

## NEZF HISTORY

(by Stu, Adam, and Fred)

1980-1st East Coast Convention (sponsored by areas traveled around); no service body with ultimate responsibility.

Sometime in the 80's- Several Regions meet. Severe dysfunction. Lots of fear about becoming a "voting block" No minutes.

1992—WSC in Dallas, Texas. A couple of other parts of the NA World had been meeting as Forums or Zones. Many non-US Regions attended the WSC for the first time and many were seated. An ad hoc committee produced a paper about Zonal Forums. Again, a thought was expressed about starting a Northeast Zonal Forum. The Regions of the northeastern US were approached about meeting. We had a successful "breakfast" meeting with notes recorded. We agreed to meet again.

The next meeting was at the Multi-Regional in New York City. Members of the Western States Forum and Canadian Assembly shared their experience, strength and hope. We agreed to write a simple statement of Function and Purpose. Also shared on the unmanageability of the East Coast Convention in each of our Regions over the past 7 or 8 years. It can't find an area in any of our Regions to continue the unmanageability and ceases to exist. We now have a concrete example of the benefits of talking to and sharing with the other Regions. Several addicts meet at the Conn. Regional Convention. in Stamford and write our Statement of Function and Purpose. We met next after MARLCNA (Stu forgot where). We were spent, and from that arose one of our first guidelines— that the NEZF will not meet in conjunction with any other event; we would discuss issues in common to the areas and groups of our Regions.

Since then we've met twice a year. We usually have a recovery meeting prior to starting business. At first we met exclusively in Clifton, NJ (Northern New Jersey Region) with the host Region providing the meeting space, starting our tradition of bagels and refreshments, and paying for the minutes to be sent out.

We expanded to convening within the Northern New York Region by meeting in Binghamton several times. After a year of floundering and not meeting, we met at the Greater New York RSO, and have met twice a year since. We also began to have two daylong meetings— Saturday and half of Sunday.

At the next Binghamton meeting, we took some trusted servant proposals and elected our chair, vice-chair and secretary. Throughout these years we also worked very hard to conduct our meetings using a consensus based decision-making process.

Buckeye Region joined with the original Regions— Mid-Atlantic, New Jersey, Northern New Jersey, Greater New York, Northern New York, Tri-State, Connecticut, New England, Mountain Valley, and Northern New England. As new Regions have been created, Western New York, Eastern New York and ABCD have joined. We've met in Buffalo (WNY), Albany (ABCD) and in Harrisburg. We also have some rotation proposals on the table in order to be able to bring the NEZF to other locations. At the 2000 WSC, a map of the Zones showed that we are one of the largest in terms of numbers of Regions. We also did some approximate figuring and arrived at the staggering statistic that 22% of the world's NA meetings are in our Zone.

In January 2000, we were hosted by ABCD region in Albany, NY. Our main topics were *Theft of NA Funds* and *Topic J* (from the WSC) but the chief focal point for our discussion was the funding issue. This controversy escalated and, combined with our new practice of electing trusted servants, lead the NEZF to finally attempt to address the very direction in which it was headed.

In July 2000 the Mid-Atlantic region in Harrisburg, PA hosted us. Much of our discussion focused on our three traditional topics—direction, trusted servants and funding. These issues remain

unresolved, as the NEZF seems very split on the concrete aspects of our purpose. More will be revealed.

In January 2001, we met in Atlantic City, and were hosted by the New Jersey Region. We continued our discussion of “who, what, and how,” and eventually—in an attempt to end what some of our member regions view as non-productive discourse—empowered a five-person ad hoc committee to produce a set of draft guidelines addressing seven specific issues.

We met on June 23 and 24, 2001, in Meriden, hosted by the Connecticut Region. The ad-hoc committee presented a set of draft guidelines, addressing the areas of concern discussed in Atlantic City. The proposed guidelines were discussed at length, the ad-hoc committee was dissolved and thanked for its work.

We next met on January 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, 2002 in Cleveland, Ohio. It was decided that the draft guidelines would be voted on at our next meeting in Pittsburgh.

In Pittsburgh, Pa. on June 22nd and 23rd 2002 after a brief discussion we approved the guidelines, as amended, and will include the NA logo from now on.

There was discussion about including a workshop to coincide with future NEZF meetings, example would be, one NEZF would hold a PI Workshop, the next NEZF would hold a H&I Workshop, etc.

Do we want to facilitate sub-committee meetings at Zonal Forums, and if so, how?

Now that we have Guidelines, what are we going to do with them – where is the NEZF headed?

At our summer meeting in 2003, it was suggested that we invite the World Board to send a representative to an upcoming NEZF meeting.

We will next meet at the LaGuardia Marriot Hotel in Queens, New York. on January 30~Feb 1st. 2004