

This is the first of three videos covering the material in the 2014 *Conference Agenda Report*. This video focuses on the first three board motions in the *CAR*. Please visit [www.na.org/conference](http://www.na.org/conference) to download all three videos and access any other conference material.

## **Introduction**

Hello from NA World Services. In preparation for the upcoming World Service Conference, we are creating this video as a way to present information from the *Conference Agenda Report*, or *CAR*. Our hope is that summarizing the *CAR* in a different medium will make it easier to understand and workshop. This video can be used by individuals, homegroups, or workshops and service meetings—anywhere that people might be discussing and deciding on the information in the *CAR*. Any specific feedback about this video can be directed to us at [worldboard@na.org](mailto:worldboard@na.org).

We wanted to keep the video as short as possible so it's important to remember that the *Conference Agenda Report* itself contains more information on each of the topics we cover here as well as general conference preparations.

The *CAR* can be downloaded free at [www.na.org/conference](http://www.na.org/conference), or you can order a hard copy by mail for \$8 from NA World Services.

## **Board Motions**

This *CAR* contains six motions from the World Board. One is to approve a revision of a service pamphlet as an IP. Two are related to the future of the World Service Conference—delegate funding and alternate attendance. Three are related to the Service System Project. In this video, we will discuss Motions One through Three. The motions related to the Service System Project are discussed in a separate video, which can be found by visiting the conference page at [www.na.org/conference](http://www.na.org/conference).

### *Motion One: An Introduction to NA Meetings*

The first motion asks the conference to approve the draft of *An Introduction to NA Meetings* as an IP. The text of the approval draft is included in Addendum A of the *CAR*.

A version of this pamphlet has been available since 2008 as a service pamphlet. It's been published into six languages and it seems to be a very useful resource, and so we hope to make it more accessible as a Fellowship-approved IP.

Originally, the pamphlet was intended for professionals to give to addicts when referring them to meetings. Because it speaks directly to potential NA members, however, it seems better suited for publication as an actual IP rather than a service pamphlet.

During a review and input period of nearly four months, we received a handful of input from members and service committees in 19 US states and four other countries. Most of the input was very positive, suggesting approval exactly as-is. There were also a few helpful suggestions to improve the pamphlet, such as:

- Clarify that what happens in meetings is just one part of NA's approach to recovery.

- Expand the focus in the opening paragraphs from those attending their first meeting ever to newcomers in general.
- Address concepts such as anonymity and primary purpose.
- When possible, use terminology and phrases from existing NA literature, rather than new language, to convey ideas.
- Offer more to underscore the “spiritual, not religious” aspect of our program.
- Clarify that there are a variety of meeting types, and practices may vary.

These changes are all reflected in the draft contained in Addendum A.

Motion One reads:

**To approve the draft contained in Addendum A as IP #29, *An Introduction to NA Meetings*.**

**Intent:** To approve this IP for use in the fellowship.

### *Motions Two and Three: The Evolution of the WSC*

The next two motions deal with the evolution of the World Service Conference. Motion Two is about alternate delegate attendance at the WSC.

Since the late 1990s we have been struggling with how to address challenges related to the World Service Conference including:

- the desire for more equitable global representation,
- the size of the conference and the difficulty discussing issues in a group this large, and
- the cost to the fellowship

World Services restructured in 1998, but in the 15 years since then, we still haven’t been able to reach consensus about changes to the conference itself.

The fellowship spent approximately \$168,000 to have alternate delegates present at WSC 2012 including travel, meals, and lodging. That doesn’t include the costs to the WSC itself for accommodating 82 extra participants.

We are proposing that alternate delegates no longer be participants at the WSC. We believe this change would have little impact to our member regions and zones, and yet it would allow for a more equitable, effective, and affordable conference.

When we have small group sessions, both the alternate and the delegate participate in those discussions. Our current size makes it difficult to develop consensus and evolve meaningful discussions during those sessions. We currently have 115 seated regions. Using numbers from the last conference, adopting this motion would mean going from 209 participants in small group sessions to 133—still a large group, but one that is more evenly representative of those they serve.

While training and mentorship is important, much of the most important work of the delegate team takes place between conferences. Funds spent to send alternates to the WSC could be spent on efforts to serve—and learn about being an effective delegate—within the region.

Additionally, 91% of US regions were able to send alternates to WSC 2012, while only 48% of non-US delegates were able to do so. Not only is this training opportunity one that is available to regions that tend already to have a broader base of service experience, but it also results in conference discussions that become very US-centric by the numbers.

What might be more surprising is how few of those alternates actually end up serving their regions as delegates *at the next conference*. In the table on this slide, you can see the actual percentages for the past four conferences of delegates who had attended the previous WSC as an alternate. The total numbers range from 37 to 47 percent. This table along with all of the other information on this video is available in the *Conference Agenda Report*. **[Highlighted text is a slide. PAUSE to give time for folks to see the slide info]:**

	Total	Non-US	US
2006	35%	19%	42%
2008	47%	42%	50%
2010	47%	34%	55%
2012	37%	23%	47%

[Note that these figures only reflect the delegates who were alternates at the previous WSC, not those who are serving two cycle terms as delegates or those who might have attended an earlier conference as an alternate.]

Motion Two reads:

**To adopt the following as WSC policy: Seating at the biennial meeting of the WSC is limited to one delegate per region.**

**The Intent of the motion is:** To reduce the size and cost of the WSC and create an environment more conducive to discussion based decision making.

The *Conference Agenda Report* document contains information on the policy text that would be affected by this change as well as the financial impact of this motion and the next.

Motion Three is about the funding of delegates to the WSC

NA World Services has funded all delegates to the past six conferences, but this is simply something we can no longer afford to do. Full funding for all regions was originally intended as a way to equalize costs. The thinking was that regions that could afford the cost of delegate attendance would simply forward those funds to World Services. That hasn't been the reality—providing full funding for all participants has not been counterbalanced by an

increase in regional contributions to World Services. The expense of the conference instead has become a cost incurred solely by NAWS in most cases simply because of a lack of awareness.

We believe many regions could afford to pay for their delegates to attend the conference, and a small number of regions will still need our support to participate. We think this is something that collectively we will be able to pay for. If this motion passes, we would create a published deadline for funding requests, and ask that funding requests include information to demonstrate need.

Motion Three reads:

**To adopt the following as WSC policy: “The World Service Conference does not automatically fund attendance of delegates. Delegates from regions that are unable to fully fund themselves may request funding from the World Board.”**

**The Intent of this motion is:** To have NA World Services no longer bear the sole responsibility for funding delegate attendance at the WSC.

As with the motion above, see the *Conference Agenda Report* for more information about the policy affected and the financial impact of the motion.

### **Other Considerations**

The *Conference Agenda Report* always contains information beyond the motions and proposals up for immediate decision. Please make sure you have a look at the *CAR* document so that you can read the latest about the Traditions Book Project, the Issue Discussion Topics, and other conference-related items.

For more information on the conference, go to [www.na.org/conference](http://www.na.org/conference).