

Planning Our Future WSC 2016 Packet

At the last WSC, participants had a series of discussions in breakout rooms about the future of the Conference and how to best meet the needs of NA in an ever-growing Fellowship. Most, if not all, of our breakout groups discussed the possibility that a way forward rests, in part, with our use of zones. Zones and zonal forums currently take many shapes in our diverse, worldwide Fellowship. This packet is designed to provide information for delegates and the Fellowship at large about both zonal forums and the sustainability and effectiveness issues related to the World Service Conference.

There are two related aspects of this conversation: 1. the size and shape of the conference, 2. the role of zones as they relate to the region, area, and all the way to the home group. The resources in this packet inform both of these. We hope these resources will help members learn more about the issues and encourage them to share their ideas with their delegates. And we hope it will better prepare conference participants for the ongoing discussion at WSC 2016 about the future of the Conference and the role of zones. All of these materials can be found online at www.na.org/future.

The pieces in this packet come from three sources:

The Future of the WSC PowerPoint and Video

This PowerPoint/video is geared for delegates to help them have the conversation about the future of the Conference within their regions. The PowerPoint/video explains the challenges related to sustainability and effectiveness at the Conference, reviews the conversation at the last WSC, and asks for input about the future of the Conference. The meeting numbers noted here come from our regional map which is compiled from regional reports to the last WSC or our database when we do not have a regional report. We are including a hard copy of the PowerPoint with this packet. You can download and watch the video from the link at www.na.org/future. We hope all interested members will watch it and get involved in the conversation if you haven't already.

Role of Zones Workshop Data

One of the suggestions that came out of the last conference was that there should be more of a widespread conversation within the Fellowship about the role of zones now and in the future. We created a workshop with this focus and drafted two versions, one for zonal forums and one for general Fellowship events.

The workshop has been held at meetings in nine of the fifteen zones: three multi-regional events, four regions, one multi-area event, and one recovery group. The graph included in this packet shows the aggregate responses from all of those events. When we looked at the zonal responses separately from the general Fellowship responses, the results didn't seem to be significantly different. It seems we consider most roles for zones important, yet we haven't prioritized many of these roles to date or haven't been effective using our resources to fulfill these roles.

Zonal Survey Data

When we began holding workshops and trying to move forward a conversation about the issues one thing that became immediately clear: many members needed more information on what zones are, what they do, and what the current zones look like. Even many members who are active participants in zones said they would appreciate more information on what other zones are focused on and how they operate.

We decided to collect some standard information from each zone and asked members to give us a snapshot of their zone, how it is structured, what the zone focuses on, etc. We are including that information in two forms—the survey responses themselves and some graphs and an infographic map that help paint a picture with the same information.

As a foundation for the map, we used the zonal map that we put together with the help of delegate input and distributed last year. We used the meeting information from the regional reports submitted to the WSC, or from our database when there was no report. When possible, we collected the zonal data from admin members of each zone, or we asked other members active in the zone. The icons on the map representing services provided and focus of zonal activity come directly from responses to those two particular questions in the zonal survey. We anticipate that some of you may have corrections to the data now that you see it in this form. We welcome your input, and we expect to issue a revised version at some point.

Conversations at the Upcoming WSC

We need to continue this discussion at WSC 2016. The Planning Our Future packet is intended to help you be more prepared to do that. Are we heading toward zonal seating? That's what we think we heard at WSC 2014. Is that what you heard? Is that what you support?

As a Board, we do not need to support or not support whatever seating process the Conference decides to adopt. Each of us as trusted servants has a responsibility to envision a new possibility for global decision making regardless of our personal preferences. There have been decades of discussions, with any progress made usually undone by the turn over in trusted servants and resistance to change, but the time has come. Our main concern is that the Conference can come to agreement about some vision for itself that serves our collective needs as a fellowship, uses its fair share of Fellowship resources, allows for effective discussions and decision making, and actually has the ability to change and adapt. To date the Conference has been unable or unwilling to make any changes in its makeup, despite countless discussions. We need workable criteria for whoever is seated at the WSC—whether that is regions or, at some point, zones or some other proposal not yet on the table. More will be revealed. What is clear is that as a conference we need to negotiate a workable solution.

The Board is still committed to a downsized, discussion-based, global WSC that can best serve the future of the NA fellowship. As a Board, we are committed to supporting whatever solutions the Fellowship can agree to.