From the editor

On 1 September 2012, we’ll celebrate NA World Unity Day by NA members participating in a worldwide sharing of the Serenity Prayer. This is a touching, spiritual practice for us—and gratifying to consider the breadth and depth of our Fellowship. By most accounts, there are about 196 countries in the world. Starting with Afghanistan and ending with Zimbabwe, the NA message is being carried in 77 languages in 129 of those countries in almost 62,000 meetings weekly.

Now, after being impressed with and grateful for our message being carried so widely, the editor in me awakens and says, “So why did we receive NA Way submissions from only 22 countries in 2011!?!” Yes, I’m happy for what we received, but I also know that you have experiences, photos, artwork, and other forms of recovery to contribute—and The NA Way is a great place to give back! So, please consider sharing those gems with your fellow addicts by emailing them to naway@na.org or visiting us at www.naway.org.

In the meantime, please enjoy this issue’s focus on NA’s Traditions and Concepts and our celebration of The NA Way Magazine of the 2000s.

De J

The principles we share in the steps, the traditions, the concepts, and the rest of our literature go a long way toward providing us with a common language we can all understand and identify with.

Living Clean: The Journey Continues, Chapter Two—“The Ties That Bind”
How important is it to make coffee?

At our last area service committee meeting someone came up with a question: What exactly do the groups need the ASC for? For that matter, why do they need any of the service structure?

Our group has our little meeting in the XYZ Area, and we are getting along just fine while “they” sit around at the ASC and debate about “our” expenses. Who cares if Tom writes the minutes and Dick counts the cash? Why not just stay home?

Well, good question. I think a lot of addicts in the meetings ask themselves this and come up with no answer. So they donate less—“it’s enough for our coffee, isn’t it?” they think of their smaller contributions.

What happens at the ASC or regional service committee meeting seems to many addicts to be a vague business that does not really have anything to do with “us” here in our groups.

At my home group, someone makes the coffee and sets up the tables, and at the end of the meeting when the secretary asks for help cleaning up, there is an icy silence. After all, there are enough other people here; let them wash the dishes. Why should I?

I often feel that service positions—not only at the ASC, but in the groups, too—are being pushed around like unloved kids, and everyone is relieved when some poor member has been found to take the key or chair the meeting for another year.

The ASC, RSC, even NA World Services are seen as “them up there.” In the best case, they leave us alone; in the worst case, they keep wanting money to squander on who-knows-what. Why should I care if addicts in China have a Basic Text?

What a pity it has become like this. After I had been going to NA meetings for a little while I was “entrusted,” not “burdened,” with a key. I “had the opportunity” to go to the ASC, instead of “sacrificing yet another weekend.” When I washed the dishes I felt I belonged just a little more, and it was a great experience to be at a business meeting and see that my vote counted for something.

After the ASC meetings, I often heard people share about gratitude and being able to give back something to the fellowship by doing service. I was told to “stick with the winners,” and that the winners were those addicts who worked the steps and were of service to the fellowship. That was the group to which I wanted to belong!
I learned all of this through the example of those members who shared their enthusiasm with me, but who also did their service work with humility and gratitude, who calmly answered the question, “Who will wash the dishes?” by saying, “I’d like to”—even if they said this every single week—and then serenely washing the dishes.

Right from the beginning I did a lot of service in NA. Only after a while did I burden myself with too many service positions instead of letting others do their share. Somewhere along the road I lost my gratitude. I started nagging and complaining and feeling exploited. I measured others with my perfectionism, and complaining and feeling exploited. I lost my gratitude. I started nagging and complaining and feeling exploited.

When the question came up after the meeting, “Who will wash the dishes?” I grimly stayed silent. After all, I told myself, ‘I have washed those dishes for at least five years. I’m fed up; now it’s someone else’s turn. And didn’t I do all that service on the ASC and RSC? And I didn’t get nearly enough appreciation for it.” Goodbye, humility and gratitude!

Our last ASC meeting really got me thinking. This was not the first time we heard the question about what good our service structure was and experienced the lack of support for it through dwindling donations. I know I can tell the people in the meetings all those wonderful things about what “they” do in the worldwide service structure, but the reality is that it is all just words.

I have been going to NA meetings for eight years. I’ve done all that “important” service work. But when the newcomer sees someone like me grimly keeping quiet when the question comes up, “Who will help?”—does that look like something worth supporting?

So how can I really live the principles of humility and gratitude? By starting to become an example like the ones I had, and by serenely helping to wash the dishes!

I still—or rather, again—enthusiastically do service in NA. In fact, it is like the cherry on the cake in my recovery! I keep being deeply moved that I am able to participate in such a wonderful thing as this worldwide fellowship of NA and that I can contribute to it by doing my part in service work.

So back to the question in the beginning: No, it is absolutely not important if Tom writes the minutes, Dick counts the cash, or Harry sits there. But I firmly believe that every tiny contribution makes a difference—never mind where or when we do it.

Actually, I think making the coffee in the meeting is a lot more important than meaningfully sitting in some service body. I am convinced that none of our meetings here in Germany would exist had not one addict in some small town in America many years ago been serenely making coffee and washing dishes for ages, and by so doing inspired another addict to do service, who then inspired another addict, who then inspired another, and so on.

