

## Going Places...

Fellowship requests for world services participation are considered on a quarterly basis. Some of the factors considered in making such travel decisions include potential benefits to the communities, and the availability of resources. It is also important to keep in mind that, in many cases, such trips require adequate follow-up in order to be truly effective. Each world services visit seems to generate further interest and requests for participation. In recent years the level of requests has continued to rise, and we have made a concerted effort to satisfy those requests. In some cases, contributions are made to help offset the costs of participations, but for some communities that is simply not possible. In the face of fluctuating economic realities, we will continue reevaluating our level of activity and prioritize travel so as to make the best possible use of NA resources.

### July 2007

Western States Zonal Forum – Ontario, California  
Rocky Mountain Zonal Forum – Grand Junction, Colorado

### August 2007

European Delegates Meeting and ECCNA 24 – Llandudno, Wales  
El Salvador Regional Convention 4 – San Salvador, El Salvador  
WCNA 32 – San Antonio, Texas

### September 2007

Sinaloa Area 11th Anniversary – Culiacan, Sinaloa, Mexico  
Fellowship Development and Workshops –  
Kolkata and Delhi, India  
Portland ASC Metro Ad-Hoc Workshop – Portland, Oregon  
Spanish-Speaking Area Convention 2 – Van Nuys, California  
Recovery Month – Washington, DC  
Puyallup Fair – Washington-Northern Idaho Region  
Cape Cod Symposium – New England Region  
California Probation/Parole & Correctional Association –  
Sierra Sage Region  
Wisconsin Correctional Association – Wisconsin Region

### October 2007

Quebec Regional Convention 20 – St-Hyacinthe, Quebec  
Western Service Learning Days 21 – Ogden, Utah  
Guatemala Regional Convention 4 – Guatemala City, Guatemala  
AI-Sask Regional Convention 17 – Saskatoon, Saskatchewan  
Latin American Zonal Forum & CLANA – São João da Barra,  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil





### **November 2007**

Washington-Northern Idaho Regional Learning Day – Walla Walla, Washington  
 Canadian Assembly & Convention – Victoria, British Columbia  
 NAWS Literature Distribution and Convention Workshops – Woodland Hills, California  
 Meeting with Tehran Office Manager – Dubai, United Arab Emirates  
 WCNA 33 Site Visit – Barcelona, Spain  
 Multi-Regional Learning Event 10 – Biddeford, Maine

### **December 2007**

Rocky Mountain Zonal Forum – Helena, Montana

### **January 2008**

Plains State Zonal Forum – McPherson, Kansas  
 South East Zonal Forum – Macon, Georgia  
 Sydney Worldwide Workshop – Sydney, Australia  
 Production Visit – Shenzhen, China  
 Southern Zonal Forum – Rockport, Texas  
 Northeast Zonal Forum – Williamsville, New York  
 Autonomy Zonal Forum – Fredericksburg, Virginia  
 Southern California Regional Assembly – Ontario, California

### **February 2008**

MARLCNA 24 – Lancaster, Pennsylvania  
 Sierra Sage Regional Service Workshop – Carson City, Nevada  
 Danish Workshop – Copenhagen, Denmark  
 European Delegates Meeting and FD Workshop – Budapest, Hungary  
 Honduras NAWS Workshop – San Pedro Sula, Honduras  
 Fellowship Development and Workshops – Bangalore, Delhi, and Chennai, India

### **March 2008**

Our Primary Purpose Learning Day – Dayton, Ohio  
 Arizona Regional Assembly – Mesa, Arizona  
 Central California Regional Assembly – Arroyo Grande, California  
 Asia Pacific Forum and Malaysia Convention – Kuala Lumpur  
 Indonesian Region Service Workshop – Jakarta, Indonesia  
 Spanish Regional Meeting – Valencia and Barcelona, Spain

### **April 2008**

Baja Cachanilla Area Convention 5 – Mexicali, Baja California, Mexico  
 World Service Conference – Woodland Hills, California

### **May 2008**

Pacific Cascade Regional Convention – Bend, Oregon  
 Chinook Area Convention 22 – Calgary, Alberta, Canada

### **June 2008**

California Mid-State Regional Convention – Visalia, California  
 Southeast Zonal Forum – Pensacola, Florida  
 Oregon State Penitentiary 20th Anniversary Hole in the Wall Group – Salem, Oregon  
 Honduras FD Workshops with Pool Members – Tegucigalpa, Honduras  
 WCNA 33 Support Committee Meeting – Malaga, Spain



## NAWS Professional and Cooperative Public Relations Events

The events listed below are national and international professional conferences attended by NAWS staff with the support of local trusted servants on-site during the events. The conferences identified with italics involved cooperative efforts by NAWS with local service bodies. Most often with cooperative events, NAWS offers support by providing literature or event registration and by being an available coordinating resource for the trusted servants who are participating in the event; attendance at the event is a service provided by local trusted servants.

### July 2007

*International Addictions Congress –  
Columbia Region*  
*Virginia Summer Institute of Addiction Studies –  
Central Atlantic Region*

### August 2007

*Institute for Integral Development –  
Colorado Springs, Colorado*

### September 2007

*ACA – America Correctional Association –  
Tampa, Florida*  
*Florida Alcohol/Drug Addiction Association –  
Florida Region*

### October 2007

*Psychiatric Nurses Association –  
Orlando, Florida*  
*International Society of Addiction Medicine –  
Cairo, Egypt*  
*Employees Assistance Professional  
Association – San Diego, California*  
*Illinois Alcohol &  
Drug Dependency Association –  
Chicagoland Region*  
*Association of Programs for Female Offenders –  
Free State Region*

### November 2007

*Southeast Conference on Alcohol and Drugs –  
Georgia Region*

### January 2008

*Training Institute on Behavioral Health  
& Addictive Disorders – Clearwater, Florida*  
*Recovery Month – Washington, DC*  
*National Catholic Council on Alcoholism  
and Addictions – Louisiana Region*  
*Winter Symposium on Addictive Disorders &  
Behavioral Health – Colorado Region*

### February 2008

*Office of Drug Control Policy Committee  
Meeting – Vancouver, British Columbia*  
*Twelve-Step Advisory Meeting –  
Sacramento, California*  
*Day of Twelve-Step Fellowships –  
New York, New York*

### March 2008

*Recovery Month – Washington, DC*  
*Therapeutic & Alcohol/Drug Interventionists  
Conference – Las Vegas, Nevada*

### April 2008

*American Society of Addiction Medicine –  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada*  
*Ohio Community Corrections Association –  
Ohio Region*  
*California Association of Drug Court  
Professionals – Southern California Region*  
*Employee Assistance Society of North America –  
BC Region*

### May 2008

*National Association of Drug Court  
Professionals – St. Louis, Missouri*  
*American Justice Association –  
Northern California Region*  
*Idaho Conference on Alcohol and Drug  
Dependency – Southern Idaho Region*  
*HIV/STD Professional Conference – Lone Star Region*

### June 2008

*Twelve-Step Advisory – Sacramento, California*  
*Annual Conference on Drug Dependence  
Problems – San Juan, Puerto Rico*  
*National Rural Institute on Alcohol/Drug Abuse –  
Wisconsin Region*  
*Probation & Parole Conference – Ohio Region*  
*Mid-South Summer School Arkansas –  
Arkansas Region*  
*Treatment Solutions – Sierra Sage Region*

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Wednesday 9 January

World Board: Arne Hassel-Gren, Craig Robertson, Franney Jardine, Jim Buerer, Mark Hersh, Mary Banner, Michael Cox, Mukam Harzenski-Deutsch, Paul Craig, Piet De Boer, Ron Hofius, Ron Miller, Tom McCall, Tonia Nikolinakou

Staff: Becky Meyer, Anthony Edmondson, Eileen Perez, Nick Elson, De Jenkins, Stephan Lantos, Steve Rusch, Bob Jordan, Travis Koplow, and Chris Corning

The Chairperson opened the meeting with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. There was a brief overview of this week's meeting agenda followed by couple of announcements. Today's agenda will be small group discussion for some of the topics. Board support staff will be included in the discussions throughout the meeting. Ron Blake will arrive later in the day. Board closed sharing sessions will be scheduled at their discretion.

