

February 10 -12, 2011

Attended by: Caleb B. – RD / Anthony B. - RD

Perrysburg, OH

Midwest Zonal Forum Report

The weekend long meeting was broken down into three parts. There was a review of the C.A.T., C.A.R., and a formal meeting of the MZF. Friday and Saturday was devoted to a C.A.R. and C.A.T. workshop provided by two members from World Services.

Conference Approval Track (C.A.T.)

The C.A.T. is a proposed review of the next two year's agenda. It is a basis with which the next C.A.R. is developed – 2012-2014. The following are some brief points the C.A.T. looks to encompass:

- There is a long term goal to have all languages available of published material for the addict still suffering.
- Wanting to develop a Tradition Book – there is a strong desire to have something developed (80%), but much division on what it should offer.



- Introduction to NA Meetings – This will be submitted to fellowship for review and input. The final text will appear in the next C.A.R. for approval. Found that people handed them out to individuals, so it was not being used for service committees. That is why they are thinking of developing an IP on it.

There were lots of questions concerning how some of the material being discussed for approval comes about. i.e. “conference generated” and fellowship generated” were some of the terms being used and this caused some to have questions about the difference.

- Budget Proposals for the next two years were: year 1 no increase in income. Year 2 hopes for 1% increase in income – this is a conservative view.

Iran was mentioned in this discussion as they are shown as a separate line item in the budget. However, the U.S. does not co-mingle funds for Iran due to political constraints. Iran does have its own Services Office which supports the efforts of carrying the message there. All funds generated in Iran, stays in Iran pretty much. NAWS does not count on money from Iran. It's listed in the budget, but NAWS does not have access to it due to the political climate between both countries.

There were lots of questions about why the revenues of NAWS have dropped so dramatically since 2008. Some conveyed they don't trust NAWS and had questions about past World Convention's turn out and how the monies had been spent in general. Some attendees made reference to the economy and suggested it was, in large part, due to this.

It seemed as if the budget issues of NAWS are reflective of our own challenges faced by the MNRSC the past four years.

It was reported that NAWS is looking into having the World Convention every 3 years instead of 2 in order to reduce expenses. Many people did not like this idea and asked for people to come up with other ways in which to better manage finances, rather than reduce these kinds of events.

- There was a lot of discussion about the possibility of moving in a direction of digital media – offering books, IP's, etc. online for sale or purchase. Many members attending this year's MZF (Midwest Zonal Forum) were concerned about this happening. The idea came about because many addicts have expressed the desire to have greater access to N.A. literature via the web, smart phones, etc. The conversation lasted quite some time and, in the end, it seemed as if many people were receptive to the idea and looking forward to how it may benefit their respective Areas. It was almost a unanimous consensus that, no matter what the future brings in this regard, that we don't go completely paperless.

I feel that because there was much discussion about digital media and its benefits to many – it helped lead the way to a favorable response to our own RD report to the MZF on Sunday.

- WSC Seating – WSC is divided on whether any more Regions should be seated. Should finish talk before bringing in any more regions. Seating became a discussion. Some questioned how other parts of the world are splitting, and or joining and the concern that the U.S. might not be as represented.

Conference Agenda Report (C.A.R.)

There was much discussion on what was presented by two members of the World Services team. It seemed as if some were concerned how the new Service System Proposal would (negatively) affect them.

- **Regional Proposals** – these are ideas for study and consideration. The suggestion is that there be an ability to have “proposals” instead of formal motions to consider. This will allow for a more informal way to present and change ideas and that they are more flexible than motions. It is an experiment and may be less intimidating to many. May allow for more discussion by more delegates.
- **Service System** - Pgs 51 – 98 addendum A not being asked to vote on at the WSC in 2012. Background – there are serious concerns about services being provided. Trouble finding people to serve. There are 8 resolutions:= to consider and are under review within the C.A.R. One of the biggest concerns is, If they are approved, then people who are doing service will be expected to consider the conscience that world has decide to go forward – nobody HAS to do anything, but of course the conscious of everybody has moved forward – then perhaps they should do this.

There was much discussion again on “bundling” of materials for resale. An example would be the bundling of Step 4. People could purchase excerpts from The Step Working Guide, It Works How and Why, Basic Text, etc.

MZF

Nominations

Co Facilitator – said JJ has stepped down as Co Facilitator.

Facilitator – John from North Dakota was elected.

Treasurer – Hasn't received bank statements for months. Currents signees are current. Old people removed. Comments about bounced checks due to people moving and changing positions – mistake made in balancing accounts. Some suggested the bank account be placed with a larger institution due to the ease of use for future Treasurer's. The current position holder was asked to look into the cost of doing this and said she would come back to the next MZF with a report.

Web Contact - (Bob) "bobandblynn@gmail.com" – will email a written report – waiting for web statistics from website provider. He is having trouble using his "admin" rights. Difficulty fixing links and has had trouble getting together with web servant. There was some concern about his ability to perform the job function and asked if he could use more help. He said he made contact with the web servant and felt as if he would be able to learn enough to be of better service. If you have any flyers for him to publish on the MZF website, please forward to email mentioned above.

