



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 Minutes

October 26, 2020

7:15 PM – 9:15 PM

Zoom Call Link

<https://zoom.us/j/2292658822>

Attendees:

Note: All contact information is to be removed prior to publishing on the website

Facilitator	Craig R	P
Secretary	Kim A	P
Central Atlantic RD	Dee P	P
Central Atlantic RD Alt	Randy D	P
Central Atlantic RDA 2	Sherry V	P
Chesapeake and Potomac RD	Greg J	P
Chesapeake and Potomac RD Alt	Patricia J.	P
Eastern PA RD	Merle S	P
Eastern PA RD (Dec)	Sean J	P
Free State RD	Christian B	P
Free State RD Alt	John W	P
Greater Philadelphia RD	Clarence A	P
Greater Philadelphia RD Alt		

- Began at 7:20
- Clarence read the 12 Concepts
- Introductions – Central Atlantic, C&P, Eastern PA, Free State, Greater Philly
- Observers: Duwan – GPR, Trisha – Free State, Adam H – PR Chair CT, Andre G. - NNJ / NEZF, Rob U GPR, Dennis M - NEZF Chair - spiritual.theory@gmail.com / 315-719-6387, Kris, NEZF Fellowship Development Chair, Ted D – GPR
- Check In opportunity was offered
- General meeting etiquette guidance
- Overview of agenda

Agenda Items

- Planning January two day AZF event**

Greg J Reported: 2 day virtual zonal forum January 30-31st, Business meeting on Sunday the 31st. (flyer is attached) - still needing a theme for the main speaker. There is a survey on the C&O website. So far the top four topics of the survey (deadline Nov 15th) are



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1. Virtual Recovery meetings,
2. Virtual Service meetings,
3. Future of the World Service Conference,
4. GSR Basics,

Four topics tied:

- GSR Basics, Social Media and the NA Member, SPAD, Attracting Members to Service, So you want to be of service at the World Level

Timeline: Workshop at 10 and another at 11 and then 12-1 lunch – no meeting with speaker, workshops every hour (5) and then at 6 main speakers and 7-9 virtual karaoke. Unresolved concerns: bandwidth during the event and also can the zoom platform handle the numbers, waiting room, technical concerns? Other ideas regarding potential topics.

- Discussion from the floor regarding who to get for the workshop speakers/facilitators. World Board workshop presenters? Danny G? WB Regional Reps?
Will the new zoom account be used?
 - Where is the survey and who is being asked to respond to it. C&P website, responses are being sought from the C&P Region as it is the Hosting Region.
 - Planning meetings – how can the rest of the zone give their input and/or be a part of the planning? Greg said some meetings can be scheduled to bring everyone in. Trish said phone or email input would be best and most welcome. She had concerns about scheduling conflicts with more meetings.
 - Zonal Meeting are always the last weekends in January and July
- **Interim Treasury Team (ITT) update** - Sherry, Trish –
Trish – opened two bank accounts with BB&T. One has an ATM card with it and the other is for donations. Money can be transferred between the two accounts and the majority of the balance can be safeguarded.
 - PayPal account is opened. 18% fee plus additional if the money is accessed immediately. Not advising putting PayPal on website since it charges so much. Other options being explored are Venmo (free), Cash App, mobile banking, and check recording for other options. Mobile banking is free – make out checks to Autonomy Zonal Forum, Zel, Venmo and CashApp are free. Checks can be sent to Trish directly. The address on the account is the Free State Service Center. ATM card was sent to that address and Trish is picking it up on Wednesday. Checks can be made out to Autonomy Zonal Forum
- Discussion: Clarence brought up where to send the donation GPR is sitting on and was told he can mail the check. Then the check can be deposited via mobile banking which is free.
- Christian suggested using free options: Venmo &/or CashApp buttons on the website. Kim asked about putting a button on the website now. Sherry said Zel is also free but requires a little more effort for setup. Checks can be mailed to either Free State Service Center or directly to Trish.
- Trish Said she will send the CashApp info to me right away



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Proposal: Christian proposed to allow for the treasury teams recommended app to be put on the website. This proposal will come up later.

