Reaching & Unifying Large Geographic Populations
PowerPoint Slide Script

Slide 1:

Hi, I am ____, and this presentation will be on the results of the Task Force on Reaching and Unifying Rural and Large Geographical Populations.

Slide 2:

For about 10 years, from 2008-2018, the World Service Conference (WSC) had several conversations about how to unify and bring together groups that are in rural communities and/or separated by large geographical areas (*e.g.,* mountains, desert, open land, etc.). In 2018, the WSC asked that a Task Force be created to provide tools to help the Areas connect the groups in rural communities and/or large geographical areas. The Board of Trustees (BOT) honored this request and established this Task Force. **The Task Force is made up of 10 Delegates including the Chairperson from Minnesota South; Delegates from Alaska, Arizona, California North, Idaho, Minnesota North, Mississippi, Newfoundland/Labrador, Oklahoma, Texas East; one WSO Staff member; and one Trustee.**

Slide 3:

The BOT gave us a 3-step charge:
   1) Conduct a Knowledge-Based Decision-Making (KBDM) process among the members of the Task Force to determine what is currently known about this topic and what remains unknown.
   2) Create a survey tool for Areas with rural groups and/or groups in large geographic areas to use to determine what members and groups need and want in order to be more included in and connected to the links of service.
   3) Create a presentation to stimulate our discussion today that proposes plans of action to connect members and groups through the links of service in rural and large geographic areas. So, let's briefly talk about the KBDM process and how we created the survey tool before we get to the rest of the presentation.

Slide 4:

By answering the KBDM questions individually and then discussing our answers, we identified challenges that we thought were critical in connecting groups with the links of service at the District and Area level. From this list of challenges for connecting groups/group members to the District and Area, we created a survey. We believe our *identified* challenges to be common to most Areas in our World Service Conference Structure. These identified challenges included lack of financial resources, lack of time to commit to service, a lack of awareness of the links of service, a lack of desire to be connected, geographical distances that separate a group or District from other service arms, and lack of internet resources. Of course, there are other challenges of which we are not aware.

Slide 5:

This background brings us to the actual survey tool. We developed a one-page survey based on our KBDM process. The survey has eight questions with the target audience being groups and/or group members. The purpose of the survey is to gather information about challenges that keep groups and groups members from being connected to the Area. We want the member completing the survey to quantify the value or importance of being connected beyond the group level—we avoided giving examples to allow for free thought. We also included two open-ended questions to allow for the "unknowns" to be revealed. We included a question asking for willingness to participate in an electronic business meeting. This survey is a tool. Feel free to add additional questions to gather information that is pertinent to your Area.

Slide 6:

Wanna Try it? Now we would like everyone to take the survey!!
To do this, we would like the room to break into groups.
- When you are in your group, you will first take the survey. This should take about three minutes. Each group will have a Task Force member who will provide guidance should it be needed.
- Once the survey is taken, you will have 20 minutes to discuss strategies to implement the survey. Each group will need to decide who will be the recorder and reporter.
- There will be a two-minute announcement to wrap up your discussion.
- The reporters will come to the microphones and share one new strategy. **Please, don't repeat ideas that have previously been shared.**

Now let's get into our groups!