



Regional Delegate Report – November 19, 2016

NAWS

On October 18, 2016 I emailed an Interim Regional Delegate Report and attached an e-blast Statement from NAWS regarding the Survey results on the FIPT Statement. On October 27, 2016 I received another e-blast Statement concerning: (1) the new piece of literature - Guiding Principles; (2) Literature Projects; (3) a new PR Pamphlet; and (4) the Issue Discussion Topics. Copies of these e-blast Statements are attached.

The Issue Discussion Topics (ITD) for the 2016 – 2018 Conference Cycle are now posted on the NAWS website. They are as follows: (1) Atmosphere of Recovery Service; (2) How to Use Guiding Principles; and (3) Applying our Principles to Technology and Social Media. The ITD Materials and accompanying slide show presentations can be downloaded from the NAWS website at www.na.org/idt.

The World Board Delegate assigned to liaison with the Connecticut RSC is Tim Smith (*Australia*). He has reached out to me and I facilitated an e-introduction between Tim and LisaMaria. LisaMaria and I both have Tim's contact information including his Skype address.

LisaMarie is now registered with NAWS as Connecticut's Regional Delegate Alternate. I received an email from NAWS requesting confirmation of the contact information they have on file. The information lists two former RSC members as the "Regional Web Page Contact" and the "Regional Web Contact for NAWS". I responded to the email and requested they replace the two individuals with webservant@ctna.org. We need to update the RSC's "contact information" at: <http://www.na.org/?ID=updateforms-newregfm>.

Northeast Zonal Forum

I attended the Northeast Zonal Forum (NEZF) Conference in October. The following is a summary of the discussions/business conducted. The Report given on the Connecticut RSC is attached. Also, attached to this Report are the notes (*unofficial minutes*) I took during the Conference which provides more detail of the events summarized in this Report.

The Discussion portion of Friday's meeting focused on what I understood to be a "project" regarding collaboration between Public Relations (PR) and Hospital and Institutions (H&I) Regional subcommittees. The NEZF's objective is to design a "platform" - that would be "housed" on the NEZF website – to promote collaboration between the Regional PR and H&I Subcommittees and assist these subcommittees with sharing ideas and resources.

Several RDs mentioned their Regions wanting to see some form of “service” resulting from the RDs’ participation in the NEZF. It is my understanding that these discussions **are** about ideas of how the NEZF can assist with collaborative efforts between the Regional Subcommittees - **not** the NEZF becoming another level of service (*service body*). We discussed the NEZF Survey - with 5 RDs reporting “responses” from their Regions. I conveyed the results as compiled from the Connecticut Region but also stated that the results were insufficient to represent the “conscious” of the Connecticut Region. The discussion resulted in the NEZF taking a straw poll of what areas of service it would focus on providing collaborative assistance. The top three (3) areas of service were: (1) Public Relations; (2) Hospitals and Institutions; and (3) Fellowship Development. The NEZF initiative (*focus*) is in direct line with the 2016 - 2018 NAWS Strategic Plan that includes a project on “*the relationship between public relations and fellowship development and the need for more collaboration and planning*”. The Strategic Plan project will include a strategy “*to support the efforts of NA service bodies – especially those of zonal forums – to strengthen and grow NA as part of a coordinated, comprehensive PR strategy that advances the Vision for NA Services ...*”

Saturday consisted of two (2) Workshops followed by the Hosting Region serving a prepared dinner for the Regional Delegates. Members of the Fellowship were also in attendance during the Workshops. There were concerns expressed among the RDs and others in attendance on what took place during the Workshop on Illicit Literature. Chief among the concerns was that two individuals attending the Workshop had set up a display of Baby Blues and Grey Books. Those I spoke with expressed their concerns that the display implied an affiliation with the NEZF. They also expressed dissatisfaction that the Workshop had been high-jacked and used to promote the Baby Blue; the Grey Book; distrust of NAWS and the World Board.

