

PLEASE NOTE: These are draft session profiles. They will probably change after the first two workshops in Detroit and Dallas. Any revised materials will be posted online at www.na.org/servicesystem

We also plan to post streamlined session outlines for use on a local level as soon as we have these materials finalized.

Keep checking back at www.na.org/servicesystem for updates.

Service System Session Profiles – WSC Seating

Saturday 2:30pm – 4:00pm

On tables for this session - session note sheets with discussion questions and space for notes

Wrap-up of previous session and segue (10 minutes)

Remind everyone that we reviewed the basics of intermediary bodies and state/national/province service bodies and that all that material is in the report they have on pages 12 through 16

Briefly recap the main ideas from their responses to the small group questions (use the lunch break to help synthesize ideas).

WSC Seating Session (80 minutes)

Aim of session: *(New PPT Slide 1)*

- Present an overview of the two seating options: state/national/province service body and zonal
- Give a basic history of WSC seating and the challenges we have today
- Explain how these challenges are addressed by the proposals

Introduction (10 minutes)

The issue of seating is about the relationship between service bodies—the World Service Conference and what are now regions. In these proposals, rather than regions, the seated bodies could be either state/province/national level bodies or zonal bodies.

These workshops give us a unique opportunity to talk about seating issues together (World Board members and members of regions and zones) outside of either of those service bodies (regions or the WSC).

Because this is a work in progress, we are trying to engage the fellowship in shaping these proposals.

Remind everyone that the details of further seating criteria are still to be determined. We know that whatever changes are made to seating, this is just a start. More criteria will need to be developed or these criteria will need to be detailed further.

Explain the basic history of WSC seating, touching on the following points:

- At the earliest conferences participation was informal and was guaranteed by attendance
- As the fellowship grew seating new regions was voted on during the opening day of business.
- Funding of all conference participants began in 2000
- There have been several motions since the Transition Group's proposals in 1997, to change the structure of participation at the WSC, including motions for zonal representation, but none have carried
- In 2000, the conference passed a set of criteria that were offered by the World Board. The criteria at once seemed to be both too rigid and not comprehensive enough in some cases. The board's recommendations and the conference's decisions at times conflicted with the criteria for various reasons.
- At the 2008 WSC participants agreed to a two-cycle moratorium on The Criteria for Recognition of New Conference Participants with the understanding that the board would continue to make recommendations regarding regions that did not form as a result of a split. The intention of the

motion was to enable a conversation to take place on the future of seating at the WSC. A motion to extend the moratorium by not seating any regions at all at the 2012 WSC did not pass.

Seating Options (10 minutes)

Review the problems and challenges with conference growth and establishing seating criteria, including these points: *(Slide 2)*

- There is a belief that “you’re a region when you say you are:” and are therefore entitled to WSC seating and funding
- There is currently no defined cap to WSC growth. While the *CAR* essay that accompanied the last set of seating criteria makes it clear that part of the intention of establishing criteria was to discourage the seating of more US regions, the criteria themselves do not address the issue of regions that result from a split.
- There are financial limitations and logistical difficulties in facilitating such a large event
- Our current criteria are difficult to apply uniformly and not everyone feels they are fair and thorough

Explain the existing structure, including: *(Slide 3 - 4)*

- Existing regions may consist of some or all of a state, province, or country
- Some existing regions consist of multiple states, provinces, or countries
- For the most part, zones currently have a discussion forum role
- Some zones provide some services

Review the main challenges in our current structure, and the solutions offered by these options, referring to the box on page 18 of the report *(Slide 5 - 8)*

Challenge: Growth of the WSC is not limited, creating resource and manageability problems

Solution: An upper limit of seated communities is set by the number of existing state, national, and provincial bodies or by the number of seats allocated to each zone

Challenge: There are no consistently applied seating criteria

Solution: Objective criteria are used to establish eligibility before any other criteria are examined, removing the personal element of seating decisions

Challenge: The lack of clear seating criteria is one factor that can encourage regional splits, which impacts our ability to deliver services and reach addicts

Solution: State/nation/province seating will encourage regional reunification

Present the two proposed seating options *(Slide 9)*

Refer attendees to the diagram on page 19 of their report for more information on the two options

State/national/province seating:

- Delegates are selected from the state/national/province service bodies to participate in the WSC *(Slide 10)*
- Slows growth of WSC *(Slide 11)*
- No change for some, big change for others
- Establishes clear objective requirement for seating. Though we recognize that there will need to be further criteria. Brazil is not the same as Rhode Island, for instance. We will probably want to

add some sort of provision for very large states or countries to have more than one delegate and for some smaller states and countries to combine (e.g., the Baltic states). These details have yet to be worked out.

