

Plains States Zonal Forum Business Meeting

August 27th & 28th, 2016

Lincoln, NE

Moment of silence, followed by Serenity Prayer, Traditions, Concepts, Service Motivator

ROLL CALL:

Trusted Servants:

Facilitator - Daniel C
Secretary - Amber C
Treasurer - Mark B
Web-Servant - Bob K – Absent
PR Coordinator – Open Position

Regions

Best Little Region – Luann H & Sam
Iowa – Barry B. & Kathy N.
Mid-America – Nate F & Jeffry L
Nebraska – Diane B. & Brian S.
OK – Cindi B. & Kyle B.
South Dakota – Steve P. & Jeff

Visitors: Jeff R, Sally R, Jann B, Amanda M, Carol P, Cheryl, Angie, Colby B, Susan S

MINUTES: Secretary read the minutes for January 2016 PSZF Minutes and April 2016 WSC Minutes. They were approved. There was one amendment to the January 2016 minutes. Nebraska's website – Their region actually voted yes, but were told that there wasn't enough room on the website for them, so decided not to move forward.

REPORTS:

Treasurer:

Hello Everyone,

Just a few short notes as I wind up my second term as your treasurer. First we finally completed an audit on the bank account. This was done by Bart W. (IA), Barry B. (IA), Daniel C. (MIDAM) and I. The results of that were that we balance out to the penny. A huge thank you to all three for their diligence in going through all the bank statements and old check books. It was no easy task by any means. The audit was completed 2/27/16 at the Close Encounters Convention. We now have a book with all the current bank statements in it and a separate book to be used as a check ledger. It only took me four years to get organized.

And that brings me to the final item on my agenda. It is time I bid you all fare well. Thank you for your trust and patience over the last four years. I can honestly say in all my years doing service I have never worked with a better group on any project or committee. You are all the very best we as a fellowship has to offer and it has been an absolute pleasure working with all of you. Even that Sunday at the end of the first MZSS. ☺ Thank you for showing me how it's done and how great it really can be.

HUGS,

Mark B.

ACCOUNT BALANCE AS OF 1/30/16	\$ 2878.83
AUGUST 2015 PSZF EVENT	\$ 819.54
NEB REGION DONATION FOR BTW	\$ 120.00
START UPFUNDS RETURNED BY MIDAMERICA	\$ 100.00
MISC DONATION	\$ 130.00
TOTAL	<u>\$4048.37</u>

EXPENSES

NAWS	\$ 878.83
WEBSITE FEES (3@ 14.99)	\$ 44.97
CK #1156 NEB REGION START UP FUNDS	\$ 300.00
CK # 1157 FUMC (CHURCH DONATION)	\$ 100.00
CK # 1158 NAWS (CARS & CATS)	\$ 130.00
TOTAL	<u>-\$1453.80</u>
BALANCE AS OF 8/28/16	<u>\$ 2594.57</u>

PR Coordinator:

No report – Position Open

Web Servant:

No report – Web Servant Absent

MZSS

Greetings,

We have been busy working toward the next Multi Zonal Service Symposium that will take place September 23, 24, & 25, 2016 in Milwaukee Wisconsin at the Crown Plaza Hotel. We are getting really close to the event that is less than 30 days away. We have a Host Coordinator, Matt F from Milwaukee. We are also looking for volunteers to assist with, audio / visual during the workshops, registration, merchandise, and hospitality.

Our Treasury balance is \$5,050. We have 96 registered addicts. There was an issue on our web site and we did have a pay later option still live on the web site. We have corrected this and have contacted these people who have paid for their registration now.

We have completed our guidelines and have sent them to the Regional Delegates for input. We received some input and we have recorded this input for future review. The input was reviewed and discussed with some of the people that gave it. We did not make any changes from the input and they are available on our website.

