

Conference Participants Web Meeting — 28 January 2017

Guiding Principles Small Group Notes

1. Does our NA community (Conference participants) work together in a spirit of unity?
2. How can we build or enhance a spirit of unity and a focus on our common welfare this cycle?

Summary

Many responded that we generally work in unity, but that we could improve in this area. A common thread seemed to be that when we are at the WSC itself, we are more able to work in a spirit of unity. WSC small groups were mentioned several times as a way to show unity in action and provide a foundation for collaboration that promotes unity. There were also several suggestions about holding WSC small groups earlier in the week and/or using more small group discussions at the Conference. Some thought more face-to-face contact and/or more frequent contact in between Conferences would improve unity and help to educate and inform the Fellowship (including using web technology to accomplish this).

Most of the groups reported on the importance of a focus on spiritual principles: looking inward and identifying what is causing disunity; building trust, especially between Conference participants and the World Board; and remembering the spiritual principles identified in Tradition One of *Guiding Principles* (unity, surrender, acceptance, commitment selflessness, love, anonymity, safety, hospitality, empathy, goodwill).

Individual Small Group Notes

Top ideas reported by the small groups highlighted in yellow

Group Number: 1

1. Q1 Both ways: WSC is a manifestation of how we work in unity. Another manifestation—communications, attending zonal forums and conferences together.
Q2 When face-to-face, we have different communication and focus on our welfare.
2. Q1 For the most part, yes; however as first-time AD, didn't see equality of anonymity because a small group of participants dominated discussion. Working toward unity: there's a lot of "us and them"—Conference participants and WB, but seemed to work better together as week progressed and small group discussion enhanced the spirit of unity at the WSC
Q2 Encourage mentoring to add to our unity.
3. Q1 Would be more unified if less redundancy (love to hear our voices even if same message being repeated). Discussing CAR motions at length didn't make sense because we have understanding of our region's conscience when we arrive.
Q2 Try to do too much business at beginning of WSC; creates unrest. Consider doing small groups first to build unity before business.
4. Q1 Haven't been to WSC...

Q2 At ASC, RSC need new trusted servants to be treated as newcomers; especially when divisiveness is present. Agree with having small groups first and less time on CAR business. New people might be hesitant to speak up. Discourage sitting/serving only with folks we know.

Top idea: Focus on Atmosphere of Recovery in Service kinds of topics; that focus takes us back to spiritual principles: unity * surrender * acceptance * commitment selflessness * love * anonymity * safety * hospitality * empathy * goodwill

Group Number: 2

Question 1

1. There are areas we do well but others we need to improve
2. Coming back together is sometimes difficult
3. Like moving to CBDM
4. Hearing alternate views is important. And to be loving
5. There is a conflict between Concept 2 regions and Concept 3 regions
(Concept 2 = representing groups are primary; Concept 3 = delegate is the primary decision-maker.)
6. WSC is global. We need a worldwide perspective not a regional perspective. Being willing to change my mind.
7. Generally but there is room for growth.

Question 2

1. Stay focused on a few topics that are worldwide issues instead of conference issues.
2. For the WSC, the worldwide fellowship is the group for Tradition 1.
3. More workgroups than decision based.
4. Contribute as a diverse fellowship.
5. These small group discussions is good between the WSC.
6. Using this technology to have more discussions in between conferences.
Being prepared for these discussions.

Q1: Generally but there is room for growth.

Q 2: Using this technology to have more discussions in between conferences. Being prepared for these discussions.

Group Number 3:

Question 1

1. Lengthy discussion causing problems trying to come up with one voice
2. No, the only time we get together is at the Southern Zone Forum
3. For delegates in Europe we need the first conference to get familiar with procedures so it makes it hard for us to participate, maybe have a webinar about it. Somehow the conference has US based issues brought to the conference, perhaps they can be dealt with before the WSC so we can deal with more world issues
4. There's a lot of grinding, mixing, and matching and hard to determine where it's heading. Unity is there but hard to achieve
5. We are trying we are making it. Webinars in advance is what we are doing now and we didn't do it before and being positive is the way to unity.
6. Sometimes we are and sometimes we are not, because of focus and perspective, yes and no

Question 2

1. Everyone should be represented at the WSC
2. Better communication between conferences and between zone meetings through more web and zone meetings, participants in breakout rooms in WSC to participate in webinars in smaller groups as opposed to large group
3. Do smaller groups first to get to issues at hand so we when we get to the WSC we will know what to discuss when we get there.
4. What we are doing now is good for WSC unity, if we can try to include a different array of RDs and groups from the whole fellowship, more breakout rooms in WSC
5. Walk in the other person's shoes looking at their perspective rather than mine. It's helpful to keep an eye on carrying the message
6. Taking our personal opinions out, and looking more outside the box. We need to sit down and look at what the issue is and come up with a common understanding for the better of the fellowship. It's an educational thing, educate the fellowship more about what happens in the WSC
7. What we are doing now is a statement of unity, people from all over the world getting together. This is unity in practice, meeting in a regular basis like we are now.

