional web site, there are an estimated 203 virtual meetings, 20 in-person meetings, and 67 meetings have closed until further notice. Most of the H&I meetings have been postponed as a handful of treatment facilities are attending NA meetings virtually.

The C&P Region meets every other month on the second Saturday of the month and has been meeting virtually since April 2020. Our next RSC will be virtually on Saturday, August 8th from 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM. Our elections were held on June 13, 2020 and all positions are filled except for the Secretary, Vice Secretary, Vice Treasurer, H & I Chair, Policy Chair, Literature Chair, Convention Oversight Committee Reps 1 and 2, and Free State Reps 1 and 2 positions.

Darla S. will stay on as the C&P Voting rep until the end of the WSC and once it concludes, her duties with the Regional Delegate Team will end. Thanks for everything Darla! Patricia J. has been voted in as the new Regional Delegate Alternate, so let's welcome her to the Zonal family. We all attended the June 27, 2020 WSC meeting, and afterwards, visited 10 of the 11 ASC meetings to share the information, and spoke with the last RCM to relay the information.

The Annual Regional Convention for April 2020 has been canceled, and pre-registrants now have the option to receive a refund, have their funds rolled over to the 2021 Convention, or donate those registration funds to the Region. Please visit cprcna.org for details. The Convention Oversight Committee will continue to take the lead and chair the different subcommittees for the 2021



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Convention. It is unclear at the moment if the Tri-County Area will keep their bid in for hosting the 2022 Convention.

A motion was made in April 2020 to suspend the following policy under money matters which reads, “The budget is fully funded annually & once the budget is fully funded, excess funds are passed on to NAWS. Requesting the policy be suspended from now through June 2021 which is through the end of the upcoming fiscal year.”

Intent: The motion would allow the RSC to stop sending funds to NAWS on a temporary basis. The April 2020 convention has been canceled. The convention currently has more expenses than income. The approval of the motion will allow the Regional Service Committee (RSC), Convention Oversight Committee (COC), and Host Subcommittee (Host) the opportunity to get back to a better financial place before the start of the next convention in April 2021. The motion passed.

Discussions will continue at the August 2020 RSC regarding a check written out to NAWS in the previous fiscal year for \$23,000.00+ which was not mailed out by the outgoing Treasurer.

We presented the Region with a brief overview of the treasurer position, the approach to zonal funding, a search for banks, and the particulars surrounding the topic of “funding” the Zone. We asked the RCM’s to please take this back to their groups and bring any questions and concerns back to the August 2020 Regional meeting. Unfortunately, we will not be in attendance at our RSC due to the WSC, therefore we may not be able to gain a clear consensus until our October 2020 RSC. This topic will be addressed in our report to the Region.

Identify How Your Subcommittees Are Functioning:

Regional Subcommittees are functioning well thus far, and the long-standing three-year vacancy of the Special Events Subcommittee Chair and Vice Chair positions have been filled.

Greg J. – RD

Patricia J. – RDA

Darla S. – WSC RD Voting Rep

C&P RSC

Eastern PA

Greetings from EPARNA. Our RSC has been meeting virtually since the shut down. Many of our meetings went virtual and our webservant worked with Greater Philadelphia Region to create a transition to simplify the process of accessing the meetings on a virtual platform. Some of our meetings have recently been attempting to open their face to face meetings, either in their meeting facility or outdoors. Some have attempted hybrid meetings. The region has developed guidelines to reopen meetings in a safe way, but as we have all experienced, everything changes day to day. We held an informal, well attended discussion to talk about some of these changes and reopening policies. Our region decided to purchase a subscription to Zoom after trying other platforms. We have found more participation at our regional meetings with the virtual opportunity. Our meeting list is updated regularly as each area/group makes changes to their meeting formats. The region was provided with the Zonal



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treasury workgroup information, and they are in support of their recommendations.
In loving service,
Merle

