

## Autonomy Zonal Forum January 29, 2011

Meeting hosted by Central Atlantic Region.

Meeting began at 11:11 a.m.

Introductions around the table. Traditions and Concepts were read. Chair asked group if we want to include the Vision Statement along with the other readings.

We unanimously agreed to read the vision statement.

Today's agenda:

- Introductions
- Read Traditions and Concepts
- Regional Reports; 30-45 minutes
- Service system project workshops and discussion
- Open discussion if time is left
  - Living Clean Project?
  - What is it we want AZF to look like; what do we really want to do with the Zonal Forum?

### **Reports:**

#### Central Atlantic Region:

Right now the region has been short of trusted servants to hold subcommittee chair positions at our RSC, however we have been very fortunate to have almost full RCM participation. It was brought to our attention that through our policy, the chair could designate willing RCM's to fill the needs of open positions as needed and several RCM's have shown interest and are helping to fill the vacancies. We have had the ability to do several service system workshops in our region, starting with our last two day regional, a learning day in the Rappahannock area, a learning day in Almost Heaven and our Regional convention. All workshops have been minimally attended, however there have been several phone calls expressing interest and we look forward to bringing the information to more areas within the coming months.

We are continuing to entertain the possibility of furnishing liability insurance to our region and have recent quotes and are having the proposed agent come in and explain the policy that we are looking at fully before actually implementing it.

We have continued to have meetings in our four quadrants regarding the Living Clean Project and it has been a successful project driven venue that has allowed us to get the input and review done on a schedule.

The Central Atlantic Region has rotated its RSC meetings throughout our four quadrants for a while now, attempting to meet the needs travel-wise of our trusted servants and to bring the meeting to our farthest reaching areas in hopes of attracting new trusted servants to this level of service. Recently, however there was a motion to centralize the region which passed and as of now we will be meeting in Charlottesville, VA. The region has an ad-hoc committee set up to put together a plan of implementation using the information that we received last year from our regional inventory.

This past week we were alerted that there has been a split in our Tidewater Area. It is being said that the Area service meetings were entirely too long and that they could no longer be productive. The new area is called the Virginia Beach area and as of this date it has ten groups in it. There are 158 meetings in the Tidewater area and the business on the floor often stagnated due to the sheer numbers of representatives.

The AVCNA (our regional convention) was recently hosted by the Rappahannock Area in Fredericksburg, VA January 7,8,9th and was well attended. It was the first time hosted by this area which is small and has 20 meetings and 50% of the demographic under 1 year clean. The next AVCNA will be at Virginia Beach and hosted by the Tidewater Area.

TACNA, the Tidewater Area of Narcotics Anonymous will host its annual convention February 18, 19, 20th in Norfolk, VA. This is 1 of only 2 area conventions in our region, the other being Almost Heaven. There is talk that this convention may be cancelled next year due to the area hosting the regional convention and both conventions are only 1 month apart. We are looking forward at present to April, as we will have another two day regional weekend with our annual GSR Assembly. We will present information on the Service System Project and its updates at that time.

In loving service,  
Etta F. RD

#### Chesapeake and Potomac Region:

The region is doing well, our convention did well and made a donation of \$25,000 when they closed the books in October. We have an ad-hoc committee to look at bringing our region into compliance with the IRS regulations and would love some input. We have 11 areas and good

attendance at the RSC. Our 25th convention is in Ocean City on April 15-17th, 2011. One of our areas hosted a service system workshop in December and we had members from several areas and about a total of 30 addicts in attendance.

Leah H.  
Vice-chair  
Allen J.  
RD

#### Eastern PA Region:

We have four areas in our region, and all four areas regularly send representation to our regional meetings. We currently have a Chairperson, a secretary, a treasurer and co-treasurer, an H&I chair, and the webservant, who is the chair of the Communications committee. All other positions are open, and we are generally facing a lack of participation. There is no Regional Delegate; the former Regional Delegate continues to serve as a proxy, and is willing to hold that position once again once there is an alternate to mentor for the position. EPARNA held a Regional PI/H&I Learning Day, and there have been other events held within the four areas. However, there has been no Literature Review on the Living Clean Project, and no Service System Project presentations due to lack of interest and participation. We made a donation to World Services in October, as per our policy, which states we send a donation when we have money above our prudent reserve.