- Encourages reunification and therefore provision of statewide services

Zonal seating:

- Delegates are selected from the zonal service bodies to participate in the WSC (Slide 12)
- Method of selecting delegates is as yet undetermined. The conference would need to establish the number of delegates from each zone as well as the boundaries of the zone itself.
- Could significantly reduce the size of the WSC depending on the number of seats allocated to each zone (Slide 13)
- Zonal boundaries determined by WSC
- No alternates at WSC
- Changes the current role of zones (Slide 14)
- Possible unforeseen circumstances such as decentralization of services

On the ground examples illustrating the range of application (5 minutes)

Talk through how these ideas could work practically. Offer some examples or ideas that may include:

- Who it is
- What kind of work they do
- What decisions they make

[Keep in mind that the examples should be relevant to the community attending the workshop]

For instance:

- State/national/province seating: This is relatively similar to our current situation. Many of our current regions are already seating by state or national body. Regardless, these proposals call for the creation of a state/national/province service body so if these proposals are implemented, such a body will exist. If seating is done by state/nation/province, it just means that they will add to their responsibilities that of electing a delegate.
- Zonal seating: Zones would need to be proscribed more by the conference and their role would change. In a zonal seating model, they become a link in the decision making and communication chain. This puts a layer between world services and the states/nations/provinces. We would also consciously need to think about finances differently as this would involve changes in the fund flow and the way money is allocated.

You can use these examples or add some others if you have ideas for what might fit the local community better.

Small Group Discussion: (20 minutes)

Hand out post it sheets and markers

Divide the room in half and give half the questions related to state-, province-, or national-level service body seating and half the questions about zonal seating.

Remind everyone that we have varying levels of experience with service at these levels. With a lot of experience often comes strong opinions, but with less experience comes a fresh perspective. Be mindful of the ways we can learn from each other.

Have the groups assign a facilitator and recorder. Briefly review the facilitator's instructions, groundrules, and brainstorming guidelines again, remembering that many of the participants may not have participated in this style of workshop before. Re-emphasize that each person only has one minute to speak, that we take turns, and that everyone has something to contribute.

Stress that we are collecting all the input. Ask recorders to write clearly and title each sheet they use as "Zonal seating" or "State/national /province seating" and number each question.

State-, Province-, or National-level Seating Questions (Slide 15)

Picture applying this model at what is now the regional and zonal level:

10. What excites you or concerns you about the effect these changes would have on the functioning of state-, province-, or national-level service in your community?
11. In what ways do you see this model providing a more effective voice or pipeline of communication between your community and world services?

Zonal Seating Questions (Slide 16)

Picture applying this model at what is now the regional and zonal level:

12. How would these proposals help you to maintain what is positive in our current system about zones or improve the functioning of your zone?
13. What excites you or concerns you about the effect these changes would have on the functioning of your zone?
14. In what ways do you see this model providing a more effective voice or pipeline of communication between your community and world services?

Advance to next slide with "Small Group Discussion" text (Slide 17)

Small Group Feedback (25 minutes)

Devote half the time to state/province/national seating questions and half the time to zonal seating questions. Begin asking about challenges and then talk about improvements. Collect one major point from each group and synthesize as you go. Ask them not to repeat comments already heard, etc.

As each group finishes reporting have them put their post-its on the wall and invite participants to look at the small group results during the break. After the break, there will be 10 minutes devoted to a wrap-up of the points made in this session.

Straw Poll & Questions (10 minutes)

Straw Poll: (Slide 18)

15. Do you think one of these two options; state/province/national seating or zonal seating is preferable?

Announce general results of straw poll, then lead a short discussion as a large group to get some of the reasons participants chose one or the other option. Record these reasons on Post-its at the front of the room.

Ask if there are any questions that remain unanswered about the seating proposals. (As in the other sessions, there will only be time for a few questions. Encourage people to talk to a board member during a break or in the evening if they have additional questions.)

Close with final reference to the project webpage and the input deadline *(Slide 19)*

4:00–4:30: Break