

Our Global Fellowship

TRIP: Brazil

TEAM LEADER: Anthony Edmondson, WSO

TRIP SPECIFICS:

This trip was added onto an already scheduled trip by Anthony, who was invited to speak at the Brazilian Regional Convention. While he was there, he met with the board of the Brazilian Regional Service Office to get a first-hand perspective of their operations and to answer specific questions about our (WSO) shipping practices, training, and other general office issues. Several topics regarding the fellowship here were examined and discussed, such as the scope of their fellowship customer base, the challenges of trying to distribute literature over such a large geographic area, how finances are reported, and the relationship between the board & the region.

The project—the translation of *Just for Today*—is expected to be in production soon. There were questions regarding a product that they created which has a verbal edition of *It Works: How & Why* on CD.

TRIP SPECIFICS (continued):

We gathered over 200 business cards for follow-up correspondence to judges, DAs, public defenders, drug court coordinators, substance abuse treatment providers, and other association members affiliated with the drug courts.

This trip provided us with the most success per capita than we have had at any event since the inception of our marketing plan. Our Public Relations Plan is preparing us to participate in a new arena that will have increasing importance to the fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous. In conjunction with our increasing exposure to the public, we have made preliminary arrangements to exhibit at the Family and Juvenile Drug Court 1st Annual Training Conference in Phoenix, Arizona in January 2000 and the 6th Annual NADCP Conference that will be held in San Francisco, California in June 2000.



TRIP: The 5th Annual Conference of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals in Miami Beach, Florida

TEAM LEADER: George Hollahan, WSO

TRAVEL TEAM: Bob Stewart and Freddie Aquino, WSO

TRIP OBJECTIVES: Attended this conference in order to maintain public relations and to assess the value of face-to-face contact with this association on an ongoing basis. To investigate how we may expand our customer base of the correctional/treatment marketplace within this organization and its satellite support organizations.

TRIP SPECIFICS:

Tremendous response to the distribution of our sample literature and token items. In the two days we exhibited, we distributed the following items:

Key Tags = 300 Basic Text (Eng) = 288

Tote Bags = 400 Basic Text (Sp) = 178

It Works: How & Why (Eng) = 288

It Works: How & Why (Sp) = 128

Just for Today (Eng) = 210

Just for Today (Sp) = 164

Step Working Guides = 145



TRIP: American Jail Association Conference, Fort Worth, Texas

TEAM LEADER: Bob Stewart, WSO

TRAVEL TEAM: Freddie Aquino, WSO

TRIP OBJECTIVES: Attended this annual event to help maintain a public presence; expand our customer base within the correctional market; to bolster our relationships with our existing customers; and to visit one of our key correctional customers in the southwest, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice-Substance Abuse Treatment Division in Huntsville, Texas. We also participated in the Texas Multi-Regional H&I Orientation and Learning Day held in Ft. Worth.

TRIP SPECIFICS:

Much attention and interest in NA was generated during this weekend event and we were able to establish 50 new contacts from conference attendees. Generally, we are continuing to experience success with our marketing efforts and activities, while making strides in realizing a greater sales base potential.

More On Our Global Fellowship

TRIP: The Annual Bi-National Drug Demand Reduction Conference in Tijuana, Baja, Mexico

TEAM LEADER: Bob Stewart, WSO

TRAVEL TEAM: Andres Tovilla, RD, Mexico; Tony Ocequedo, bilingual member of the San Diego NA community

TRIP OBJECTIVES: To engage in an excellent international public relations and marketing opportunity & to assist the Mexico Region of NA in one of its most important PI efforts to date. This conference was held jointly by the US & Mexico. We were also able to present some of our marketing material to treatment providers & correctional officials from the US & Mexico. This was a very important event for us! While the number of participants was relatively small—approximately 400—the importance of these individuals within the substance abuse rehabilitation community—is impressive.

