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## Greetings from your World Board

We held our first meeting for fiscal year 2002-2003 on 7-10 August. As many of you know, our “corporate” year for the Annual Report, our budget, the World Service Office, etc. is the standard business “fiscal” year which runs from 1 July to 30 June.

One of our first actions was to welcome our new World Board member, Jim Buerer. Jim, who is from Illinois, is beginning his first term on the board. We know you will join us in welcoming him aboard and wishing him good luck in all of his endeavors. All 14 members were present at this meeting. We held our elections for officers and are pleased to report that Jane N will serve as chair, Bob J as vice chair, Craig R as treasurer, and Susan C as secretary.

The first two days of our meeting were spent with a consultant whom we have reported on before and who was present at the last WSC, Jim DeLizia. We, along with many members of NAWS staff, worked on furthering the planning aspects of fulfilling our strategic vision that we have been creating, with Jim’s help, over the last year. This was our first attempt at taking the Strategic Framework and evaluating our current projects and activities against these goals. We still have more work to make our vision become a practical reality, and we will be continuing these efforts over the coming months.

The second two days were spent engaged in more typical board business, such as electing new officers (see above), discussing work assignments and the priorities for NA World Services, approving the NAWS annual corporate resolution, and continuing planning for WCNA-30, NA’s 50th anniversary celebration scheduled for the Fourth of July weekend, 2003, in San Diego, CA, USA.

This *NAWS News* is published almost simultaneously with our *Annual Report*. There does not seem to be a need to duplicate many of the items that are covered in the *Annual Report* again here. As always, we welcome your input and comments as to how we can continue to improve our communication with you and make *NAWS News* a newsletter that you look forward to receiving each time it is published.

## One Addict Helping Another 1953–2003

### *Theme for our Golden Anniversary chosen*

After much discussion and review of many, many possible themes as well as a couple of secret ballot straw polls, we unanimously approved “One Addict Helping Another 1953-2003,” as the theme for our 50th anniversary celebration of NA recovery, July 4th weekend, 2003.

In looking back at WCNA-29, we discussed what worked well, what could be improved, and what the challenges will be in trying to create a special celebration for our 50th anniversary celebration at WCNA-30.

One of the challenges that any event as big as a Narcotics Anonymous world convention faces is long lines at both registration and merchandising. We know that planning and logistics contributed to those lines at WCNA-29 and we are working to dramatically improve this situation for San Diego. We do not have the ability to guarantee you shorter lines, but we can guarantee you “kinder, gentler” lines. Just a few of the ideas we are considering are running lines along the waterfront, increasing the number of registers and check-in desks, using larger spaces, staging lines in different ways, and creating entertaining distractions if you are in line.

Another challenge that we have is the quality of the sound in the main meetings. As the months go by, you will be hearing more and more of the details of WCNA-30 as we finalize plans and look at ways to overcome some of these challenges. One of the realities that we have to face is that improving these areas will cost additional funds. This additional cost will be reflected in an increased cost for registration. We continue to view the world convention as a celebration of recovery and not an opportunity to raise funds. We also want to alert you at this early stage to a couple of things. Registration and hotel rooms for WCNA-30 will be available on 1 December 2002. That means that, come 1 December, you will be able to register both online and by mail-in registration. The host hotels will be listed along with rates and registration information. Any of our members who make reservations with hotels in San Diego prior to our publishing the negotiated rates might very well lock

themselves in at a substantially higher rate than the ones we have negotiated. It is very possible that you will not be able to get the rate lowered once you have made a reservation at a higher rate. We strongly advise you to not take a chance about this: do not make your reservation until after the rates are published. On the other hand, we would encourage you to make your reservations as soon as you can after 1 December. Another large convention happens the same weekend as ours, and the negotiated convention rates for WCNA are very special. Without the WCNA rate, you will find that the San Diego hotels are much more expensive than many of us are used to paying for lodging. San Diego is a very popular destination city for vacation-goers from all over the world and boasts very lovely, but expensive, hotels.

An additional challenge we experienced in Atlanta was the ever increasing needs of our membership for wheel chairs, electric carts, or walkers, etc. We do not believe that we will be able to adequately meet these demands and will be researching alternatives for these types of services in San Diego. We will keep you updated as we obtain more information. To serve the needs of all attendees, we plan to provide a monthly update about the convention on the website.