We have event insurance. We have a phone app for the agenda for the conference. The Symposium will again have 3 tracks set up. The tracks are: Public Relations (which would include PI/PR, H&I, Phonline, etc.), Fellowship Development, and Information Technology. This is the same as our last Symposium. We encourage all members to come and participate as the workshops will vary in service experience and type. Each track will have basic workshops to advanced type workshops. We are finalizing our workshops and facilitators for the workshop. We still need leaders or panel members for H&I, Unifying Communications IT, and Phonline. Each of these workshops needs at least one more panel member or one more leader. We have attached a programing flyer that details our program at this point.

Our next meetings are set for: August 3, August 28, and September 14, 7pm CST. These meetings are scheduled on gotomeeting.com. You can go to our website to get the link or information for each meeting. It is under the about us tab, and link is the workgroup calendar.

If you did not receive our mailings please let us know so we can update our delegates and alternate delegates list from our member zones.

Our Trusted Servants:

Facilitator - Barry B. Iowa

Co Facilitator – Daniel C. Mid America

Recorder – Lucy O. Volunteer

Treasurer – Mary B. Lone Star

Co Treasurer - Sharon E. Lone Star

Programing – Amanda M. Nebraska

Facilities - Pat P. Arkansas

Merchandise – Randie B. Lone Star

Technology – open

Registration – Angie S. OK

Arts and Graphics – Andy Minnesota

Host – Matt Milwaukee

Yours in service,

Barry B.

(402) 612-8137

Planning our Future Workgroup Report

The plan of the workgroup was to submit a regional idea to the WSC and then meet virtually afterwards to discuss the outcome of the proposal discussions. The proposal was created online collaboratively and then submitted to the Conference Report:

After discussing the CAR topic “The Future of the WSC and the Role of Zones”, the Regions of the Plains State Zonal Forum would like to submit the following idea to be discussed at the 2016 WSC.

“For the seated regions of the 2018 WSC to have the option to send, by proxy, their conscience and voting privileges through other selected regional delegates from within their current established zone.

This option would give seated regions the ability to experiment and test with zonal seating while still maintaining the ability for old business or other specified decisions to be carried forward regionally. This action could encourage some kind of movement towards change while also start immediately decreasing the size and cost of the WSC.”

This proposal was listed incorrectly as a submission by the “OK Region”. There was not a time scheduled at the conference to review all of the Regional Ideas that were submitted. Many of the were discussed in PoF sessions or new business.

Since the conference, we have not met. Results of all the regions tallies were not received until this week. Jeffry is currently helping with a spread sheet. The results will be sent out soon (probably AFTER MultiZonal Service Symposium). We will need guidance from this body on how or if to proceed with this workgroup. With the tallies now received, we could probably meet before the next zonal meeting and provide a summary of our full regional votes and formulate any future ideas, proposals or motions as directed by this body.

SBTW Report

No work was done since the last zone. Waiting on a vote from Best Little Region.

Best Little Region (TX)

Greetings Fellow Committee Members

The Best Little Region is doing well and undergoing some changes as we are trying to become more involved with Narcotics Anonymous as a whole.

Our Region serves four Areas with approximately 29 groups. We are active in H & I and PI, and we are doing well financially.

One of the major items of business that has affected us is allowing Areas that do not support the NAWs service structure to join our Region. We did not have policy on allowing Areas to join the Best Little Region and we passed a motion doing so in May of this year.

I am polling our Areas to find out methods our Region can best serve them in communicating information. We are a large Region and I am trying to create centrally located service meetings and workshops after the MZSS.

We will be holding the Best Little Region Convention Narcotics Anonymous on November 4 - 6, 2016 in Midland, Texas. The Texas State Convention XV will take place in Lubbock, Texas (which is located in the Best Little Region) May 25-29, 2017. More information regarding these events and other Regional information may be located on our website - www.blrna.org.

Always an honor and privilege to serve

Lea Anne H
Best Little Region
RD

Iowa Region

Greetings from the Iowa Region,

The Iowa region has 12 areas and 300 meetings a week. At the last Regional Service Conference we had all 12 areas present. This is not normal for a regional conference located in a corner of our region. Our February region located in the center of the region normally has 100 % of the areas present. Our planning sessions have started for our next 2 year cycle. We have a survey/ inventory out to our areas and members that will be reviewed in November with goals and budgets as the outcome.