Today we have over 220 meetings in the German-Speaking Region. NA is being born in the remotest parts of the world, literature is being translated into many languages, workshops and conventions are being organized, the NA message is being brought into institutions and jails, enthusiasm and recovery are being shared. Thanks to all those who make the coffee in the meetings!

Editor’s Note: According to its WSC 2012 regional report, the German-Speaking Region is now comprised of six areas and approximately 260 meetings per week. They now have a regional service office and a website: www.narcotics-anonymous.de.
I longed to be in prison

Before I start, I wish to express my gratitude to my God who transported me from the quicksand of despair to the blue sea of life, and turned me into what I am today.

When I was a slave to my drugs, using was the most important thing in my life, and my deepest and most sacred values were under the spell of my drug of choice. As my addiction progressed, I moved further and further away from my true personality, so much so that fear filled my entire being and caused me to be completely devoid of any human perceptions.

During this time, my father, who was extremely unhappy and worried about me, passed away. Shortly after that, my marriage fell apart and my wife and children left. They became tired of my permanent endeavours to keep my addiction alive. Even my own mother, whose love for me had previously seemed inexhaustible, could no longer tolerate me. My brothers, sisters, and close friends avoided me as if I had an infectious, plague-like disease.

Believe it or not, these were the "golden years" of my active addiction, and my real problems had not even begun. By this time I had used for over 14 years. I spent another seven years on the streets of Tehran, alienated and in complete isolation and loneliness. Life passed me by on street corners, under bridges, in prison cells, and in institutions. Eventually I couldn’t even get arrested so that I could have relative comfort in a prison cell. Drugs had destroyed me to such an extent that I longed to be in prison.

After 21 years of active addiction under these conditions, filled with anger, resentment, degradation, and alienation, can a person still be a human being? Is there a way out? From my point of view it was all over and I had reached the end. Suicide seemed the simplest solution, but even death wanted nothing to do with me. Exhausted, weak, powerless, and searching for freedom and the truth of my existence, I shouted from the bottom of my heart, "Oh, God!" And then all of a sudden a message of freedom was delivered to me by God’s very own messenger.

It was such a pure and overwhelming message that I set out toward an NA meeting on the east side of Tehran. I walked all the way from Shush Square in downtown Tehran to the meeting place in Majideyeh, about 15 kilometers away (approximately 9.5 miles). I felt the presence of a powerful force with me.

When I got to the meeting I saw a few people who had been my playmates in the past. Most importantly, I saw an older man whom I had used with, but who then had 18 months clean. Wow! He looked so different and had changed so much! At that very moment I underwent a kind of spiritual experience. I said to myself that if this guy who is 70 years old and spent 50 years in active addiction can do it, then so can I.
Since I had a problem with the physical aspects of getting clean, I sought a bed in a detox center. On the day we were supposed to be taken to the detox center outside of Tehran, the bus, filled with other addicts, was ready to depart; I had no money to cover the cost of treatment, so they wouldn’t allow me on the bus until I paid up. I had lost all hope and was suffering from severe withdrawal symptoms. I had no energy left and couldn’t take another step. Suddenly a burst of energy filled me and I found myself lying in front of the bus with my head under its front wheel. Before passing out I shouted, “If this bus wants to leave without me, it will have to go over my skull first.”

What happened after that was described to me by others, as I have no memory of what unfolded. Apparently the driver and the other addicts pulled me out. They were all tearful and I was somehow admitted to the detox center and received the help I needed. I was no longer alone and didn’t need to die in isolation. I could now find a solution to my problems with the help of my recovery friends. This is where I became aware of the therapeutic value of one addict helping another addict. NA held meetings in this treatment center and provided meeting lists so patients could go to an NA meeting when they were released.

I don’t know why I became so interested in life and the changes talked about in NA meetings. I had no belongings and had lost my family and friends, but an unusual power made me move forward. This power had infinite capabilities. From this stage on, I felt that I was on the path to recovery. I had gradually lost my negative thoughts and didn’t even want to think about my damaging actions during active addiction—the same actions that had become a way of life for me.

Working the Twelve Steps has enabled me to find a solution to my despair, fears, and consecutive defeats in life. With the help of God and the spiritual principles of NA, I have accepted that I do not have the capacity to use drugs in any shape or form. I have an everlasting and irreversible allergy to any mind-altering substance. I therefore have to abstain from all drugs in order to recover. This admission and acceptance of my powerlessness changed my confrontational attitude toward my addiction. Once I surrendered without any preconditions, I experienced an indescribable sense of inner peace. I realized I could fly without wings and could live without drugs.

I am now at a stage where any separation from my beliefs and recovery will bring back my old pains. My character defects will become active again and dissatisfaction will consume my entire being. At this point there is only one path left for me: living according to the NA program and asking a loving God for help. Of course, I realize this all depends on my own willingness. I pray that all fellow sufferers are guided toward NA so that they too can experience the joy of freedom. I pray that no addict has to die from the pain of addiction.

Shapour A, Tehran, Iran
Excerpted from Payam Behboodi,
spring 2006

Editor’s Note: Many thanks to Siavash J of Iran, who translated this article—and was able to locate the author for an update. Shapour has been clean 13 years and seven months (as of June 2012). His family (wife and four children) returned to him and he has a good relationship with them. He is an active member of NA, has sponsees, goes to meetings, and works the steps. He contracted bone cancer a few years ago, has had chemotherapy, and is still living with after-effects. Shapour is an author and has written books about addiction published in Iran and in the USA. He says that he would be dead now if not for the Twelve Steps.

