

Service System Discussions that Still Need to Take Place

These are all topics the board plans to devote time to during the 2012–2014 conference cycle. We welcome your thoughts or any input from your community.

Large (NA population) SNPs

The idea of a single body to conduct state/nation/province PR activities and coordinate efforts among the LSUs seems potentially unrealistic for places such as California or Brazil where the size of the NA community is so large. We need to elaborate on these sorts of possible exceptions to the SNP model and offer an alternative for these states/nations.

Small SNPs (NA population)

On a related note, some small states or countries do not currently have their own region (e.g., the countries within the Adriatic Region or the states within the New England region), and it's not necessarily the intention of the Service System Proposals to break up these regions. We need to offer an option or options for states/nations/provinces with smaller NA populations.

Seating Criteria (WSC)

While the conference resolved that the primary seating criterion will be state/nation/province boundaries, there are still many questions related to seating that have yet to be answered. What are the other seating criteria? How should very large countries be treated? Very large states? Very small countries and states? What about places like Malta that, because of their geography, will never grow very large? What kind of consideration should be given to a country's position relative to other communities? (This was a consideration that weighed in favor of seating Lithuania, for example.) What other factors, if any, should be considered when making decisions about seating—age of a community, amount of literature translated, services being delivered, etc.?

Role of Zones

What role do zones play in the new system? The proposal draft included in the 2012 *CAR* has an appendix on this issue, but the ideas in the appendix are more of a brainstorm than a description of how zones might function as a formal part of a system. We need to develop a more concrete recommendation or set of recommendations for the role of zones. We are encouraging zones to give their thoughts on the issue.

RSOs & Service Offices

How do RSOs and other service offices fit in the new system? To this point we have included nothing in the proposals about service offices.

Lit Distribution

If the local service body meets quarterly rather than monthly and the group forum is ideally a place where no business happens, how do groups receive their literature? The proposal draft included in the 2012 *CAR* has an appendix on this issue, but the contents of the appendix are more of a brainstorm than a formal part of a system plan. We need to develop a more concrete recommendation or set of recommendations for lit distribution and fund flow.

Fund Flow

On a related note, most groups make monthly donations to an area service body after purchasing literature. If those groups are now affiliated with a local service body that only meets quarterly, how are their donations to be handled? What is the flow of funds between group/GSU/LSU/statewide body...

Border Communities

Some ASCs span two states at present and some belong to a region in a neighboring state because that makes more sense geographically. We don't want to necessitate more travel or urge affiliation with a service body that doesn't make logical sense to a given community, but at the same time, border communities need to be able to be informed about and participate in statewide activities (such as H&I to state facilities). We need to offer ideas about how to practically accomplish this.

Ethnic/Language/Culture Considerations

Currently, there are many service bodies that have formed because members felt their ethnic or language or cultural needs were not being well met by their existing area or region. If we are proposing a single service body to cover the needs of a city or a county, for instance, we need to consider these ethnic, linguistic, or cultural needs and be able to include strategies to help meet those needs.

Incorporated Bodies/ Conventions

We need to provide some guidance on how regions and conventions and other incorporated bodies can handle the transition as easily as possible. There has been a fair amount of concern over the fate of specific regional and area conventions if the hosting region or area no longer exists. Communities need some sort of guidance on how they can retain their legacy conventions and events.