Sunday’s meeting consisted of elections (*Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Webservant*). There were two proposals made: (1) to officially adopt the practice of “Consensus Based Decision Making” when conducting NEZF business; and (2) to briefly discuss the issue raised by illicit literature being present during the NEZF Workshop. Both proposals will be discussed during the December 18, 2016 NEZF virtual meeting.

There was further discussion on what initiatives the NEZF would focus on in an effort to assist Regional Subcommittees with collaborating ideas and resources. It was agreed that the NEZF would move forward on the project to establish a “platform” for this effort.

Privileged to Serve

Troy B., Regional Delegate

NAWS E-BLAST



Hello Conference participants,

We just had our first Board meeting of the cycle and we want to keep you updated on some of what we discussed and decided. Of course, we will also report these things in *NAWS News*.

PR/FD Zonal Contact: The 2016–2018 NAWS Strategic Plan includes a project focused on the relationship between public relations and fellowship development and the need for more collaboration and planning. This cycle’s strategy is to “Support the efforts of NA service bodies - especially those of zonal forums - to strengthen and grow NA as part of a coordinated, comprehensive PR strategy that advances the Vision for NA Services.” We are asking zones that are interested in participating in discussions about this to send contact information for a point person. Thank you!

FIPT Statement: thank you to those of you who sent in input on the draft statement related to FIPT issues. We received input from 91 people, 49 of whom were delegates. Of those 49, 22 would approve the statement as written, 16 would approve it if revised, and 11 would never approve it. Given that fewer than half of delegates responded to the survey, there does not seem to a conscience on releasing a statement from the WSC. We will, instead, release something from the World Board that reports on the WSC discussions, decisions, and straw polls perhaps along with some historical context.

IDT: Coming soon to a website near you ... We are working on finalizing the Issue Discussion Topic material for this cycle and will post session outlines and PowerPoints at www.na.org/idt when they are finalized. The topics this cycle are

- applying our principles to technology and social media
- the second bullet point of our vision statement and atmosphere of recovery
- an introduction to our new book *Guiding Principles*

Recovery Literature Projects: We are collecting input to help shape two recovery literature projects that will be included in the project plans for consideration at WSC 2018. One is a meditation book and another is an IP on recovery and mental illness/mental health. We have posted webpages for each project with input questions online to fill out and downloadable forms you can use for your local workshops. Please spread the word to any interested addict. More voices means better literature.

Mediation book page: www.na.org/meditationbook

Mental illness/mental health IP page: www.na.org/mhmi

Service Material Projects: We are also working on a couple of “tool box” projects for service materials this cycle—one for conventions and events and another for local service tools. We know that updated service materials are long overdue, and developing a collection of tools rather than a large handbook means that we can produce more items more quickly and that they can be more easily translated and adapted for local use. We will be creating a web page for each focus and will eblast a notice to all members on the NAWS Update list when the pages are posted and we have more information.

NAWS E-BLAST



Greetings from NA World Services,

We have a few announcements to share with you all.

Guiding Principles: NA's new book, *Guiding Principles: The Spirit of Our Traditions* is available for purchase for \$11 in hardcover (item 1201) or softcover (item 1202). You can order the book through our online shopping cart <http://www.na.org/?ID=OrderLiteratureOnline-content> We are working on a special edition and will send more details about that in November.

Literature Projects: We have also posted questions that will help us frame project plans for two pieces of literature - an IP on recovery and mental health/mental illness <http://www.na.org/mhmi> and a meditation book www.na.org/meditationbook Interested members can log on and share their thoughts any time before 1 June 2017.

PR Pamphlet: We have just published a pamphlet for use in public relations service work titled *Narcotics Anonymous and Persons Receiving Medication-Assisted Treatment*. This pamphlet is intended for professionals who prescribe medication to treat drug addiction. We have posted it online at www.na.org/pr and, by the end of November, copies will be available for order from NA World Services as well.