Our PR Committee has been reorganized giving them more time on the schedule. They were not using all their time and not doing much work. As a result we have decreased their time more with each region and this has decreased the amount of work they were doing. This is a kind of a self-fulfilling prophecy thing. We are going to reverse this. Fellowship Development is strong and doing some outreach to the southern section of our region. We now have a regional Archivist and our convention is going to digitalize all our banners.

On some overdue items we finally have a regional insurance policy and Co-Treasurer. We have been working on an insurance policy for over 10 years. The Co Treasurer position has been open for 3 years. Our Convention occurred and was our most successful on financial and attendance front. This was the first convention that we had no acceptable bid from host areas. This convention was planned and put on by a committee that came from all over the region. Some of the members of the committee attended the meetings by Skype.

We will have 2 rooms at the Multi Zonal Symposium, one for men and 1 for women. If the zone does not pick up the Sponsorship behind the Walls the Iowa Region will. The Region has changed our guidelines to allow the delegate and alternate to ask for an additional term. We each have asked for an additional term that will be voted on in November.

In loving service.

Barry & Kathy.

Mid-America

Hello Zonal Peeps. Mid-America is doing mostly well with almost all of its member ASC's meeting and supporting the member groups. The exception would be Western Area, which has not reported to the Regional body in over a year*.

We are trying to reach out and establish contact and more importantly try to help Western move forward and assist them in any way we can.

Our latest August 2016 Regional meeting list has 88 member groups with 300 meetings each week!*

Our toll free PHONELINE 855-732-4673 has added a "live" member feature for 6 hours per day. Now when you call between the hours of 2pm and 8pm daily, you may request to speak to a member. We will expand this feature another three hour shift in the near future to increase our coverage to 11am – 8pm. This is an exciting development and it does a lot to carry our message.

Mid-America Campout 2015 is the feature article in the latest issue of our NA WAY Magazine! This issue features Tim and Deb S.'s dome tent on the cover and an article that first appeared in the Mid-America Newsletter in 2015.

Since we last met in April at the WSC, we have had our Regional Campout #37 in Lawrence (Lake Clinton) and Coby was our Sat. night speaker. It rained buckets and it made for an intimate share on Saturday night. Jeffrey L. will be our Campout Chair for #38 and it will be in the same location at Lake Clinton. We hope to see you at the LONGEST RUNNING FREE CAMPOUT IN ALL OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS! June 30th-July 2nd, 2017.

Our Upcoming Regional events are the Soul to Soul retreat at Camp Chipawa (Ottawa, KS) – Sept 30th – October 2nd

Service Assembly with P3 Fundraiser - Saturday, December 10th, 2016 , Lawrence, KS with Group Service, Area Service, Regional Service "how to" workshops along with a show and tell of "all" the literature in Narcotics Anonymous. Service material will be given away to attendees. Flyers for events can be found at our website: www.marscna.net/events

Our Region continues to reap the benefit from reorganization under Public Relations and Fellowship Development Umbrella Committees consolidation. Saturday is a very busy and productive day at our RSC weekend. H&I is doing a Regional survey of the ASC's to determine need for support. Our website is in the process of being overhauled with more smart-phone friendly features and use of the BMLT for meetings. PR is doing presentations around the State and the latest being in Coffeyville with secondary benefits of new meeting locations and the public library stocking NA literature! Our Mid-America Newsletter needs an editor, but continues to reflect NA recovery in Mid-America. Our liability insurance premium has gone up yet again and we are now spending around \$6,000 on coverage of all our member groups and literature stockpiles.

Mid-America has donated \$2,000 to Plain States Zone and \$1,000 to Project Primary Purpose. Checks in the mail.

Wichita is researching a bid for MZSS 2018.

RD team has been funded to attend MZSS 2016, see you there.

In Service to My fellowship,

Nate F. – Mid-America Regional Delegate

Nebraska Region

Greetings from the Nebraska Region,

Thank you all for coming to Nebraska!