Secretary – Open. Looks like one might be able to do it and be voted in next meeting in Wisconsin.

Regional Reports

Illinois – Kathy (RD) 15 areas now as one has folded. Had convention in January and it was profitable. They took suggestions and reduced their early registration fee to \$10, which included everything. They used local speakers and did not incur expense of making travel arrangements for "out of towners" – they will however go back to providing outside speakers next time. They had 2800 pre-registered and over 3000 attended the event. They stated a vendor from NY ripped off some people – supposed to make t-shirts etc and never showed up after getting money. Another RD stated they had also been ripped off from the same vendor and suggested for no one to use them in the future. Do not use Tony Allen per several RD's.

Greater Illinois – no show – they attended a C.A.R. workshop

Indiana - Michael said they are having "ISNAC" – Mar 2-4th IN Indianapolis

Metro Detroit – Gene (RD) They have met monthly since July 2011 – H&I, help line, service office functioning nicely, not doing conventions

Michigan- Les stated they are trying to stay up on conference preparation. Regional phone line is up and running in a beta form and will go fully active in March. Looking into new website as old site is ready for an overhaul.

Minnesota – Caleb/Anthony gave report

- We handed out MNNAC flyers and many people were excited and looking forward to attending our event in Rochester.
- We spoke about our new website and how it is intended for use by both addicts and professionals. We explained the intuitive nature of finding a meeting and ease of use on a smart phone. Spoke about the ability for all Areas to contribute and ability to upload their own respective information. Asked them to take the time to review our new website at www.naminnesota.org. Feel free to surf and make suggestions for continual improvement. Suggested the use of “Google Groups” on our regional website and be able to communicate / stay in contact with other N.A. members.
- Many people commented, and complimented, how well our website looked and hoped to emulate ours in the future. I feel we can provide help in this area if needed.
- Mentioned the consolidation of our help lines into one centralized number and the benefit in cost savings. We also mentioned how members have signed up to answer calls and the high answer rate. We spoke about missed calls being picked up. Many liked this idea.
- We spoke about our “Bridging the Gap” program. This caused a lot of those attending to ask many questions and generated a lot of excitement. Many people gave me their contact information in order to learn more.
- PSA’s – We spoke about the success of using PSA’s provided to us Metro Detroit. We also mentioned the use of Bus Stop signs throughout our Region as the cost has become affordable.
- Webinar – Spent several minutes informing everyone how we have begun using this as additional tool within our Region. This got people so excited, that it actually became a topic of discussion for later in the day. We spoke in more detail at that time and many people asked if we would be willing to come and make a presentation at the next MZF. Jimmy, from Indianapolis, asked is there a secure way to use this site? I told him I would get back to him.

We were complimented on how informative we were

Ohio - Dave – 13 out of 14 areas represented and three Trusted Servant positions are open in their Region. They are looking into having RSC in a central area instead of traveling – motion being considered. They are hoping to do multi-area CAR workshops. Ohio thanked MN Region for providing “Project Plan” and used it as a template on looking at putting it on. JJ provided it a couple of years ago. They donated \$250. It was reported that the actual expense for this MZF was less than \$1000.

Tulsa Dave gave a report for this Region, as they were not present, and he talked a lot about the USFA

Wisconsin – Bill said they are doing ok – scheduled several CAR reviews. Help Line is doing well.

Upper Mid West - Jeremy talked about “Spiritual Refreshment” and that it was a huge success. Convention in Fargo was a success too. When they have shopped (3 times) the new SSP they have received great concern over switching over. They do not want to adopt any change.

Buckeye Region – Craig reports there are 17 counties – meet in Canton Ohio – 5 out of 8 areas attended the December RSC meeting. They are attempting to make 5 motions for WSC. They have had a good amount of response going to different ASC's and talking about the CA.R. with more members getting involved. They are concerned about WSC function. They would like some sort of electronic system to see what others say about it – in other words, they are hoping for a web-based system in which everyone could see how other AREAS view different subjects. They expressed a disconnect, when doing workshops on different topics, from other Regions. They would like to know what others are thinking as items are presented elsewhere. They are not in favor of the proposed changes in the new Service System Proposal. The only item they would consider is the two-track system. They are not in favor WSC seating changes.

I wanted to be sure and thank everyone for allowing me to attend and participate in last weekend's MZF. It was enlightening, informative, and definitely relationship-building. I feel the people I met there, both at the World level, RD's, and others attending will allow me to develop a successful network of support.

I feel we can play an integral part in the development of platforms for the future of MZF's; as well as, lead the way in helping other Regions increase their ability to reach the addict who still suffers. Many people are hopeful we can make a presentation on our "webinars". Given the amount of positive feedback and enthusiasm, for what we have to offer throughout Minnesota, I am excited about the opportunities we face in the future.

I look forward to building upon the relationship we already have with the regions surrounding us.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service,

Anthony B.
RDA - Minnesota