

CAPTURE THE BANNER

Background: At the Southern Zonal Forum, a concern was brought up about how to better perform the function of Outreach in rural NA communities. Some discussion took place and a solution was offered that has been beneficial in another Region within the zone. The solution that was offered is described in the following summary:

PURPOSE: To reach out to groups and encourage an exchange of ideas and experiences between groups within an area. To show/practice Home Group unity through friendly competition with other groups. This is accomplished by encouraging each home group to get it's members together and make special trips to group meetings they would otherwise not attend.

THE TWELVE GUIDELINES FOR CAPTURING THE BANNER

1. Only groups registered as being members of the Sierra Foothills Area of Narcotics Anonymous may participate. Presence of the group's meetings in the Area Meeting Schedule will be the determining factor.
2. In order for a group to Capture the Banner, at least 5 members of that Home group must attend the regularly scheduled meeting of the group that currently has possession of the Banner.
4. The banner cannot be captured until the meeting is over. It is recommended that the capture take place after the Circle Up. *At no time should the capture of the banner interrupt the primary purpose of Narcotics Anonymous meetings – to carry the message of recovery to other addicts.*
5. If more than one Home group attends the meeting and wants to capture the banner, the group with the most members in attendance earns the right to Capture the Banner. If an equal number of members from two or more groups is in attendance, the final determining factor will be the farthest distance travelled from their home group.
6. When a home group captures the banner from another group, the fact of the capture must be reported to the Banner Hotline on the same day as the Capture.

7. Once captured, the Banner must be present, and preferably displayed, at all of the group's regularly scheduled meetings until such time as it is captured by another group.

8. If a home group that has captured the banner fails to have/display the banner at all of their regularly scheduled meetings and is visited by a group wishing to capture it, their current capture will not count towards their annual total, and arrangements must be made immediately for handing the banner over to the capturing group..

9. At no time should a capture be refused as long as the above-noted conditions are met.

10. In order to find out which group currently has possession of the banner, members can call the Banner Hotline.

11. The Home Group that has possession of the banner during the NCCNA, must send a member with the banner to the convention for display at the Saturday Main Speaker meeting during the Area Roll Call. If no member from that group plans to attend the NCCNA, the banner must be relinquished to the temporary custody of any Sierra Foothills Area Administrative Trusted Servant who will be attending.

12. Every Banner Capture will be noted and recorded by the Banner Hotline volunteer to count towards the annual capture totals.

At the end of the year, the group with the most recorded captures will be duly recorded on the banner and they will retain bragging rights for the next year!