TRIP SPECIFICS:

- ◆ A booth was set up with samples of our publications and informational pamphlets in both languages. We also established a small area for samples of our product catalogs for the treatment community.
- ◆ We distributed literature and interacted with the Mexican Region in a public relations-type forum.
- ◆ Focus of this event was on presenting Narcotics Anonymous to those attendees who had little or no previous knowledge of our organization.
- ◆ Initiated the preliminary groundwork in establishing a relationship with General Barry McCaffrey, Head of the US President's Office of National Drug Control Policy. General McCaffrey expressed his interest in visiting our headquarters during one of his upcoming West Coast trips. He also offered an informal invitation to have our representatives visit him at his headquarters in Washington, DC.
- ◆ Discussed next year's conference in Tucson, Arizona with Mr. Javier Cordova, the official at the ONDCP responsible for the event's coordination. He indicated his enthusiasm at the prospect of NA giving a formal presentation. We may have a presentation slot at this conference. Will continue to follow up as the event date draws nearer.

TRIP: Indiana RSC Midwestern Zonal Forum H&I and PI Learning Conference in Bloomington, Indiana

TEAM LEADER: Jeff Gershoff, WSO

TRAVEL TEAM: Bob MacFarlane, member of the San Diego NA community

TRIP OBJECTIVES: To participate in this learning conference as per the request of the regional committee and to carry out assignments designated by the event leadership. The impact of NAWS presence at a learning day or service conference is usually always high and it appears that our attendance here was especially well received. By us attending this event and actively participating, we made great strides in allaying some of the area's skepticism and building trust.

TRIP SPECIFICS:

- ◆ A workshop titled "A Commitment to Community Partnerships" was given with an excellent response from the attending members. There was a lot of enthusiasm, questions, and comments.
- ◆ A workshop showing a mock H&I/PI presentation to an institution administrator and a mock H&I telephone call was presented. A large percentage of the audience engaged in active participation and offered much input.

Dear Jeff,

I just wanted to thank you and "Dr. Bob" for giving up your Father's Day weekend to come all the way out here to the Midwest, in order to support the "H&I/PI" conference. Your contribution was invaluable. It speaks well of our fellowship that experienced members and staffers would be willing to help out, based on the size of the need, not the size of the audience.

Please pass my gratitude on to Bob and Steve. Your presence was vital to the success of the conference....

Sincerely,

Earl B

PI Chair/BLASCNA (Toledo)

(excerpt from letter received after attendance at conference)

- ◆ How to retool, learn how to work with a committee system we don't have yet, bearing in mind we may get more projects at the conference
- ◆ Educate conference participants regarding not being able to work like in previous years, unable to do all those projects. Problem is that the conference is still project driven, and WS is really routine services driven.
- ◆ Conference Participants need to hear how we maintain routine services to a fellowship that has grown by 70%, and that the board could stay busy working on routine services alone, without having any projects.
- ◆ Create a side by side comparison of routine services in 1980 and present, what it means to administer the fellowship today, what the current system
- ◆ Tell the conference that we thought we could do it, but made a mistake
- ◆ Illustrate how a project impacts finances, routine services, etc.
- ◆ We have not even integrated a system for orientation for newly elected board members; this needs to be part of the structure
- ◆ Help delegates to understand an issue oriented conference
- ◆ Tell the story, no matter how long or how many pages it takes.

Process for Service Material

Craig gave a report on the work done thus far. The board went into a lengthy discussion about whether service material should be included in the *CAR*, or sent out ahead of time to conference participants. Also, whether it should be in old business or voted on by all participants. The board agreed that anything in the *CAR* can be defined as old business, and anything not in the *CAR* can be defined as new business. Craig explained that the workgroup tried to take into account regional motions, and political practicality. The workgroup was trying to inject new ways of thinking, trying to come to a compromise and still maintain a vision. It was the workgroups intention to use the existing policy for bulletins from the board in more diverse ways.

There were no objections voiced to expanding the definition for the release of information/articles from the board.

Craig proposed taking the present proposal and implementing text mentioning pending approval - articles, and in the *Conference Report* to state that we don't believe this is an ideal process, and know that we may have to come back and have to revisit this process in two years.

The board decided to add a provisional approval process, and the workgroup is to decide on the substance of the recommendation, but that the conference needs to know why this has been put forth.

