

RDA Report
November 4, 2005
Randall P.

Hello Family,

The SZF met last weekend In Corpus Christi TIC. I hear that there is a beach there, but I never saw it. All I ever saw was dead fish floating at the seawall due to a "red tide" condition.

These are the fellowship concerns presented to the Forum:

Kentuckiana Region:

Home group inventories, requests info on conducting one

Violence in meetings

Arkansas Region:

Date mate swapping affecting the atmosphere of recovery in our meetings

Chairperson Training as means of maintaining an atmosphere of recovery

Pat informed the Forum of the upcoming SZF in Fort Smith that ARVANA will be hosting. The upcoming forum will be on the CAR workshop.

Pat informed the body of the PI presentation to Arkansas Juvenile probation officers

The Drug Court PI presentation is available to anyone by contacting Pat.

The Forum was informed that the Arkansas Region has assigned the Texarkana Area to investigate the accusations of Tradition violations at the Unity House group in El Dorado Arkansas in response to a grievance by the GSR of the Phoenix group of Arkadelphia Arkansas.

The Arkansas region has formed an ad hoc committee to review our Policies and Procedures concerning the grievance procedures, regional seating, and other issues.

Lonestar Region:

Concerned with groups and areas holding on to excessive amounts of money, having large prudent reserves and not passing along the service structure.

Need for area inventories as well as group level inventories

Need for leadership development and RCM workshops

Red River Region: seeking seating at the world conference, they do not expect to be seated

Show me Region:

Phone line concerns about new technologies and services for rural areas

They also have concerns about violence in meetings

Tejas Bluebonnet:

2007 World Convention to be held in San Antonio, Regional convention is cancelled to support the world convention.

Louisiana Region:

The fellowship has been devastated in South Louisiana by Hurricanes Rita and

Katrina. Besides the obvious effects on the news, the fellowship has suffered a huge rate of relapse and a few relapse related deaths has occurred

Some meetings have reopened in the New Orleans area and the SW La area.

Bob RD Louisiana Region presented this letter to the forum:

The Louisiana Region met on 10/1/2005. We are asking that all persons wanting to help the Victims of hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita please remain within Traditions. We have set up a point of contact person in the north area, lake area, and bayou recovery area. Although we feel very strongly about helping our brothers and sisters in recovery, we feel it inappropriate to offer housing or cash. We are asking that all who feel the need to do something to do one of three things: Donate literature through one of the contact persons, donate money in the form of a check or money order made out to NAWS or LRSC.

Please do not send cash, clothing, offers of housing or offers of transportation. Again, it seems that our efforts are best focused on two relative services. The help lines and support for any groups or meetings that are taking place.

The contact persons are:

North - Robert R XXX - XXX XXX

Lake - Bob L XXX-XXX-XXX (EMAIL ADDRESS SUPRESSED)

Bayou - Bob S. XXX-XXX-XXX (EMAIL ADDRESS SUPRESSED)

*Thank you,
Christine M.
LA regional chair*

SZF Rep Travis: In response to inventory inquires; the concepts and traditions are the best frameworks for conducting group or service committee inventories. The "Solutions" pamphlets are now available in Spanish. I have one with me that I will pass around for you all to see.

Workshops:

Infrastructure of service committees: similarities to constructing a house

Contractor - Sponsors, old timers & predecessors

Foundation - steps 1,2 & 3

Walls - support groups and mends

Roof - higher power

Windows - perspectives and attitudes, public relations

Electricity - newcomers

Rooms - subcommittees PI H&I, Outreach, phone lines, activities, etc

Plumbing - sponsorship, support groups, step working, sharing

Insulation - spirituality and effective communication

Maintenance - regular inventory by the 12 traditions and 12 concepts of NA service

Don't get "Jacked"

J – Judgment

A – Attitudes

C - Control issues

K - Keeping scores

E – Expectations

D - Discouragement

Creating Safe Environments/ Violence at meetings:

What kind of unity are we fostering to a person that is new when the atmosphere of recovery is shattered by insults, threats, and at times, physical altercations? Are we setting the example as members of NA? First impressions are lasting ones. What are we doing to ensure that our meetings, conventions, activities, and special events are things that enhance or public image as a viable recovery program that is based on hope?

At the forum, we formed small groups and looked at several scenarios that have occurred in the Volunteer Region that to this day have had a lasting effect on us as a fellowship. We looked at the causes of conflict, the effect that conflict and violence has on NA, and finally possible solutions to prevent this from happening in the future.

If you would like to read the scenarios for your self, I did bring them with me.

Causes: sexual relationships, relapsing, drug dealing, and control issues among members

Effects: unsafe meetings, losing newcomers and older members, relapse

Solutions: Sponsorship, working steps and traditions, meeting formats and chairperson

Workshops. Practicing principles before personalities. Deal with sexual predators and drug dealers individually and as a group. At the first threat of violence call the Police just as any other productive member of society.

Bilingual Meetings:

In the Arkansas Region we have a rapidly growing Hispanic community. It is just a matter a time until we have to deal with this problem. I am aware of several bilingual addicts in this region already. They should be developed as a valued resource to the Arkansas region.

Literature should be available to any groups in areas with Spanish speaking addicts, or any other language. Even if we cannot speak or read Spanish, we can offer literature and assist the people to follow the readings in their own language.

The Spanish-speaking addicts shared that the main thing a non-Spanish speaking person can do is greet that addict and make him feel welcome. We can, at least, introduce ourselves by rudimentary means, and offer coffee and a seat and Spanish literature if available, if not order some! Phone numbers and email addresses are easily accessed for bilingual addicts eager to hear from them. The Latin American Forum website has all NA literature in Spanish online. If a Spanish or other language meeting is started, attend it! Even if you do not know the language to so these addicts that we do care. If no bilingual addicts are available in NA in your area, seek out bilingual members of AA to help.

SZF Website:

Chat room with discussion topics every last Sunday at 8:00 pm CST. Discussion topics for future chat room topics can be requested at the SZF website.

SZF New Business:

Proposal to have contract for hosting with a hotel chain and one source for T-shirt production, subject to revision and flexibility.

In Loving Service,

Randall P.

RDA Arkansas Region of Narcotics Anonymous