Michael Cox facilitated the Action Group on spiritual tools and loss.

#### **Review of the Bulletin on Methadone**

There seemed to have been a consensus on this bulletin by email; if this piece can be finalized, the board will continue using email for bulletin review. The next piece to be reviewed by the board between meetings will be identified. Everyone broke up into small groups for brainstorming session on the Methadone bulletin.

#### **Table One**

- Believe the bulletin was written for groups and believe if its intended audience was the groups, the service pamphlet is better written. The Methadone bulletin could probably be removed.
- Need a piece for professionals on this topic, as well as including *DRT In Times of Illness* revision.

#### **Table Two**

- There was no clarity amongst table participants on bulletin audience and disagree with removing bulletin because each piece states distinctive viewpoints with different approaches.
- Table members also like how the bulletin is clear on stance concerning whether a person is clean who is taking medication associated with drug replacement therapies. Think the Methadone bulletin is one of the very best pieces written on our position.
- Various table members thought the service pamphlet addresses what we would like to say to a group and helping them deal with this issue. The bulletin is a more direct piece concerning whether an individual is clean or not. Furthermore, agreement reached on the importance of making a direct statement as opposed to an inference regarding being clean.
- Need a piece that is direct regarding NA philosophy. One is not considered clean when taking medication associated with drug replacement therapies. Believe we need to be careful on softening our message; believe we can soften with group participation, but not the premise of NA is a program of total abstinence.
- Need a message to individuals that articulates NA's message (a program of total

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abstinence) which appears to be convoluted at this time and isn't. Thinking that *Introduction to NA* may be a great place to incorporate that message. Could say to an individual that many members may consider the use of drug replacement medication as using... articulate this in a way that the potential member will be aware that their 'welcome' to NA may be one that encourages attendance at meetings along with a willingness to move to abstinence.

The board continued to discuss the DRT issue and whether to have a more direct stance or tone and/or one that is a gentler approach and why each is important.

- Although the 'why' of having a stronger stance is understood, does not believe it should always be used to get someone's attention to get clean. Our aim was to talk about raising consciences on how members act toward those on drug replacement medication not the premise of our program's philosophy.
- Develop a statement about abstinence, our philosophy and also a pamphlet that welcomes those on drug replacement and speaks of their struggles.
- Don't believe we need to berate potential members with our stance. Believe that within the first 30 days they begin to understand our philosophy and what our literature says. We have to be careful - the informational pamphlet tends to be inclusive and the bulletin seems to be more exclusive.
- Craig added that his table believed language should not be ambiguous, rather use language from the 3<sup>rd</sup> tradition that will help ignite desire, offer encouragement, etc.
- Possibly combine both pieces and use language that equally targets newer and more experienced members.
- Mary does not want to remove the clarity that the bulletin expresses; therefore, likes the idea of incorporating both into one piece.
- Franney - 3 points that were made by the table: 1.) bulletin is currently not communicating to newer members – maybe change format to look like court card bulletin; 2.) The vehicle for stating our philosophy is irrelevant yet we need a piece that does clearly address our position; and 3.) Don't want us to lose the strong language from the bulletin that specifically talks about our program.
- Some members of our fellowship found the service pamphlet to be wishy-washy.
- Steve R stated that if we are looking to speak to individual members then believes the bulletin is a better tool. Suggests the possibility of creating yet a 3<sup>rd</sup> piece that speaks directly to the individual.

Decision Additional language to be added to service pamphlet to clarify discussion points regarding DRT and abstinence; the bulletin will remain unchanged.

Take language from the bulletin that addresses members and add to the service pamphlet; the bulletin seems to be intended for an individual.

Revisions to *In Times of Illness* booklet need to address mental health and chronic pain medication. Some issues regarding drug replacement medication to be addressed in *Introduction to NA Meetings*. There may be overlap yet restatement is acceptable.

**CAR Workshops Experience**

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upcoming convention in Spain - WCNA 33. However, it's hoped to make up those costs with the San Diego world convention and to be balanced out by the world convention in Philadelphia.

Decision: The March 2008 Conference will give an account on WCNA 32 experience in context within the entire convention picture.

There was more discussion on reporting mechanisms for the convention planning, deposits, etc. the moving in and out is noted on the cash flow. Tabled: As recorded in the previous board record, the board will need to discuss overall value of WCNA to the fellowship and possibly changing the frequency. But remember because of timing, we decided to put this discussion off to a later date, in order to discuss at length.

Action: The proposed Budget Project Plans will be finalized a week from today. The board is to review the draft and forward any input to Becky ASAP.

Action: The presented HRP Guideline with proposed language is a result of the yesterdays call between Anthony, Greg, Mindy and Craig. WB is to provide input by the end of the day today.

~~Proposed 2008-2010~~

General Scopes of all project plans provided for conference participants to approve. There may be edits to the allocations but basically it stays the same each cycle.

**FIPT and NA Literature List**


The board had a discussion concerning the FIPT and NA Literature List, e.g. what would be classified as service material or fellowship approved. In order to get an idea of the board's perception for these pieces, the board was asked to check off each item listed and if they believed the material to be recovery, information or don't know. Sheets will be tallied.

The majority of the board marked *Hey what's the basket for* as information material. If the board believes this then what to present at the conference needs to be discussed and be reported to conference participants. The board has to offer a system to the conference that makes sense to all members. Otherwise, it's a shell game and it's hard to make sense of classifications for recovery and information pieces. It is important to clearly say what we want and that everyone is on the same page.

Can we offer the *Service Support* pamphlet to conference participants as an example for the literature classification process? The approval process for NA material says we either believe its fellowship approved, conference approved or board approved.

- Conference approved and board approved means how you define philosophy.
- FIPT is for recovery material only and means one must go through conference formalities to get to any item on that list. Conference participants do not have that type of control over the other material.
- We have to find a way to explain why the majority of the board categorized *The Group, PI and the NA Member, H&I and the NA Member* and two self support pamphlets as informational material.
- Maybe the distinction is not recovery or service but maybe foundational vs. put into action.
- Information is more about implementation practices, experiences.

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This body operates via foundation of principles and takes that premise and applies in a variety of ways. When we say recovery, we mean foundation. Whatever is decided needs to be added to service approval process. Board continues with discussion.

- Need to develop processes for approval and development
- Fellowship approved or Informational material. Information material is material we may decide to place on the fellowship approval track yet we are not mandated.
- In our decision-making with fellowship approved material or not, it is tied to the project plan and the process used to complete the project. The conference makes the final decision with approving the project plan or not.

Ron H drew on post-it to help board achieve an understanding.

Fellowship approved

Conference Approved

Board Approved

Because there is more than one dimension, it is difficult to put down and explain on paper. Two pamphlets on self support: one informational and the other more graphic. The advantage of those pieces allows for changing content when necessary.

There was agreement to add language to the approval process section regarding material not always being clearly defined for approval tracks as illustrated above with the board literature tally. Conference and board approved pieces are about putting things into practice or how to.

The board agreed to the project plan for the Business Plan Group which outlines replacements for *Hey what's the basket for* and *Self Support*. The board agreed these newly developed pieces would fall into two different approval categories. Suggests that the language for contribution be more specific and provide direction.