- **Zonal Contact Discussion** - Rotation of Zonal contact. To continue or not? Randy – wanted to review prior decision regarding the length of term of the Zonal Contact. (3-18-19 Minutes) Our earlier decision according to those minutes was that Merle is the zonal contact until the next conference cycle which means we should already be voting in a new Zonal Contact.

Sherry wanted to clarify there are three different contacts. Zonal Contact, Rep for the US Zones, Rep for the other zone webinar. The zonal contact is the person who receives all the eblasts/communications from NAWS. The Zonal Contact is the liaison between the Zone and NAWS. Randy reminded the body that at the time the decision was made the zonal contact was just a simple contact for our zone. Craig's input was that in the beginning it was just a liaison and since then the zonal contact has taken on a bigger role. NAWS board decided each zone now gets assigned a board member and they chose Merle to be the contact for the board member. Merle clarified she felt it also allows the contact to participate in the delegate webinar. We agreed to rotate who attends the zonal meetings. EPARNA is assigned a world board contact the same as any other region, and the Zonal Contact position for EPARNA just means they end up privy to information that the rest of the delegates already get.

Craig proposed we leave the Zonal Contact like it is until January. We do elections then – Facilitator, Secretary, Treasurer and who knows?

Meeting of the US Zones – November 8 – Clarence (John is back up) is set to attend that. This means that this issue can wait until January as there is nothing that Merle will be doing on our behalf as the Zonal contact between now and January.

~ **Proposal:** wait until January to elect the Zonal Contact (no objections)

Shawn wanted to define what the zonal contact means.. (Merle will share her info with him)

Discussion: See the paragraph above

Decision: no objections – Zonal Contact decision will be placed on the January agenda.

John GPR RD alt will attend the Meeting of the US Zones. Clarence is working November 8

- **NEZF/AZF Workshop** Recap/ Craig, Sherry, John – Craig:

As part of the collaboration we put on a workshop this past weekend. The recordings are available. Using Planning to address collaboration issues. (attached are the raw notes from the workshop on October 24. The final consensus of the group from NEZF and AZF who were present is that Communication, Coordination and Training were issues that could be better addressed with collaboration between our zones).

Craig suggested the body allow him to create a task team to examine the structure in the NEZ and the SEZ – they have task forces in place and we might learn from this. He is suggesting they come back with recommendations for how we can set up these task forces too. Craig is suggesting: Clarence, John, Rob, Greg and Sherry



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One thing they might bring back is to create a survey for our zone.

Clarence felt we should concentrate on one thing at a time. FD, PR are huge projects together.

Strategic Planning. Scanning.

Clarence felt he has the pulse of his region, Greg didn't and was more in favor of the scanning, but slow process. Christian felt it'd be helpful to get some guidance and like the idea of a scan. Craig mentioned it could be an opportunity to share info about the zone and get feedback. It could initiate conversations.

Observer: Wilvena NEZF: Our process with the PR subcommittee was to have one Region submit a proposal for consideration to create an ad hoc for PR. The PR ad hoc was tasked to meet for a specific period of time during which a scan was conducted with our member Areas and groups with respect to PR and what was needed in terms of services. After the time protracted, the ad hoc made a report to the zone and then before we became an actual subcommittee guideline were drafted. The NEZF PR supported specific Areas and did local workshops during our zonal meeting. It took several years from ad hoc to subcommittee adoption.

- **US Zone Strategic Planning Task Team Update/Craig**

- December holiday week virtual events US Zones/ Merle

Craig: reported they are putting together a strategic plan and taking it back to the workgroup.

Merle had an idea for a holiday zonal type marathon and they want Merle to head up this virtual event. Craig asked if our zone would be interested in doing it.. some input was it's a busy time. Others felt for some it's not going to be so busy as they are alone. Craig said they will take our input back to the meeting on November 8th and let everyone know. They are suggesting Marathon meaning all week... not all night every night. Each zone could be responsible for one night/activity. AZF body is generally in favor.

