

## Zonal Discussion at Multi Zonal Service Symposium 2018

Opened at 10:25 with moment of silence and the serenity prayer.

Daniel read the email: greetings... Southern Zone requested a zonal discussion between all 3 zones... about how to advance the concepts around the MZSS... better serve the needs of the fellowship.

Laura and Daniel facilitating. Daniel wants to be a part of the future of the conference.

Starting off with talking about the things we do well.

Who's here from Midwest - Jim, Stuart, David

Southern – a lot

Plains states – a lot.

Nate (plains state) – do well – get together, have meals together, practice fairly well CBDM, still hurky jerky.

Presentation for professionals at every zonal forum. Fairly consistent and has grown. Reaching out and touching professionals in those areas. Making an impact. Got the presentation down...

Self supporting – auction at the end of each zone. Member regions occasionally send chunks of money... small chunks, sometimes big chunks. Mid America a big chunk one time. Make due. Just now have a budget. Just now revamped guidelines and policy. Sponsorship behind the walls up and running. So far so good. Making an impact. Providing services to member regions. Avenues for communication between member regions and best practices. Spend time talking to each other about what is going well. Open forum as part of business meeting. Time well spent. Instead of talking about the problems ALL the time. Most rds/ads funded by regions. Officers are not. This is new... used to be just the RD.

Southern: Staci – we get along. For the most part. Fully self supporting primarily through regional donations. \$20 voluntary registration at each zone. All zone trusted servants funded by the zone. We have a prudent reserve. Have a southern zonal representative that we sent to last WSC that was funded. We do a really good job at workshops and training our rds/ads at workshops. Attempting to get pr off the ground. Did one at last zone. Goal to do better. Created beginnings of PR workgroup at last zone that everyone wanted to be a part of. We do a really good job of communicating with one another what works in our regions. Version of CBDM – more of an open discussion where everyone is welcome to participate. God conscious – table when can't come to consensus. Regional concerns... open forum whats going on. Fac, treas sec and zonal rep. zonal rep is our representative on future of wsc workgroup. KY and bluegrass Appalachian have come to an understanding of how they can carry their voice together. Sell tshirts to help fund. Q: 2 regions came together for the conference but still treated as separate regions at WSC. Q: we have one unseated region officially. No longer the case of zonal rep carrying voice because we technically only have 1 unseated region. We have found that our voice is very similar. Lone star typically carries red river. Even if we have a separate vote they are typically very similar. They feel their voice is heard. Jan, July and now when they meet. 4<sup>th</sup> virtual meeting in April on off conference years.

Midwest – Blyn – at least one workshop for the local fellowship when they meet. Pr presentations if local fellowship wants them to. One to professionals and modeled a town hall meeting recently. Meet 3 times a year in off conference. Twice conference year. Information meeting at the conference. Last 2 conference cycles – offering more virtual participation. Midwest zonal forum right now is 8 regions- big distance between them. Much easier to do all virtual or all physical – merging them has a new set of challenges. Last year there were some virtual meetings. Been using slack. Getting a lot more done. Slack has made a huge difference. 2 co facilitators, sec, treas, web servant. Recently established a wsc rep to go to wsc – not filled yet because they can't afford to fund it. Suggested someone to be on future of wsc workgroup. Trusted servants funded by forum. Regional donations and pass the hat. Last year sweatshirts to get some funds – looking to do a regional version of this in the off year. Geared more toward area group and regional. Comment: one homegroup in Wisconsin – direct donations to zone. Also meet at one of your conventions – draw more people. 2 for the price of one. Don't meet every time, but once or twice during the cycle they will be at a convention. At some conventions – no one new came in, but some huge participation. Question about multi regional event. Started talking about it seriously last spring. Adhoc established. Trying to get positions filled. Next meeting this coming week. Plan to have purpose statement to take to regions to ask for money. The regions that know seem interested. Some delegates remembered to take it back, some didn't. haven't heard any negative about the idea.

Question From north east zone – interested in the purpose statement. Their zone is having challenges. Did you have to go back to your regions? Does everything get done through workgroups/adhocs... or does it go back to groups? Nate replied: driving by the zone, but sent back to groups to get input. guidelines updated.

Sam: from ne zone. Adhoc created at zone to revise guidelines. Printed product will go back to regions. laura refocusing to get back to our purpose.

