

# **RD Report**

## **Southern Zonal Forum**

### **Evansville, Indiana**

### **November 23-24, 2002**

Greetings Family,

The Southern Zonal Forum in November was held in Evansville, Indiana. The tapes were turned over to the vice-chair and my receipts were turned over to the treasurer at the last Regional Service Committee meeting, in December.

During the Fellowship Concerns portion of the meeting, we talked about service learning days. We also discussed that if someone appears lost, at a service meeting, the chairperson should ask if someone could sit close by and explain how things are going and what is going on. We talked about apathy, in regards to service. Since we brainstormed this topic at the World Service Conference, in 2002, I had a copy of my RD report, from conference, so I shared a list of solutions we came up with. It was brought up that the Colorado Region has a GSR training manual and they could be contacted for a copy if someone wanted one.

The Show-Me Region supplied presenters for our presentations on Phonenumber and Public Information. The first presentation was concerning Phonenumber. All the information presented came from the Phonenumber Handbook. It was presented very well. I am happy to say, that the presentations/workshops that Valerie Mc has put on in the past has covered all the same material. If you have not been to one of these, The ARSCNA will be having another one at the February Regional Service Committee meeting. The presenter also had a questionnaire that can be used at Phonenumber workshops to help get things started and to see how much people really know about phonenumber. Here are the questions used, with the answers to follow.

- 1) How do you find callers rides to meetings? Do you, (a) Call your sponsor (b) Call your girlfriend/boyfriend (c) Go get them yourself (d) Use the 12-Step Volunteer list?
- 2) Yes or No: Should you argue with a caller if they have different views of addiction?
- 3) If a caller doesn't want to stop using, you should ... (a) hang up the phone (b) Tell them to call back when they want to quit using and politely end the call (c) Ask them who their connection is?
- 4) When calling someone back on the NA Helpline, do you ... (a) give them your first name only (b) Give them your full name (c) Give them an alias name?
- 5) What is the first question you ask a caller? (a) What do you look like? (b) How much money do you make? (c) How can I help you?
- 6) Yes or No: When returning a call it is OK to leave messages with family members or on answering machines.
- 7) When do you identify yourself as a member of Narcotics Anonymous, (a) as soon

- as someone answers the phone, (b) after you hang up, (c) as soon as you are certain that you are talking to the person that called?
- 8) What is one thing that people call the helpline for?
  - 9) Are the phonenumber volunteers (a) counselors, (b) doctors, (c) caretakers, (d) taxi service, or (e) none of the above?
  - 10) What is the primary purpose of the phonenumber; (a) give rides to meetings, (b) carry the message to the suffering addict, (c) to find a date, or (d) a place to leave messages for other addicts?
  - 11) If someone calls the phonenumber and wants to commit suicide what do you do? (a) Try to talk them out of it. (b) Say "OK, but no matter what, don't pick up". (c) Call the Suicide Prevention Hotline or give them the number.
  - 12) Why is it crucial to keep a log of all calls, (a) so we feel important, (b) to keep track of the types and numbers of calls, or (c) for a list of future dates?
  - 13) If problems arise, why should we contact the phonenumber chairperson? (a) We need someone to blame (b) Because she'll scream if we don't. (c) Because the chairperson is ultimately responsible to the area (or group or region).
  - 14) True or false: If somebody with Mega clean time calls and wants another addicts phone number, we go ahead and give it to them?
  - 15) If someone calls the phonenumber and wants to know if their significant other was at a meeting, we tell them (a) yes and they talked about you the whole time, (b) no, and I haven't seen he/she for weeks, or (c) I'm sorry I can't give out that information.
  - 16) If you want to become a member of the phonenumber committee, do you (a) give the chairperson \$20, (b) take all the committee members out to dinner, (c) wait until elections and run for chairperson, or (d) come to the committee meeting and volunteer?
  - 17) When do phonenumber volunteers answer calls, (a) from 9 to 5, (b) when we have time, or (c) 24- hours a day?

### **Answer Key**

- 1) D
- 2) No
- 3) B
- 4) A
- 5) C
- 6) No
- 7) C
- 8) Meeting information, Rides, To Talk, General Information, etc
- 9) E
- 10) B
- 11) C/A
- 12) B
- 13) C
- 14) False
- 15) C
- 16) D

17)C

Next, we had a presenter talk to us about Flyer days. The information discussed came directly from the PI Handbook. There were also some additional suggestions discussed. It was mentioned that if you have an upcoming activity (i.e. campout, convention, etc) you could put that information on a PI flyer as well and hold a Flyer Day before the event. We talked about having areas concentrate on one city/town at a time and try to get to the isolated towns. We talked about planning your routes before getting started. We discussed that some bus companies have places for flyers inside busses and we discussed putting flyers up anywhere addicts might be. Make sure you get permission and never go alone. See the PI handbook for further information.

We then discussed panel presentations and dos and don'ts list. This information was copied and presented straight from the PI handbook. Then we had a brainstorming session on the following questions.

**Brainstorming Questions Titled**  
*PI and Phonenumber Q&A Time*

- 1) As a member of Public Information, how do we go about carrying a strong and positive NA message without stepping on the traditions especially?
- 2) When answering a phonenumber call, what is the proper procedure of someone calling wanting someone to come and talk to another family member or friend?
- 3) What are the main differences between PI and H&I and why is it so important for us to work together?
- 4) When you receive a helpline call from an addict in need, what are the proper procedures for carrying this out?
- 5) A new meeting is announced in our area. It is being hosted by a religious group who is advertising it as their meeting. There is an NA member who is running it. This NA member is inviting fellow addicts to be video taped during the meeting and telling their stories to be used later at a church function. What would be the proper way to handle this situation?
- 6) Brainstorm and give examples of places to hand out flyers, give literature to, and contacts for possible Public Service Announcements?

As soon as I get a compiled list of responses from the Southern Zonal Forum Secretary, I will forward them on to you.

Then we discussed self-support. There was an issue brought up from another region that there was a group that has been holding on to a lot of excess funds. I shared with them that we had a brainstorming session on the issue discussion topics and that I would forward the questions and our responses to them after I got it all compiled.

On Sunday, we went into our normal business session. The Secretary presented us with the last set of minutes and had available copies of the last *Solutions Pamphlet*. I had these out and available at the last RSC. There was a discussion about some people left off the last mailing of the minutes and that our secretary was in the process of correcting this. Our Secretary requested that we have a decent transition period anytime we change out

secretaries (or possibly add an alternate secretary).

Our Archivist has been keeping our *Agreement Guide* up to date and had current copies available. He also talked about requesting that any presenters give us a hard copy or electronic copy of their presentations for archival and reporting purposes.

Our Treasurer had to resign due to work issues, so our Treasurer position is currently open. We already have one nominee and will see what happens in the future. Currently Dickie D is handling the financial stuff. He will be looking at the upcoming budget between sessions.

We are currently going through a transition period with our Southern Zonal Forum representative. Our past representative is helping wherever he can to make this a smooth transition. We were asked to look for willingness for a Secretary and Treasurer and bring back any nominations to the next Southern Zonal Forum. Until then, our current secretary was appointed to continue during this period between meetings. We were also asked to bring back willingness for facilitator to the Southern Zonal Forum meeting in April – June. Since most of the presentations were directly from our NA approved literature, I did not re – write the guides. Therefore, this part of my report was not very large. Thanks for allowing me to be of service.

In Loving service,

Bill L