Free State – report given by Trish

Greater PA – report given by Billy

Open Forum/Proven Practices

- Craig asked if anyone is planning anything for Unity Day? Sept 5. Let Kim know if so and it can be put on the website.
- - special shout out to Jonathan, Jessie and Rob for attending and being a part of!
- Ron's hand was acknowledged: Offered condolences to Kim on the passing of her mother and felt it worth mentioning how good it is that COVID moving has been so successful in moving us forward Virtually in NA. Felt NESSNA would be a good thing for us to get involved in. Continues to work on SPAD and wants us to know the drafts are almost finished. Asked to get invited to next virtual meeting on 8-14. – Craig responded that meeting isn't open to the fellowship.
- Agenda item – we need to form a task team for elections, solicit resumes, interviews, elections (in Jan). Do new treasurer and facilitator start in Jan or after Jan meeting? Greg said he would reach out to Darla regarding the process for elections. Billy asked if Kim and Craig were considering standing for a second term. Craig said no, he will be re-joining the southeast zonal forum when he moves in a year. Kim said she would consider standing for re-election.
- Zonal dates for next two zonal meetings: Sept 21.... And the November one wasn't set yet

New Proposals

Proposal: Put the link to Zoom meetings up on the site along with the information about when we are meeting.

Discussion

Body felt it would be more helpful to put the link out in plain sight

Decision

Consensus – proposal passed – Secretary/Web Servant will put the link on the website

Future Agenda Items/ Prioritize

- *Interim Treasurer Team Report and proposals #1 and #4*
 - **#4:** We are asking that each Region donate to the Zone at least \$25. We are asking that this be done, if possible, by the end of Oct. This is start-up money for



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the bank account. If a Region can make a bigger donation, we would love it however we do understand that these are very hard times and we hope to ramp up donations in 2020.

- #1: To approve the Interim Budget and Policy as given, with the understanding that it will be tweaked by January 2021 as we see how things move forward and address practicality issues that arise. A final Budget will be presented to the body for approval with the election of a Treasurer.
 - *Virtual WSC Discussion*
 - *Virtual Zonal Meeting Re-cap*
 - *Northeast Zonal Forum Re-cap*
 - *Form a Task Team to handle January Elections*

Closed 2:45 moment of silence and serenity prayer

Upcoming AZF Schedule (F2F)

- Chesapeake and Potomac Region: January 30-31, 2021
- Eastern Pa Region: July 31, 2021
- Free State Region: January 29, 2022
- Greater Philadelphia: July 30, 2022
- Central Atlantic Region: January 28, 2023

In Service,
Kim A, AZF Secretary



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Report from The Third Meeting of the Zones

Third Virtual Meeting of Zones

The third Virtual Meeting of Zones was held 28 May 2020. The meeting was focused on how to support the Fellowship in carrying the message and online meetings during the current COVID-19 crisis.

Discussion focused on the following questions:

Large-group questions

- **Are your member communities holding virtual service meetings? Have most of the recovery meetings in your zone migrated to an online platform?**
- **Is there anything in particular related to the topic you'd like to hear more about--experience, strength, and hope from the other zones?**

Small-group questions

- **What is working for the member communities within your zone?**
- **How is meeting information being handled within your zone?**
- **How are the areas, regions, and zones supporting the Fellowship in carrying the message.**

Large Group Discussion

Are your member communities holding virtual service meetings?

Have most of the recovery meetings in your zone migrated to an online platform?

- **SZF—areas, regions, and zone holding virtual service meetings. Recovery meetings have moved online. Taking CDC advice, and having some in-person recovery meetings. They've had virtual contributions for a while.**
- **EDM—Diverse zone—in very different positions. Some regions are on lock down. Some, like Sweden, are not and are still able to have in-person meetings. Many meetings have moved online—using different platforms. Turkey had a big PR presentation, and other regions are doing PR virtually. Increase in prison sponsorship. Have moved quickly to adapt to online reality. One challenge—using the name of the platform to identify the meeting—we have *NA* meetings, not *Zoom* meetings. Need to be careful with language so we don't imply affiliation X2..**
- **EDM from chat I forgot to say that we have online service meetings in many of our regions and we also have EDM meetings online where all regions discuss different challenges in their regions. We have these meetings every other week and steering committee meeting the other weeks. We are discussing having a partial Summer EDM online.**
- **EDM from chat the Turkish NA region PI committee held online PR presentations today and yesterday with a total of 189 people in attendance.**
- **SEZF—holding virtual service meetings. Have been doing that for a while. Will be meeting virtually "for the foreseeable future." It's very possible we might not meet f-2-f ever again.**
- **CANA/ACNA—Not sure about the zone as a whole. Some regions are holding online meetings. We've done online service meetings for the zone for years, which has really helped. We are still figuring out online donations. The zone has no online contributions method, but the areas and regions are adapting and being creative in developing methods. Some not adhering to guidelines and opening up meetings. There have been some hybrid meetings developing.**