Tradition Eleven

“Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films.”

I would like to break down what this tradition means to me and give you some examples from my own personal experiences. First of all, I must always realize that I am not NA. I do not represent Narcotics Anonymous as a whole. I believe this tradition reminds us that this is a “we” fellowship, and that we must protect what we have and not damage it by “running our mouths” to press, radio, and films. We have public information and public relations (PI/PR) committees that do very well in dealing with the public and providing information about NA to help us further carry our message of hope and solutions to the addict who still suffers.

What if I publicly revealed my NA membership and talked about how great NA is in a local newspaper, and then relapsed, committed a crime, and had my name, my crime, and my NA affiliation reported in the very same newspaper? What could this do to NA’s image?

What if I was wearing my NA T-shirt at a local store and got into an unruly argument with another customer or with the checkout clerk? What might other customers think of NA?

What if our group was loud and boisterous at our meeting place? Or if we left the meeting room or a picnic area a mess? What would this do to NA’s image?

We cannot afford to act independently, and when we might be seen as reflecting NA, we need to act responsibly. We do not become “media stars” on behalf of NA. NA is not a program of promotion; it is a program of attraction. We have members experienced with Tradition Eleven who can practice the principles of this tradition at the level of press, radio, and films on our behalf.

Rosanne S, Utah, USA
Applying the Twelve Concepts

I am a 62-year-old businessman. I work as a senior business consultant and federal domestic assistance writer. I deal with paperwork involving hundreds of millions of dollars annually. Many people trust me—and my judgment. In the grant application and proposal processes, there are many federal, state, and local statutes, rules, and regulations to follow. If I fail to comply, my employment would be terminated and I would be liable for my mistakes. I am a responsible, productive member of society.

In April 2012, I celebrated my nineteenth anniversary in Narcotics Anonymous. I have made regional and area service commitments almost the entire time I've been clean and in NA. I've also served—and currently serve—as my home group's greeter, welcoming new-comers and oldtimers with a simple hug.

In our booklet Twelve Concepts for NA Service, the essay on the Tenth Concept begins like this: The Tenth Concept is our fellowship’s guarantee of respect for the individual trusted servant. This concept may seem self-evident, but our belief in the principle involved is so strong that we want to say it loudly and clearly. Narcotics Anonymous is a spiritual society, with high ideals for how we treat each other.

Honestly, I must ask, “What part of the spirit of this quote from the Tenth Concept do trusted servants at the ASC not understand?” When I hear a trusted servant render a report to the GSRs at the ASC, I want to applaud and tell the volunteer trusted servant how much I appreciate his or her service to the fellowship we both love. I want to make a motion that we change the ASC policy to ask the ASC chairperson to thank our trusted servants for their free-of-charge service to the NA Fellowship. Instead, trusted servants are often reprimanded or chastised, usually by other ASC trusted servants who seem to be basking in the spotlight of an audience.

I had such an experience myself when I offered my service to help establish guidelines for our newly forming area. I was taken aback when I was interrogated as if I was some sort of criminal. Personally, I am not a public speaker. When someone comes at me with an attitude, I get nervous. I appear unsure of myself. If I had a PowerPoint presentation, I could hold a really deep business discussion about complicated business matters, but I was not prepared to be cross-examined for putting together and presenting information and ideas for my ASC.

Calling an ASC or RSC trusted servant on the carpet in this way violates the very concept of electing people we trust to do the job at hand (as we are guided by other Concepts for Service like the Third and Fourth). We elect them because we trust them. “Trust” is defined by some this way: “If you trust someone, then you believe that they’re honest and reliable, unless you have reason to believe otherwise.” If I had an issue with a trusted servant’s report, I would attend the subcommittee meeting or go to the ASC JAC (Joint Administrative Committee) to address my concern. But I would not disrespect that person on the floor of the ASC, which I also believe paints a negative and unattractive picture for those new to service.

NA trusted servants deserve better treatment. The Tenth Concept assures this. I know we are just human, but that doesn’t excuse harming others or their reputation. That is unacceptable in a spiritual program based on goodwill.

Andrew W, New Jersey, USA
Gratitude

I was sitting in a hospital bed speaking with a discharge nurse at a little over six months pregnant when I was told about NA. I knew I did not want to live the way I was living, did not want to hurt my baby, and did not want to feel as bad as I was feeling, so I entered my first NA meeting in Bronx, New York, on Wednesday, 19 August 1992, with 13 days clean. I found a loving and caring Higher Power and a sponsor. I made that Wednesday night meeting my home group.

NA has given me a new way to live and a new perspective on how life should be lived. I thank NA for giving me the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions that help keep my personal, professional, and service lives free from jails, institutions, and death. Thank you for allowing me to understand the Twelve Concepts and the importance of service work. Life as I knew it would not be available to me if I had not walked into that first NA meeting to find a group of people caring and sharing the NA way.

Most of all, thank you for the promise given to me in NA: freedom from active addiction. By continuing to live by the principles of NA, I celebrated 19 years free from active addiction on 6 August 2011.

