



Western States Zonal Forum January 29-31, 2016  
Embassy Suites Hotel, San Francisco, CA

### Overview

From January 29-31, the Northern California Region of Narcotics Anonymous hosted the 2016 Western States Zonal Forum – an opportunity for Western Regions to come together in service and fellowship. The forum was very well attended, with the following Regions submitting Regional Reports:

- Northern California
- Region 51
- San Diego Imperial
- Southern California
- California Mid-State
- Arizona
- Rio Grande
- Alaska
- Washington/North Idaho
- Central California
- Sierra Sage

One of the most important things accomplished at WSZF 2016 was for the body to truly define itself, by way of agreeing on both a Purpose Statement and a Mission Statement, as follows:

**Purpose:** Member Regions collaborate, communicate, train, and plan to carry out our primary purpose.

**Mission:** The Western States Zonal Forum is a service-oriented sharing session that joins the regions of the Western States Zone to collectively share our service challenges and share our solutions to challenges through annual meetings and ongoing communication. The Forum provides training opportunities to benefit zonal and local members and their service bodies. The interaction and collaborative exchange with NAWS and the World Board serves our body and helps us prepare for the WSC and supports Fellowship development.

What follows is the weekend's agenda, along with selected highlights:

## **Friday 1/29**

### 9:00AM-11:00AM California Collaboration Meeting

Spearheaded by our own Michelle, this meeting focused collaboration between California regions. Our mission remains to help professionals and addicts find local NA meetings, phone lines and Public Information, the long term goal remains to encourage collaboration of members within these regions by use of this website. It was a very productive session, followed up by a presentation of a "work-in-progress" shared web site.

This website will be shown to regions for a formal decision to purchase the website; there was discussion about making the web site address [ca.na.org](http://ca.na.org), and the request has been submitted to NAWS (who holds the [na.org](http://na.org) domain). We plan to met again at the WSC with a formal decision to finally have a California NA website!

Over the next 3 months we will decide on a domain, input accuracy in areas, discuss if a work group needs to be formed and what that would look like.

There was also significant conversation about shared insurance, as insurance rates and policies seem to vary greatly across the state – including investigation into the possibility of a statewide umbrella policy.

### 12:00-12:45 Introductions & Covering Agenda

### 1:00PM-3:15PM Ice Breaker and Reports

Regions gave highlights from their various Regional Reports, with follow-on discussion of topics important to each region.

### 3:30-4:30PM Working Group updates

There were two Workgroup reports; the workgroup on Updating the Mission/Vision Statement, and the Planning Cycle Workgroup that sought to compile information and data. It was decided that there would be a work session on Sunday to discuss the Mission/Vision as well as the Planning Cycle Workgroup's Scan Process.

### 4:45 PM-6:00PM Workshop: The Future of the WSC

One of the hot topics from NAWS (as also communicated in the CAR/CAT) is the Future of the WSC, as the fellowship continues to grow – and the WSC along with it!

This workshop focused on looking at the challenges facing the WSC, the perception of NAWS and its working relationship with the fellowship, and providing some guidance to help RDs facilitate discussion of this topic at CAR workshops.

(6:00PM-7:30PM Dinner Break)

7:30PM-8:45PM Workshop: Creating Effective Leadership: Finding and Grooming RCM's

This workshop focused on what qualities made effective RCMs, ways to identify candidates and inspire them, things that areas and regions can do to support GSRs and RCMs, and the role of the RD as conduit. It also touched on the importance of facilitation, and leaders remaining unbiased in their communications and clearly differentiating between facts and opinion.

### **Saturday 1/30**

9:00am-Noon NAWS Updates and CAR

1:00PM-6 PM NAWS – CAR/CAT

Saturday provided an amazing opportunity for the Regional Delegates and other attendees to have a direct, open, and detailed dialog with NAWS members about the CAR and the CAT. Our Regional Report addresses some of what we learned; for all the details, we encourage RCMs to attend your local CAR workshop.

The CAT session in particular gave a lot of insight into how NAWS is seeking to get the fellowship as a whole more involved in the fellowship's strategic decision making process – through new innovations like the Literature Survey, Project Plans, and prioritization.

7:00PM-9:00PM Catered Dinner and meeting (with share by Tracy)

### **Sunday 1/31**

8:00AM-10:00AM Wrap Up /Zonal time line

Some Zonal business was done here, including how to handle minutes, the Host Timeline to provide guidance to hosting Regions, some advice on the WSC, and an agreement that the Zone would do its best to sit together and stay close, as well as try to schedule an informal get together.

10:00AM-Noon Working Group changes/ Guidelines/ Next WSZ

Finally, the Zonal Forum was wrapped up an in intensive working session that resulted in the finalizing of the Vision and Mission, and preparing for execution of the Scan questionnaire (to be submitted before WSC).

Thanks are in order to Sue, Jimmy Lee, Frank and Noreen for all the work they did at the Zonal Forum.

More than one attendee said, "Northern California pulled off the best Zonal Forum, but we would expect nothing less than that from them".

Thanks for letting us be of service!

Michelle S. and Eric B.