Mary adding to what all 3 zones do well – come together in creating this multi zonal. Financial contributions, several regions a little hesitant, but have now funded even though we only asked for start up money. Regions want to be a part of. Regions are sending and funding regional delegates to be at multi zonal. Mary has been to all zonal meetings at some time or another – as observer or participant from WB. Don't lose track of the fact we work really well together. Took 2 years of sending the multi zonal purpose back to region. Some regions took back to groups, some didn't. Midwest ex tech. plains – pr. Southern organization.

Danny: part of SE zonal forum. What they will be bringing is a paragraph in conf on page 31 having to do with wb attendance ... looking to southern zone to meet and possibly do combined car/cat workshop. Have separate zonal meetings, but have combined business session to talk about collaborating together.

Laura: had vision we've been able to carry out. Lets talk a little about some more vision.

When southern zone requested this discussion. If you could envision the skill set that is here... envision a new zone – what would you see as its function in your wildest dreams... what would we have here together. .

Staci – dreaming – envision taking the best of what each of us does – and each zone continue to meet individually and also come together... one could be a multizonal talk about some of the things we learn

about.... Fabulous workshop last night on mentorship.... If we came together and did that – not just talk about it. Just start doing. Put together a multi zonal workgroups that actually do things – PR presentations. Reach out to neighboring zones – figure out ways to do better with all of those and just start doing. Stop spending so much time talking about what we might do and just simply start doing it.

Sam – at same mentorship workshop. To hear that some areas have mentorship workgroups to turn to. Use zoom – all these people – talk about 10% do all the work. Do a zoom workgroup. Amazing workshop. Awesome to utilize mentorship workgroup among the zones.

Cindi – what is it that the region – we need to fill a need that's not being met. Pr in plains state. How can we come together. Her zone doesn't have a bunch of extra funding to send people to these professional conferences. Professionals came from 4 regions across 2 zones. Funded literature and sent people on their own dime. There are multiple events across the 3 zones – pool resources for fees for a booth, fund people to go there, fund literature needed.

Eric – western states – opinion – opportunity for zones to get involved on fellowship development. Edm does this. In the spirit of lets just do it, they had their meeting in Fairbanks Alaska in January – just did it. Did a pr presentation into a tribal setting. started a meeting that is still there. Continuing this effort. Rural areas can be connected through technology.

Jeffery – Kansas – Friday pr, Saturday workshops, well prepared, Sunday business meeting... his hopes and dreams about expanding collaborating – strategic planning for communications. Disseminate information to groups. Consistent communication plan.

OK – good ideas really sharp folks. Passionate about getting in the prison. Meet virtually. Issue is getting in prisons – maybe someone in Kentucky has success at this – maybe we can meet virtually. Come together and discuss issues, and find solutions.

Red river rda – thinking back 17-18 yrs ago. Dream at that time – reduce expenses to regions for sending delegates to world. That dream needs to be reexamined. Not forgotten in his mind. For the purpose of reducing expenses. Multiple regions come together to send 2 representations, or 1. Take that money saved and do beter things with it.

Tom show me – show me wondered why they're a part of SZF. Get a lot done in a weekend. 3 or 4 topics. maybe our zone can go there once a year.

Jim SZF – we don't have an either / or ideology. We take every.... We don't just say could we meet virtually. We adapt. Looking for things that overlap between zones. That's the dream process. Where do the pieces touch. We have a PR process in volunteer where we got involved with ?? they don't want 10 different areas calling. They would rather deal with one entity. We're learning these processes. Taking what we learned in Tennessee. What can we do with that in Georgia, NC... looking for a single project to try to work on and build out from there. We do the foot work. Looking for and identifying things that affect both regions, all 3 zones. What is our common welfare.

Mary – zones are big. Variations in what we look like. We need to try and move the obstacles out of the way about what we're looking for/dreaming for. EDM puts us to shame on size. They meet twice a year. Once is at the time of a convention. We could look at 2 zonals a year. Apf meets once a year. They come together and do a lot of work in small groups. We're going to stifle our dreams if we keep thinking

about obstacles and move them out of the way. Or maybe we need to talk about them and how to get over them.

Sam – interloper. Question for other zones. NE zone talked about vision. We needed to take a step back – haven't done zonal environmental scan to identify needs of zone. Strategic planning and prioritization a result of a scan. Thinking about a zonal/multizonal environmental scan.