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- **CANA from chat:** CANA has its next Zonal meeting via Zoom on June 20th at which time we will have much more information. Our workgroups are still active and are communicating via Zoom or email. We will be making the decision on whether to hold our Annual Conference scheduled Sept 14-18th and the CCNA Sep 18-20 when we meet. Annual f-2-f meeting for clarification. Depends on the guidelines for Canada for large groups. If no CCNA then there will be a virtual CANA/ACNA meeting and perhaps the same for the CCNA convention?! More will be revealed.
- **LAZF**—This past weekend we had a zonal virtual service meeting. We did a recovery meeting marathon for 64 days 24/7! We have zonal meetings all day as well. All 8 of the forum's workgroups are working virtually. We know some regions are doing virtual H&I meetings. Some regions have no restrictions and have been meeting and doing in-person service f-2-f. We have transitioned all of our service efforts to virtual. The LAZF does not have Skype or Zoom meetings. They do not have the NA logo in conjunction with the zoom logo—to avoid affiliation.
- **APF**—The type of service meetings vary from community to community. Some regions have been conducting virtual meetings. Some have had emergency online RSC meetings. Most communities have cancelled in-person recovery meetings and have started online recovery meetings. Bit by bit communities are going out of lock down and starting in-person recovery meetings again. At least one community (Australia) has had an increase in participation at the women's meeting. Hawaii and India have been conducting meetings. Thailand—50% of recovery meetings have transferred to an online platform. Some f-2-f meetings are still happening. NZ is having virtual RSC and ASC meetings—for virtual RSC, reports and proposals should be submitted 2 weeks prior to the meeting. This helps set the agenda and prepare for the RSC and make it more efficient.
- **WSZF**—Regions throughout the zone moved quickly to virtual recovery and service meetings. The zone has met twice virtually. Zonal forum workgroups were already meeting virtually—e.g., outreach is having online PR workshops monthly. New Mexico is doing a virtual H&I volunteer training. Some areas are collecting contributions virtually. This has been a slower process to figure out and get the financial streams open. From chat: Most have added virtual contribution links to the website.
- **Autonomy (from chat)?** Homegroup has non affiliation with Zoom disclaimer. PR Day virtual presentation, Area H&I meeting virtual going on using facility zoom acct

Is there anything in particular related to the topic you'd like to hear more about--experience, strength, and hope from the other zones?

- **Where do we go from here?** NA is being praised for our quick adaptation to the crisis—going virtually so quickly. We were well prepared in part because we were using the technology already. CP webinars have helped. How do we move forward with this? SEZF formed a think tank years ago, and that work helped us adapt quickly. Technology is portable and allows us to bridge some language and other gaps. Someone in one geographic area can open a virtual meeting in another area in the world.
- **How are people dealing with people wanting to meet in-person—in parking lots and so on? Are others experiencing members opening up meetings against community/government guidelines?**



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- How are other zonal forums dealing with challenges of meeting online?
- How are the other zonal forums managing the information that goes to the WSO and comes from WSO? How do we invite the WB to the virtual zonal meetings? How are you collecting the information for reports and so on?
- Some Regions are putting governmental protocols in NA handbooks and service body policy, but how does this relate to our Traditions? A region cannot tell a group what they need to do to meet—for instance, “you must have a sink outside your meeting in order to meet in person.” A service body cannot order groups in this way. Instead of regions copying the information from the government, how can we help the groups without interfering with group autonomy?
- From Chat: How are areas and regions dealing with the financial implications and the cancelling of conventions (along with those financial consequences)?
- There are many documents circulating for groups to consider as they meet online or move to in-person meetings. Could there be one source? Is there a way to get one single piece of guidance or somehow consolidate this information for groups? What things to take into consideration.
- Experience, strength, and hope about local disunity between members who are attending in-person meetings and members who still want to attend virtually?
- Best practices for virtual PR presentations.
- Best practices for preventing Zoom bombing, including removing people from the meeting. It would be helpful to have a resource for groups to use.
- Collecting 7th Tradition—best practices and pros and cons of the different vehicles (paypal, venom, cash app, etc.).
- Lots of disunity with not following guidelines with the groups. Need help.
 - NA has taught us to follow the guidance of the facility or government.
- Getting PI and H&I up and running virtually.
- Seventh Tradition (APF doesn't have the Venmo etc. like we use in the US)
- Implications of cancelled conventions

Small Group #1 Discussion

What is working for the member communities within your zone?

