

MFN Wall of Wonder: Exploring 10 Years of Facilitation

October 28, 2004

| Present Reality of MFN | Uniqueness of MFN | Trends Impacting MFN | Possibilities for MFN |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diminishing attendance and income • 120 members — flat, few attend events • Hard to get volunteers to do the work • ‘Life happened’ and some left the steering committee • Limited response to the call for new leadership (via email) • \$4,500 in the bank • Administration costs, \$1,000/month for phone, internet, web mgmt. and people support • No Showcase in 2004 = no additional income for funding the year • Need to rethink operating assumptions – How to operate? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People willing to share learning • It’s about GROWTH! • Relaxed, unpretentious atmosphere • Not talking heads— engaging ourselves in tools for participation and facilitation • Attention to the environment of the event / sensory and holistic • Provides a place to practice and test ideas • Mentor match / share prep for events • Element of surprise and edginess • Rituals, dinner, and conversation • Welcoming, loving environment • Very supportive • Became a bit of a closed group to others • Constant effort to remember to greet new people • It’s that ‘food thing’ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People not leaving their houses in the evenings after 9/11 — overall decrease in professional organization’s attendance • Difficulty of getting work for most self-employed = more time ‘working’ • Increased need for marketing and branding • People want/need information and support, but it is hard to take advantage of group events • Increased preference for web and phone access • Continuous compression of time; clients want 30 mins or less • Time pressure encourages members to pick and choose between events to attend, often spread between several organizations • Professional organization partnerships are increasing • Everyone is feeling swamped | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help beginners really learn to facilitate a meeting — need new ideas • Keep IAF Report-outs and MToP-PIP reports as anchor events • Need new volunteer brain power to keep going • Find people in transition to tap • Consider morning meetings • Consider quarterly events and day-long stellar events • Find ways to do ‘deep dialogue’ • Co-sponsor Jean Houston event • Build relationships and learn in a minimum amount of time. • Meet in a restaurant for food • Energizing learning events • Modeling ‘facilitative leadership’ |

Next Steps:

- We each spoke of our current level of energy and time to commit to MFN, and there was little people power to move things forward.
- Christopher Haydock and John Farrell will meet to determine the nature of further meetings or action steps. Pathstones Group will work through December to put things in order.
- We gratefully acknowledged the work of the current Steering Committee members present, and especially that of Co- Chair Jeff Shaw and the extraordinary three years of Co-Chair service of Patricia Denne.