The board agreed that items sent out in the *CAR* are old business. The board agreed that items sent out prior to conference, but not in the *CAR* are new business. The board agreed that having the ability to release material prior to approval is a benefit. Recommendations will be made to change language in *TWGWSS*. The workgroup will give the board a copy of the list used to categorize material.

The workgroup will do further work on their recommendations and present it back to the board sometime tomorrow.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Conference Report 1999

Motion 21: The Motion 21 project creates new work for the next conference cycle and beyond. At the very least, the comprehensive report that this project has created will serve as a template for the Publications Committee to guide its initial efforts. Of course, it will be up to the 2000 WSC to decide how recovery literature development work should be prioritized. However, when we consider all the projects that have been proposed and discussed since the 1980s, plus the never-ending stream of new ideas for recovery literature coming from the fellowship each year, we must acknowledge that there is an unlimited number of potential recovery literature projects that the fellowship and the conference could decide to initiate in future years.

Two-Year Conference Cycle Project: This will create new work. The proposed new worldwide workshop system will be a major experimental endeavor in the next conference cycle, consuming significant staff and board resources. If the workshop system is successful and useful, it would represent another expansion of routine services, following the familiar pattern of a specialized project generating a product or service that then becomes incorporated into NAWS delivery of routine/basic services thereafter.

Process for Service Material: Four of the 14 projects approved at WSC'99 were to determine what needs to be done to finish the development or revision of certain service handbooks. These include revisions of the handbooks for public information, hospitals and institutions, conventions, and the creation of a new training resource handbook. We know that many members, especially those involved in grass roots public information and H&I service, are deeply concerned about what the board is doing with these particular handbooks and in these areas of service. We hear questions about this all the time. We want to assure you that we have not forgotten about the handbooks. This year's Process for Service Material project has been designed to create a process whereby such future material can be developed and approved. This year's work was a vital first step that had to be accomplished in order to create a framework for the development of specific service material—more foundation-building. Our assessment of specific handbook needs will be accomplished between January and April of 2000. This is the time-frame we projected at WSC'99. We will report on this to the 2000

WSC as promised.

We understand that the standing PI and H&I conference committees provided a focal point for the many hundreds of local area and regional committees that actually deliver these services. We know this change is hard for many local communities to adjust to. We can only repeat that the board has carried on with giving direction to the WSO staff who assist these local committees. The board is continuing to work with staff to attend important national and international conferences where our presence and participation plays a critical role in furthering our worldwide public information effort to make Narcotics Anonymous known and respected. A number of these conferences and activities were described in the most recent *Annual Report*.

So, these four handbook assessment projects will create future work, although we cannot project the time-frame and method for developing these handbooks at this time because the evaluation has not been completed. We are well aware of the need and importance of these, and we know there is frustration that they have been sitting on the back burner for so many years. We have not forgotten. WSO staff hears every day about problems and issues that members and local committees do not find answers to in our existing service materials. Responding effectively to these requests for help has been and will continue to be part of our basic services. While we do not yet have the timely and effective service materials we know are needed acutely in several areas, a significant chunk of WSO resources are dedicated to answering the inquiries we receive every day by telephone, letter, email and in our face-to-face interactions with the fellowship at workshops and zonal forum meetings. The board and staff perform the same functions that were previously handled through various other boards, committees, and staff. You can access these services the same way you did when there were standing conference committees: contact the WSO.

Any New Projects/Services Must Be Balanced Against All of the Above

If we had a project moratorium for ten years, NA World Services routine services would still keep us all busy. In addition, more than ten years worth of potential projects have already been proposed. We are not suggesting a moratorium, but we will have to make careful choices and prioritize what is most important to the continuation and growth of NA worldwide. We believe the existing Fellowship Development Plan can continue to serve as a template against which all new project ideas can be considered and measured to see if and how those long-range strategic goals match up. This section provides an update on certain important routine services and makes a number of important announcements. We will also give you a recap of all of the 1999 projects, previewing what you can expect to see in the CAR and why.

