

Regional Assembly Frameworks Presentation

As you have heard, regional assemblies can be used to gather and share information that directly affects the Groups, Areas, Region, and Narcotics Anonymous as a whole. By using different types of settings, (i.e. workshops, small group sessions, brainstorming sessions, etc.) a lot of information and solutions can be obtained in a fun environment, where direct input and directions from the groups is available and highly recommended. During the years that the World Service Conference takes place; this setting can be used for a Conference Agenda Report workshop. This will facilitate getting as much information as possible to the home group members (through their GSRs) in a more simplified version. This setting would also allow for a post World Service Conference assembly to inform the fellowship of what occurred at the World Service Conference. This would allow for a detailed report and a question and answer session. This would allow for a better understanding of World Service issues and more detailed information getting back to the groups. These kinds of information sessions would give a better realization of a worldwide fellowship. Some regions also use this setting as a way to elect their regional trusted servants. This allows for more groups to be directly involved in that process. This assists in placing faces to the names and would allow for a question and answer session of prospective trusted servants.

I have talked with representatives from other regions recently, as well as over the past few years. I have received three different responses when I asked them how often they hold their regional assemblies. I was told some have one per year, some have two per year, and some have two per year during conference years and one per year in off years. When I asked them how they chose locations, I received several different responses. I received these responses.

- Rotating one north and the next one south
- Rotating north, central, & south
- Choosing a permanent location
- Rotating through the centralized locations of the region
- Opening it up to a bidding process and choosing the most efficient bid

I have heard varying opinions on each. The best conclusion I can come up with is this is something for the region to decide.

There are two directions to look at when thinking about formulating frameworks. One method of frameworks is strategic frameworks. In strategic frameworks, we can look at different problems (either previously discussed problems or potential ones). After identification of the problems, we attempt to arrive at attainable goals. After defining our goals, we come up with a plan of action to achieve them. The other method of discussing frameworks is to look at the actual structure, or organizing of that structure.

Several items need to be looked at when looking at actually putting together the structural frameworks for a regional Assembly. A questionnaire has been written to be discussed at your home groups. This needs to be mailed back in after discussions take place. This way a detailed plan can be written on how we, as a region, should structure our regional assembly. Some of these questionnaires will be made available after this

presentation. All groups with registered addresses will receive a copy of this by mail. Please emphasize to your home groups the importance of this. These forms need to be filled out by group conscience, not as individual addicts opinions. This way the Arkansas Regional Service Committee will know the region's wishes before the formulation stage, instead of after. These are the questions on the form.

1) Did your GSR, GSR Alt, or other member(s) of your home group attend the workshop on regional assemblies held at the Regional Unity Campout?

- GSR
- GSR Alt
- Other Member(s)
- No one from our group attended

2) Does your group know what a regional assembly is?

- Yes
- No (if not, please get ask your GSR to explain or get information from your ASR/RCM)

3) Would your group support the Arkansas Region having regional assemblies? (By supporting, this would mean having your GSRs and/or GSR Alternates responsible at attend)

- Yes
- No

4) Would your group prefer to have?

- One assembly per year
- Two assemblies per year
- Two assemblies during WSC years & one in off years
- Do not have an opinion

5) Would your group prefer to have the regional assemblies as strictly informational sessions or as informational sessions and elections of regional trusted servants?

- Informational
- Informational & Elections
- Do not have an opinion

6) Would your home group prefer this as a 1 day or 2 day event?

- 1 Day
- 2 Day
- Do not have an opinion

7) Would your group prefer this to be in a campout setting, a hotel based setting, or in a rented meeting space setting (i.e. meeting place, rented conference room, rented convention center, etc)?

- Campout setting
- Hotel based setting
- Rented meeting space setting
- Do not have an opinion

8) How would your group prefer the location to be chosen?

- Rotation based North & South
- Rotation based North, Central, & South
- Bid process
- Locate and approve a semi-permanent location
- Rotation based on centralized locations
- Do not have an opinion

The following questions are strictly for informational purposes.

- 1) Name of your Home Group?
- 2) Was this information obtained at?
 - Regular group business meeting
 - Separate/Special group meeting
 - Other
- 3) How many addicts were present at this meeting?