- In LAZF, they organize specific topics for online meetings, and it works well. They have meetings for newcomers, oldtimers, and members coming back from relapse who had previously had substantial cleantime. They have had good attendance in these. Marathon meetings have guest speakers who try to clarify newcomers, oldtimers, and members coming back from relapse.
- Just printed the CDC document and printed it without putting it into a NA guideline handbook. Hand sanitizer at the door. Spraying down the readings and chairs. Sanitizing items after meeting. Placed chairs 6 feet apart. No circle up.
- Postponed convention, didn't have to cancel. The hotel is working with them.
- Virtual meetings and face to face have been working fine. Service meetings have been virtual and have been shorter than when they meet face to face.



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- **Bringing geographically isolated members into virtual meetings. This will continue moving forward.**
- **Need to follow the rules of the facility they are meeting. Personal safety is very important. How do you tell a member what they can and cannot do? Like wear a mask if it's mandated by the local government. How to enforce local regulations? How do you approach members who are not following the rules of the facility or state?**
- **PSZF already had several zoom accounts and had a mechanism for scheduling in place to give members access. Started doing daily Zoom training sessions for the first 6 weeks. Now it is only a weekly training session.**
- **Outreach to treatment centers and institutions--connections into Zoom meetings. Rural areas are going to continue with zoom for services. Links to ASC and NAWS provided for 7th Tradition. Recorded H&I meetings available for treatment centers. And Zoom links for H&I meetings. Speaker jams have been good as it increases interest.**
- **Moved meetings outside because church says it's too expensive to sanitize.**
- **Suggest to donate directly to na.org or contribute more when back to f2f.**

How is meeting information being handled within your zone?

- **Several communication channels in LAZF, like WhatsApp. Zonal delegates communicate with unseated RSCs. Google Group where they send all the reports and minutes. All of this is included in a procedure guide.**
- **Google groups for minutes of service meetings. Business meetings are virtual.**
- **Service meetings create lists of members who want to attend and then they are emailed for the virtual meetings.**
- **New Facebook groups have been created. Updating the website became labor intensive.**
- **Regional website posts online meetings. Third of the meetings are virtual.**
- **Regions are handling meeting information in different ways (due to APF being across many countries). Meeting search on website with special online listings. Facebook, WhatsApp used to pass around information unofficially.**
- **RSCs are keeping up with posting the online meetings. Not different for the way EDM conducts business.**

How are the areas, regions, and zones supporting the Fellowship in carrying the message?

- **LAZF states they are not a health entity and suggests their RSCs, ASCs, groups need to research their local health protocols. As a zone we do this to support them. They have adapted to the changes in a pragmatic manner. Social distancing does not equal social disconnection. They are more united than ever.**
- **The EDM has a steering committee that discusses different questions that the regions have which keeps everyone updated.**

Small Group #2 Discussion

What is working for the member communities within your zone?

- **WSZF--Virtual meetings. Some organic leadership arising. Some members who may not have been involved in service before are finding where a niche they can serve well.**