Issue Discussion Topics: The Issue Discussion Topics for the cycle are: Introduction to Guiding Principles, Atmosphere of Recovery in Service, and Applying Our Principles to Technology and Social Media. Workshop outlines, PowerPoints, and handouts for the IDTs are all posted at www.na.org/idt. If you put on a workshop locally, don't forget to send us the input. The input helps us better understand local needs and concerns. We summarize what we've heard in the Conference Report each cycle.

NEZF - Report from the Connecticut Region



Report from the Connecticut Region

Northeast Zonal Forum, October 21 – 23, 2016

The Connecticut Regional Service Committee meets monthly on a rotating basis throughout our nine Areas which are comprised of: Greater Hartford Area, Greater Waterbury Area, Greater New Haven Area, Greater Danbury Area, Mid-State Unity Area, United Shoreline Area, Southern Fairfield County Area, Central Connecticut Area and, Tunxis Valley Area.

- We have approximately 300 weekly meetings including two meetings in Rhode Island.
- We have a Regional H&I Subcommittee and each Area has an Area H&I Subcommittee. We facilitate about 100 H&I presentations (3 of which are handled by the Regional H&I Subcommittee)
- Our Public Relations Subcommittee is doing well; each Area participates in PR activities, including Poster Drives, getting PSAs on TV, schedules and IPs into Police Stations and medical offices. Our Public Relations Subcommittee staffed a Booth at the American Psychiatric Nurses Association's Conference held October 19 – 22, 2016 at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford, Connecticut.
- Our phone line is a computerized system with a toll-free number. There are voice mailboxes for each Area (*with active notification if a message is left*) and a computerized version of our Meeting Schedule, separated by Areas. We currently use Halloo and our monthly invoice is about \$40.00.
- Most of our ASCs purchase literature from NAWS and then sell to the groups. At least one Area's group purchases directly from NAWS.
- As the Areas purchase literature directly from NAWS, our Region no longer has a Literature Subcommittee. We do have a position for Schedule Facilitator and Policy Facilitator. Any policy matters had been dealt with on an ad-hoc basis previously.
- The service pamphlet we created, which includes some narrative about what service is and why we serve as well as a Schedule of all Regional and Area subcommittee meetings, has not sold very well and we are discussing whether to reprint more.
- Our Region formed a corporation that oversees the financial and legal operations of our Convention. The corporation is a 501c3 not-for-profit and is managed by a Board of Directors. Each of the nine Areas holds a seat on the Board of Directors. Each Area Director serves for a term of 3 years. In addition to the 9 Areas Directors, five members from the current Convention Committee, a Tech Director, and up to two at-large members make up the remainder of the Board members.
- We have an annual Regional Convention - traditionally the first full weekend after January 1st. Our 32nd Regional Convention will be January 6 - 8, 2017 in Stamford,

Connecticut at the Hilton Hotel. The Convention Committee and Board of Directors meet monthly during the planning stage.

- Our region has a blanket insurance policy covering meetings and events. It doesn't cover planned sporting events, though.
- We have continued our practice of having a workshop or presentation at the RSC every other month.

Privileged to Serve

Troy B., Regional Delegate

LisaMarie S., Regional Delegate Alternate

NOTES FROM THE NEZF CONFERENCE (*Unofficial Minutes*)

NOTES: (*Unofficial Minutes*) from the NEZF October 2016 Conference

Friday, October 21, 2016

The Business Meeting of the Northeast Zonal Forum (NEZF) was held at the Holiday Inn in Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania on Friday, October 21, 2016. The meeting began at 6:30 p.m. All Regions were in attendance:

ABCD

Connecticut Region

Eastern New York

Greater New York

Mid-Atlantic Region

New England Region

New Jersey Region

Northern New England Region

Northern New Jersey

Northern New York

Tri-State Region

Western New York

After introductions, a welcome of the new Regional Delegates (RD), the reading of the “Ground Rules” and the NEZF History, followed by Regional Reports – Discussion began. The Discussion portion of the meeting focused on what I understood to be a “project” to assist Public Relations (PR) and Hospital and Institutions (H&I) Regional subcommittees with collaboration of ideas and resources. The objective of this project is to design a “platform” that would be “housed” on the NEZF website, to meet this objective.