We participated in a Pennsylvania Multi-Regional Unity Day, in which all four PA regions were involved (Eastern PA, Greater Philadelphia, MidAtlantic, and Tri-State Regions). This event took place in Atlas/Mt. Carmel, PA, which is part of the MidAtlantic Region. There were about 150 addicts in attendance throughout the day, with speakers from each region, a speaker meeting at the end of the evening, and lots of food. This event was free to all addicts, and each region contributed to this event. We are planning on holding this event annually, and will report on this as we plan the next event. The next Multi-Regional Unity Day will take place in the Tri-State Region.

In loving service,  
Merle S.

## FreeState Region:

The Freestate Region is comprised of 10 Areas with 825 weekly meetings and 219 weekly H&I meetings. The Executive Body at the region has an opening for vice-Treasurer. We are experiencing attendance problems with our Executive Body at the Region which will result in a motion at the February 5, 2011 Regional meeting to remove the RDA and an election to be held for a new RDA. We are also having attendance problems with the Regional chair and the Policy Chair which will be resolved at the February Regional meeting.

The Freestate Convention was held Thanksgiving weekend. The financial report will be given at the February regional meeting, with preliminary results of just breaking even or losing money. Our conventions in the past have yielded considerable profits of well over \$10,000 for many years. Our region has created an Ad-Hoc Committee to look into Policy and Guidelines of the Convention Board and its way of doing business. It has been reported to the region that for the last 6 months there has been considerable discourse and disunity amongst the Board members.

The Freestate has a website with a Web Administrator who is doing an exceptional job. He has set up where the regional minutes can be accessed by each area RCM via an e-mail account he has set up for each of the 10 areas where they need a user ID and password to access it. This will save the region considerable money by not having to copy and mail the minutes to each of the RCMs and Executive Body members.

The Freestate Hotline is a toll-free number (1-800-317-3222) that is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week answered by liver persons who are all volunteers.

The region held a Service System Project Workshop on December 12, 2010. We had approximately 50 members in attendance. I went over in detail with a Power Point presentation of each of the proposals from the Service System Project workgroup. The consensus was that they liked the GSU/LSU proposals with modifications that can work within our current service structure of ASCs. There was a total rejection of the intermediate/ state or national levels and the zonal forum proposal. I put together the

regional input and submitted it to the World Board for conclusion of Phase I input. On February 19, 2011, we will be having a Regional Assembly dedicated to Phase II of the Service System Project.

Our regional Literature Committee held 2 regional workshops and completed Input and Review on chapters 6 & 7. This has been submitted to the World Board as our regional input. We have done Input and Review on all 7 chapters of The Living Clean Project.

I have been receiving numerous e-mails and phone calls about the US Fellowship Assembly on March 4, 5, & 6, 2011, in Wichita, KS. I am going to report this to my region at the February 5, 2011 regional meeting and have regional input and discussion about this issue on whether or not to attend.

In loving service,  
Walt B.

RD Freestate Region

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#### Greater Philadelphia Region:

We have eleven Areas in our Region and at our October RSC all eleven Areas were present due to our latest effort to reach out to all of our Areas. We host 365 meetings a week and approximately 94 H&I panels each week. In addition we are in need of trusted servants in our Region as well as in our Areas however we are providing our needed services.

We held a multi-regional event on September 4, 2010 along with Mid-Atlantic, Tri-State, and Eastern PA in Mt. Carmel/Atlas, PA at 440 East State Route 61. This event coincided with the World Unity Day. The first time the attendance was good but we hope to improve by rotating future events thru the different Regions of PA. Since our last meeting due to Project Payoff efforts we were able to bring awareness about the importance of contributing to the RSC as well as paying off our literature debt. Project Payoff held their first kick-off event in November with success and because of this, members, groups, and Areas have contributed

towards these efforts. The WSO has presented us with a plan that will enable us to pay our debt off by December 2011 or sooner. Our RSO has embarked on changing the way we've done business in the past. This includes reducing and aligning our prices to that of NAWs and will hopefully attract more customers. The RSO is currently hosting Customer Engagement days. We are encouraging our Areas to apply to the PA Department of Revenue for a Sales Tax Exemption by completing Revised Form 72.