Exciting things to report about the Nebraska Region. We recently adopted Consensus Based Decision Making for the RSC; The Region adopted a motion to begin funding both the RD and Alternate RD to attend the bi-annual WSC, and to fund both RD and ARD to attend the Multi-Zonal Service Symposium each time it is held; Elkhorn Valley Area is hosting a PR Workshop on September 17th; And the Southeastern Nebraska Area is working to get Basic Texts into the high school libraries in Lincoln, NE.

Also, the 33rd Nebraska Regional Convention of NA (NRCNA), will be held in Omaha, NE, on September 23rd-25th, 2016, at the Ramada Plaza Hotel, located at 3321 S. 72nd Street. Fliers are available, or you may register and pay online at: <http://www.nrcna.nebraskana.org/?eventId=1&controller=event&task=individualRegister>

Brian S. was elected to be the new Nebraska Regional Delegate, beginning his term in January, 2017. Congratulations Brian, you'll do an amazing job! There are many other Regional positions yet to fill.

This will be my last Plains States Zonal Forum, as the Nebraska Regional Delegate. It has been a great pleasure serving with all of you. For the time being, I plan to dedicate my service time to my Home Group and Area Service Committee.

Thank you for letting us serve,
Nebraska RD Team

OK Region

Clean and Crazy Regional Campout was a success. 35th annual.

Fall Spiritual Retreat – November 4th – 6th

OK Regional Convention – March 17th – 19th

P3 Fundraiser – Soup Bowl – October 22, Tulsa, OK

Greetings from the OK Region! We have the following regional events occurring along with multiple group and area events coming up.

We have one area discussing leaving the Region. Trusted servants from the region attended the ASC to answer any questions. No further information has been provided. More will be revealed.

The distribution of the baby blue has decreased. Several meetings have voted to stop handing them out and are now handing out LWB and the Introductory Guide.

We have had several new groups form in outlying places not currently attached to any ASCs. Groups have a variety of needs ranging from contacts to literature help. Proposal to have regional funds available to these groups to give them immediate assistance.

Two women's facilities have received a large number of basic texts from P3. One facility has had an increase in their meeting from 3-4 to 30-40. Another facility has had contact with the area PR and will be receiving a presentation soon.

There were some recent shared services occurring. A county jail requested a neighboring area to bring a weekly H&I panel. The committee discussed crossing the area boundary. Decision made to contact the facility with willingness to start meeting. Local group H&I combined sharing of providing members to attend this panel. The first meeting was held 2 weeks ago and was a great success.

We are excited to host the next PSZF in conjunction with our annual General Service Assembly on February 3-5th at St. Groves in Glencoe, OK. A "Save the Date" flier is attached and more will be revealed concerning workshop topics. Looking forward to having you all in Oklahoma and sharing your ESH and ours.

Love in service,

Cindi B.

South Dakota Region

Greetings from the South Dakota Region,

Recovery is alive and well in our region. As with everything this summer has been filled with activities. SOAR Area had 2 different campouts this summer, which both were a success. They are continuing to work on organizing their area.

Getting trusted servants in place and working on guidelines which they have never had before. An area in Minnesota has shown interest in joining either the SOAR area or the South Dakota Region as they are on a border area and don't feel they are getting needed services from Minnesota Region. Nothing sure as of yet. More will be revealed

In the West River Area we had a memorial run/poker run for members of NA that have passed. It was a beautiful ride through the hills with lots of good fellowship. The other side group had their annual Sheridan Lake campout during the rally. Addicts from a number of states took advantage of a clean place to camp and fellowship. Thanks to all that made this possible and those that was able to attend.

Our South Dakota Regional Convention is coming up on Sept 9-11th in Sioux Falls SD at the Ramkota Hotel. Our main speaker is coming from Washington State looking forward to a great time sharing recovery.

Our annual Black Elk (Harncaj) Peak hike will be held September 17th. Looking forward to a beautiful hike in the Black Hills followed up with a picnic with food furnished by the West River area.