Chante A, Connecticut, USA

Visions of recovery

Early in my recovery, I joined a local community theater troupe. It was another gift of the program to be able to pursue a dream I had abandoned so long ago.

The small community theater held workshops for its members. It was there that I wrote my first and only play and presented it to my peers in the workshop. The play was about addiction and recovery. The members of the community theater told me that it was “too harsh, too real, and not their cup of tea.” I was so dejected.

But like so many gifts that recovery had given me, the small script would wind up in the hands of those in charge of an NA H&I convention a few months down the road. They called me and said, “Let’s do this at our upcoming convention.” I was so excited, but I didn’t know what to do next, having never directed or produced a play. Where could we rehearse and where would I find actors?

Clarity and gifts come from many directions. Churches donated space for the rehearsals. The actors came from the recovery rooms, 20 of them. And so it began.

The day before the convention, we took the newly formed play to a long-term residential rehab center and put on back-to-back performances. The clients were weeping afterward, not in despair, but in gratitude. The same reaction occurred the next day at the convention.

Twenty wonderful years have passed since then. The play that depicts our bottoms, our coming into twelve-step rooms, and our spiri-
Unanimously approved by WSC 2012

NA’s newest Fellowship-approved book has been in development since WSC 2008. Living Clean: The Journey Continues involved hard work and input from countless members all around the world. The Living Clean Workgroup made great strides using technology to involve members in development of the book from the very beginning. Living Clean illustrates experiences many of us have in recovery and offers spiritual principles, humor, and a sense of bonding through identification. We anticipate a fall/winter 2012 release date of a gift edition along with the book itself.

There’s a saying in recovery that as we keep going, the road narrows. That’s partly true. Our willingness to make the same old mistakes diminishes, and we know better than to act on our impulses much of the time. But that’s not the end of the story. It’s as if we pass through a funnel: The way gets tighter and more uncomfortable as we begin to adapt to our new way of life—and then, without warning, it opens up and we are free. The road is no longer narrow; sometimes it seems like there’s no road at all. We move to our own rhythm, finding a pace and a direction that is right for us. The trip is inward and it never stops. We keep learning and growing, finding ways to live and to use our experience to help others. No matter how long we have been clean, there is still more for us to learn and more for us to share. Our First Step placed us on a path to awareness, connection, and serenity. We received much more than simple abstinence. We have been given an endless supply of principles to guide us as we travel through our lives.

In Step Three, we make a decision to turn our will over to a power greater than ourselves, and in Step Eleven it is returned to us, transformed. The desperation we once felt at our predicament was the opening to a passion for caring, sharing, giving, and growing. Where once we lacked the power even to keep ourselves alive, now we take action in our own lives and in service to others, and we are amazed at the results. We live with dignity, integrity, and grace—and we know we can always get better.

The more progress we recognize in ourselves and our fellows, the more we know is possible. What first appeared to us as a way out now offers us a way in—into a life we hadn’t imagined, into joy, into hope, into growth that never stops. We continue to get better. We continue to discover new ways to live, new freedom, and new paths to explore. We travel together as one in fellowship, and we pave the road as we walk it for all who may follow. No matter how far we have come, or how far we know we have to go, when we live clean, the journey continues.

Living Clean: The Journey Continues, Chapter Seven

Watch for NAWS Product Updates here in The NA Way Magazine and online www.na.org/?ID=literature for announcements regarding publication of Living Clean.
Invest in Our Vision

Fellowship Development

We have previously reported in The NA Way Magazine that usually the communities least able to contribute money are also those that need our help to start NA and keep it going. What this means is that the costs associated with providing that much-needed assistance are shared by the rest of our global fellowship. Simply providing literature and an occasional NAWS workshop is often not enough to meet the needs of these new and developing NA communities, so we strive to make use of more stable nearby NA communities whenever possible to help support members in these communities as they strive to grow.

At WSC 2012, we had the opportunity to hear reports from a couple of NA members directly involved in supporting developing NA communities with help from NA World Services. One such member provided the conference with information about NA’s growth and development in parts of East Africa, and another member reported on the Western Russia Region’s efforts to support developing NA communities in Siberia and Eastern Russia. These are great examples of what we mean in A Vision for NA Service when we say “NA service bodies worldwide work together in a spirit of unity and cooperation.”

East Africa

At the conference, we learned that in Tanzania an NA member had shown a Basic Text to Tanzanian government representatives and told them about NA, and soon there were twelve-step meetings taking place in Zanzibar.

Over the years, recovery houses were developed—an alternative to treatment programs that exist in North America and other parts of the world. NA meetings take place daily in each recovery house. There are now eleven houses, ten for men and one for women. In Zanzibar, the language spoken is Swahili and the culture is 100% Muslim. Without any outside assistance, residents of these recovery houses translated our “Just for Today” readings and the Twelve Steps into Swahili and created posters to hang on the wall of the mosque.

A Swahili literature translations workshop was held in February-March 2012 in Tanzania, Kenya, and elsewhere in East Africa. There were eight workshops in seven cities and two countries over 21 days. They translated IP #s 1, 7, 16, and 22; all of which were accepted by both the Tanzanian and Kenyan NA communities. This was a里的ilig feat, considering the differences of dialect that exist.

