**2018 *CAR* Video Script**

**4 of 5: Future of the WSC and Regional Motions 15–25**

Slide 1

This is the fourth of five videos covering material in the 2018 *Conference Agenda Report* (or *CAR* for short).

Slide 2

To make it easier for members, groups, and service bodies to read through and workshop the *CAR*, the motions have been grouped into categories. Most of the categories begin with some basic background material and links to relevant documents.

This video covers the main points of the Future of the WSC essay and regional motions numbered fifteen through twenty-five related to the role of zonal forums, seating at the World Service Conference, and other WSC issues.

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Please keep in mind, these videos only cover the main points of the *CAR*. We encourage all members to read the *CAR* itself for more information, including the full World Board responses, as well as the financial impact and policy affected for each motion. Please visit [www.na.org/conference](http://www.na.org/conference) for the complete 2018 *CAR* and the other videos.

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[No dialog required]

Slide 5

The Future of the WSC is an ongoing project about improving the effectiveness and sustainability of the Conference. The project stems from an objective in the 2016–2018 NAWS Strategic Plan. We have issued three reports about these ideas and held several Conference participant web meetings. These reports and other related materials can be found online at [www.na.org/future](http://www.na.org/future).

The Future of the WSC project has three main strategies to improve the sustainability and effectiveness of the WSC: discussing options for seating; improving the effectiveness of the WSC meeting itself; and making better use of the time between Conferences. Seating is the most challenging part of this work and we have stepped back from trying to frame seating options for the Conference to discuss.

The primary focus of the *CAR* essay is on the recommendations to improve the Conference week itself. More about these suggestions can be found in the first and third Future of the WSC reports.

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As this diagram from the *CAR* shows, the last five Conferences have each been longer than the one before. More time is spent discussing and deciding on motions and proposals, and less on presenting information and discussing ideas in small groups.

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This graph gives you some idea of how effective that extra time spent on motions and proposals has been. The motions and proposals considered in each business session over the last five Conferences have been represented on these bar graphs. The grey sections represent how many of those motions passed. If you look at the bottom bar for each Conference, you’ll see that it’s clear that many new business proposals are submitted but very few are passed.

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The *CAR* provides a detailed breakdown of the available hours at a Conference and the essential topics that are covered each year. Taking into account the time needed for necessary breaks, the Conference has time for 24 sessions lasting 90 minutes each. This slide lists fourteen of the sessions we feel are essential that are described briefly in the *CAR*.

Additional time is also needed to discuss and reach decisions on the issues contained in the *CAR*. Thirteen and a half hours was spent on this in 2014, and eighteen hours in 2016, leading to the cancellation and combining of several planned sessions. Making careful decisions in a body as large as the Conference takes time, but the amount of time we are spending does not seem productive.

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Since 2004 we have been scheduling a discussion session prior to the formal decision-making sessions at the Conference. We believe there is consensus to eliminate the formal business sessions of the WSC entirely and make all of the *CAR*- and CAT-related decisions in the discussion sessions.

What was previously called “old business” would now be *CAR*-related discussions and decisions.

What we have been calling “new business” would now be divided into two different types of sessions. One session would focus on CAT-related discussion and decisions, which would include motions or proposals to approve the budget and project plans, seat regions, and address any other decision items forwarded by the Board in the Conference Approval Track material. The second type of session is for proposals newly submitted at the WSC.

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The most exciting changes we are suggesting have to do with the proposals submitted at the WSC. There are a number of ways for participants to share ideas or proposals prior to the Conference, but most of the proposals submitted as part of new business haven’t been shared with other participants before the Conference. As the graphs we just looked at show, many proposals are submitted but very few are passed. In addition to this, the length of time spent on new business at the last two Conferences meant we had to reschedule the last day’s sessions. These sessions are crucial to making sure we all end the Conference with a shared understanding, and were greatly undermined.

Our suggestion is for participants to prioritize all new proposals and then discuss only the most highly rated in small-group breakout sessions. Two 90-minute sessions will be scheduled for these discussions. If there are any proposals that more than half the participants want to discuss that we do not have time to get to, we can make a collective decision, as a Conference, about how to carry those ideas or concerns forward after the WSC. The Moving Forward session on Saturday morning will be an opportunity to report back to the large group and cement a shared understanding of the breakout room discussions.

Slide 11

One of the procedural issues we argued about the most at the last WSC was whether a given decision required a two-thirds majority or a simple majority. We are suggesting making a change to Conference processes and requiring a two-thirds majority for all decisions except elections, which will require the same percentages they do now. A higher threshold for decision making seems to be in concert with our evolution, as a Conference, in the direction of consensus-based decision making. We have recently made this same change for decisions made by the World Board.