#### **Consensus Based Decision Making**

- Add WSC in header.
- Add sentence regarding this being conference dependent—not really able to give more details until decision is made with presented material.
- A member wrote a letter and stated that their area and region conducts business without ever going into a business session.

#### **Fellowship Issue Discussion**

- Issue discussion topics
- Rewrite of the *Guide to Local Service*

#### **Public Relations**

Idea is to have focus groups with various professional disciplines and these groups will include professional members and non members. These groups will also be used to see who can be trained further on our behalf (represent NAWS) as well as for their input in their area of expertise. This material would also be World Board approved. No objections.

#### **Service System**

Although the board may have some pieces (vision statement) that they are developing in this cycle, the only part the board is responsible for is to frame options and recommendation in this

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cycle. No objections.

**Targeted Literature**

This project plan was developed prior to the board discussion this week and the only targeted piece was *In Times of Illness*. However, after this week's discussion, we have to find a way to convey how most drug courts have issue with NA in the US and its one issue with welcoming members on drug replacement therapies and another with welcoming those on medication.

The audience is professional as well as clients themselves, but it's actually the professional constantly conveying how they don't have anything in writing to give to a potential member. We have nothing that defines clean nor can we come to an agreement; therefore, we are not sure that we will undertake this piece.

- There was an area that asked individuals on drug replacement therapies what is was like for them in NA meetings and what helped them to become NA members. The common response was that they were told different things therefore it was very confusing for them.

*Introduction to NA Meeting* developed primarily for professionals to provide individuals from drug courts with information about NA; this piece no longer meets that need. We have nothing for members. *NA groups and Medication* piece was written for groups.

- *Introduction to NA Meetings* is a piece for meetings.
- You can get information regarding various topics and subjects on table of meeting.
- Add a separate philosophical piece that addresses this DRT issue.
- Add a sentence or two that offers simple explanation in *Introduction to NA Meetings*.
  - Add to targeted literature something for people with drug replacement issues. Because *Introduction to NA Meetings* speaks specifically to potential members and the other proposed piece is focused toward someone that could be a member for a long time and remain on drug replacement therapy. Recalls the Youth Group touching on this subject.

**Decision** No objection to revisions to *In Times of Illness*.

- Develop a separate piece that solely addresses people in NA on drug replacement medications.
- We presented the introduction piece due to need but the fellowship is not really aware of the need. If that is case, do we really need this piece; if yes, then we have to stand up and tell them.
- Revision to *Introduction to NA meetings* is a priority.
- Would we be better suited to revise IP 22; *Welcome to NA* or IP 16; *For the Newcomer*? We don't have something that meets professional needs. Board directed to read *Welcome to NA* and *For the Newcomer* and then decide if we need another piece.
- *What can I do* from the Basic Text; format is beautiful and can be used for what we are trying to accomplish with this pamphlet.
  - Should revise *Welcome to NA* but also think we need a philosophical piece on drug replacement that does require a position paper.



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Whether the issue is more people getting information about NA or newer members receiving information, it is a priority, as well as the possibility of revising *Welcome to NA and Introduction to NA Meetings*

Listed on a large post-it note pad:

- *Who, What, How and Why; Another Look; Recovery and Relapse - 1976*
- *Am I an Addict; For the Newcomer; Just for Today- 1983*
- *Welcome to NA -1986*
- Perceives the listed pamphlets as being generic. Supposes that what is needed is a piece that is specifically targeted, simple, not a philosophic piece. Piece has to be about people 'belonging' and needs to be sitting on the table at recovery meetings. That's how we work this out; people need to be able to identify to see if they believe they belong.
- Believes this can be dealt with by adding language like "yes you are welcomed in NA and for a more complete discussion refer to..."
- Yes, it is a priority and a targeted piece; we could modify *Introduction to NA Meetings* because this is why this piece was developed. Wondering if we can look at the other IPs and incorporate.
- It seems board thoughts are clear as far as having a position with the methadone bulletin. However, has problem with a person not being welcomed at a meeting if on a drug replacement therapy. We have to make sure they understand they belong. Is it not our responsibility to engender a better atmosphere, modeling a better way to live.
- If we are revising *In Times of Illness*, believes *Welcome to NA* and *For the Newcomer* should be revised or updated as well.

Becky expressed having just read *Welcome to NA* would not revise because it focuses on being heart felt and for a person that is scared. *For the Newcomer*, takes us back to the purpose of *Introduction to NA*. We intended to have a new piece about what happens in NA rather than having a personal approach. There are two different needs.

- Service pamphlet cover memo says that we pulled out the word clean and here is the piece we want to approve. Add language that tells them our discussion.

**Straw Poll Issues:**

- Something to address DRT issue in this cycle priority – unanimous
- Separate piece on drug replacement (only subject) – 13; to be added to the targeted literature project plan; an experiential piece for drug replacement only. Becky wanted everyone to be clear on the fact that this body now (unanimously) is stating to totally rewrite targeted literature project plan.
  - Add wording that allows for the project to get done if time allows.
- *Introduction to NA Meetings* revision– 9; engage the conference participants about this, wanting the piece to be more welcoming and definitely not trying to take a position.

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- In some way add DRT discussion to *Introduction to NA meetings* – 11
  - Service pamphlet - 8
  - Not a service pamphlet – 4
  - Saying it should be a board approved piece – 0
- There are two ideas about what to revise in *Introduction to NA Meetings* and *Welcome to NA*

**Workshops –no objection**

**Book Length Piece – working title was *Living Clean – The Journey Continues***

Review and input piece in stages, fellowship approved for 2012. See CAR. The board went into a discussion regarding a book length piece and what the board decided and what has been recorded. Working title; board decided to leave the working title as presented. No objections to the purpose and scope.

**Leadership Orientation Material – No objections.**

**Service Material Approval Process** is the same as last cycles. What we have talked about is developing pieces before actually having a handbook. No objections.

**Other Corporate Responsibilities**

**Existing Lawsuits**

Anthony provided the board with an update regarding ongoing litigations.

**Proposed Corporate Resolutions**

Decision management being given authority to amend the existing 2007-2008 corporate resolutions to incorporate Deborah Hall as the replacement for Tom Rush everywhere Tom's name appears. These resolutions will not be amended until such time as specific employment details can be worked out. The timing of this change and Debbie's authority is left to Anthony's discretion.

**WCNA 33**

**WCNA theme brainstorming session.**

Last convention was Message, Hope, Promise, and Freedom. Theme for Barcelona must translate and be understood in both English and Spanish.

Beyond your wildest dreams – mas ayar de sus sueños	Lost dreams awaken - Sueños perdidos despierten
Together we can – Juntos podemos	One service symbol one fellowship
Worldwide Fellowship	Sharing our common bond
Worldwide basic program	One world one program – un mundo un programa
Recovery without borders – recuperacion sin fronteras	Addicts without boarders – adictos sin fronteras
Every expanding fellowship –	Another world – otro mundo

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Saturday 12 January

Meeting opened with a moment of silence and the Serenity prayer. Announcements followed.

HRP External Guideline proposed language: board will be presenting the guidelines at the conference; therefore, the board needs to know the material. The board given until end of day today to give input on the HRP External Guidelines draft, otherwise, no objections stated at this moment.

### Targeted Literature

One of the CAR questions for the fellowship is to gather input for their next piece of targeted literature and develop the piece. Proposed project plan reports we are at our workload capacity and will continue to gather input; however, we can manage a revision to *In Times of Illness*. We can not have anymore high priorities – to keep adding to the top of the priority list is unreasonable. Continue discussion:

- Thought we discussed and agreed that *In Times of Illness* would take more than a year, and in the second cycle would work on something else. Not ranking higher than we have resources for but if opportunity arose would develop the piece.