One a side note, we have had the meeting in Porcupine close due to the chairperson moving. We are hoping someone else will step up and help to carry the message in this area as it is needed badly. There are also some other meetings that are struggling but are still open at this time.

As with any areas the meeting that are meant to be will survive as our higher power sees fit. It has been a wonderful weekend and we're so glad to see you all. Thank you for being here sharing your experience, strength and hope.

Also I need to talk to region to find out how they feel about giving a list of how we voted on these items! Still working on a phone line and also starting a new H&I meeting in West River!

ILS,
Steve P.

OPEN FORUM (Saturday August 27th, 2016 9-10:30am)

Mid-America has an area in the region that hasn't reported in over a year. The regional meeting list has their meetings listed but they don't know if the meetings on the meeting list are correct or not. Don't know if they should remove the entire area since we haven't had contact back on these meetings. What experience do others have on this? Iowa had an area totally dissolve, and formed an outreach committee, and a lot of meetings were picked up by other areas. Went over a year with no communication from that area. Had people go and visit those meetings to see if they are still happening. It was asked at what point does the information become stale. A member shared in their area if groups aren't active for 2 months they are removed from the meeting list. In OK region, it's a requirement to provide the area meeting information, and suggested to go visit their area meeting. It was mentioned to call a member in that area to get the information. In Nebraska there is an area that doesn't meet. Suggestion to make all efforts to contact them, get addicts on asphalt. If there are reports that someone goes to the meeting and it doesn't exist. Nebraska took volunteers from the RSC to visit those groups. It was asked if there are treatment centers out that way. It was suggested to call those treatment centers to get information.

WSC – Did anyone come back from WSC with a different feeling about zonal seating? Is zonal representation something we should be looking at moving forward? At the last zonal meeting, it felt like our zone wanted to move forward with this. It was mentioned that there needs to be a process in place at WSC in order for us to move forward with this. Needs to go back to the fellowship to get their opinions, but we need something to present to the fellowship. We need a mechanism to move forward. A lot of discussion is happening about this, but everyone just thinks someone else is going to do something with this, so nothing is getting done. Do we need to send back to our home groups that we want to send a zonal rep in 2018? In January we decided to create a workgroup for this issue. This will be discussed more tomorrow in business because the workgroup was formed. There was concern on how would we get regions conscience on all the new business stuff.

Quick question for the delegates – Would like to have a region wide meeting list – they use BMLT – should be able to extract a printed meeting list.

Does anyone have a PowerPoint presentation on CBDM – yes – PSZF should have one on their website.

Mid America uses phone.com for their regional phone line. Can add a live addict feature. They are testing right now with 6 hours a day. Only costs \$587.00 per year. Just suggestion for other regions if you are using something that is more expensive this is something other regions can look at. They also offer free conference calling.

MZSS – Is there any talk about moving to a different year other than 2018. It was answered that if we change it its still going to butt heads with something. WSLD, World Convention, etc happens in 2018. MZSS made a proposal to the regions, if regions want to change it, it should be mentioned when that proposal goes to regions. PSZF should be the next hosting region for this event. Proposal had gone out and regions approved for the next MZSS to be in 2018.

Outreach to home bound members – Does anyone have a workgroup or committee that does outreach to members who are homebound temporarily?

South Dakota has an issue where there is extra money in the acct and they can't figure out where its coming from. Several regions gave suggestions to help with their issue.

Literature prices, how much have regions increased their prices? One region said 10% is what they originally had, but they have increased it now to 3% above the amount of the literature. Another region said in their area they just round up to the next dollar. SD Region said in his area they charge 17% to include shipping and the extra cost.