1999 Conference Report

Process for Approval of Service Material

INTRODUCTION

This project was approved at WSC'99, and we began work in June 1999. The pace was fast, and the work turned out to be more difficult than we expected. With the help of the WSO staff, we prepared for the first meeting and started work immediately. Below is a description of the proposal we will present in the 2000 CAR, along with comments on how we began, what happened along the way, and some of what we learned.

WHAT IS SERVICE MATERIAL

Service material is any NAWS product that is intended to assist members, groups, service boards, or committees of NA in performing NA service. The most obvious examples are handbooks and service guides. Other examples include information pamphlets, bulletins, and articles produced by the World Board, and non-written material such as audio or video tapes. Some forms that service materials will take may not have been thought of yet. The critical points in defining service material for our purposes in this project are: it is produced and distributed by NAWS; it is intended to aid various elements of the fellowship in performing NA services. We have historically used the term "service materials" in contrast with "recovery materials," which are intended as an aid to NA members in understanding and/or applying our recovery principles in their lives.

THREE CATEGORIES OF SERVICE MATERIAL

This proposal breaks service materials into three categories, and proposes a separate approval track for each. These categories are:

- ◆ Fellowship-Approved materials—intended primarily for use by groups and members.
- ◆ Conference-Approved materials—intended primarily for use by service committees.
- ◆ Board-Approved materials—such as bulletins, articles, and presentation papers.

These definitions are not new, but as you will see below, some of our proposals for how the approval tracks differ for each of these categories are new.

WHY IS THIS PROPOSAL NEEDED

Why do we need a new process for the approval of service materials? The Fellowship Development Plan says it best in Goal Two: "Increase and improve world services available fellowship development tools—such as service handbooks, bulletins, manuals, and training materials—that address recovery-and-service-related questions and concerns." Obviously we need a process by which to accomplish this goal. Prior to WSC'98, there were three processes in the *Temporary Working Guide to Our World Service Structure* for approval of service material. All three were removed when the world service structure changed, and at this point there is no approval process in place for major items. The only service material for which there is an approval process remaining is Board-Approved material (see above description). We need an approval process based on our new structure.

There are other factors that influenced this project. One is the Two-Year Conference Cycle. Beginning in 2000, the World Service Conference will meet every other year rather than every year. If a project plan is developed for a given piece of service material during one conference cycle, and it is then presented at the next conference for prioritization, and then it is produced and put up for approval at the following conference, the process will take years. While this may be perfectly appropriate for many projects, we believe there will be instances when there is a need to produce something and get it into the hands of the fellowship more quickly. Accordingly, we are proposing mechanisms that the conference may use to instruct or allow us to move more quickly when that is appropriate. Another change that influenced this project is yet to be fully realized. This is the much-discussed "consensus-based" and "issue-oriented" conference.



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CONFERENCE-APPROVED VS. FELLOWSHIP-APPROVED

As a step in that direction, we are proposing that service material whose target audience is the member or group be included in the CAR and placed on a track to become "Fellowship-Approved." On the other hand, we are proposing that material that is intended for use by service boards or committees not be included in the CAR, but instead be mailed separately to conference participants and placed on a track to become "Conference Approved."

The distinction between Fellowship-Approved and Conference-Approved literature already exists and is described in our Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust (FIPT). This proposal formalizes that distinction more clearly. Regional Delegates could still seek local input and guidance regarding materials that are on the conference-approval track in any manner suitable to that region, but there would be no blanket expectation placed on the fellowship as a whole to study the details of service materials that are specifically relevant to certain types of service. Those are the types of detailed tasks that the fellowship may delegate to their RDs, who are selected to act in the best interests of NA as a whole.

NEW BUSINESS OR OLD BUSINESS

Perhaps the most difficult discussion held by both the working group and the board around our work was whether to bring the materials on the conference-approval track to the conference as new business or old business. The significance of this question relates to the issue of who votes at the conference. Current procedure states that all conference participants—both World Board members and Regional Delegates—vote on all new business, but only Regional Delegates vote on old business.

