

Wrap-up report from the Multi-Zonal Service Symposium Workgroup



Dear MZSS Regions and Zones (Midwest, Plains States, and Southern Zones),

Thank you so much for having the trust and faith to approve the proposal about a year ago for this event to happen. And thank you for the follow through in a big way: to support it financially with your initial seed money, providing enthused trusted servants to be on the work group, people to give suggestions and comments along the way to help shape what the symposium looked like, for spreading the word so people knew to attend from near and far, and for showing up to serve during the weekend and share service experience, strength, and hope with each other Sept. 26-28, 2014 in St. Louis, MO. Not only was our event successful in its endeavors of delivering an environment of education surrounding service efforts in Narcotics Anonymous, but we also strengthened, created, and in some cases brought back some unity to the fellowship in the US in places where it was wanted and needed.

This is a brief summary of the event weekend. For more detailed reporting and reflections from each of the task groups within our MZSS workgroup, please see the 10-16-14 workgroup minutes that are posted online on our website at: www.mzssna.org

- We had 234 registered attendees from 44 regions in the US, and Skyped in NA members from 3 other countries during two of the workshop sessions. It was a good mix of people from all levels and experiences of service. See map on the last page.
 - there were many regional delegates that came from all over the country
 - there were also many carloads of more local addicts (up to 12 or more hours away local) that showed up
 - we hope that all of you were inspired and will take what you learned and share with the members that weren't able to attend
- We used technology heavily for this event:
 - our website (www.mzssna.org) is now an archive with the audio recordings and any associated power points and documents from the workshops all available for download and listening
 - made use of online pre-registration
 - the MZSS workgroup met via Skype to conduct our planning meetings-we never all met in person until the event weekend in St. Louis. This allowed us to have members from many regions participate without incurring travel expenses.
 - we emailed out progress reports to regional delegates and anyone who signed up to receive email communications. We now have a link to sign up for an electronic MZSS newsletter

- we had an online survey available that was filled out by over 40% of the attendees during the week after the event (results available on www.mzssna.org)
- After all expenses paid, we had \$4599.91 left over, and are sending that as a donation to NAWS, per the details of the proposal that the regions approved. This is the summary of the income and expenses (detailed report in minutes):

Income		Expense	
Region/Zones	\$ 2,350.00	Hotel/meals.	\$ 6,835.59
Food Events	5340.00	Technology	1,108.00
Registration	5777.85	Arts/Graphics	505.08
Merchandise	4771.97	Registration	572.86
Total Income	\$ 18,239.82	Merchandise	4,256.12
		Administrative/supply	362.23
		Total Expenses	\$ 13,639.91
		Net	\$ 4599.91

- The programming workgroup drew on suggestions received over months of planning, as well as looking at how other events of this type are structured. All in all, we had a great diversity of workshop topics given by some amazing presenters.
 - we experimented with how the workshop presenters came together-some had a workshop partner in mind, some were panels and we drew from experience all over, and some were paired together because they both had great knowledge of a topic but hadn't necessarily met each other before. There were advantages and hiccups for all, but no workshops got cancelled and most were stellar in content.
 - we decided to save money by providing and doing some of the audio/visual work ourselves, not knowing how this event would turn out financially, which turned out to be more of a burden and put some workshops behind
- We sold pre-symposium t-shirts at the 2014 World Service Conference, and sent leftovers back with members of each zones to sell at local events. At the symposium, we had t-shirts, sweatshirts, garage style shirts, and mugs available for purchase. We sold everything except 28 t-shirts, which were divided among the 3 zones. We also saved a t-shirt and mug to archive.
- The artwork for the merchandise, overall logo, website, and program booklets was all excellent, well thought out, and cohesive throughout all aspects of the symposium
- The hotel accommodations in St. Louis also worked out well.
 - we made the room block requirement, as well as the food and beverage minimum, which we were initially concerned about
 - the local host task group helped with details and hospitality rooms
 - the size was adequate, the staff was very helpful, and aside from a few layout issues, the facility itself was great

The awesome MZSS workgroup members were all hard-working and diligent. It was a gift to be able to work together using faith, consensus-based decision making, patience, past experience, unity, goodwill, technology and the occasional WTF. None of us got “our way” all the time and none of us got so mad we didn’t come back, which means the process of group conscience worked. We are all closer and forever changed from being part of seeing this idea to do a large service event in the middle of the United States where there was nothing of this scale, which was meant to be valuable to ALL members in service, come to life and fruition. We believe that we made a significant difference in the lives of all the trusted servants who attended. They were renewed and reinvigorated with new skills and ideas. That means that more addicts will hear our message of hope and get the opportunity for a new way of life.

Of the 99 attendees that responded to the event survey, 100% of you want the MZSS to be a recurring event. So as the event workgroup’s closing gesture, we would ask that when the 3 zones meet next (in Jan-Feb 2015) that they straw-poll their regions for their support for this workgroup to put forth a new proposal and to facilitate forwarding it to all the regions to seek approval for another Multi Zonal Service Symposium and to put together a new event workgroup.

With love and gratitude in service,
MZSSNA Workgroup 2013-2014

ATTENDEE MAP: WHERE WE TRAVELED FROM