We have never talked about this in any reporting mechanisms and making this newly proposed DRT piece a priority rather odd; the list of projects has already been reported.

More input on piece on drug replacement therapies

- Tom believes the difference is the philosophical issue around a person's readiness to be a member and a group's right to allow or not allow participation. In the future, he would like to see something philosophical regarding this issue. The issue of drug replacement is not that much different than someone who is taking antidepressant medication – but both are seen in a difference light.
- Ron B shared how big of an issue DRT is for an Australian area and they will most likely develop something on their own for groups to address. At some point in the future, he would like a piece from the World Board but will not be holding the board's process up.

**Decision:** Targeted Literature – report the board's desire to take on more pieces for development but do not have the resources at present. Report the importance of DRT piece, the board perceives a need, but needs conference feedback. This would be a fellowship approved piece but currently does not have a high priority.

**Decision:** Book length piece working title – adding a sentence that states using as a working title but definitely open to ideas.

**Decision:** Budget cover will be revised.

**Decision:** send board 2008-2010 Issue Discussion topics list, brainstorming ideas as staff continue to develop for March meeting.

**Decision:** Approval Process for NA Material tracked changes/edits based on discussion this week.

**Decision:** Conference Participant cover memo will be edited to report revisions on the plan to

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have the revisions to Medication and the NA group with the information from the Methadone bulletin. What ever happens by email review as well as with what happens in March hope to finalize for conference participants; add language that illustrates how the board thinks some pieces ought to be classified as board approved along with the board's rationale rather than fellowship approved. For instance, Introduction to NA meetings, a member might think this piece is core philosophy but the board thinks the pamphlet is informational, which is also why we pulled the definition of clean from the pamphlet.

**Decision:** Revision to Introduction to NA Meetings - staff will attempt to provide narrative to the piece depending on time, relative ease with narrative creation and meet the expectation of the board. If this revision does not happen, the board will report being in the process of revising and include the same copy, with the explanation of our dilemma. This will go back to the board in email.

#### **Service and the NA Member**

Some board members consider piece recovery literature and some informational. Material should be presented to conference participants to see what they think—engaging participants in a discussion. The disconnect with the fellowship seems to be the development process, specifically members did not participate in the writing of the material; the material itself isn't objectionable. We have to stand up and be willing to say that we are trying new approaches, do we want this new ability to exist, and does this help to spread our message?

**Decision:** offer Service and the NA Member as board approved which doesn't change core tenets, include board's specific thoughts in cover memo and inform conference participants that we are providing these materials to enter into a dialog with them at the conference and listen to their thoughts.

*Leadership and Principles in NA Service* on Page 17 of the board book was written to members. Chris tried to take language that was more focused to members and change the focus to the service committee. **Decision** The title will better indicate for members or service committee.

**Decision:** Page 18 word...urges to try to control situations with a heavy hand. Separate so the reader knows who feels comfortable and who feels the urges.

**Decision:** to maybe or maybe not change title *Stumbling Blocks to the Idea of Leadership to Just Stumbling Blocks.*

#### **Principles and Leadership in NA service** (for service committees) Page 21

- Agreement to change *millions upon millions* to *countless*
- Last section change *Selecting Trusted Servants* to be rewritten to reflect *Selecting and Supporting*.
- What leadership qualities are necessary for NA Service paragraph could be written in an encouraging tone to help the member who desires to become more knowledgeable.
- Add: *while others discover that they have hidden potential*. Add language about mentoring and the willingness to mentor.
- Just as some members have more, change to 'who have' more
- *Why Leadership*; middle paragraph Craig feels there are some missing thoughts regarding the importance of effective leadership.

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- Not written with clean English prose

Decision: Principles and Leadership in NA service: with the above edits. These will be emailed to the board with a quick turn around. In a dialogue with the fellowship, the board would use talking points.

#### Plans between now and WSC 2008

##### 🌸 Talking Points

Talking points will be updated with this week's discussion and decision points.

##### 🌸 Calendar

Eileen will send the board a reminder on Monday, regarding board travel; board members to provide dates that they are unavailable for travel through the summer and upcoming conference cycle. Board deadline is January 21

March board meeting still scheduled for March 13-15. EC meeting is March 11-12, 2008; this meeting will include the board/staff luncheon. HRP and WSC Co Facilitator will also be in attendance. At this meeting, the board will discuss some of the HRP discussions on the HRP processes, offer ideas on what to engage the conference in for the identified session, etc.

WSC travel days are Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup> and Monday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>; international travelers can arrive a day earlier. To date the board has not scheduled a meeting for Friday, April 25; therefore, board members could arrive at whatever time they chose.

Orientation for new board members usually happens in June or July and is followed by the initial meeting of the board for this year in August.

##### 🌸 Contribution Article for April NA Way

The board was supposed to develop something for the January *NA Way* regarding international contributions. Ultimately, the board must have a strategy.

Franney asked if the idea thread from Tom R about mentioning a group issue in the *NA Way* magazine and it promoting more contributions could be used as a thread; believes talking about this can trigger a chain reaction, promoting some type of dialogue.

- Create an outline of issues?
- Franney is speaking about an article for the RD's. Include in this article narrative on the spirit of generosity as Muk described.
- It would be interesting to see if delegates could come up with ideas on this via small groups.

Decision: April NA Way Agreement Deadline January 31 - each board member take the topic spirit of generosity; write something on developing a series of experiential vignettes, a mosaic. The board could write a couple of lines or a couple of paragraphs.

#### RD Training Modules

This was developed because the board wanted something that would help them work with the RD at workshops. This is an outline to get a vision for what the actual session would look like.

- Needs simplification, smaller words.

**Narcotics Anonymous World Services, Inc.**  
**World Board Approved Minutes**  
**WSO Chatsworth**  
**9-12 January 2008**

- Page 2; 4.1.a; give more bullet point substance – examples on source materials. Throughout document note source material use B as a model – road map for preparation.
- Provide more coaching strategies.



**Decision:** to give Jim D the board input for the RD training module; the board will revise to incorporate more NA language.

**Responsibilities of a board member at the WSC**

The board meeting needs to break by 3 to allow for those who wish to attend Freddie Aquino's memorial. Rather than break for lunch we plan to break by 2 at the latest. Please plan accordingly and we will have snacks in the room.

**Decision:** having an action group on board responsibilities at the conference. This is not about assignments while at the WSC but the overall responsibility during the conference and what that means, recognizing this being the first opportunity for some board members to be at the conference as a board member.

## 2009

EC meeting January 20, WB meeting January 21-24, 2009

EC meeting April 21, WB meeting April 22-25, 2009, (4 day meeting)

EC meeting June 24, WB meeting June 25-27, 2009

WCNA 33 August 20-23, 2009

EC meeting October 20, WB meeting, October 21-24, 2009 (4 day meeting)

CAR deadline November 25, 2009

## 2010

EC meeting January 12, WB meeting January 13-16, 2009 (4 day meeting)

CAT deadline January 25, 2010

EC meeting March 17, WB meeting March 18-20 (3 day meeting)

WSC April 25 to May 3, 2010

[Schedule for EC and BP Meetings](#)

EC meeting June 4, 5 and BPG meeting 6, 7 2008

Decision to accept the proposed meeting dates as set for the next cycle which will be presented to newly elected board members.