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The Future of the WSC project also focused on ways to improve the use of time between Conferences. Communication continues to be a challenge for us as a Conference and we still struggle with how to develop ideas together throughout the cycle.

The current forums for sharing and developing ideas—the Conference participant discussion board and the FTP site—are both underutilized, and it continues to be a challenge to maintain focus and follow through over the course of many months.

Web meetings have certainly helped, and we are interested to see whether we can carry the ideas from WSC 2018 forward in Conference participant discussions throughout the cycle. Having discussions toward the end of the Conference week about new ideas submitted by participants may improve our ability as a Conference to carry those conversations forward.

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Having talked about some of the ideas contained in the Future of the WSC essay, we are now going to review the regional motions related to the Conference. The first of these focus on the role of zones.

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The *Conference Agenda Report* offers some background information and links related to this topic.

Page one and two of *A Guide to World Services in NA* offers a description of zonal forums, which in practice vary a great deal. More information about zones can be found at [www.na.org/future](http://www.na.org/future). We are currently updating the information we have from zones about their roles and functions and will post that data as it becomes available.

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**Motion 15:** To hold a 3 day meeting of 2 representatives from each of the existing zonal forums. The meeting will be planned by NA World Services who will also cover the expenses for the meeting itself. The zonal forums or their regions will cover the cost of travel and meals for the representatives with financial assistance from NA World Services if necessary.

This meeting will occur in the 2018-2020 conference cycle.

**Intent:** To create an opportunity for zonal forums to get in touch, present themselves, discuss how they work and talk about possible future zonal representation at the WSC, its advantages, and challenges.

**Maker:** Portugal Region

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**Rationale by Region:** We believe that zonal representation is the way forward for seating at WSC. We feel that promoting a meeting between the 15 existing Zonal Forums can lead to a more efficient use of NA funds, enable NA to carry the message to addicts in their own languages more effectively, improve accountability and conscience at WSC. A gathering of the zones will allow for an exchange of ideas and information between zones. In the parts world where FD is important having zones with the resources to meet some of these requests locally can be more efficient than leaving everything to the WSO…

Slide 17

The combination of geographic proximity and sometimes language skills can make zones an important tool for helping smaller fellowships grow offering more addicts the chance to experience the NA message in their own language. As NA grows more and more regions have asked to be seated at the WSC if Iran follows the pattern of Brazil the WSC may be faced with many request for more seated regions. A key opportunity of having a zonal gathering is to look at the way towards a WSC that is attended by zones instead of regions. This would lead to a WSC with less delegates making to easier for a dialog between members to occur and making it easier for a clear conscience of the fellowship to form.

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**World Board Response:** We support this idea to have a single three-day meeting where a different group of people can come together to talk about the role of zones and possibilities for zonal seating. There has never been an international face-to-face meeting of different zones. This would give a group of people who are deeply experienced with zones but have never sat around a table together a chance to meet in person and exchange ideas. One way to get new ideas is to hear from a new body. We also believe this meeting could be supplemented with additional work and meetings done online.

This meeting could be funded through the budget allocated to the Future of the WSC project that we will be proposing in the CAT material. It would function much like any other NA World Services workgroup, except that the participants will be chosen by the zones. Determining which zones receive financial assistance would be the responsibility of World Services.

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PAUSE FOR DISCUSSION

Slide 20

**Motion 16:** That the WB develop a project plan, including budget and timeline, for presentation at WSC 2020 on the role of Zones, their relationship to the wider fellowship, including integrating Zonal Delegate participation into the decision making process at WSC.

**Intent:** To better understand the diverse nature of zones, help inform discussions at the 2020 WSC and lead to well considered changes to representation that can be applied to any Zone.

**Makers:** Australia Region and Aotearoa NZ Region

Slide 21

**Rationale by Regions:** Before moving forward to Zonal representation, we need to properly understand the Role of Zones, the services they provide, and their relationships with both their member communities and the wider Fellowship. This will enable us to create viable change if necessary. We will have a better understanding of Zones, and of how they may formally fit into the WSC.

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**World Board Response:** The Future of the WSC has been a project focus for World Services for the last two Conference cycles, and this project would be in concert with that focus. If the Conference supports Motion 15, the information from that meeting of zonal representatives would inform the frame of this project plan and, most likely, the work itself, were the project plan to be approved.

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PAUSE FOR DISCUSSION

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There are five motions related to zonal seating at the Conference

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We are offering a single response to all five motions on zonal seating

As we have expressed throughout the cycle, we do not see it as our role to lead the WSC toward a specific model of seating. We do believe that change is necessary in order for the Conference to be effective and sustainable, but at the close of WSC 2016 we explained that we would not make a specific recommendation for seating this cycle, and we continue to hold to that commitment. We believe this is a decision the Fellowship needs to make, and if the Conference can build or express consensus around a vision for change in the future of the WSC, we will support that direction.