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- **Rio Grande**—Some meetings have closed but some new meetings are opening. Some of those meetings are joining the ASC and have been accepted. There is a bridge to service happening.
- **Autonomy**—Silver lining has been that a lot of “old timers” have come back to meetings. They are attending more meetings than they have in years.
- **SEZF**—Communication is working. Disseminating information is working unbelievably well. In response to the question about how information is collected to give World Services—Jeff and Neal are delegated the responsibility to communicate for the zone. Collecting the information hasn’t really changed because the communities have been communicating virtually for a long time so there isn’t a big difference.
- **BZF** adapted quickly. We already had many online meetings so it wasn’t new to us. We have various online business meetings. We had a meeting yesterday to discuss the emergency budget plan, how to distribute literature (our sales have decreased substantially). Various ASCs are taking in virtual 7th Tradition monies to pay their expenses like online platforms. We’ve been sharing the information on how to contribute directly to NAWS and zf. We are adapting, including various committees—virtual PR panels, H&I service. We have various online business meetings. Yesterday we had an emergency meeting of the ABNA, the Brazilian Narcotics Anonymous Association to talk about the emergency budget plan—how to maintain ABNA’s work, how to distribute literature. Lit sales are down. Various Area committees are taking in 7th Tradition collections to pay for the electronic platform (e.g., Zoom). We’ve been giving out information about how to contribute directly to ABNA and NAWS. Most of our events and conventions are delayed, including the Brazilian Nat’l Service Conference which has been postponed to March 2021. We are trying to adapt what we can to the virtual setting. We’ve managed to adapt H&I. We have virtual PR panels.
- **RZF**—Like Brazil, online meetings were common before so it was easier for us to adapt. We have many different kinds of online meetings—new and old meetings. (Personally, I look forward to returning to face to face meetings. I don’t want to work on developing all of these new ways of meeting.) RZF is trying to figure out how to meet in person. We are challenged by online service meetings. I personally wasn’t satisfied with the last WSC. Some face to face meetings are happening again.
- **EDM**—social gatherings and celebrations have lifted people’s spirits and been able to cross geographic boundaries
- **APF**—Member participation has increased in the meetings. More step-based and topic-based meetings in communities that don’t normally have that. Meetings are bringing in speakers from other communities. More opportunity to attend meetings with sponsor/sponsee.
- **CANA (from chat)**-- NAWS provided the Edmonton area with a great checklist for groups that we are giving to our ASC on Sunday to adopt!

How is recovery meeting information being handled within your zone?

- **WSZF** has zonal service body info available—they have both website and loomio.



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- **New Mexico**—regional website is well maintained and has all of the information. The new crop of trusted servants are doing well handling the information.
- **SEZF**-- this is how we are handling meeting info in my region (by linking to virtual-na meeting list). This is what is noted on our website:
Virtual / Remote Meeting Options
As we don't know how things will progress in the coming weeks / months, there may be times where people can not get out to a meeting.
Virtual / Online Meeting List: <https://virtual-na.org/>
We went through and pulled out all the US based Online meetings from na.org and made a list here: <http://bit.ly/2QfV8YH>
There are also phone meetings available here: <http://meetings.nabyphone.com/>
We have not checked to see if these meetings are still happening.
- **Autonomy**—BMLT. The developers have added the ability to include virtual meeting info. We are using BMLT for meeting updates.
- **SZF**—we have had trouble with BMLT because it uses geo-location to list meetings, and virtual meetings are not geo-located.
- **BZF**--We have 1,689 meetings registered currently. Regions use one specific link www.rad.org for meeting information. It's a centralized system. Besides these registered meetings, we have about 150 additional online meetings where groups have started their own online meetings that do not use this specific platform.
- **PSZF** have a link on the website for all virtual meetings in the zone. Not sure how it's being updated.
- **EDM**—meeting information is predominantly being handled on a regional level and posted to the regional website
- **APF**—most meeting info is on RSC and ASC websites. Some communities are using social media to exchange info. The zone uses a WhatsApp group to exchange information.

How are the areas, regions, and zones supporting the Fellowship in carrying the message?

- Things are unfolding organically. H&I is still happening. Treatment facilities are connecting virtually to meetings through the information they are finding on the website. They said they do not need panels brought in.
- **SEZF**—It's a slow process. We aren't used to using virtual meetings for service meetings and do H&I, for instance. It's taking some time to get up and running, and there hasn't been enough sharing of best practices and experience. There isn't a centralized repository of information—there is room for growth!
- **PSZF**—We met within a day of restrictions taking effect. We already had a Zoom account that can be used by every group in area, region, and zone, and we added another. Over the course of the past few years, we had already set up and distributed information on how to go online and set up a meeting. So we really just ramped up that activity. We offered training every day for about the first three weeks for anyone who wanted to start or chair a meeting (now 3 days a week) and developed guidelines. Some groups hosted those trainings. Now many meetings outside the zone are attending. Those meetings have a group conscience meeting every two weeks, and that information is reported to the website



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because the meetings are listed as zonal meetings. We set up a link to a PayPal account for those meetings if they choose. We uploaded the readings, the training, and whatever other resources online meetings may need.

- **RZF-- We have lots of newcomers in the meetings. The message is getting out. The zone isn't doing anything for it, honestly.**
- **EDM—Trying to support one another and adapt guidelines. There has been less “self sufficiency” and more communication and mutual support across the regions of the zone. There has been a positive effect.**
- **APF—ASC and RSCs are responding quickly to meet member and group needs.**