There was further discussion on the status of compiling the email addresses/contact information of all the Regional PR and H&I subcommittees for this project. It was at this time when the subject of the PR and H&I Facebook Groups that bear the “NEZF” initials (PR@NEZF.org / HI@NEZF.org) was discussed. When I asked if the creation of these Facebook Groups was an NEZF initiative, it was explained to me that the initial assignment was to compile the email addresses/contact information of the Regional PR and H&I subcommittees. The former Connecticut RDA accepted this assignment but instead of completing the task, he took it upon himself to create these Facebook Groups and held personally “administrator” rights. The NEZF Webservant reported that he recently obtained the “administrator” rights to these Facebook Groups. The Webservant went on to request direction from the NEZF on what it wanted to do with the Facebook Groups. There were a few comments from the floor but no consensus/vote taken on the question of what to do with them. A few RDs commented that PR subcommittee members from their Regions were members of the PR Facebook Group and found it useful. I reported that the Connecticut Region’s policy does not permit RSC trusted servants to use social media to perform RSC services

Several RDs made comments about discussions going on at their respective Regions about wanting to see some form of “service” resulting from the RDs’ participation in the NEZF. It is

my understanding that these discussions **are** about ideas of how the NEZF can assist with collaborative efforts between the Regional Subcommittees - **not** the NEZF becoming another level of service (*service body*). It was decided to review the results of the NEZF Survey.

During this portion of the discussion, 5 RDs reported having “responses” from their Regions regarding the NEZF Survey.

I reported that, out of the 46+ Surveys handed in:

29 **were not** in favor and 11 **were in** favor of the NEZF handling funds;

26 **were not** in favor and 14 **were in** favor of the NEZF becoming another level of service; and

That the majority of those who responded were **in favor** of the NEZF providing some sort of service in the areas of:

Shared Services;
Fellowship Development; and
Public Relations.

I also stated that, based on the fact that Connecticut has 300+ meetings, the 46+ Surveys handed in was insufficient to represent the “conscious” of the Region.

New England Region conducted an Area “consensus/vote” of the GSRs (*survey not voted on at the meeting level*) and reported that the Region held no opinion on whether the NEZF should or should not be another level of service but that the Region does want to see services on some level resulting from the RD’s participation in the NEZF.

The Western New York Region also conducted an Area “consensus/vote” of the GSRs (*survey not voted on at the meeting level*) and reported that its Region does not want the NEZF to become another level of service but does want to see service on some level resulting from the RD’s participation in the NEZF.

The Mid-Atlantic Region was against the NEZF being another level of service or handling funds but is in favor of the NEZF providing services.

The Northern New York RD reported that he received more questions about the Survey but not any concrete conscious on the questions asked by the Survey.

A couple of RDs reported that their Regions elected to focus on the work needed to do the CAR Workshops and the Survey was not discussed at the Areas. A couple of other RDs reported that a good number of people did not even know what Zones were about.

The discussion resulted in the NEZF taking a straw poll of what areas of service it would focus on providing collaborative assistance. The top three (3) areas of service were: (1) Public Relations; (2) H&I; and (3) Fellowship Development. The question of how to begin moving in

this direction was added to agenda for discussion on Sunday. The NEZF initiative (*focus*) is in direct line with the 2016 - 2018 NAWS Strategic Plan that includes a project on “*the relationship between public relations and fellowship development and the need for more collaboration and planning*”. The Strategic Plan project will include a strategy “*to support the efforts of NA service bodies – especially those of zonal forums – to strengthen and grow NA as part of a coordinated, comprehensive PR strategy that advances the Vision for NA Services ...*”

Saturday, October 22, 2016

Saturday consisted of two (2) Workshops: (1) Illicit Literature; and (2) A Future of the WSC. In addition to the RDs and RDAs in attendance, the Workshops were also attended by members of the fellowship. The Workshops consisted of PowerPoint presentations and a Workshop facilitator who talked about the information outlined in the PowerPoints. Each Workshop was followed by a question/answer/discussion (QAD) period.