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A collection of sources related to WSC seating can be found in the 2016 *Conference Report* available under the WSC Archive link on the Conference webpage at [www.na.org/conference](http://www.na.org/conference), and thoughts about the need for change in representation at the WSC can be found in the May 2017 Future of the WSC report posted at [www.na.org/future](http://www.na.org/future).

Direct links to both these reports can be found in the *CAR*.

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**Motion 17:** To approve a change in the description of World Service Conference participants from regional delegates to zonal delegates. This change will occur over 3 conference cycles from 2018 to 2024 with the choice of representation left to the seated regions during this transition period. These three conference cycles will be used to develop details for the future. Any policies or ideas developed will be presented back to the fellowship in the *CAR*. Zonal delegates attending the WSC will carry a vote for all of their seated regions that are not represented by a regional delegate. No new regional seating requests will be considered during the transition.

**Intent:** To allow for a transition to zonal representation with the choice of representation left to the seated region during the transition.

**Maker:** Portugal Region

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**Rationale by Region:** We believe that the current WSC is not as effective as it could be. We hope to move forward in the direction of zonal seating. The challenges of organizing a meeting of 118 RDs, 88 Alternates and 15 World board members has lead a lot of procedural discussions at WSC. The 200+ attendance has limited the involvement of many delegates in the meeting and its discussions. This has led to a WSC that many members find frustrating and ineffectual. We believe that moving towards Zonal representation and having less members at the WSC meeting would better allow a conscience to form increasing the accountability and effectiveness of world services thus hopefully developing the connection between WSO and the regions…

Slide 29

We understand that some zones would be ready to move straight to having zonal representation and others would need time to make changes. If we can agree where we want to go then we can work out how to get there. This would also enable the cost of the WSC to decrease and lead to money being freed for our primary purpose. Zonal seating would also mean that all NA communities are represented at the WSC because they adhere to a zone and thereby make the WSC a truly inclusive body.

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PAUSE FOR DISCUSSION

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**Motion 18:** That any Zonal Forum with two or more zonally seated regions or communities that are not seated at the World Service Conference, may choose to send one Zonal Delegate to the World Service Conference to represent those regions or communities.

**Intent:** To provide representation at the World Service Conference for the numerous unseated NA communities around the world.

**Makers:** Australia Region and Aotearoa NZ Region

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**Rationale by Regions:** Zones outside of the USA have a significant number of Regions or communities not seated at WSC. In APF 20 of 29 are not seated; Afri-Can 13 of 14 are not seated; EDM 14 of 30; Brazil 7 of 9; Latin America 5 of 21; CANA 2 of 8; Russia 4 of 5. Many of those Regions may not meet the seating criteria due to size or evolution of their fellowship, or have the support of WSC to be seated. Collectively though these unseated communities represent thousands of NA meetings and a significant percentage of the world’s population. Yet the number of meetings is disproportionately under-represented compared to places where NA is well established. The World Service Conference is therefore far from a forum that truly represents the world wide fellowship and perspectives of Narcotics Anonymous in the 21st century.

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This alteration to representation provides an interim method for incorporating our diversity, until ongoing changes to representation are agreed and implemented. Zonal Forums such as APF and EDM are directly providing services through Fellowship Development efforts in their member communities. As a result of these efforts a lot of communities are now experiencing growth. However more support for translations or workshops are needed in addition to the limited resources of the Zones. Currently there is no direct way for these communities to share their needs and views to the global NA Platform.

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PAUSE FOR DISCUSSION

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Please note that the makers of Motions 18-21 have specified that if Motion 18 is not adopted, Motions 19, 20, and 21 will not be offered.

**Motion 19:** If motion 18 is not adopted then the following will not be offered.   
That Zonal Delegates are voting members when in attendance at the World Service Conference. These Zonal Delegates would have one vote.

**Intent:** To provide voting rights to Zonal Delegates, equivalent to Regional Delegates.

**Makers:** Australia Region and Aotearoa NZ Region

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**Rationale by Regions:** As attendees at WSC, Zonal Delegates are participating in the same way as any Regional Delegate, and indeed may be carrying the conscience of several unseated Regions/Communities, increasing the diversity of the Conference. The 7th Concept reminds us that “all members of a service body bear substantial responsibility for that body’s decisions and should be allowed to fully participate in its decision-making processes”. Any Delegate not being able to vote at WSC is not fully participating and therefore is not fulfilling the responsibility of the Zone they represent nor are they a full participant of the WSC.