Successful public relations efforts in Africa have helped to develop relationships with some governmental figures who believe that NA has something positive to offer. Without this cooperation, addicts in some of these places would have no chance at recovery.

Siberia and Eastern Russia

Narcotics Anonymous in Moscow first formed 28 years ago, and NA in Ukraine started about 25 years ago. There is a history of collaboration amongst these NA communities. The Western Russia Region was founded in 2002 when there were 103 meetings per week in all of Russia. Members from these communities went to the European Delegates Meeting (EDM) for support, and the EDM met in St. Petersburg, which helped to bolster development there. Through its participation in the EDM and facilitation of four Russian-speaking workshops, NAWS helped bring together Russian-speaking members from various countries, making them aware of the need for support of developing Eastern Russian NA communities.

As a result, the Western Russia Region has grown, they have also supported development in Siberia in collaboration with NAWS efforts. Today, there are 937 meetings per week across Russia, and the number of meetings has been doubling yearly.

In July 2011, a NAWS workshop in Siberia included 100 local members, two NAWS staff, and two World Board members. Some of the greatest challenges for this still-developing region include: how to serve such a huge geographic territory, how to better distribute literature, and how to support groups in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan. It is very difficult to get to these places, taking as long as ten days to travel between some of the cities. There are nine time zones and it takes ten hours to fly from one side of the continent to the other. For a fellowship development trip in Vladivostok on the eastern coast of Russia, very near Japan, members traveled by train six days. They covered essential topics like the difference between AA and NA, how to form an ASC, and how to be self-supporting. The European Convention and Conference of NA (ECNNA) will be held this August in Moscow, which will surely provide another boost of enthusiasm and excitement for NA throughout Russia.

Translators

The work of translating NA literature is another area that speaks directly to our vision; in particular, that one day, “Every addict in the world has a chance to experience our message in his or her own language and culture and find the opportunity for a new way of life.” At WSC 2012, we presented some information on our latest translations efforts, which represent cooperative work between local translation committees (LTCs) and the NAWS translations team.

Like so many other responses during the economic downturn of recent years, costs associated with our translations efforts have risen drastically. Much of the actual work of translating literature is done by LTCs, but some of the additional work such as quality checking and proofing is done by contracted professionals whose rates are quite substantial. We do our best to contain these costs wherever possible, but we also consider the pricelessness of getting more translated literature into the hands of addicts seeking recovery. We always strive to ensure that this essential service is not deeply impacted by cuts in our budget, but it is also something we must balance with our many other important services.

Public Relations

A Vision for NA Service also points to our goal of being recognized and respected as a viable program of recovery. Our public relations efforts are one of the best means we have of making that goal a reality. As was demonstrated in the accounts from African communities where NA is still getting started, how the respect of people who make decisions affecting the lives of addicts can help ensure that those addicts have a chance to hear our message of recovery.
covery. At WSC 2012, we reported on some of the public relations efforts we were able to conduct or support in the 2010–2012 conference cycle.

One of the more notable efforts in this cycle was our 2010 Unity Day phone call at WCNA 34. Due to some very effective PR work done cooperatively with the Northern California Region, all 33 of the California correctional facilities were able to phone in for the Unity Day meeting and hear the message of recovery shared at the Sunday morning main speaker meeting at WCNA 34 in San Diego.

In addition to this unprecedented success, we also attended events like the International Society of Addiction Medicine (ISAM) and the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM). Through this effort, we developed a relationship with a researcher interested in conducting and publishing a study to help the professional community better understand the value of NA. We also attended and gave a presentation at the International Federation of Non-Governmental Organizations (INFGO), which ultimately resulted in requests for literature from professionals and government officials in a number of Asian countries and an invitation to meet with the President of Thailand.

These public relations efforts go a long way toward enhancing the credibility of the NA name and in turn increasing the chances that an addict seeking recovery will encounter someone who knows about NA and can point the addict in the right direction so we can carry our message. Unfortunately, our budget reductions over the past few cycles have resulted in less PR activity at NAWS. We continue to do as much as we can, but there is always more that can be done, which we can accomplish together when we invest in our vision.

**WSC 2012 Election Results**

The conference elected two cofacilitators, eleven World Board members, and two Human Resource Panel members.

**WSC Cofacilitators**

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<td>Dickie D</td>
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<td>Marc G</td>
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**World Board**

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<td>Paul C</td>
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<td>Mark H</td>
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<td>Franney J</td>
<td>Washington/N. Idaho Region</td>
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<td>Tonia N</td>
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<td>MaryEllen P</td>
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**Human Resource Panel**

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<td>David J</td>
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A written summary of the decisions made at WSC 2012 is available on our website at [www.na.org/conference](http://www.na.org/conference). We encourage everyone interested in the activities of the conference to regularly check back on the World Service Conference page as this is an area that we update regularly.
2012-2014 projects

The World Board frames its work each conference cycle using a strategic planning process. After carefully assessing what is affecting our fellowship (both within and outside of NA), we determine what services or projects are needed, and then set and prioritize our work in the Strategic Plan for NA World Services. The Strategic Plan is used to guide our decision making, establish and align our resources with our priorities, and evaluate progress toward our goals. The Strategic Plan is presented to the World Service Conference every two years, accompanied by project plans that outline tasks and timetables for each project. All of these efforts are guided by A Vision for NA Service. The 2012-2014 project plans approved by the 2012 WSC include:

Service System

One of our primary focuses this cycle will be to begin discussing implementation of the principles outlined in the service system resolutions agreed upon by the Fellowship at WSC 2012. Moving forward with this will require partnership and dialogue between the World Board and regional delegates and the NA Fellowship. We will not need a workgroup this cycle, but we do hope to work closely with some communities to “field test” some of the ideas. At WSC 2014, we hope to present a better description and definition of the proposed system, along with a transition plan describing ways to move into this new system in stages to allow for continuity of services. The Service System webpage includes full background information on the project and will include further reports and updates: www.na.org/servicecystem.