We held our fifth worldwide workshop in Birmingham, England, 30 August – 1 September. Members were able to exchange valuable information about recovery and service. And maybe even more exciting, they experienced a different process for the exchange of information, the small group discussion format that we've used at previous worldwide workshops as well as at WSC 2002. In addition, members met and got to know a few of NAW's World Board members and staff. And finally, attendees were able to view a variety of tabletop displays, and there were lots of reports, bulletins, and other literature, all free for the taking.

Our thanks to the UK fellowship for their hospitality and support, as well as to those members who traveled from neighboring regions and NA communities to attend the workshop. A special thank you to Peter H, former RD, United Kingdom, for his tireless efforts in support of this workshop. Also, thank you to Michael McD, former WB member, for all of his efforts and participation. This was Michael's last worldwide workshop contribution on behalf of the board. He will be missed.

The next worldwide workshop is scheduled for 10-12 January 2003, in Austin, Texas. Workshop and registration information is available online at [www.na.org](http://www.na.org), or call extension 173 for more help. See ya'll in Austin!

## China

As we reported, as a result of our continuously improving relationships with professionals in the US and our cooperative relationship with AA, we received an invitation to participate in the first World Health Organization/Beijing Institute on Substance Abuse in Beijing, China, 8-12 September 2002. For many years, we have looked at China and known that there had to be a tremendous drug problem there. This trip allowed us to make Chinese officials aware that NA may be a viable resource for their medical and treatment professionals and their addicts.

The conference was a collection of approximately 250 physicians, psychiatrists, psychologists, and security service personnel from throughout China. We had the opportunity to give a 90-minute presentation about NA and, by using quotes from our literature, illustrate how we could be an adjunct to treatment. We also were able to provide the attendees with a simplified Chinese version of the pamphlet we use for professional events, *Information about NA*, as well as copies of the draft translation of IP #1. Our ability to provide translated material about our fellowship in Chinese was very well received.

This was the first time most of the Institute participants had any exposure to our program, and there was great interest and myriad questions. As of last year, there were approximately 1.5 billion people in China, with approximately 1 million registered drug addicts. Some estimates double the number of addicts in the country. To date, all efforts at treatment have resulted in 100% relapse upon release. These harsh realities have made some in the Chinese medical community somewhat desperate to find a more effective way to help addicts. As a result, they have been more open to learning about Narcotics Anonymous.

AA World Services had their first opportunity to visit Beijing in 2000, and today AA has a few meetings in that city. These meetings show that the core philosophy of the twelve steps can be effective in Chinese culture. The NA program of recovery and our principles can be successful in helping addicts in China. The largest hurdle for us will

be the current stigma and isolation associated with being an addict in the general Chinese society. In some ways, China is much like the US of the 1940s and 1950s, where the public and government viewed drug addicts as criminals for life and, in that respect, non-redeemable.

We had the opportunity to actually visit a couple of treatment facilities, give them copies of IP #1 in Chinese, and let them have new Welcome keytags in Chinese. These visits gave us the opportunity to talk to some Chinese addicts. It was amazing to see that, although we did not speak the same language and they really had no idea what NA is about, once we started to share about the horror of active addiction and the possibility of recovery, we could reach them. We saw, once again, that the nature of the addict is exactly the same anywhere. It was truly a heart warming demonstration that our mission can be fulfilled. We will be creating a more detailed report in the next several months.



## Audio CD

### Approved as Inventory Item

We have made available for sale a CD audio sampler comprised of excerpts of Jimmy K sharing in a couple of different contexts, a 1979 WSC Literature Committee report, and a 1963 step study meeting, all of which were taken from our archive material. We created this item in order to make this material available to the fellowship and to help offset the cost of restoring many of our oldest pieces of audio material. This item is now a part of WSO inventory for \$15.

### Want to get involved?

The new World Pool Information Form is available on our website. The newest version can be downloaded or completed online. If you have not filled out the newest version of the form and have five years clean, please go online and complete a new form. If you are interested in serving in any way, check it out!

### Financial Information

As we reported in the last issue of *NAWS News*, we have been reimbursed by our insurance company for almost all of the funds that were embezzled. We received a check for \$289,959.46. Our Executive Director

requested that we begin using an aggressive technique of auditing that particularly targets fraudulent and criminal financial practices as a routine part of our annual audit contract. We felt that this request was responsible and would minimize the likelihood of any major embezzlement in the future and approved it.