We are currently changing our phonenumber to a prepaid service but our orientation sessions still have a lot to be desired, dealing with attendance of our volunteers.

The Inner-City Area of the Greater Philadelphia Region has hosted their convention on November 26, 27, and 28, 2010 at Penn's Landing Hyatt Hotel with success. Currently the Delco Area of the Greater Philadelphia Region is in the process of holding an Area convention. Our convention, GPRCNA, will be held on April 22-24, 2011 at the Radisson Valley Forge Hotel in Valley Forge, PA. The Greater Philadelphia Region will be hosting the World Convention in 2013; this will impact other Areas and Regions surrounding us because of their involvement.

Yours in Service,  
Earl W. RD  
Paula B. RDA

#### Mountaineer Region:

We have 9 active areas spread over most of West Virginia with about 140 meetings spread throughout this large geographic area. Our meetings are centered mostly around the larger population centers with many rural locations not served by NA at all.

We have two conventions each year, one in the spring and one in the fall. Our upcoming spring convention will be held May 6-7-8<sup>th</sup> at Cedar Lakes in Ripley, WV. We usually have 300-400 addicts and family members in attendance both fall and spring. Flyers for this and upcoming events are available on line if anyone is interested go to [www.mrscna.org](http://www.mrscna.org). We hold our bi-annual Regional Service Forum at the conventions to help in the communication chain from groups directly to regional and world, this allow sharing among the different NA communities. We are using a 90 minute time slot on Saturday between the dinner and the speaker meeting.

We sent our RD Alt to Oakland California for a Service System workshop. This information was presented to attending members at our fall convention service form. In December our region held a workshop to input the Service System structural proposals. We are looking forward to discussion about this here today.

The region also held a Literature workshop on the 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> chapters of Living Clean before the annual "We Keep What We Have By Thanksgiving It Away" dinner near Charleston. Much spirited discussion was had on the readings.

The Region provides a region-wide phonenumber which we recently have changed to a system called ONEBOX. Caller's receive a recorded welcome message then are directed to selection menus from which they can choose one of the following options; meeting information, speak to a recovering addict or other inquiries. The service sends calls directly to the cell phones of phonenumber servants. We are well pleased with this system.

Our regional Public Relations committee is very active providing booth at many professional functions around the state, as well as a billboard and the website.

Our H&I Committees serve about 12-15 institutions throughout the state. The Mountaineer Region has been using conscience based decision making for 8 years and feel this is a good system, but not always understood by new members. More education about process is wanted and needed. We are preparing to move forward with planning for the July zonal Formal and conscience based decision making workshop. This is to be held in Fairmont West Virginia.

Our January regional meeting was canceled due to snow so we were unable to discuss issues related to the zonal form. So at this time we have no discussion or information requests.

Gratefully serving,  
David H., RD  
Rob O., RD Alt.