Laura: tend to look for solutions. We're visioning and now we're looking for how to get where we're not even sure where we are going. Lets continue with this vision. We have some strengths. We have a desire to collaborate and use strengths to solve gaps in respective zones. we don't know how that might happen yet. Lets don't try to solve problems yet. Something we might want to get to hear is – what next? Good input.

What now?

??? don't necessarily see 3 zones combining. But sees a real value in collaborating. Good next step time to talk together with an agenda.

Scott: whats stopping us from proceeding with a collaborative meeting?

Eric: something they have done organically. Another need that exists. Not state nation province. Names don't make much sense. Pr professional has a hard time going to google and searching to figure out who to talk to. Inside zone formed a group called California collaboration. Talked about how they could come together for unified services. Shared insurance, website California helpline, more. He would never know bluegrass Appalachian was in Kentucky.

Pat: vision inspired by a higher power. Started with inspiration with 2 people from 1 zone, 2 from another and a phone call. 7 yrs later – 300 people. Vision of future... combining zones. with today's technology it wouldn't be that hard. Getting zones more involved in service structure

Danny: thought occurred. Reps from all 8 zones in us. All interested in same topic. If we're going to talk about zonal collaboration. Why don't we invite all us zones. zonal collaboration doesn't mean unification and merger. It means a centralized place. We have a nationwide opioid crisis. We need a nationwide effort. Not a fan of a US service body of the past attempts. Now hearing and feeling like this is the doorway to make it happen. We built a slide.org – does everything eric was saying... look up a geopolitical area (like a state) someone just needs to own it. If we're talking about dreaming big. I'm dreaming of a US super zone- lets include everybody.

Nate: trying not to feel paranoid. Feels herded. Think we have a structure with MZSS – lets utilize it. Not sure creating something outside of that would be more effective. This is still pretty new (MZSS). Lets build on that for increasing communication. One of his fears when talking about change. Part is who's going to staff all these wonderful things?

Cindi: it is late. What do here is an event. its really only 10:30. Not completely for all of that – super zone. Question was what can we do together that we cannot do alone (among 3 zones). lets don't take what we're doing now and adding to it. Maybe tomorrow when zones meet we could recommend 2 ppl from each zone to start some sort of group to look at some of the things we've been talking about... blank spaces. Strategic planning - lets flesh out some of that. Talk to the delegates.... What needs are not being met? Share Web services? We'll have to task some people to flesh this out on what this could

become. When we started this here... had to plan... had to plan whole event so we could tell the regions about the event to get approval.

Daniel: needs of NA. needs are pretty similar. Heard that we would like some sort of collaborative resources. Financially, human, communication, decision making. We have the ability to do this. If we wait 20 years we'll miss the boat. Also we have in several locations... maybe we can come together to further this discussion. Is that accurate in this room? Southern zone wants to have a conversation about collaborating. This didn't just include the 3 zones. is that what Daniel is hearing?

Mary not in disagreement. This was the beginning of the conversation. Didn't think any action would come out of this... but where are we going to continue the conversation? Are we going to wait 2 years? Are we going to do this virtually before that? In the southern zone's invitation, is there interest in hosting a virtual meeting.

Wilvena: replied. Talked about edm.

Can we (SZF) put a wufoo together to send to get regions and zones meeting times? Yes.

We will invite folks to the next conversation after getting when they all meet. We will send out further invitations from that data. To further the discussion. We want more discussion.

This wasn't a shepherd act... this was an invitation from the southern zone to the MZSS to have this meet and asked the co-facs to facilitate.

How to get lucy's notes? They will be tagged to mzss.

Question to southern zone – if danny gets an invitation to this zoom meeting can he forward to other delegates?

Is this like a US zoom meeting? Yes

Laura heard anyone at this event will get an invitation.

Jeff's question: sending to MZSS registrants or to regional delegates?

Inviting the whole US is a lot.

RDs and zonal delegates in this room should get it. Out of hand if it goes to every member.

Kyle – supposed to go region to saying we want to continue conversation about collaboration.

Lets get back to who's being invited. Everyone at the event, everyone in the room, and or rds'rdas.

The ask – was to use wufoo to ask regions and other zones meet (**that are here**). When we get that we will put together an invitation.

Sam: we want young people in NA to open their mouth. Lets allow this new idea to happen. Change can be good. Maybe the young people will want to get involved.

The person who hosts the part gets to do that invitation list.

Eric commented.

Thinks we are going to have a meeting we need to define the scope of who's to be invited.

In this room at this event everyone in the US?

The list will go the registrants of this multi zonal.