Meet more frequently in order to educate the fellowship, get information in advance to share it to the local fellowship and focus on our primary purpose, focus on small groups and webinars.

Group Number: 4

Question 1

1. Opportunity to get together in a spirit of unity & think about how to reach out and serve addicts in need, given epidemic. Webinar an example of this.
2. Come together from all over the globe. Get to see/feel what local communities face & what we have in common, what can be addressed by NAWS.
3. Need to constantly remind ourselves what our primary purpose is – not what’s best for ME, but what’s best for the still suffering addict.
4. Unity is not without our own issues/problems. Our own agendas can call us, but working together gives us a world view & better appreciation about what others face.
5. Yes, but must have effective connection like this web meeting during the cycle.
6. So much happening at WSC, and yet, we get through the work in front of us. We can disagree without being disagreeable.
7. Hooray for technology that allows us to see and hear each other!

Question 2

1. Environmental scan – look inward, get our house in order in own backyard. What’s causing disunity? How can we reach out be inclusive? Unity is contagious.
2. Personal work comes first, lest we spread venom.
3. Consider “how am I talking about my service work?” Excitement (or the opposite) is contagious. This can be easy to forget.
4. Opportunity to visit other service bodies and/or network with trusted servants from around the world – shows us service JOY, as opposed to service work.
5. Personal recovery and working steps can help us because unity comes from my recovery
6. Underlying issues might be set aside physically with a “grip box” of some sort; perhaps it would be helpful in providing a means of communicating those needs.
7. Small groups at WSC = success, more manageable. Unity is a decision. Small groups provide an opportunity to practice unity.
8. Building a foundation of collaboration promotes unity.

3 ideas combined:

It’s important to look inward first, to get our house in order in own backyard. What’s causing disunity? How can we reach out be inclusive? The small groups at WSC give us an opportunity to see unity in action & see that success. It’s this foundation of collaboration that promotes unity.

Group Number: 5

1. It would seem some long running resentments may be a stumbling block. It would be helpful if we could come back together.
2. Within a given Zonal service body, this is not an issue for us.
3. Refocussing...see next bullet points
4. One addict's experience was that personal in-face encounters have been positive. I've felt, while it's not 'perfect', my experience has been positive.
5. While preparing for the conference our Regional service body does a good job of coming to a group conscience. But once we reach the conference things change and there is many times lengthy discussion. This leads to reacting to the discussion which may or may not fit the original matter. Could we avoid all of the discussion?
6. There are multiple stages to the process of preparing for and attending and participating in the conference. Sometimes it feels like I'm being pushed (during the conference). A mechanism for delegates to use leading up to the conference would be helpful. It would be helpful to be able to collaborate with other RDs.
7. Improving communications. Delegate sharing may be a vehicle.
8. At the end of the conference we were given a list of contact info for all conference participants. If lost, how can this be replaced.
9. Responding to changes/discussion on the conference floor is challenging. It's difficult to report back to my region. Being able to speak with other regions following the conference would help.
10. We need to improve communications. We need to use the means that we have presently to communicate. Use our tools and respect our tools.
11. Board Liaison is helpful and works very well.
12. First by defining our common welfare.
13. It would seem our common welfare is carrying our message around the world. Our Vision Statement would be our guide.
14. The way we do business at the conference differs between old and new business. This needs to change/improve. Some attendees try to use sessions inappropriately.

Improving communications

Group Number: 6

Question 1

1. Don't have response to this. New to process. CP Board – seems that participants at odds with WB. Challenge to see spirit of unity and whether we are contributing to common welfare. Observation by CT RD and RDA.
2. My observation that some Conference participants are at odds with WB. Requires me to have thick skin. Need all points of view to enhance unity. Discussion board can be valuable tool and responsibility to participate.
3. Common welfare defined differently by geographic location. PR purpose seems to enhance spiritual aim and may improve unity. Re-center WSC on common welfare and worldwide needs. Participate in WSC approved projects.
4. Seems WSC has diverse opinions; unified in our vision what is best for NA and are we attached to being 'right'. Need tolerance of others to see miracle.

Question 2

1. Struggle with freeze on seating. WSC is unwieldy in current form yet want to see global participation.
2. Controversy may stem from lack of trust with others and WB. Perhaps we need to work on own trustworthiness to gain common welfare. Trust one principle to work on.
3. Trust. Hard for new person to discern what is the 'right' information?
4. 'Old' days had BOD and BOT. BOT engendered trust. Combining both we seem to be less trusting.

Participate in WSC approved projects. Trust. Hard for new person to discern what is the 'right' information?