Trusted Servant Support and Development

This project continues discussions from past cycles about leadership development and our ongoing desire to provide more and better resources to help trusted servants achieve their full potential and improve as NA leaders. We know that supporting our trusted servants is a necessary part of an effective service system, so, time permitting, we’ll use information gathered from Fellowship interactions to help develop tools, such as facilitation basics or how to be an effective RCM, to support trusted servants and leaders.

Fellowship Issue Discussions

This ongoing project continues discussion of Self-Support and A Vision for NA Service. We’ll also add Delegation, Accountability, and Group Conscience this cycle and review WSC input on Collaboration and Principles before Personalities to determine the direction for that topic.

Traditions Book

The Traditions Book project is a response to both the WSC 2010 action requiring the World Board to present a project plan and the literature survey in which NA members identified this as a priority item for our next book-length piece of literature. This project will follow a two-cycle project plan. Initially, we will use technology to capture ideas from our members to help us develop an approach for creating the book, which will be presented at WSC 2014.

Public Relations

The Public Relations Roundtable project has been carried over since 2008 with no action due to financial constraints. Many of our PR efforts are considered essential services in the NAWS budget, but this project calls for conducting focus groups with medical and research professionals, training identified members to speak on our behalf, and creating material targeted to these professions.

An Introduction to NA Meetings Informational Pamphlet

This piece—developed for the first batch of Board-approved service pamphlets—seems to be a better fit as recovery literature than service material. This project will involve conducting a fellowship review-and-input period for the existing service pamphlet, making any necessary revisions, and then releasing an approval version with the 2014 Conference Agenda Report so that it can become a Fellowship-approved IP.

These projects represent a substantial amount of work, and there are still ongoing responsibilities for reporting and gathering feedback, fellowship development, and travel, along with all of the other ongoing day-to-day NAWS work. Our ability to achieve these tasks, as we frequently report, is contingent on the available staff and financial resources. Our members are a valuable resource in helping us complete conference-related projects. While we have fewer project workgroups this cycle, we encourage those interested in serving to submit (or update a) World Pool Information Form at www.na.org/HRP. Members can also contact their regional delegate team for more information about world service and projects.

Why Plan?

Planning Basics is “a guide to strategic thinking, preparing, and reaching our goals” that was created for use throughout our service system. Much like the World Board’s strategic planning process, Planning Basics helps NA service bodies determine what projects and services are needed, and then set and prioritize goals, create action plans, and monitor and evaluate progress.

E-Subscribe now at www.naway.org
Anonymity

Anonymity is one of our greatest strengths in carrying the message. Unity of purpose keeps our focus on carrying the message.

In anonymity, our personal differences are insignificant compared to our primary purpose. When we come together as a group, our first task is to carry the message; all else ought to be set aside.

Unity

Unity of purpose will keep me focused on the fact that we are all working toward the common goal of carrying the message. We will work to keep an open mind and be mindful of others’ thoughts, feelings, and opinions. While working with others, I will ask myself how I can promote unity in our discussions and decisions.

Berta H, Montana Region

Anonymity is the similarity between us, and anonymity minimizes the disparity between us. Anonymity is the foundation upon which we build a strong NA Fellowship. For the common good, we must drop every bit of nationalism. We are all equal and we are equal parts of our story.

Alan L, Hawaii Region

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Anonymous

Anonymity: Forgetting about myself, and realizing that what I am doing benefits the fellowship. I must be and want to be humble, accessible, and available. I am just another addict and I have the responsibility to serve in the best possible way I can.

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NA communities are invited to send photographs of their meeting places and events. Sorry, we cannot use photos that identify NA members. Please tell us the group/event name, location, how long it has been in existence, format or special traditions, and what makes it a unique part of your NA community.

L’anniversaire du groupe

The Renaissance Group of Bai Comeau, Quebec, Canada, holds its meetings at 170 Lasalle Boulevard in the basement of the Domrémy building. We are a small group. We meet every Tuesday to discuss various issues regarding recovery in the Narcotics Anonymous program. We are affiliated with the Saguenay/Lac St.-Jean Area Service Committee and the LeNordet Region and, of course, we welcome newcomers!

On 22 May 2012, our group earned a 30-year medallion, as we celebrated the 30th anniversary of the group.

Daniel P and Andre G, Quebec, Canada
Web and IT updates

There are many technological changes in the works at NAWS. As we went to print with this issue of The NA Way Magazine, we were in the final stages of beta testing the revised website at www.na.org. By the time you read this, the new design should be up and running.

We are also completing revisions to our meeting search tool, which allows use of online mapping software to more accurately locate meetings. In another website effort, we are considering ways to make our online literature sales area (shopping cart) more user-friendly.