[Adopt January 2008 Minutes \(change to page 19 from email version-corporate resolutions\)](#)

- Change beret to *berate*
- Page 22 in WB, Book 1 and page 19 in the computer document – Debbie's authority changes with Anthony discretion.
- Page 19, insert Greg's name to list of conference call names.
- Page 25 *in most instances Basic Text being \$500 – change to \$5.00*

Decision is to approve the January 2008 World Board minutes as amended.

### Action Item List

#25 the JFT was written before any of our newer literature was published – good idea and will be added to the list of literature items for discussion.

#26 will be added to the list of literature items for discussion.

Change *under discussion* to *being considered* instead

#27 good idea-for a pullout for a GSR and will be added to the list of literature items for discussion

All literature action items will say; although not literature priorities at the moment, all the literature ideas are kept for consideration in the future. All like ideas will be combined e.g. literature items

Decision everyone in agreement with above action item recommendations.

### Contract Writer

When looking at scope of work and resources available, there are a couple of deficiencies, one being the lack of resources to work on one of the upcoming projects and a writer with a fellowship friendly voice, which brought up the issue of pursuing an external resource in order to avoid sacrificing in other areas. This person would follow the direction of a committee and would attend any workgroup meetings. This is a person that has the ability to take a group discussion, internalize and produce comprehensible material.

The broad outline of objections (if any) is usually voiced from members of the 'way back' machine when contract writers were a negative experience. If asked by the fellowship, the response is that the writer is not being hired to provide the content, but to provide the skills, voice and workgroup support, etc.

There were no objections with pursuing the contract writer.

## Medallion Recommendation

Survey responses overwhelmingly indicate a preference for the roman number, as it relates to the finish, it is bronze. Bronze is a more stable cost for us; as a raw material, there has been no rising cost. Total responses received to date - 5,739 - 98.3% were individual members.

**Decision** will recommend that we produce Roman numeral bronze finish medallions – to be reported in the March conference report. Will also report generically where the responses came from as well as the number of responses.

Discussion regarding motion on the medallions: one of the regions that submitted the motion pulled their motion because of the survey. Unless there is some significant fellowship demand, from the business perspective, creating a specialized medallion does not make sense.

- **Idea of tri plate medallion**

Over the last couple of years, we've received a substantial number of requests for NAWS to produce tri plate medallions. We looked into production costs for tri plate medallions. There seems to be some agreement that tri plate is more attractive; we have lowered the price of the silver medallion which has not increased sales. Many do not believe that silver medallions are a viable inventory item. We sold 866 silver medallions last year. Therefore, we would like to replace the silver with the tri plate medallion. A couple of comments were made concerning there appears to be no competition for items being sold by NAWS. Will possibly do a survey to test marketability.

**Decision** There was no objection with adding a tri plate medallion to NAWS inventory.

- **Youth IP cover**

The board was given a handout for what the proposed Youth IP would look like. There were no objections. The price proposal will be sent to the world board for sign off.

## By-Laws

**Decision** The board will be presented with Bylaws that are consistent with current board practice.

### Corporate Resolutions

A decision at the January 2008 WB Minutes noted management given authority to amend the existing 2007-2008 Corporate Resolutions to incorporate Deborah Hall as the replacement for Tom Rush (everywhere Tom's name appears). These resolutions will not be amended until such time as specific employment details can be worked out.

**Decision** Left out: With the timing of this change, Debbie Hall's authority is left to Anthony's discretion.

## German Speaking Region

**Decision** to advance 3,400 Euros to the German Speaking Region; will also communicate that although we appreciate the German Speaking Region repaying the office we believe they will struggle, therefore to reduce the debt literature will be used for a period. All requests are considered based on the viability.

## Sixth Edition Basic Text

Hardcover and soft cover size with intended paper (80 pound paper) passed around. The third sample is given to everyone as an idea for a special edition of the Sixth edition Basic Text. It would be a smaller size, embossed finish, blended colors on the cover and 100 pound paper.

While at the printing facility in China, we were provided with information about their standards for manufacturing ISO 9001, the standards used relative to the environment as well as their adherence to several international standards for labor. Production of the 6<sup>th</sup> edition will be done in China and have a savings per copy of 0.24 cents, including shipping.

**Decision** A PDF version of the Sixth edition layout cover will be sent to the board for signoff.

**Decision** to approve the proposal for a special Sixth edition Basic Text.



# Narcotics Anonymous World Services, Inc.

## Approved World Board Minutes

7-9 August 2008

### Discussion of Bulletin 29, Methadone Bulletin

Discussion initiated with everyone being informed that the European Conference and Convention workshop on *Medication* was packed with interested members, all expressing the need for this discussion because the impact is getting worse. It was also pointed out that some pharmaceutical companies are advertising that their medications can help arrest addiction.

Also, two staff members attended the *Beyond 2008 NGO Forum* in July and realized from discussions that much seemed to be based on money, pressure, and statistics. Everything else is based on harm reduction, and the drug courts' motivation is lowering costs. Discussion at the Finland event (primarily comprised of Northern Europeans) took this discussion topic regarding newcomers and medication as something mandated from the conference. Members are hungry for ideas on how to deal with issue.

The current focus needs to be on how to frame the topic of newcomers and medication, and how this affects the fellowship. This bulletin does not address everything. Secondary, it will be the board's task to discuss the piece's intended audience, content, etc. It was noted that a delegate who was not present at the conference made the assumption that the board is taking this on.

#### Discussion Points:

- Recalls medication being a topic at WSC 2000 and believes we should involve the fellowship if we are going to work on this.
- Welcoming people is the real issue here. Our members are really intolerant.
- Many addicts coming in to NA meetings today are reaching our meetings taking prescription medication; members are personally familiar with addicts who are 'forced' to take antidepressants, subaxone. Believe the board has a responsibility here to give some type of philosophical direction, something direct and to the point. The board should find a way to determine where we stand on this, to forward to the fellowship. There are some who need direction because of their personal circumstances.
- In a previous meeting, some members thought the bulletin should be toned down and the message should stay close to Tradition Three.
- There aren't many in Sweden with this problem, but we do have many with an opinion. What we've done in the past has not worked; this issue polarizes to the maximum. Either you are against or for. Believes it is a grassroots issue.
- A few members thought a session profile should be developed as a way to manage this discussion. Let people talk about this and let's see what happens?
- This is an issue that many are afraid of and will continue to be afraid of unless we help find a way to address questions. We need to keep providing a forum.
- People are trying to treat the disease with medication instead of a higher power. Believe this is an important discussion and the judgment being passed needs to be addressed.
- The received input was that our material is wishy-washy. Having just come off the *In Times of Illness* workgroup discussion, keeps hearing about total abstinence; however, the bulletin states it is up to the individual circumstance to decide for themselves about abstinence.
- The inability to define abstinence or clean allows for various interpretation by individuals and it's believed that members want to know what abstinence and clean mean.

#### Disagreement with needing more fellowship discussion:

- Some board members (5) believe the bulletin is clear, meets the needs of the fellowship, and that

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nothing else is needed right now.

- Maybe develop more of a professional piece...not sure what else is to be said?
- Found that a great majority of the Spanish region was not interested when discussing this during WSC 2000. However, when discussing with a portion of interested members, they just became very passionate and created a lot of energy. Does not agree that this should come up again; our material is very clear.
- Wonders what else would be accomplished with discussing all over again. Does not really feel more discussion is of value. Questions what is the outside value vs. the inside issue: the outside issues are questions like, "Does it work? "Is it effective?" What our thoughts on this. The issues we need to concern ourselves with are: this is our program, one of total abstinence; and is this approach consistent with this? All the rest of it is an outside issue.
- Everyone was reminded of the upcoming workgroup schedule. Not undervaluing the issue, but there are many things that our members have to deal with. Personally, he is not opposed to having the discussion, but not really sure what more can be done. The other point is that our members are getting older, so the whole issue about medication might be a personal issue at some point.
- Suggests keeping Bulletin 29, acknowledging the issue, encouraging local discussion, and reminding the fellowship of the available tools and that this issue will continue to evolve.
- For the expedience of what we are trying to do today, Ron B will go with the decision to not revise the bulletin.