At our November meeting, we will be presented with the audits for both 2001 and 2002. Once accepted, this information and a financial update will be available upon request.

## Funding the World Service Conference

WSC 2002 was our first attempt at funding all conference participants. This means that every delegate from a seated region was provided with transportation, hotel, and meal expenses to attend. We funded all delegates in order to equalize the opportunity for all to attend, not to intentionally add expenses to world services. Our hope is that together we can offset this expense through fellowship donations and not add this as a new expense to fund from the sales of literature.

**Travel expenses alone, for the 96 delegates who were funded to attend WSC 2002, cost an average of approximately \$1,415 per delegate**

**The total cost of WSC 2002 averaged approximately \$2,500 per delegate.**

## Sponsorship Project

### *Workgroup Hard at Work*

As we mentioned in the last *NAWS News*, we have selected a workgroup to help put together the sponsorship book. The workgroup has now met twice, and we are even more excited about this project than before. Though the members come from very different places and perspectives, they have embraced the opportunity to work together to give the fellowship the book it wants. In the last board meeting, we discussed revisions the workgroup suggested to the outline of the book, and we've now approved a final outline. We are all looking forward to seeing what our members think of the first chapter, the outline, and the revised Sponsorship IP. Those who have signed up for review and input (deadline mid-October) should be receiving this material sometime around or after the end of the year.

## Basic Text Evaluation Survey

As you may know, the 2002 WSC passed a motion for the World Board to start an evaluation process to see whether or not the fellowship desires changes to the Basic Text and the Little White Booklet. We have been distributing a survey to the fellowship through a number

of avenues: our website (<http://www.na.org/btsurvey/bt-eval-fp.htm>), *The NA Way Magazine*, *NAWS News*, and WCNA. We currently have more than 2400 responses from 39 countries. From El Salvador to Ecuador to Eire, Pennsylvania, literally from all over the world, thank you all for participating. We will be collecting completed surveys through December, so be a part of a worldwide voice and fill out a survey.

## Use of the Fellowship's Trademarked Material

We receive complaints, comments, and notifications on a regular basis about how the fellowship's trademarks are being used. Although we take very seriously the responsibility given to us to protect the fellowship's copyrighted and trademarked material from being misused, endangered, or changed, we want to say again that the only real protection lies with NA members. Ultimately only NA members can impact this type of activity by grassroots support for responsible use of our copyrighted and trademarked material. What world services can do to try to help is to let you know when we see a problem.

During and after the world convention in Atlanta, we observed and received comments about two major problems. One is the use of NA trademarks in conjunction with non-NA material, and the other involves vendors—both those licensed by us and those that are not.

NA World Services does not grant anyone permission to use other people's trademarked property (items such as the American flag, the liberty bell, the stylized AIDS ribbon, anything related to Harley Davidson, Dream Catchers, cartoon characters such as the Road Runner, Yosemite Sam, Betty Boop, etc.) in conjunction with any of NA's trademarked items. NA Intellectual Property Bulletin #1 states: "Narcotics Anonymous Trademarks should not be used in any way that would serve to endorse, finance, promote, or affiliate the NA Fellowship with any outside enterprise." This guideline helps us to avoid any possible trademark violations and brand confusion. It also shows that we respect the holders of other trademarks.

The second issue we want to address here is the licensing of vendors. We license commercial vendors for very specific reasons. We are faced with the challenge that NA members like a variety of items that contain the NA trademarks such as jewelry, wearables, and specialty items. Trademark law requires that we use a trademark or we lose it. We license vendors to maintain some control of how NA's trademarks are used and so that ownership of these trademarks remains with the fellowship rather than with any individual.

Permission from NA World Services does not grant a vendor access to Narcotics Anonymous events or functions. Granting access to these functions is a decision that rests solely with the local service committee

involved. Also, this permission is not an endorsement of a vendor's business, business practices, or pricing policies. If an outside vendor is producing items that do not depict NA's Trademarks or is creating something for a registered area or regional committee, the vendor does not need a commercial vendor's license.

