

To: The Regions within the Midwest Zonal Forum, Plains States Zonal Forum, and Southern Zonal Forum of Narcotics Anonymous

Respond by: September 1, 2013 to Amanda M. pr@pszfna.org, workgroup coordinator

Proposal for a Multi-Zonal Service Symposium:

To hold a Multi-Zonal Service Symposium over a weekend (Fri-Sun) in September or October 2014, at a location within one of three zones (MZF, PSZF, or SZF). Location for the 2014 event would be determined by the multi-zonal service symposium workgroup, in conversation with local members. See below for details on resources--financial & human, location possibilities, accountability, and sample schedule for the weekend.

Purpose:

The Multi-Zonal Service Symposium offers an opportunity for the exchange of experience, strength, and hope between members of NA service. This event, with its broad diversity of our fellowship, fosters the magic of service that happens when members gather from greater distances to share best practices in serving the suffering addict and fulfilling our primary purpose. Through NA zones working together in a spirit of unity and cooperation to support the groups in carrying our message of recovery, the symposium's purpose is to inspire and instill in participants the joy of service, by mentoring and learning collaboration.

Response deadline by Regions:

- The workgroup requests a written response by each Region within the three Zones by **Sept. 1, 2013** and financial support (if possible) by Oct. 1, 2013.
- Please respond by stating whether "Yes" your region is in favor of this event taking place, or "No" your region does not want this event to take place.
- Financial support is not required to have a "Yes" response, but is desired from regions able to do so (suggested \$100).
- Respond via email to Amanda M. at pr@pszfna.org, multi-zonal workgroup coordinator.
- If any members within your region have interest in being on the event workgroup or assisting at the local level, please let us know.

Background:

- The multi-zonal service symposium workgroup was created in Feb 2013 at the Plains States Zonal Forum business meeting, along with members from the Southern Zone, to investigate what would be needed for a multi-zonal service learning conference.
- Over the years, members and all types of service bodies have experienced benefits from participating in workshop weekends, such as NAWS Worldwide Workshops, Western Service Learning Days, the Florida Service Symposium, as well as countless workshops held on a smaller scale by zones, regions, areas, and groups.
- NA currently does not have a weekend event of this type and scale anywhere in the middle section of the united states.
- Having a service symposium closer to home would enable more recovering addicts an opportunity to attend and benefit from this type of event.

- If this event is approved and held, it could become an annual or semi-annual event, but zones and regions would shape the direction it takes in the future.

Accountability and Transition:

- The current research workgroup, if this proposal is approved, would transition into an event planning workgroup to organize the first Multi-Zonal Service Symposium.
- A treasury account would be set up, through the workgroup, to handle finances for the 2014 event
- Any NA member within the 3 zones would be welcome to be on the workgroup.
- The workgroup is, and would be, accountable to the Plains States Zonal Forum, the Southern Zonal Forum, and the Midwest Zonal Forum, and the Regions they serve.
- There is willingness in the core group of members on the current workgroup who put this proposal forward to continue working on this project and see to fruition, with the necessary involvement and input of local members.

Resources:

- We have 26 regions in 3 zones (list/map attached). Possible donation of \$100 from each Region and each Zone would provide seed money. Any monies left over would be donated to NAWS
- 3-5 STRONG local members for local workgroup – depending on location and strength of local membership, neighboring regional members might be asked to help
- 5-7 other members to complete workgroup through end of event to include: Treasurer, Webmaster/Pre-registration, T-Shirt Sales, Programming (2-3), Conference Information to help with “recruiting” and maybe 1 or 2 other members
- The event weekend would include NAWS participation and support

Hospitality:

No site has been decided upon and no local fellowship has been contacted. Based on the criteria below, we selected three cities for sample locations to look into hotel costs. Whatever city the symposium would be held in, the workgroup will work closely with local members to select the best price hotel with the facilities that fit our needs.

Prices below are from written and/or verbal proposals with hotels, but most likely could get better pricing when collaborating with local NA committees.

Initial criteria to come up with the preliminary location options were:

- accessibility to a large number of participants
- needs of local fellowship
- available access to airports and drive time
- hotel amenities and cost

Assumptions:

- Thursday 75 Rooms; Friday 150 rooms; Saturday 150 rooms
- Luncheons: Mens 75, Womens 100 @ \$35.00 on Friday
- Saturday Banquet 250 at \$45.00 (Cover cost only)
- Coffee service covered from registration

- Free in room internet
- Parking at reduced rate or free

Room Rates:

- Indianapolis, IN Downtown Marriott \$149-159/night
- Nashville, TN Music City Sheraton \$129/night
- St. Louis, MO Renaissance Airport Marriott \$149/night

Sample airline flight costs (checked from N. Dakota, Houston and points between):

- Indianapolis, IN \$300-350
- Nashville, TN \$340-500
- St. Louis, MO \$300-375

In order for the event to happen by Sept/Oct 2014, along with the scope of regions involved, all with different service meeting schedules, the multi-zonal event workgroup would pick the first location. This would be in conjunction with local fellowships to determine where the need is great, and an accessible and central location. If this event continues in the future, a bid process could then be used for future symposiums.

We also researched event costs of other similar events. The Florida Regional Service Symposium, with about 150-200 attendees, cost ~\$6,500 to put on. The Western Service Learning Days, which rotates between small cities and cities as large as Los Angeles and has between 250-750 attendees, costs between ~\$8,000-\$40,000 to put on.

Programming:

- Below (attached) is a sample schedule that the weekend could take, so members have an idea of the types of workshops that could be offered at the Multi-Zonal Service Symposium 2014, but is not a final list
- take input on workshop topics from members
- program would be shaped to meet local needs
- please forward us contact info for anyone in your region that would be a good presenter on any topic that would be attending the event
- other possible topic options not on this sample program:
 - How to be a GSR/RCM
 - Outreach
 - Traditions