At the same time, we are having in-depth discussions about mobile applications and electronic publications to determine what to develop, when to develop, etc. As was discussed at WSC 2012, we are continuing our discussion about rolling out a private Facebook page, which will “push” information to those who visit the page, but will preclude comments or posts except by the page administrators.

Fitting all of this information into just two paragraphs may mask the significance of these IT and web efforts, but we are well aware of the depth and breadth of these changes! We are hard at work to continue to improve IT services for NAWS and the NA Fellowship.

Our members’ input is always important, so we encourage those with ideas and feedback to contact us at worldboard@na.org or webmaster@na.org.

For up-to-date news about what is happening in our technology corner, we invite you to visit NAWS’ IT blog at naws.org/IT. The NAWS IT staff maintains this blog, which contains information about IT projects, as well as other items of interest to the fellowship’s webmasters and those who closely follow NA technology.
Multi-day events and those occurring between publication dates are printed according to the schedule posted online. To enter events or to access event details, visit the online calendar at www.na.org/events. (If you don’t have Internet access, fax or mail your event info to 818.700.0700, attn: NA Way; or The NA Way; Box 9999; Van Nuys, CA 91409 USA.)

**Australia**

**Victoria** 10-12 Aug; Victoria Area Convention; Gasworks, Albert Park; scnasec@gmail.com.au

**Canada**

**Alberta** 3-6 Aug; Alsaks Northern Lights Area Camp Out 7; Camp Yogi, Anzac (Pt McMurray); rsvs: 780.750.7847; Registration: 780.750.7847

**British Columbia** 21-23 Sep; British Columbia Regional Convention 29; Beban Park, Nanaimo; www.bcrna.ca

**Nova Scotia** 16-22 Jul; Annapolis Valley Area Pig Roast 23; Blomidon Provincial Park, Canning; 902.765.2235

**Ontario** 17-19 Aug; Georgian Heartland Area Campvention 4; Bass Lake Provincial Park, Orillia; www.ghlana.org

**Prince Edward Island** 10-12 Aug; Prince Edward Island Area Convention 4; University of Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown; www.carna.ca

**Colombia**

**Cartagena** 18-20 Aug; Colombia Regional Convention 21; Hotel Dorado, Cartagena; www.nacolombia.org/convencion.html

**Denmark**

**Skanderborg** 3-5 Aug; Area Midtjylland Convention and Camp 5; Audonic, Skanderborg; www.nakonvent.dk

**El Salvador**

**San Salvador** 10-12 Aug; El Salvador Regional Convention 7; Hotel Alameda San Salvador, San Salvador; 503.7818.4278

**Honduras**

**San Pedro Sula** 14-16 Sep; Convención Regional de Honduras 2; Hotel Victoria, San Pedro Sula; tabhan@hotmail.com

**India**

**West Bengal** 21-23 Sep; Indian Regional Convention 6; Darjeeling Tourist Lodge, Darjeeling; www.naindia.in/pdf/ircna6.pdf

**Malta**

**Saint Julian's** 21-23 Sep; Malta National Convention 6; Golden Tulip Vivaldi Hotel, Saint Julian’s; www.thenamalta.org

**Norway**

**Bragdoya Island** 16-22 Jul; Norway South Campout 15; Bragdoya Island, Kristiansand; www.nasossek.org

**Puerto Rico**

**Isla Verde** 27-29 Jul; Del Coquí Regional Convention 23; Verdana Hotel, Isla Verde; www.prna.org

**Russia**

**Moscow** 17-19 Aug; European Convention and Conference 28; Druzhba (Friendship) Multipurpose Arena, Moscow; www.eccna28.org

**Sweden**

**Stockholm** 24-26 Aug; Sweden Regional Convention 25; Fryshuset, Stockholm; www.nasverige25.org

**United Kingdom**

**Liverpool** 5-7 Oct; First Merseyside Area Convention; Liner Hotel, Liverpool; www.mana-ukna.co.uk

**United States**

**Arizona** 21-23 Sep; Productive Members of Society Group Spiritual Retreat 14; Camp Tontoazon, Payson; www.arizona-na.org

**California** 20-22 Jul; Greater Los Angeles Area Convention 6; LAX Hilton, Los Angeles; www.glaana.org

**Colorado** 10-12 Aug; Serenity Unlimited Area-Standing on Higher Ground Retreat; Telluride; l_m0228@yahoo.com;

**Florida** 3-5 Aug; Big Bend Area Convention 15; North Monroe Street Conference Center, Tallahassee; bigbigbendna.org

**Germany** 10-12 Aug; North Dade Area Convention; DoubleTree Miami; www.northdadearea.org

**Illinois** 23-26 Aug; South City Area Convention 7; Hyatt Regency McCormick Place, Chicago; http://www.chicago.org

**Indiana** 24-26 Aug; Muncie Groups End of Summer Celebration; Prairie Creek Reservoir Campground, Muncie; www.naindiana.org

**Kentucky** 5-7 Oct; Bluegrass-Appalachian Regional Convention 5; Cumberland Falls State Resort Park, Corbin; www.nakentucky.com