The facilitator spoke for about 15 to 20 minutes on the bullet point topics contained in the PowerPoint and then opened it up to the floor for QAD. After a couple of questions from the floor, an individual stood up and began to give his own “presentation” - in length and detail - on the “Baby Blue”; and the “Grey Book”. During the entire time this person shared he continued to make accusations against NAWS and also stated that the Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust was an illegal document and that lawsuits were going to be filed against NAWS. The RD from Greater New York interrupted him and stated he was “*out of order*”. Another individual stood and asked if we would allow the person to speak for just 5 more minutes and informed everyone that there were several copies of the Baby Blue and the Grey Book on display and that if they wanted to know the real truth that they could read them during the Workshop. The Mid-Atlantic RD (*Hosting Region*) stood and suggested a straw poll be taken of everyone to decide if the person should be allowed more time to speak. I interrupted and asked for clarification of whether the Workshop was an NEZF event. The Mid-Atlantic RD responded and said ... “*No. She put the workshops together ...*”. A straw poll was then taken and a majority of those present voted to let him continue to speak. In my assessment, the remainder of this Workshop was geared toward promoting the use of the Baby Blue and the Grey Book and distrust of NAWS and the World Board. During and after the Workshop, I spoke with a few RDs and other members in attendance who expressed their disbelief of, and dissent with, the illicit literature being present and on display in the Workshop. Chief among the concerns was that the display implied an affiliation with the NEZF. Those I spoke with expressed dissatisfaction that the Workshop had been high-jacked and used to promote the Baby Blue; the Grey Book; distrust of NAWS and the World Board.

The second Workshop was called “*A Fresh Look at WSC*”. This PowerPoint presentation outlined an NA member’s vision on how the WSC could function in a more efficient manner. It began with a discussion on the history of the WSC and then followed with a proposed outline for functioning more efficiently. Having never personally experienced how the WSC functions, it was difficult for me to grasp the concept. However, it was refreshing to actually hear a “proposed” solution to a “perceived” issue instead of simply listening to someone complaining about something being wrong or not effective.

After the Workshops, the Hosting Region served a prepared dinner for all the Regional Delegates.

Sunday, October 23, 2016

Elections were held during Sunday's Business Meeting with the following results:

Chair – New England Region RD
Vice Chair – individual from the Connecticut Region
Secretary – individual from the Mid-Atlantic Region
Webservant – New Jersey Region RDA

A proposal was made by the New Jersey RD for the NEZF to officially adopt “Consensus Based Decision Making” as it has been in practice for a period of time. There appeared to “oppositional” discussion from one RD and the proposal was withdrawn by the maker. The proposal is being redrafted to provide more detail and will be presented again during the next NEZF virtual meeting.

Another proposal was made by the Greater New York RD that the NEZF briefly discuss the issue of non-conference approved literature at the Saturday Workshop and the issue of affiliation it raises. The rationale of the RD making the proposal reads: *“To avoid disunity within NA as a whole.”* It is my understanding that this proposal will also be discussed during the next NEZF virtual meeting.

There was further discussion on what initiatives the NEZF would focus on in an effort to assist Regional Subcommittees with collaborating ideas and resources. It was agreed that the NEZF would move forward on the project to establish a “platform” for this effort.

The next three (3) meetings of the NEZF are as follows:

Virtual Meeting – Sunday, December 18, 2016 at 3:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting – Sunday, February 19, 2017 at 3:00 p.m.

In-Person – Weekend of April 21, 2017 – Sturbridge Host Hotel, Sturbridge, Massachusetts – Hosting Region – New England Region.

Meeting closed.