Once we mapped out the different approval tracks for Conference-Approved vs. Fellowship-Approved literature, this potentially controversial issue jumped out at us. After much discussion, it was clear that the consensus was that this material should be new business. All similar precedents—the budget, the rules of order, etc.—that are sent out to participants prior to the conference but not included in the CAR are considered new business. If we are to move in the direction of a track for material that is delegated to the participants to deal with, then we believe all participants should approach the material from equal ground as a single team. This, we believe, is most consistent with the Seventh Concept and the spirit of long-standing precedent at the conference.

Equally clear to us, however, was the fact that this would be seen by some as simply an attempt on the part of the board to gain a vote on these materials. This, at first, presented a painful dilemma rooted in the sometimes political nature of world services. Should we propose what we believe is most clearly based in sound principle and most consistent with logic and precedent, or should we propose what we know will be least controversial? The merits of both paths were discussed at some length. "Least controversial" has some merit in that it doesn't distract the body from the overall merits of the proposal, but ultimately we believe that we are called upon to lay out the path we believe to be right. That's what we have done here. We're proposing that this material be considered new business and sent out to participants at least 90 days prior to the conference.

Focus on the Concepts

Some may perceive that different approval tracks for different material could exclude NA groups from the approval process and be in conflict with the First and Second Concepts. We sincerely believe that the opposite is the case. Most, perhaps all, regions of the fellowship report that it is quite difficult to get the groups interested in the process as it has existed. We often hear complaints when we place a several-hundred page CAR in front of groups and members for them to study, understand, and vote on, especially when many of the issues it contains are of marginal relevance to their daily recovery and service efforts. We also believe in the principle of delegation as expressed in our Third Concept. Our trusted servants, service boards, and committees have been entrusted to exercise their best judgment in carrying out the responsibilities assigned to them. This in turn helps free our groups to devote their maximum attention to carrying the recovery message in their meetings.

The majority of groups, by all accounts, "vote" on this by their non-involvement in the process. By beginning to free up the CAR to contain only materials of direct interest to the groups, and placing a stronger emphasis on the role of the groups' representatives to do the more detailed study and analysis for them, we hope to attract more grass-roots involvement in service.

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HISTORY-RELATED MATERIAL

The project plan for developing this Process for Approval of Service Material passed at WSC'99 included a statement about the scope of the project possibly being expanded to include a process for the development and approval of historical material. Since this type of material is clearly neither service material nor recovery material, and we are all well aware of the controversy surrounding the *Miracles Happen* book, our first decision was to simply exclude history-related material from the work. Continued discussion, however, resulted in both the working group and the board recognizing that something needs to be said about the approval of history-related material.

We believe that future approval of history-related projects will always be project specific. A project plan containing details of development and approval will be presented to the World Service Conference before any work begins. Conference participants will then approve or modify it as appropriate. The process used for any history-related project will always be fully known by the World Service Conference in advance.

BOARD-APPROVED

In the case of Board-Approved materials, we are proposing an expanded use of what were formerly called "Trustee Bulletins." Our proposal is discussed in detail in the next section. We should also note that in the case of presentation papers, or papers prepared by the board and staff for presentation at non-NA events around the world, there is often not enough time to get board approval between the time the invitation to present is received and the time the event is held. We are not proposing that full-board approval of such papers be required prior to presentation, but that it is required before broader distribution of these papers to the fellowship. Board approval for all these types of materials means approval by at least two-thirds of the board.

MECHANISMS TO PRODUCE MATERIALS MORE EFFICIENTLY

We want to stress again that although the production cycle for most materials will be quite long, we don't believe that will be a problem in many instances. It takes time to be as grass-roots oriented and inclusive as our fellowship tends to be. On the other hand, we do not believe it is prudent to force a several-year production cycle on *all* new or revised service materials. We are therefore proposing two mechanisms to allow certain materials to be produced and delivered more quickly when circumstances warrant.

