



US Collaboration of Zones

Notes from July 11, 2021

What is a Zone Video collaboration?

The Multi-Zonal Video Collaboration Workgroup discussed this and agreed to take this on as our next project. This workgroup is open to all members and all zones to officially or unofficially participate. Currently the NEZF and SEZF officially participate but we have members from at least 4 zones in the US. We are asking for help from members throughout all zones in putting this together.

Dennis reported:

There are different definitions for Zones, and they are looking for participation from as many as possible. The purpose of the video is to educate those who do not understand what a Zone is.

The workgroup meets every 4th Tuesday of each month at 8:15 PM EST.

Zoom ID 863 6702 5006 Password SEZFNA

Vision and Purpose Statements

Louis reported:

The last time we met the Vision and Purpose was unveiled and we asked members to share with their Zones and Regions to get feedback.

Regions and Zones that came back with feedback:

Rocky Mountain Zonal Forum – preliminary discussions show most Regions on board with Upper Rocky Mountain Region wanting to proceed with projects.



Western States Zonal Forum – They are starting to catch up, they are asking questions and would like ideas on how to reach all their members. In the chat there was reporting of a poll conducted that showed support for continuing in some form, the thought is that they would vote yes on the vision but abstain on the purpose. Possibly supporting a small project but would suggest guidelines.

Autonomy Zonal Forum – June 21st it was sent to all their Regions and received positive feedback.

Northeast Zonal Forum – They have been requesting any vote be tabled, at this time if there was a vote on this, they would need to say no, their Zone is very busy with other projects. It was not the content that was the issue, it is more that they would not be able to participate in the work until possibly a later time. The content had zero input.

Southern Zonal Forum – There has been no feedback and suggested tabling this. A question to NEZF: Would NEZF continue to participate if this carries? Dennis said yes, they would still show up, but any decision making may be hesitant and at this time their votes would be no.

Plains States Zonal Forum – They are in favor and asked how we move forward. Louis replied that we have not decided what we want the results to be. Plains States asked to add to the agenda to discuss what the results would mean.

Midwest Zonal Forum – No input (?)

Southeastern Zonal Forum – Spoke to the atmosphere of how members are reacting to the projects. Many Regions feel this is another service body and fear that this is an effort to “take away” their vote at the WSC. We can do something that provides a service, no one is looking at taking votes away from Regions.



Discussion:

The “What is a Zone” video could be what is needed first, introducing the video to members as a way to get rid of the confusion as what we are trying to accomplish. Direct participation on the Multi-Zonal collaboration work on the video may help members to understand and then be able to understand the Vision and Purpose. Dennis said he has been given a task to create a demo website, this could show members what it could look like as a part of the collaboration.

There was discussion on possibly doing a PSA to show what we are trying to do and that we could do something, other members voiced concerns of moving forward without consensus and are uncomfortable with just moving forward without it.

The point was to come together and come up with ideas of what we can do for the fellowship, we wanted the support the fellowship, which is why we came up with the Vision and Purpose. It was intended to be brought to the table for discussion from the fellowship. The question of which way are we going came up. It is important to get everyone on board, we are not “official” and without local buy-in it could be damaging to the efforts.

Other discussions were centered on going forward in support of the Zone video and use of the PowerPoint provided by NEZF.

Discussion on whether we are an actual service body, we have left out the concept of a service body. Discussions on what we are, how we came about, are we a service body, what constitutes a service body? It’s not what we are called but what we are doing, get caught up in what is a service body versus the fact that we want to see NA grow in the US and how can we help that?

A proposal was suggested that willing participants could workshop what a US Zonal body would look like, bringing in an International Zone, to show how it would work, this would not require a vote, just something put together to get more buy-in from members. Is there a Zone here willing to host this



and invite other zones? A Multi-Zonal Symposium that is occurring soon could be where this is presented. Louis gave details on the symposium.

Decision making was the next topic. What level of support do we need to move forward? We do not have a decision-making process with no official guidelines, and anything agreed to would be in principle. In the past the way we made decisions worked. Would we need 80% or 75% = more than a simple majority.

Result – take back to our Zones:

Decisions will require a minimum of 80% support in order to pass with each zone having one vote

Items that were on the agenda but not explored in major discussion:

Proposal from Montana Region

Dawn stated that RMZF has not formally met to discuss Montana's questions but feels that everything we covered here could answer the 4 questions they have.

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There was some input, support for usage of the presentation for education purposes and a way to answer some of the questions coming back from the fellowship.

Where do we go from here?

October 10 2021 is the next meeting

Southern Zonal Forum is hosting.