

Restructuring the AWSC Task Force 2017 Interim Report

Background

In 2015 a presentation was given focusing on the enumerated goals of the AWSC stand-alone meetings and questioning if they could be achieved in a more efficient and productive manner. From the discussion that followed the Restructuring the AWSC Task Force was organized and tasked with identifying and implementing ways of improving the AWSC meetings.

Progress

Initial Organization and Process

The task force began work by conducting a survey of AWSC members designed to identify the areas they felt most needed improvement and what they would most like to see added to the AWSC meetings. Review of the survey lead to the setting of five main goals the task force would seek to accomplish:

- Better prioritization for information to AWSC (restructuring reports)
- More communication directly between DRs
- Better Coordinator and Officer support in their roles
- Instructional Workshops
- More involvement from the DRs directing the AWSC.

The task force, in accordance with KBDM principles, adopted the following process for attempting to reach these goals:

1. Identify the goal and its background.
2. Purpose means of reaching the goal.
3. Determine the method of implementation.
4. Identify a review process to ensure the goal is being met and determine if this has caused any new problems to arise.

The task force then proceeded to engage in this process with the identified goals.

Attempts at Goal Achievement

The task force first concentrated on the goal of “better prioritization for information to the AWSC.” The task force engaged in discussion to identify the positive and useful qualities of the current system that we wanted to preserve along with the issues we sought to resolve. We determined that instead of the “Hot Topic Reports” section being used solely to disseminate new and time sensitive information to the AWSC as originally intended, it had become a period where officers and coordinators felt obligated to state in detail that they were completing

their normal tasks. Seeking to maintain the dissemination of timely information but not require trusted servants to constantly assure the AWSC that they were conducting the routine business of their position, the task force recommended to the Area Chairperson that the original purpose of the reports be stressed and that coordinators no longer be called upon to give reports. Instead the floor would be open to those who needed to give reports so coordinators did not feel obligated to submit a verbal hot topic report. The second part of this recommendation (not calling on coordinators) met with resistance in the AWSC and was abandoned without implementation. Review of the implementation was to be by feedback from the AWSC members to the Chairperson. The Chairperson reported no feedback to the task force.

The task force then turned its attention to the goal of improving direct communication between DRs. The task force reviewed the previous use of action committees by the Area and identified that they were good tools for DR interaction but that the fluidity of AWSC membership severely limited their effectiveness. The task force instead recommended that one time discussion groups be formed to discuss topics chosen by the DRs at the stand-alone AWSC meetings. Surveys were created by the chair of the task force to solicit topics of interest from the DRs and for the DRs to vote on what topics they would like to discuss. Then discussion groups were held at the next AWSC meeting. A post-discussion survey was distributed to AWSC members to review the implementation of discussion groups and a consensus was taken to continue the discussion groups at future stand-alone AWSC meetings. The surveys returned an overwhelming positive opinion of the implementation of discussion groups. Further discussion of the task force recommended that upon the dissolution of the task force the task of circulating the surveys for discussion topics be given to the Area Chairperson.

The task force also looked into the goal of better support for area officers and coordinators. The task force was uncertain of the exact nature of the support needed and so circulated a survey of Area officers and coordinators. The survey returned a unanimous result that more support was not necessary. As such the task force dropped the matter.

The task force began work on trying to implement instructional workshops for the AWSC meetings. The task force decided to circulate a survey among AWSC member to determine if there are members willing to run such workshops and what topics they are willing to cover. Work on this goal will continue once it has reviewed the results of that survey.

Remaining Work

The task force has two remaining goals to consider:

- Instructional Workshops
- More involvement from the DRs directing the AWSC.

Beyond that some task force members during the course of our efforts have identified further issues with the AWSC they believe the task force address. [See Appendix A.] The task force needs to review those items and make a determination on if and how it should address them. Finally a full review of our implemented recommendations needs to take place before the task force dissolves. Members of the task force that are resigning due to the change over of the Area panel are being asked to submit their review of the currently implemented items. [See Appendix B.]

Timeline

The taskforce will hopefully be able to address both remaining goals in our next meeting. If not we will work through the spring assembly and over the summer to try and suggest implementation for the August AWSC meeting. From there we can hopefully complete the review process by the end of 2018 or spring of 2019.

Appendix A: Issues/Goals Further Identified by Task Force Members

- Length of the reading of the minutes.
- Identify clearly what authority the AWSC does and does not have
- New DR meeting/Online resources tutorial.

Appendix B: Resigning Task Force Members' Final Reviews

Thanks Tim for putting this together. I am resigning from this committee but I did want to mention the possibility of a NEW DR (structured similar to a NEW GR meeting) We started to discuss but didn't get very far. As previous Group Records coordinator, I feel it is important for DR's to be able to look up their groups info on the WSO site so they can send changes to the Group Records Coordinator, I also feel that a basic instruction of computer operation of the tools helpful to DR's would be a good start such as the WSO and nynafig.com websites for where to find

the information they need. Also pointing out the Service Manual online for more difficult questions.

I think the discussions at the stand-alone AWSC meetings were very well received. One thought about the long reading of the minutes, on e-connects, some areas expect the members to read the minutes before the meeting and bring changes or corrections, and be prepared to vote to approve the minutes without them being read at the meeting. This might not happen overnight, but by providing a little incentive of finding the answer to a question that could be found in reading the minutes might help. This strategy might also encourage more people to read Area HiLights. Just a suggestion!