First, we are proposing a more extensive use of the vehicle formally called the "Trustee Bulletin." By whatever new name, perhaps "Service Bulletin," we may choose to produce short pieces intended to provide guidance or information where we perceive an immediate need. An example of such an issue may involve service areas that use rapidly changing technology. It may not be realistic to provide guidance in these areas given a three- or four-year production cycle. Telephone technology as it

relates to helplines may be another example, or

appropriate uses of the Internet as it rapidly evolves may be yet another.

Secondly, we're proposing that in *certain cases*, materials be distributed after they are completed and approved by the World Board, and before they are approved by the Conference. Under this proposal, it would be possible for materials on the Conference-Approval track (and that track *only*) to be released by the World Board as "pending approval" and identified with a unique header and color. This could happen in two ways. One is that projects intended for the Conference-Approval track could be designated by the conference, at the time of initial prioritization of the project plan, as candidates for this type of pre-approval release. For example, when a project plan for a service handbook is okayed at the WSC meeting, it could be indicated for early release "pending approval" if conference participants choose to do so. Then, if the project is completed, for example, nine months later (or sixteen months before the next conference), it can be distributed in a format that clearly distinguishes it as "pending approval." Another way this provision could help is that we could respond to fellowship needs for an updated handbook chapter or a relevant insert for an existing chapter by releasing the material when ready, again "pending approval." This provision would allow resource materials for service to be released by the World Board as additions to already existing conference-approved handbooks. These types of service materials could possibly also stand on their own if later approved by the conference. As stated above, they would be clearly distinguished as "pending approval" and would only be materials from the Conference-Approval track. The provision could be of great benefit to newly developing NA communities by allowing a short, easily translatable service piece to be produced quickly, while more detailed materials such as handbooks are being developed.

Once approved, these early-release items will be repackaged accordingly. If not approved, they will be discontinued and possibly re-introduced into the production process, again at the discretion of the conference.

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BEGINNING THE WORK

We started this project with some very simple goals. Everyone in the workgroup felt it was important that the resulting proposal be simple and easy to understand. Another goal was to devise a process for approval of service material that is less cumbersome for groups, areas, regions, and WSC participants than old processes. Finally, we all agreed that the process must provide for timely response by NA World Services to the fellowship's needs.

We began by reviewing a package of source material assembled by WSO staff. This included three processes previously contained in the 1997 *Temporary Working Guide to Our World Service Structure*, and also a summary of processes used for approval of several of NA's service items. It was helpful for us to examine the different processes used for creating and approving each of the following items: *H&I Handbook*, H&I IPs and Booklets, *A Guide to Local Services in Narcotics Anonymous*, the H&I Tape, various bulletins, PI and H&I short-form guidelines, *Meeting by Mail*, the *NA Way Magazine*, *Reaching Out*, audio tapes, PSAs, and the *Just for Today* video tape. Another piece of source material we received was a compilation of information about processes used by AA, OA, and Alanon to approve their service material. This information revealed that it is almost unheard of for these other fellowships to require conference approval for their service support materials. NA has by far the most stringent process for the development and approval of literature of any similar twelve-step organization. We also familiarized ourselves with the existing terminology related to Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust issues and translations work, "adaptable" and "non-adaptable." Unfortunately, we spent a fair amount of time attempting to work out a process for the development of service materials, which was not needed because the process for project management was being developed elsewhere. The scope for this project was changed mid-stream to be just a process for the approval of service materials, and this problem was corrected.

WHAT HAPPENED TO SOME OF THE IDEAS PRESENTED IN FLORIDA?

We changed course on a few things after receiving a good deal of input at the World Services Meeting in Florida. In the spirit of thorough reporting and open communication, we felt it may be helpful to discuss what some of these shifts in direction were, and how they came about.

In Florida, we presented a model for differentiating among the various types of service materials based upon whether or not the material would be modifiable by the local fellowship once approved. We received a fair amount of input suggesting that this approach was too confusing, among other problems. We took the suggestion that we look instead at differentiating among types of service material based upon the intended audience. As we discussed this approach, we saw the obvious fit with the FIPT, as well as the logic of the separate approval tracks described above. We shifted the basis for our proposals accordingly.