- **Nominations Update.** – 3 resumes received – deadline is November 15. Interviews are Nov 15-30. Resumes are in Dropbox

- Process for interviews: We get the resumes. Craig and Kim will set up the interviews and let everyone know when the interviews are scheduled. Craig and Kim will ask the questions. Everyone can take notes and listen to the responses.

~Proposal: follow the recommendation from the treasury team for a website donation button.

Discussion: (see above under Interim Treasury Team (ITT) update)

Decision: 4 in favor: (EPARNA no vote)

~Proposal: (Christian B) To create a task team to examine the structure in the NEZ and the SEZ. They will come back in January with recommendations for how we can set up these task forces too. Task team will be: Clarence, John, Rob, Greg and Sherry (Greg is the Point Person)



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Discussion: we are now allowing observers to take on roles (such as on a task team) but in the past we didn't allow non-RD members to serve.

Decision: Straw Poll: 5 in favor – Proposal passes

- **Open Forum/Proven Practices**

- Rob U: SPAD update: to date there are 310 drafts that are finished. 50 days remain to do draft material. 32 days are out until Dec 31 then no more material will be allowed. Review and Input for about ½ the year is complete. 168 SP came from Living Clean Book. 76 from Guiding Principles. All steps and traditions are covered. trades 9 and 6 are still under represented in the submitted drafts

Clarence: January is the Virtual AZF meeting: Bank acct info, Task force info, elections, Craig and Kim agreed to not jump ship if those positions don't get filled. Treasurer: there is a nominee for treasurer so Craig not worried about being able to elect a Treasurer.

- Rob asked who leads the task team and Greg agreed to be the point person
- if anyone wants to attend the NEZF FD meeting, it will be Nov 10th, 9pm. If you email fd.nezf@gmail.com you can be sent a calendar invite with the zoom link
- NEZF PR meets the third Tuesday of the month, Next meeting: November 17, 9 PM zoom ID 263 708 316 no password
- Future Agenda Items/ Prioritize
 - Bank acct info
 - Task force info
 - Zonal Contact
 - Elections
 - Best Practices from yesterday for July
 - Zonal Reports

Next meeting is our Virtual 2-day January 30-31, 2021

Upcoming AZF Schedule

- 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



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October 24, 2020

845 4229 3861

What issues can be addressed through collaboration between NEZF and AZF?

Gathering Information:

Communication issues, loss of continuity more effective comm

Lack of resource pool, provide continuity, lack of new blood

Lack of coordination between service bodies and outside entities

Misinformation, disinformation

Lack of coordination leads to numerous conventions being part on that take away from financial resources

Lack of strategic planning between zones

Lack of training mentorship (e.g. RDs) but more broadly trusted servants

Fragmented PR, technology coordination, information, communication

Lack of leadership development

Bottleneck of information between levels of service

Lack of capturing an accurate fellowship conscience

Lack of awareness of services offered by zones

Lack of information about what other service bodies

Communication/yes; 6

Coordination/No; 3

Training/Mentoring/go slower; 4

Develop Goals:

- Improve, increase Communication between our zones
- Increase, improve Coordination between our zones
- Increase, improve Training/Mentoring between our zones
- Develop Approaches:



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NA ZONAL WEEKEND HOSTED BY
THE
CHESAPEAKE & POTOMAC REGION
OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

AUTONOMY ZONAL FORUM

January 30-31, 2021

Saturday: 10 AM-9 PM

Sunday: 9 AM-2 PM

Meeting ID: 229 265 8822

Passcode: recovery

www.autonomyzonalforum.org



AZF Theme:

"NA Service...is the collective responsibility of our
fellowship as a whole." *It Works How And Why*, pg 213

AZF Updates * Lunch Time Meeting * Workshops

Main Speaker Meeting

KARAOKE - WHO'S GOT TALENT?

email 62jones@cua.edu NLT Dec 31st with your musical selection

Greg J., C&P RD (301) 917-4893

Patricia J., C&P RDA (202) 486-0784

All Are Welcome (including GSRs, RCMs & Chairpersons)