**Louisiana** 30 Aug-2 Sep; New Orleans Area Convention 12; Hilton New Orleans Riverside, New Orleans; www.noana.org

**Massachusetts** 3-5 Aug; Western Mass Area Convention 12; Sheraton Hotel, Springfield; www.newenglandna.org

**Minnesota** 14-16 Sep; First Twin Cities Area Inner City Unity Convention; Crowne Plaza, Saint Paul; www.naminnesota.org

**Missouri** 4-16 Sep; Show-Me Region Unity CampVention; Lake of the Ozarks State Park—Camp Rising Sun, Lake of the Ozarks; 636.359.4893

**Nebraska** 27-29 Jul; Elkhorn Valley Steppin’ at the Lake Men’s Retreat 2; Lake Muskintine, Norfolk; www.nebraskana.org

**New Hampshire** 3-5 Aug; Granite State Area Convention 7; Courtyard Marriott Nashua, Nashua; www.gsana.org

**New York** 17-19 Aug; First Manhattan Area Convention; Hudson Valley Resort/Spa, Kerhonkson; www.newyorkna.org

**Oregon** 24-26 Aug; ABCD Regional Convention 6; Hotel Albany-Hilton (previously Crowne Plaza), Albany; www.abcddna.org
3) 31 Aug-3 Sep; Buffalo Area Recovery in the Woods 24; Pioneer Camp & Retreat Center, Angola; www.nawny.org

4) 7-9 Sep; Suffolk Area Convention Lighting the Way 11; Hyatt Regency Long Island NY, Hauppauge; www.sasna.org

North Carolina 3-5 Aug; New Hope Area Convention 19; Sheraton Imperial Hotel & Convention Center, Durham; www.nhacna.org

2) 17-19 Aug; Twin City Area Convention 13; Embassy Suites, Winston-Salem; www.tcana.org

Ohio 14-16 Sep; Kentucky Ohio Recovery Area Friendly Valley; Camp Oyo, West Portsmouth; 740.259.5670

Oklahoma 12-14 Oct; Shawnee Original Group Fall Convention; America’s Best Value Inn, Shawnee; 405.488.4178

Pennsylvania 20-22 Jul; Kinzua Event Committee Camping; Chapman Dam State Park, Claredon; www.cwpascna.org

2) 10-12 Aug; Greater Philadelphia Regional Convention 27; Dolce Hotel and Resort, King of Prussia; www.delworks.org

3) 28-30 Sep; Little Apple Area Convention 31; Rodeway Inn & Conference Center, Allentown; 610.393.4169

4) 12-14 Oct; Clean Acres Area Nurture Your Core Women’s Retreat; Ladore Retreat, Camp & Conference Center, Waymart; www.cleanacresna.org

5) 12-14 Oct; Reading Area Convention 2; Crowne Plaza, Reading; 484.529.1817

South Carolina 24-26 Aug; Central Carolina Area Convention 17; Courtyard Marriott USC, Columbia; www.midcarolinana.org/events.htm

2) 28-30 Sep; Southern Foothills Area Campvention; Kings Mountain State Park, Blacksburg; www.sfana.com

South Dakota 5-12 Aug; Otherside Group Sheridan Lake Campout 18; Sheridan Lake North Shore, Hill City; 605.787.2872

2) 14-16 Sep; South Dakota Regional Convention; Best Western Plus Ramkota Hotel, Sioux Falls; www.sdna.com

Tennessee 17-19 Aug; Middle Tennessee Area Unity Convention 11; Millennium Maxwell House Hotel, Nashville; www.nanashville.org

2) 24-26 Aug; Turning Point Group Chill Out on Chilhowee; Chilhowee Campground, Cherokee National Forest; marcingram71@gmail.com

Texas 12-14 Oct; Esperanza Area Frolic in the Woods; Garner State Park/Old Pecan Grove, Concan; www.eanaonline.org

Vermont 16-19 Aug; Green Mountain Area Campout 28; Wallingford Boy’s Camp, Wallingford; www.gmana.org/campout.html

Virginia 20-22 Jul; Blue Ridge Area Campout 31; Natural Chimneys Campground, Mount Solon; www.brancampground.org

2) 3-5 Aug; Almost Heaven Area Convention 26; Northern Virginia 4H Educational Center, Front Royal; www.npsana.org/events

3) 31 Aug-3 Sep; Marion Survivors Group Campout 16; Hungry Mother Lutheran Retreat Center, Marion; 276.646.8462

Washington 14-16 Sep, North Puget Sound Area Spiritual Connection 29; Cornet Bay Learning Center, Oak Harbor; www.npsana.org/events

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**Hungarian**
*Egy másik szemszög*
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*Tisztának maradni odakint*
Item No. HU-3123  Price US $0.22

**Croatian**
*An Introductory Guide to NA*
*Vodič za upoznavanje s Anonimnim narkomanima*
Item No. CR-1200  Price US $1.80

**Japanese**
*The NA Step Working Guides*
ナルコティクス アノニマス ステップワーキングガイド
Item No. JP-1400  Price US $7.70

**Finnish**
*An Introductory Guide to NA, Revised*
*Alustava opas Nimettömiin Narkomaaneihin, uudistettu*
Item No. FI-1200  Price US $1.80

**Hindi**
*The NA Step Working Guides*
नार्कोटिक्स एनानिमिस के कदमों को अभाव में लाने की उपशुल्कों
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