Another problematic aspect of our earlier proposals related to the concept of World Board-Approval instead of Conference-Approval for many types of materials. Our intent was to provide for an efficient development cycle by not requiring Conference-Approval on much of our service literature. We offset this by proposing to empower the local communities to use these materials as templates, and to modify them at will according to local needs. This bypassing of conference-approval was perceived by many to be concentrating too much power in the hands of the board. While we found this difference in perception ironic, given our intent to more fully empower the local fellowship, we respected the strong feelings behind much of this input.

Our response was to instead propose the Conference-Approval track for all materials whose intended audience was service boards or committees, the Fellowship-Approval track for materials whose intended audience is members and groups, and limit the board-approval track to the historical precedents of bulletins and presentation papers. We retained our commitment to allowing for a more expeditious development cycle in certain instances by proposing an expanded use of the bulletins and proposing the new "pending approval" status for certain materials that are candidates for early release.

INPUT RECEIVED

One piece of input we received said, in part, "Please do not take the right to approve service materials from our group. This would only promote the disunity that is already present and hurt the new service structure. We, as addicts, need to spend time helping the still suffering addict and not discussing how politics at the world are taking our rights away." This input was very helpful to us because the comments helped us to pause and question our work. Were we taking rights away from groups? Does our proposal weaken the service structure? Does it contribute to disunity in any way? Does it help the NA service structure and the NA groups?

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On reflection, we believe that our proposal does not take anything away from NA groups. Based on our Third Concept of delegation, and in response to your requests over the years, it frees up our members and groups to devote their full attention to holding meetings and carrying the message of recovery, without having to ratify every decision made on their behalf at every level of service. All service material for members and groups will still go in the *Conference Agenda Report*. Material for service committees and boards will fit nicely into the Conference-Approval track because it affects the service structure and not the groups directly. Then Regional Delegates have the option to workshop the material in committees, in workshops, in assemblies, or to prepare themselves for voting on it in whatever way is appropriate in their region.

As we move forward together to more successfully carry the message to the addict who still suffers, our hope is to always be mindful of our past, while at the same time being open to new ways of doing things. We're not seeking change for the sake of change, but for the good of us all and for the addict who has yet to arrive. This work will serve our fellowship well, and we believe it also paves the way for even more effective processes in the future. Our vision is that these service material approval processes can evolve into a more flexible, responsive, and streamlined system to more effectively serve an ever-changing and truly worldwide fellowship.

EXAMPLES

We conducted an experiment to see how each item of service material that exists today would go through our process if it were proposed as a new project. The table below shows the category and type of approval for each item, how it is sent to conference participants, and how it is considered at the WSC meeting. It is important to note that we do not intend for existing materials to be reclassified or re-approved, the table is simply an illustration.

Item	Category/Type of Approval	
	Intended for members or groups	Intended for service committees
	Sent out in the CAR for approval	Sent to WSC participants for approval
	Old business at WSC	New business at WSC
<i>The Group Booklet</i>	X	
<i>Twelve Concepts for NA Service</i>	X	
<i>IP #2 The Group (IP)</i>	X	
<i>IP #15 PI and the NA Member</i>	X	
<i>IP #20 H&I and the NA Member</i>	X	
<i>IP #24 "Hey! What's the Basket For?"</i>	X	
<i>IP #25 Self Support: Principle and Practice</i>	X	
<i>Just For Today Videotape</i>		X
PSAs		X
<i>NA: A Resource in Your Community</i>		X
<i>Hospitals & Institutions Handbook</i>		X
<i>A Guide to Local Services in NA</i>	X	
<i>A Guide to Public Information</i>		X
<i>Literature Committee Handbook</i>		X
<i>Handbook for NA Newsletters</i>		X
<i>A Guide to Phoneline Service</i>		X
<i>Convention Guidelines</i>		X
<i>Treasurer's Handbook</i>	X	
<i>Outreach Resource Information</i>		X
<i>Institutional Group Guide</i>	X	
<i>Additional Needs Resource Information</i>	X	
<i>IP #26 Accessibility for Those with Additional Needs</i>	X	