### **Service System Workshop and Discussion:**

- Some areas in one region liked the change in how but the local service unit is being developed (opportunity to discuss group issues and concerns), but questioned as to how we will fill positions at another level of service. They would be happy to add this into the already existing area service meetings as part of their agenda.
- Due to lack of trusted servants filling positions in another region, it is up to area representatives to cover the duties of unfilled positions. This region holds a service committee, and all tasks (PR, H&I) are discussed, and then the members in attendance are charged with a particular task. Since this is not in policy, it has not been formalized, but there is a point of accountability, and tasks are being done as a result of this effort.
- One region has a place for a group to send concerns, and they do not have good participation. There is better participation at the area level. This looks more like an “outreach” and if a group needs support, they might not be able to come to an area forum, where it is time to bring their concerns. This type of service is already taking place. Most of our groups come to area service meetings to participate, rather than ask for help, or share concerns.
- There is a need for training and education, and members are going in to H&I or other situations who have not been taught what and what not to do.
- One hope with the change in our system is that members who have left service will return to service. It has been noted that those are the members who are not open to the change in our service system.
- One hope is for standardization of names (what we call it) and services, a more uniform geographically-based regions and areas. Question is what do we do when not everyone adopts these changes and some will feel disenfranchised. We need to enhance our diversity.
- It was mentioned that we submit AZF feedback to the workgroup.
- The names that have been assigned (LSU, GSU) are not written in stone, and can be changed. The workgroup is presenting this information in the hopes that it generates feedback from the fellowship.
- We need to be honest with the workgroup about where we are stuck, what problems the fellowship has with the current ideas and proposals
- Principle of agreement: could be as simple as to continue the work and see where it goes, continue to take feedback. The perception is that these ideas and suggestions are going to be forced upon the fellowship.
- The fellowship abdicates their responsibility as seen by the CAR, and lack of participation.



- One thing more important than anything else is to share our input with the workgroup.
- Zones have the most potential to not force boundaries, but some problems may be encountered with that model. State and national problems may vary within different countries and regions.
- Problems with lack of commitment, communication and apathy continue to impact any forward progress.
- Members have left service because of their perception these potential changes
- Perhaps we need a mechanism to address what we are doing (i.e. for Public Relations) as a Zonal to find out how we can work together to see what we have done, what kind of help do they need to get it done
- The attitude on the west coast is very different from the attitude on the east coast.
- Too much saying what is broke, not enough looking at what we like about this project.
- The idea behind this project is to create unity and increase communication
- Do we as a Zonal have some proposals to share? We share best practices at this level, and how can we share that with other levels of service?
- How can we share our proposals with the World? There is no mechanism to present proposals, and we are in the position to only present motions in the CAR
- Will input sent to the workgroup be shared with the fellowship?

### **What do we want AZF to look like and what do we want to do with the Zonal Forum?**

- More outreach amongst the regions
- Likes the idea that we don't vote or have a governing body
- Find out what other subcommittees and workgroups are doing
- Do we want this question to pertain to the proposed models, and how will it change the face of this zonal?
- The Zonal could be a mechanism for carrying the votes from all of our regions, carrying the collective conscience of each region
- There is concern in one region that with 6 regions, if we have 3 regions for a proposal, and 3 regions against, how do we carry the vote?
- collaborate regional solutions in an informal setting
- participants are highly motivated
- Brainstorming solutions and ideas

- Free atmosphere (without political/monetary leverage)
- Participants are highly motivated and exhibit a strong desire to participate
- Knowledge and experience combined with inexperience and novel approaches to our population “addicts”
- Direct presentation to World Board as non-motion proposal
- Have a combined effort event, similar to the PA Multi-Regional Unity Day
- Do we want to have a governing body, or maintain what we have today?
- Continued discussion about best practices, to share with our regions
- Provide a mixed bag of activities for a special day
- What value does this body have to each region? Networking to expand our knowledge, and to share information.
- It is appreciated that this body rotates from region to region
- There is no apparent policy; we do not throw policy at each other; we have no duties other than bringing information to AZF, and taking back to region what we learned here
- We do not have to get locked up on motions here, ideas go through us
- Remain informal and be able to sit with someone with delegate experience

**Agenda for July 30, 2011 AZF hosted by Mountaineer Regions:**

- Introductions
- Read Traditions and Concepts
- Regional Reports
- Training Session for CBDM (Consensus Based Decision Making)
- plan next AZF
- Service System Project; next level of input

**Upcoming schedule for Autonomy Zonal Forum:**

Mountaineer Region: July 30, 2011

Chesapeake and Potomac Region: Jan 28, 2012

Eastern PA Region: July 28, 2012

Free State Region: January 26, 2013

Greater Philadelphia Region: July 27, 2013\*\*\*\*\*WCNA that summer\*\*\*discuss

Central Atlantic Region: January 25, 2014

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