

## **Meeting summary for RMZF meeting (12/13/2024)**

### **Quick recap**

The meeting focused on addressing audio quality issues and discussing regional updates, including events, conventions, and committee activities across various areas. Participants reviewed guidelines for zonal contacts and web services, agreeing on term lengths and meeting schedules for the Rocky Mountain Zonal Forum. The group also discussed the organization of the World Board Forum, communication strategies for regional events, and an electronic system for collecting and tracking group votes on motions and amendments.

### **Next steps**

- Mike to update the Rocky Mountain Zonal Forum website with recent meeting minutes and event information.
- Kathleen to send Colorado region convention and event flyers through the RMZF Google group.
- Sammy to send Montana region event flyers through the RMZF Google group.
- Don to bring up the possibility of adding regional events to the US Collaboration of Zones website at the January 12th meeting.
- Mike to create a page on the RMZF website for chronological listing of zone events.
- Kathleen to share the electronic tally sheet template for CAR/CAT voting with other regions.

- Don to update the Zonal Contact position description to reflect the 3-year term aligned with the World Service Conference cycle.
  - Mike to update the Web Servant position description to reflect a 3-year term.
  - Sammy to update the RMZF meeting schedule in the guidelines to reflect July and December meetings.
  - Host region for December 2025 meeting to request World Board participation.
  - Colorado region to request World Board participation for the July 2025 meeting.
  - Mike to update hosting region responsibilities in the guidelines to include providing hybrid meeting capabilities.
  - Shawn to consider accepting nomination for Zonal Contact position starting July 2026.
  - All regions to send convention and event flyers to be shared through the RMZF communication channels.
  - Don to forward the updated RMZF guidelines to all members once finalized.
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## **Summary**

### **Improving Audio Quality in Meeting**

The meeting involved a group of individuals from various regions, including North Dakota, Colorado, and Southern Idaho. The main issue discussed was the audio quality during the meeting, with participants experiencing difficulty hearing each other. The team tried various solutions, including changing the microphone and speaker settings, moving the laptop closer to the participants, and adjusting the volume. Eventually, they found a solution that improved the audio quality, allowing everyone to hear each other clearly. The meeting also included introductions and a brief discussion about the participants' roles and regions.

## **Regional Updates and Upcoming Events**

The regional delegate provides an update on various activities and events happening across the region. The Lake Agassiz and Lewis and Clark areas are thriving with numerous in-person meetings. The regional convention in October was successful. Upcoming events include a New Year's celebration, a campout in June, and a women's retreat in August. The regional PR committee is active with presentations and developing guidelines for behind-the-walls programs. The regional H&I committee is holding meetings in correctional facilities. The regional convention for 2025 will be held at a new venue due to increased costs at the previous hotel. There are some challenges with areas wanting to use the region's non-profit status. The region has set up an electronic tally system for areas to submit their CAR votes and is following a timeline for the CAR process.

## **Regional Events and Convention Updates**

At the regional level, several events and activities were discussed. The Montana region successfully held their annual gathering and convention this year. The convention took place in Miles City for the first time. The upcoming Montana gathering will be held in Hot Springs from June 13-15, coinciding with Father's Day weekend. Their next convention will be in Billings in September or October, with the first committee meeting scheduled for January. The region dissolved its Public Relations Committee, transferring the subcommittees directly under the regional body. H&I efforts include meetings at treatment centers, prisons, and an upcoming panel training in March. Workshops were held on predatory behavior and building strong home groups. In the Upper Rocky Mountain region, new regional delegates and a chairperson were elected. They adopted sponsorship behind the walls guidelines and are increasing H&I efforts in treatment centers. Their convention was moved from May to September, potentially in Jackson Hole. The Southern Idaho region's convention is scheduled for April 4-6 in Meridian.

## **Regional Convention, Website, and Work Groups**

Utah reported that the regional indoor convention was moved to Ogden due to cost concerns. He also mentioned that he would have more information for the next Zonal Forum after the regional meetings. RMZF discussed the US Collaboration of Zones website, which is now live, and the challenges of navigating the meeting finder app. He also mentioned the budget update for the committee, which is currently funded by members and has costs associated with the website and Zoom. RMZF also discussed the proposal to change the task teams to work groups, including the Communications Task Team and the National Presence Work Group, which will now be the Public Relations Work Group.

### **Area Zone Contact Transition Discussed**

Don is currently serving as the Area Zone Contact, a position that helps facilitate communication and collaboration between the area and the larger region. His term is set to end in July 2026. Shawn, a past delegate, has been nominated and agreed to serve as the next Zone Contact starting in July 2026 after Don's term ends. The group discussed the responsibilities of the role and addressed technical difficulties in getting the microphone to work properly during the meeting.

### **Zonal Contacts and Web Service Terms**

The meeting revolved around the discussion of guidelines and terms for zonal contacts and web service positions. The team agreed to align the zonal contacts' terms with the World Service Conference cycle, extending them to a 3-year term. However, they also considered the need for some continuity and overlap, suggesting that not all positions need to rotate at the same time. The team also discussed the web service position, deciding that it could maintain a 3-year term without needing to coincide with the conference cycle. The conversation ended with the team agreeing to finalize the guidelines and terms based on the discussions.

### **Meeting Schedule and Rocky Mountain Forum**

The team discussed their meeting schedule, deciding to meet twice a year, in July and December, regardless of whether it's a conference year or not. They agreed to remove references to conference years from their schedule and to meet virtually if necessary. The Rocky Mountain Zonal Forum will meet on the 4th weekend of July and the second weekend of December. The team also decided to have a business meeting on Friday night and presentations on Saturday. They agreed to request the World Person to attend the meetings at least six months in advance. The host for the December meeting was identified as the one who would make the request.

### **World Board Forum Organization and Promotion**

The meeting revolved around the organization and facilitation of the World Board Forum. The team discussed the rotation of hosting responsibilities among the participating regions, with the current host being the United States. They also discussed the need for hybrid capability during in-person meetings to accommodate online participation. The team agreed to make this explicit in the agenda. The meeting also touched on the need for better communication and promotion of regional events, with suggestions to use the Google group and website for this purpose. Lastly, the team discussed the process of collecting tallies for the membership survey and the upcoming orientation meeting.

### **Electronic System for Group Votes**

RMZF explains an electronic system for groups to submit their votes on motions and amendments to the area. The area then compiles the tallies and sends them to the region. This allows tracking of group conscience on motions, including any comments or proposed amendments. RMZF demonstrates how groups fill out the online form with their vote tallies and comments. The system helps collect and synthesize input from all groups on regional motions and policies.