OLD SERVICE:

Elections

- **Facilitator:** Cindi was nominated and declined. Barry was nominated and declined. Colby was nominated and declined. Nate is willing. He qualified himself. He left the room and a vote was taken. Thanks Nate 😊
- **Secretary:** Amber C was nominated. She accepted. Thank you Amber C. 😊
- **Treasurer:** LeaAnne was suggested, but cannot take it at this time. Carol was nominated. She accepted. She qualified herself. She left the room and a vote was taken. Thank you Carol. 😊
- **PR Coordinator:** Sam is interested. Qualifications were read. Questions were asked to Sam. She was voted in. Thank you Sam! 😊
- **Web Servant:** Jeffry was nominated, but declined. Daniel was nominated, but declined. No other willingness. Barry will make sure everything is posted.

Audit

Audit was completed at Close Encounters in February. Bart signed off on the audit.

MZSS:

There was concern yesterday on having MZSS in 2018 with WSC and World Convention in 2018. The committee will discuss these concerns. Should we survey members attending MZSS? Suggested to get feedback from every region. Mid America suggested first week end in December 2018. Another suggested was Spring of 2019. Another suggestion to do prior to WSC in April 2018. A couple other RD's suggestion to leave it as it is. Next MZSS should be in the Plain States Zone. It was mentioned that it could be a smaller MZSS in 2018. It was asked if we could add the guidelines to the minutes, but we don't have official guidelines for this. It was mentioned that we need 200-250 room nights, space for 3 track workshops with internet, etc. 2 banquets,

registration room, hospitality room, shuttle service. A bid is going to come from Wichita, KS. Was suggested to get a bid for Omaha and Oklahoma City.

○ **Sponsorship Behind the Walls (SBTW)**

Best Little Region's vote said yes. Amanda was nominated to be the workgroup coordinator. Kathy, Kyle, Jeff R, Angie S, Jeff S, Daniel and Paula will be on the workgroup. They will be working on guidelines for this project. It was asked what the timeline should be before this project begins. It was mentioned regions have approved the project, regions should start gathering willing members once we get the guidelines. Amanda mentioned that she needs a budget. The original proposal budget was for \$720.00 for a year. At the end of the meeting today Amanda will give us a dollar amount that she will need for this project. Amanda is working on a volunteer flier to send out.

○ **Moving Open Forum Time**

We did this Saturday morning this weekend. It was mentioned that it would be better if it wasn't first thing in the morning. Maybe next time we should have this in the afternoon. Our intent to have this was to include this in the local fellowship. It was suggested trying to do it right before or right after lunch. Suggested to have Open Forum for an hour and have workshops be an hour and a half. At the next zone most people will be there all day since it's at the campground. It could have been members that weren't interested because members may think that this was just for the zonal participants. It was suggested to allow the hosting regions to decide when it will be best for that region.

○ **Planning for Zonal Weekends**

It was discussed last time that we need to do better about the planning. Make sure the next meeting is being planned at the current meeting. Make sure the planning RD's have the facilitator's number so that the facilitator.

○ **Zonal Tally**

Cindi has everyone's tallies but one. The tallies will be put together and reported back to us.

NEW SERVICE:

○ **PR Booth**

The PR coordinator is going to work with Amanda and other members who have done this booth before. We are going to try to get a presenter application filled out and sent in.

○ **Go to Meeting**

This is something that we should look into. We have a new workgroup that may need something like this. We could approach other zones or regions to share that responsibility. This isn't something that needs to be decided today, but something that we should think about moving forward. Proposal to have zone purchase a Go To Meeting account to send back to the regions to see if that is something that we should propose. Go to Meeting is about \$30/mo for 50 participants. We would have to set up a scheduling calendar on the zonal website.

○ **Next Meeting in OK Region**

Next meeting is February 3rd-5th at Glencoe, Oklahoma. Cost for delegates should be \$50.00 per person. Bring your own bedding. We will give \$300.00 check today for start-up funds.

Workshop Suggestions – Sponsorship Behind the Walls, Public Relations, IDT's will be out, Social Media, MZSS takeaways, something recovery focused and not service focused. OK Region will take these into consideration and get

○ Amanda is requesting \$400.00 for Sponsorship Behind the Walls. It was suggested to give her \$700.00 and if there is extra money she can return it.

○ South Dakota will be next in fall of 2017.

In loving service Amber C
PSZF Secretary