### Plans for discussions with the fellowship about medication

Some members have an expectation with the board and Bulletin 29/medication; we may need to acknowledge this at the beginning of a two-year conference cycle and encourage members to have local discussions about the bulletin. Not undervaluing the issue, but the board is not really sure what else can be said about this issue; right now, there doesn't seem to be a clear view of the direction the board wants to take.

**Decision:** Acknowledge that the board did review the bulletin, although some things are outdated, the board did not find anything conceptual to change right now. Remind the fellowship that if there is a desire or need to discuss this at a local level, tools are available and, if needed, NAWWS should be contacted. If the fellowship doesn't like this direction, they will let us know.

Donations Discussion – beginning to frame discussion for the fellowship

Not discussed.

### Review of the 2008-2010 Charges

The tasks assigned to each workgroup should be clear to the board and will be the basis of future evaluation. After reviewing, discussing and noting a few items, it was the **decision** of the board to accept the 2008-2010 charges as presented.

Business Plan Group	Fellowship Issue Discussion:	Public Relation	Service System	Targeted Literature
Workshops	Self Support	Living Clean – The Journey Continues	Leadership Orientation Material	Service Material

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WCNA 33 Budget--At present, board travel is not factored into the convention budget and will cost about \$80,000 to fund the board's travel. This board, as a body, has to decide the value of the full board's presence at WCNA 33. Certainly, there are those who would perceive that no board members' attendance as a great loss; the board must consider everything when having this discussion.

Airfare--We have a decent deal with American carriers and European carriers are almost impossible to compete with.

PR Firm in Spain (fellowship development)--There are some targets of the population that this firm could better reach than us; we have to start trying to affect the conscience of who NA is in Spain, as they have no knowledge about the organization. We are currently contracted with a PR firm for 4 months; if our goals are not met, this will be discontinued.

The board talked about ongoing Hilton negotiations.

**Decision:** WCNA 33 link to the EDM website.

Due to the passing of a long time NA member/trusted servant, the board decided to stop their board meeting early to attend his memorial. After the memorial, the board will reconvene at the Warner Center Marriott, Beverly Hills room for a community building exercise at a time to be determined by the board.

Thursday 23 October

### Facilitation Training with Jim DeLizia and NAWS Staff

The board and staff spent the day in facilitation training exercises.

Friday 24 October

### 2008-2010 NAWS Projects

The meeting was opened with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity prayer.

#### Service System Project Update

##### Approve addition of task to existing charge

##### Discuss, input on, and approval of the direction of the Vision Statement

Craig reported the workgroup met for the first time in September, focusing on project goals, an initial draft for a Vision Statement for all NA service efforts and background materials. However, after yesterday's session with Jim DeLizia, it was thought to ask the full board whether NAWS would be best served by 1 or 2 vision statements.

Issues discussed by the Service System workgroup were: the disconnect, the ineffectiveness of our service system, the lack of understanding with roles, interdependency with services structure and recognition that some service structures are stronger than others. Workgroup also talked about solutions to assist the service system. This was how the workgroup arrived at developing a

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will be the quote that says *only groups are self supporting*. Without realizing it everyone is using this in a broader sense. Travis wanted to make sure everyone understands that what it actually says is that *"we ought to be self supporting."* The *It Works How and Why* also says that *one person's contribution is not more important than another contribution*.

The board directed to focus on decisions for the longer and shorter piece.

### Longer, More Philosophical Piece

Self-support report pages 5-6 revisited: The workgroup is using the current material and will basically add material to enhance what is written, it's philosophical in nature and making the member the focus. It is the basic outline of self support. The Q&A section maintained at the end. Principle will be applicable everywhere.

**Decision:** There was no objection to focus of the longer, philosophical piece. Added; the workgroup hopes to have a draft for World Board at the January 2009 meeting.

### Shorter, Graphical Piece

The shorter piece is focused on the group and about how groups donate with other components, for example, how much does it cost to fund our services, etc. Call outs or slogans will be used as well; an example of a quote is "I realized that what I contribute is less than I pay for a cup of coffee".

As a result of the work on these two pieces, the board will need to decide on revisions to be in accordance with these two pieces.

- One of the pictures regarding where the money goes that workgroup was thinking about using is a basket with money that contains all currencies.
- Workgroup is discussing developing a pull out piece

A recent home group discussion shared regarding fund flow and believing this piece will provide direction. Think members are more than willing to do what World Services wants; they just need direction. Therefore, we should be clear when speaking of percentages. The change will provide a group's direct relationship and give another level of accountability.

**Decision:** There were no objections on the focus of the shorter piece.

### Share any ideas about content to include in either piece

#### Project Update – *In Times of Illness* revisions

Mary and Jane recapped the workgroup's meeting and the report can be found on page 11 in the board report. Workgroup met last weekend for 2<sup>nd</sup> time and Mary mentioned that Tonia and a workgroup member from Ireland were unable to attend the meeting; however, they submitted written input for the draft revision.

The revised draft addresses the points in the charge and contains material from the current *In Times of Illness*; the draft has been written in a warmer tone, has more spiritual principles throughout and reinforces basic NA tenets regarding a sponsor and meeting attendance.

Key points: Abstinence and medication, statement about DRT medication, narrative about service and medication, mental health, chronic illness section expanded and the workgroups recommendations. Workgroup recommendations are to: 1) revise bulletin 27 to include Hep C and expand information

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regarding HIV no longer being a death sentence and 2) request the board to define abstinence.

Everyone reminded that the board already has to discuss the purpose of bulletins (Piet's parking lot idea) before taking on a defining abstinence (parking lot).

Ron B. suggested changing to 'self-medicating' rather than not medicating ourselves or treating our own illness.

A concern was raised that the population of newer members under the influence may be missed and Mary stated that the mental health piece addresses members coming into NA on medication.

Concern with the point made in number 3 – wants to be sure the information is warmer.

Mary committed to providing an updated workgroup letter with the 1<sup>st</sup> draft in January to the board.

- o Information regarding elective surgeries or fairly simple surgeries being performed and the caution regarding medication for something that will not take long to recover from is important and addressed in the Emergency and Medication in Recovery sections.
- o Sections include personal quotes (experience) and quotes from NA literature.
- o DRT addressed in treatment of chronic pain not as a form of drug replacement therapy. Workgroup also tried to address the issue of the type of doctor that prescribes anything a patient requests.

A point was added that everyone needs to be mindful that we would speak more bluntly to a sponsee in providing direction than what an organization writes in their material. In Brazil, for example, there is a law that allows anyone perceived to be an obstacle to someone taking their medication to be sued.

- o The board asked to pay attention to the section about non prescription medication.

Plan as the workgroup sees it now: workgroup will have a draft hopefully sometime in December, then the draft will go to the World Board for input at their January meeting. **Decision:** there were no objections with the focus of In Times of Illness workgroup.

The board ending day with closed sharing session.

Saturday 25 October

2008-2010 Work plan

The board meeting opened with a moment of silence, Serenity prayer and a few announcements.

#### Review Revised Work plan

**EC reviewed at this meeting; this normally would have been completed during the last EC meeting but due to the accident it was not.**

#### April 2009 WB Meeting

Jim recapped the Executive Committees discussion regarding alternatives for a retreat style meeting due to the current project load and NAWS' current financial position. Therefore the EC thought the best compromise would be a hybrid type retreat or just a regular meeting given everything that is occurring financially and with current workload. Jim asked for other thoughts from the board.