I would like to present to you now some Strategic Frameworks as they could pertain to regional assemblies in the Arkansas Region. The Arkansas Regional Service Committee sent out a *Regional Inventory* a while back. Several problems came up as the results were discussed. Some of the problems that came up were from information we received and other problems were apparent as a result of a lack of responses. When discussing this situation with members of the region throughout the state, as well as members of my home group, other problems came to my attention. Some problems I am going to discuss have attainable goals that can be achieved as a direct result of regional Assemblies. Other concerns can be addressed by the assembly as a whole, in topic discussions or brainstorming sessions, at a regional assembly. The first set of problems is

Apathy

- 1) We need to look closer to home. Who cares about what goes on at region?
- 2) There is a lack of Faith and/or Trust in our regional Trusted Servants.
- 3) There is a lack of participation at the Arkansas Regional Service Committee sub committee meetings.
- 4) There is a lack of qualified individuals willing to take on Regional Trusted Servant positions.
- 5) There is a lack of interest with the Conference Agenda Report and World Service issues.
 - 5a) There is a lack of understanding and/or knowledge of what is covered in the Conference Agenda Report.

Communications

- 1) Most members do not know what is going on at Region, Zone, and/or World.
- 2) Most members do not know what events; workshops, etc. are taking place at the RSC?
- 3) Most members do not know what events; workshops, etc. are taking place around the region, and in surrounding regions?
- 4) If someone has a question or problem, do they know who to contact and how to contact that person?

These problems were easily grouped into two headings after looking at them. The first set of problems all relate to apathy and the second set of problems relate to communications. When I look back at when I first started attending meetings of the Arkansas Regional Service Committee; a lot more individuals attended and participated. I remember attending sub committee meetings when there was decent attendance, with a few individuals that did not hold trusted servant positions. The level of apathy has increased over the last several years. The following goals can be achieved with a lot of cooperation and work.

- 1) That members come to realize that the Arkansas Region is as important in it's scope of responsibilities as the Areas and Groups are to their scope of responsibilities.
- 2) That we, as members, will learn to trust our Trusted Servants and have faith in them.
- 3) That we see an increase in participation during the Arkansas Regional Service Committee weekends.
- 4) That we get an influx of qualified members willing to take on service commitments at the Regional level.
- 5) That more members get an increased level of awareness and interest in World Services and the Conference Agenda Report.

We, as members of the Arkansas Region, can achieve these goals over a period of time. When members show up to investigate and participate at a regional assembly, they can find out the importance of being involved. Through this investigation, individuals can also come to realize that the Arkansas Regional Service Committee is here to serve it's member Areas and Groups. The realization should also become apparent that the most effective way for the Arkansas Regional Service Committee to be of use is through active participation and requests from the Areas and Groups throughout the Region. Members could have fun setting up an assembly, with some activities planned around it, just like at a campout or convention.

In a fun environment members that don't know some of the trusted servants could get to know them as individuals, instead of just positions, and realize they are recovering addicts just like anyone else in the fellowship. The faith and trust factor can increase by taking the time to get to know people on an individual basis. Once people realize we can have fun at service gatherings, and realize that the individuals currently involved are normal addicts, more members might decide to get involved in active participation. When

we see an increase in active participation, we should see an increase in qualified members willing to take on regional service commitments. As more individuals get involved in regional service, there might also be an increase in the trust and faith factors.

During assemblies that revolve around World Service issues and the Conference Agenda Report, if anyone has any questions or does not understand something, they can ask questions that might be able to be answered by individuals with more information. By looking at this kind of optimistic approach, it can be visualized how we might achieve our goals as related to apathy.

When looking at the communication issues, the following goals can be looked at.

- 1) That individuals get contact information, and get to know their trusted servants at all levels of service in the Arkansas Region.
- 2) To get the addicts in the Arkansas Region more informed about what is going on around Narcotics Anonymous.
- 3) To have the addicts in the Arkansas Region more informed about Regional, Zonal, and World issues, and have a better understanding of the Conference Agenda Report.

When attending an assembly, GSRs and other members would get a chance to interact with members and trusted servants from all over the Arkansas Region. This would serve as an opportunity for members to build a contact and information list, as well as putting faces to the names of trusted servants in the region. Information about Narcotics Anonymous gatherings would be increased with a greater amount of personal contacts. When an assembly deals with the Conference Agenda Report (or even if it doesn't) the Regional Delegate and/or Alternate would be available to answer questions and get involved in discussions revolving around Zonal and World issues, thus assisting in keeping more people informed in what's going on with our worldwide fellowship. Less information would be lost through interpretations and miscommunications by utilizing direct communications.

I have had communications with trusted servants from other regions that have regional assemblies. The feedback I received from them has been positive. They say that the results were greater with larger turnouts. For this to be beneficial to the addicts throughout the Arkansas Region, we need to have as much participation as possible, with a strong emphasis on the GSRs and Alternates throughout the Region. Thanks for listening.

ILS,
Bill L

Are there any questions we can attempt to answer for you?