## No Longer Temporary

After 20 years, *A Temporary Working Guide to World Services* is no longer temporary. The English version of *A Guide to World Services in NA* was recently mailed out to conference participants, and the guide is also now available in Spanish. In addition to all of the other useful material, *A Guide to World Services* now contains WSC election procedures and WSC Rules of Order. Keep in mind that the guide is a living document and will change from conference cycle to conference cycle.

## Upcoming Calendar for NA World Services

7-9 November 2002	World Board Meeting
1 December 2002	Registration for WCNA-30 begins!
December 2002	Sponsorship material sent out for review
31 December 2002	Deadline for completing the Basic Text/Little White Booklet Evaluation Project Survey
10-12 January 2003	Worldwide Workshop in Austin, Texas
6-8 February 2003	World Board Meeting
15-17 May 2003	World Board Meeting
3-6 July 2003	NA's 50th Anniversary celebration in San Diego

## Update from the Human Resource Panel

Our first meeting of the conference cycle was held 8-10 August. The first day of our meeting, panel members attended the World Board session devoted to visioning and strategic planning. Our two newly elected members, Tali McC and Francine B, were welcomed warmly by the board and by the two current HRP members, Garth P and Charlotte S.

Nearly one entire day of our meeting was devoted to reviewing significant background developments related to the Human Resource Panel and how it has evolved from the original proposal adopted at WSC'98 to what it is today. This process included reviewing our relationship with the World Board Executive Committee and the understandings and agreements that were reached during the past conference cycle. It also allowed us to help the new panel members become acclimated and spend time building a "team" attitude and spirit. The final day of our meeting was devoted to planning for the conference cycle.

We're pleased to let you know that the new World Pool Information Form can now be filled out directly online, or downloaded, at [www.na.org](http://www.na.org). New forms have been mailed to the more than 550 members in the World Pool and are also available from the World Service Office. Because this new form has much more helpful information than the old form, we are requesting that everyone who already is in the World Pool also fill one out.

As a part of reviewing the established HRP processes, we identified several aspects of our external and internal guidelines that either don't accurately reflect practice or should be evaluated for possible revision. The most significant of these is the statement that, when HRP members discuss the selection of nominees for WSC positions, "the need for balance between rotation (new people and fresh experience) and continuity (service experience) in NA World Service efforts" will be part of the discussion. We recognize that conference participants want the HRP to include new people along with those with prior world service experience, but we believe that this wording doesn't express that well. In addition, it seems that the actual selection of new or experienced people for positions is a responsibility of the voting participants, and we're not sure that the HRP should be considering these issues when nominating members. We plan to discuss this more at future meetings.

We also plan to have more discussions about WSC elections and give our input to the World Board for use in their discussions about election procedures. We noticed that, of the participants responding to the WSC 2002 Evaluation Questionnaire, 67% felt the election procedures were easily understood and the Candidate Profile Reports were helpful. This, along with some comments from individuals, shows us that there is

definitely room for improvement. One of the observations that we shared with each other at our meeting is that conference participants seem to have confidence in the HRP nominations process for WSC Cofacilitators and HRP members, but it is less clear whether there is confidence in the process for WB nominations. It seems that participants aren't willing to elect people they don't know to the WB, and the willingness of participants to rely on Candidate Profile Report information alone when electing WB members is an unanswered question.

In response to our observations and to input received from some conference participants, we discussed several ideas for improving the information that is given to voting participants for use in making their selections during elections. Two of these are ideas that we plan to pursue and discuss more at future meetings: possibly including a regional endorsement for nominees from the HRP, and including more information (answers to questions of common interest) with the Candidate Profile Reports for each nominee. We will provide updates on our discussions of these items in future reports.

We concluded our meeting by selecting Charlotte S as the panel leader, or primary contact person, for the first half of the conference cycle. We also agreed that the newly elected panel members, Tali and Francine, will each serve as panel leader for a six-month period in the second half of the conference cycle. This will allow them time to adjust prior to taking over the responsibility and also provide continuity for the next HRP.

Your HRP members are all enthusiastic about serving the fellowship during this conference cycle, and we welcome your input on anything in this report or any subject related to the Human Resource Panel. Please send your input to [HRP@na.org](mailto:HRP@na.org) or to HRP, c/o World Service Office at PO Box 9999, Van Nuys, CA 91409.