## Approval Tracks for NA Material

**B**y now, you all have had some time to review the draft service pamphlets sent out with the Conference Approval Track material as well as read and think about the ideas in the cover memo that came along with them. This session of the conference will focus on the issues we began to discuss in that cover memo. We will give a thumbnail refresher on the history of the service pamphlets and mention briefly the issues we hope to address in this session below, but the memo distributed in January covers the material in greater depth, and we encourage you to review it in preparation for this session. We have included it as an appendix to this Conference Report for easy reference (see page 59).

To refresh your memory: At WSC 2006, a motion was passed “to allow the World Board to develop and approve service-related information pamphlets and tools for distribution to the fellowship.” This motion was not made by the board and was not a process that we had thoroughly thought through prior to its adoption. It came about as the result of several discussions in which we participated throughout the conference week. We were supportive of its intent: to provide our members with information in a more timely fashion.

Using already published materials such as The Group Booklet as well as feedback from issue discussion topics, communications with local service bodies, and other resources as source material, the board developed a number of service pamphlets last year. Copies were distributed to conference participants and regions, disseminated at the world convention, and introduced into the inventory. After hearing criticism of one pamphlet, An Introduction to NA Meetings, largely because of the inclusion of a definition of “clean” in a list of terms in the pamphlet, the board decided to discontinue distribution of that piece pending further discussion.

That pamphlet, An Introduction to NA Meetings, with the term in question deleted and a bullet point on medication added, was one of the four pieces distributed to you in the January mailing. As the cover memo explained, we felt it was a good piece to use when discussing the subject of service pamphlets in general—just what exactly determines that a piece is a “service pamphlet” or that it falls under the “board approved” umbrella? Those are the questions we hope to discuss in this session.

When we began to write policy to conform to the motion passed at WSC 2006, we found that our existing policy was none too clear. A Guide to World Services in NA currently distinguishes between service material and recovery literature, explaining the development and approval processes for each, but these descriptions are not very clear. As we tried to develop a policy to propose that included the new category of material and made it easier to understand the distinctions between the three categories—fellowship-approved, conference-approved, and board-approved—we realized that we needed to have a bigger discussion, as a conference, about these broad categories.

What do we mean when we say something is “service material” as opposed to “recovery literature”? What exactly should fall under the board approval process, and what should be approved by the conference or the fellowship as a whole? Our approval processes and policies have developed in a piecemeal fashion, and we hope to reexamine the broader issues together in this session so that we can ensure that any policy we pass reflects our collective thinking on these issues.

We will begin this session by quickly brainstorming the attributes of service versus recovery literature, and then we will move into a brief small-group exercise to see how easy (or difficult) it is to put those definitions into practice. Talking together about these small-group discussions should make it clear that we face quite a dilemma in trying to codify these categories.

We would like to spend the last half of this session discussing where to go from here. We have presented a proposed revision to the policy in GWSNA as part of the CAT material. We think the proposed policy makes sense, but we also realize that this session may raise useful ideas about how to enhance or improve that policy. If so, we may want to continue this discussion in the new business discussion session.

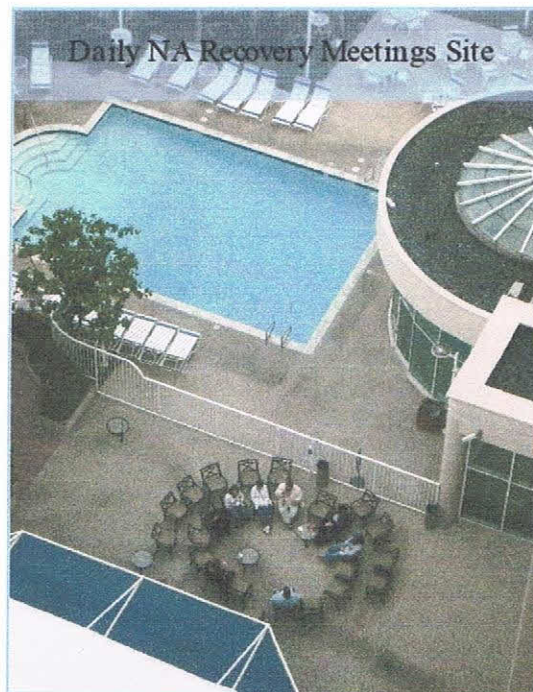
In general, we want to get your ideas about how to improve the process.

The flexibility of the development process is clearly an improvement when we think about, for instance, the Area Planning Tool. The last conference approved the APT and ensured, through a motion, that it be adaptable and revisable by the World Board. We asked in the 2008 Conference Agenda Report how we could improve that tool, and you very clearly told us we need to simplify it. The board approval process gives us the ability to implement your suggestions about the APT in the course of the next conference cycle and release a revised version when it is ready.

Similarly, you let us know, through your input on the CAR questions, that you would like us to add the Strong Home Groups worksheet to The Group Booklet or A Guide to Local Services in NA. How would such an addition/revision best fit into our development and approval processes?

Over the course of the last conference cycle, we have implemented the shared resource area of our website, where local service bodies and committees can upload the tools, guidelines, and other resources they have developed, so that other members and service bodies can have access to them. We consider the shared resource area a great success. We haven't had a single complaint, and it seems that members and service bodies are using this resource and referring others to it with increasing frequency. These are understood to be tools that a group or committee or workgroup can use if they help, and ignore if they do not. Yet that "take what you like and leave the rest" mentality does not seem to prevail when NAWS develops service pamphlets. This same shared experience becomes a problem for some. On the other hand, we have heard a great deal of praise and many "thank you's" for beginning to release service pamphlets that deal with some of the challenges our groups face. Is there a way in which we can improve the process so that more of our members are comfortable with this new means of sharing with each other our best practices, ideas, and reflections on service?

We expect that some of you may be coming to the conference with ideas about how to improve the "product," not just the process—that is, you may be coming with specific input on the draft pamphlets we sent out to you in January. If so, you can turn the input in at the staff table at the conference. If we proceed with the development of these pieces, we will gratefully take your input into account.

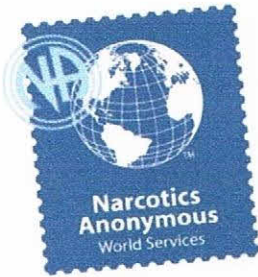


# Friday – 2 May 2008

**More Will Be Revealed:** NA meetings are held poolside at 7 am, as well as in the evening when the conference adjourns, each and every day!

Public Relations	9:00 – 10:30 am
2008–2010 Issue Discussion Topics	11:00 am – 12:30 pm
Lunch	12:30 – 2:00 pm
WSC 2008 New Business Session	2:00 – 5:30 pm
Dinner	5:30 – 7:00 pm

## Public Relations



As many of you may recall, the change in our approach to public relations started prior to WSC 2006. Information regarding our public image with professionals came to the forefront with the Public Relations Roundtable discussions. Many professionals who refer clients to ongoing recovery support had misperceptions of Narcotics Anonymous, including that NA was only for heroin addicts, and that NA had no long-term recovery. The recently completed 2007 Membership Survey clearly illustrates that we have long-term recovery, with the average clean time of 9.9 years and 91 percent of our members reported that they drank alcohol on a regular basis while they were using. This survey, which was administered at WCNA-32 and was available

online/mail/fax, will be graphically illustrated in the PR session during the conference. Implementation of the *Public Relations Handbook*, approved at WSC 2006, was the focus of several workshops this conference cycle and is viewed as a vehicle to offer practical solutions for the ways our services can work together to create a more positive public image for Narcotics Anonymous.

If our service efforts are to mature, we will need to work together to implement the approaches contained within the handbook. As we have learned this conference cycle, the handbook contains experiential information about criminal justice, phonelines, Internet technology, and fellowship development as well as interacting with professionals and media relations. The handbook also offers practical tips for planning and preparation, as well as training for presentations and phoneline volunteers. This resource contains a wealth of experience, and becoming familiar with the handbook takes time and dedication to improving our public relations—and, hence, our ability to more effectively carry the NA message of recovery.

Our theme for the 2008–10 conference cycle is “Our Freedom, Our Responsibility.” If we consider our hard-won freedom from active addiction as a change from a life dominated by guilt and remorse, we may be willing to accept our responsibility with freely carrying our message in a manner that is attractive to professionals, the general public and potential members. The change that is asked of us with public relations service involves a shift in how we approach service. We need to be willing to engage with others, to plan for services, to form cooperative relationships and to listen to how we can improve services. Planning for service means we take a proactive approach; we consider what services are needed for our community, and we review our financial and human resources. Collectively, we look at what may serve NA best in a particular community, rather than what a specific committee wants. That is an example of public relations in action. Planning, preparation, and training all help NA to be seen as a reliable, credible program of recovery. In the summary from the “Who is Missing, and Why?” discussion topic, it was noted that a lack of planning and poor public relations undermined our efforts to attract members to our meetings, where they might hear the NA message of recovery. These long-sought goals require



## 2008 Conference Report

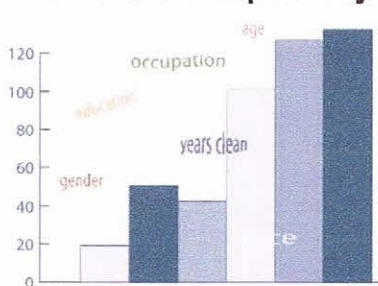
sustained efforts, along with the recognition that public relations work doesn't offer immediate results. We continue our service efforts to attract those who may be missing from our meetings, realizing that we may not have the opportunity to hug that member. Performing service in this manner helps us to responsibly ensure that addicts seeking recovery can find the same freedom that we have found.

In this session, through the use of pictures and graphs, we will highlight public relation activities throughout the past conference cycle, illustrate information from the Membership Survey, and offer our thoughts on challenges and possible approaches to solutions. We anticipate that *Public Relations Handbook* workshops will continue in the upcoming cycle; understanding the principles contained within the handbook and applying the service approaches involves a shift in the ways we provide services and a commitment to change.

### Cooperative Public Relations Efforts

At WSC 2006, we made regions aware that NAWS would like to partner with them for public relations events that were taking place within their region/zone. We had limited success during the 2004–06 cycle and felt that one way to reach professionals worldwide and provide information to these persons who can refer potential members to NA was through partnering with regions for professional conferences. NAWS has partnered with more than forty regions in this conference cycle to inform professionals about the NA program of recovery and to provide these professionals with samples of recovery literature. These conferences were held throughout the US and Canada, Columbia, Europe, UK, and Egypt. During WSC 2008, we will offer a collage of pictures and comments from the members who participated in these conferences. Many members stated that these events sparked enthusiasm for service in their area or region and planned to return the following year for these professionals' annual conference. At most conferences, the professionals expressed their gratitude to NA members for being present and appreciated the literature that was given to them. The professionals found value in our literature for their clients, offering positive comments toward many pieces, including *In Times of Illness*. We recognize that this booklet needs revision, yet it is a practical resource for potential members.

### 2007 Membership Survey



As we mentioned, we will be highlighting the membership survey in the conference session on public relations. We received 4,038 responses from the world convention and 9,451 online/mail/fax responses from members following the world convention. Even though we thought that the world convention might have skewed the results of past surveys, it was interesting to see that our assumption was false. In actuality, there was only a percentage point or two difference from onsite at the convention compared to the online/mail/fax responses.

We are gratified with the online/mail/fax response from our members. As you may recall, this is the first time that we have offered a survey in this manner. We did learn from online/mail/fax survey responses that many members do not know their region's name, but they do seem to know their area's name. When we asked members to identify the region in which they reside, many provided answers that were not the names of NA regions; though some gave names of NA areas. We are thinking of rewording that question for future surveys.

Even though we stated in *NAWS News* and *CAR* workshops that we would provide regional survey information to delegates who requested it following the conference, we realize that many regions had too few members who responded. Providing delegates with such a small sample doesn't seem responsible; there is no sound data with those numbers that would be useful with public relations efforts. The question becomes: How we can achieve improved regional results with subsequent surveys? In a sense, this may be a component of our communication shortcoming, yet this was our initial attempt to ask members who did not attend the world convention to participate in the

membership survey. We are grateful for the 2007 survey results as the survey continues to provide information to professionals who refer potential members to Narcotics Anonymous.

### 2008-10 Issue Discussion Topics

We have not yet finalized the issue discussion topics for the 2008-10 cycle, but we are talking about discussing something related to the theme of this conference cycle: "Our Freedom, Our Responsibility."

Over the years, the IDTs have grown into useful fodder for the development of tools like the Building Strong Home Groups worksheet and the *Disruptive Behavior in Meetings* service pamphlet, to name just two. We plan to continue using fellowship input in this way, in some form or another. The exact nature of the process may depend, of course, on the results of the conference discussions, and on decisions about the development and approval of NA materials. Regardless, we hope to make use of what we can.

At the same time, we do not want to lose sight of the most important purpose of the issue discussion topics, and that is not necessarily to provide grist for the tool-making mill. These topics are, first and foremost, for fellowshipwide discussion. If we learn nothing else in NA, we learn the power of talking together about the things with which we struggle and the areas in which we prevail. When we began thinking about the topic that might help us the most to discuss, as individuals and as a fellowship, "Our Freedom, Our Responsibility" suggested itself as a strong possibility.

We talked about a number of possible approaches to the topic during our last World Board meeting. On a personal level, we discussed that transformation we all go through, from desperation to passionate recovery. How do we keep that feeling of passion alive? What are the things that keep some members engaged and involved in NA and their own recovery, while others drift away? As a member, what is my responsibility for the gift of freedom, and how do I put that responsibility into action? We talked about the fact that both freedom and responsibility are gifts of recovery, and that maybe we should focus some of our discussion on the vision of what our fellowship might look like in the future if everyone in the fellowship shouldered the weight of her or his responsibility. How do we support each other in those efforts?

Those are just some of the questions we are starting to think about. We've talked a lot in our board meetings lately about the "culture of NA." Fundamentally, NA is a member-driven organization. We get our strength from a Higher Power not from other people or professionals. On a practical level, *we* are NA. No one else makes this program happen except us—no outside organization or professionals. We hold our meetings, we let the public know about our program, we write our literature, we make our decisions, we answer our helplines, we put on our events, we communicate with professionals, we make the coffee, we take the message into prisons, and so on. Our future as an organization depends on us—each one of us. We talked in our board meeting about the beauty of that, and how it is a big part of what makes NA so special for us and why we've all gotten involved to the degree that we have. We hope that we can have some kind of discussion about each member's personal responsibility, as well as touching on our common welfare, in this upcoming cycle.

Nonetheless, we are still formulating our ideas. It's still possible we may end up taking a different approach altogether, but we wanted to share with you what we are thinking about right now.

By the time the conference is upon us, we will have formulated our ideas, and this session of the conference will give us an opportunity to talk together about the topics and possibly workshop some possible questions to see whether they seem fruitful or whether they need to be revised. If you have any thoughts about IDTs in the meantime, please don't hesitate to let us know.