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PAUSE FOR DISCUSSION

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Remember, like the previous motion, the makers will offer this and the next motion only if Motion 18 passes.

**Motion 20:** If motion 18 is not adopted then the following will not be offered.

Zonal Delegates are eligible to receive the same funding from NA World Services as regional delegates when attending the WSC. This funding includes travel, lodging, and meal expenses only.

**Intent:** Zonal delegates have the same eligibility for funding by NA World Services as other WSC participants.

**Makers:** Australia Region and Aotearoa NZ Region

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**Rationale by Regions:** Delegates from some parts of the world have significant distances to travel to the WSC. The cost of air fares, hotel accommodation and visas to send a Zonal Delegate (Regional or Zonal) residing in the Asia Pacific zone to the World Service Conference can be up to US$3,000. The variable part of this is the airfare, which could account for more than half of this amount for a delegate traveling longer distances. This is the same cost to NAWS as any currently funded Regional Delegate’s attendance from a similar location.

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The impact for a Zone could be significant. For example this is approximately 10% of APF’s annual budget. Current APF expenditure is prioritized for hosting the annual APF meeting, funding any member community to attend if they are unable to do so themselves, and for fellowship development. As is the case with RD costs, any Zone that is able to would be free to contribute as much as they could towards these total costs or individual components thereof.

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PAUSE FOR DISCUSSION

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**Motion 21:** If motion 18 is not adopted then the following will not be offered.

Alternate Zonal Delegates may attend the WSC with the same rights and limitations as is currently offered to Alternate Regional Delegates.

**Intent:** To allow an Alternate Delegate to be present, serve alongside and support the Zonal Delegate so they may function as a team in the same way as RD and AD teams can. The cost of attending the WSC for the Alternate Zonal Delegate would be the responsibility of the zone and each zonal delegate is limited to one alternate.

**Makers:** Australia Region and Aotearoa NZ Region

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**Rationale by Regions:** It is common practice amongst seated Regions to have both the RD and AD attend WSC, as a delegate team. An Alt Delegate is typically seen as a training role, and attendance at the World Service Conference in an integral part of this training. Most Regions who, because of their location and easy ability to travel to Woodland Hills, or who have sufficient financial resources, will make the choice to send their Alternate Delegate to WSC.

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Attendance at WSC for a week, with some of the days being very long, is undoubtedly one of the most demanding service roles in NA. This is even more challenging where a Delegate is from a different culture and/or must travel significant distances around the globe, as may often be the case for a Zonal Delegate. The attendance of an Alternate Delegate is the best way to provide this support.

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PAUSE FOR DISCUSSION

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A further four regional motions have been offered that relate to other aspects of the World Service Conference.

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**Motion 22:** To discontinue the WSC Conference Participants Discussion Board hosted and maintained by NA World Services

**Intent:** To no longer have NAWS host and maintain a conference participant discussion board.

**Maker:** Washington North Idaho Region

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**Rationale by Region:** In the early 2000s a suggestion was made at the World Service Conference to create a conference participants online discussion board. Conference participants suggested that having such a board hosted and maintained by NA World Services might lead to useful service discussions online.

Since the Conference Participants Discussion Board was created, social media sites like Facebook have dramatically increased in use. There are many groups on Facebook, including some limited to conference participants that have much more participation and discussion than the site hosted by NA World Services.

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While Internet technology is an excellent way for members to interact, the lack of participation and need to moderate an “official NA” board only open to some service members suggests this board has outlived its usefulness. Facebook groups, and the recent conference participant webinars using video technology seem much better ways to communicate online the conference discussion board.

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**World Board Response:** We see this as an issue for the Conference to decide. The motion’s rationale raises some questions about effective and productive communication among Conference participants, and whether the discussion board is an effective tool for this. It requires human resources to maintain, and it has proved impossible to enforce the values participants have agreed upon. It also appears that the board has a relatively low level of participation as the figures published in the *CAR* demonstrate.

However, the Conference participant board remains the only collective forum available. Web meetings and the FTP site provide other options, and we would like to continue to explore ways for participants to talk to each other between Conferences. In the meantime, as its name indicates, the Conference participant bulletin board is for the Conference, and the Conference should decide whether to continue its use.

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PAUSE FOR DISCUSSION

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**Motion 23:** Direct the World Board to develop plans to move to a three-year conference cycle. This plan would include quarterly web meetings, longer review time for the *Conference Agenda Report*, and would be developed in a way to provide an opportunity to include other ideas from conference participants.

**Intent**: To study a change in the conference cycle to every three years.

**Maker:** Argentina Region

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**Rationale by Region:** To have more time to work and discuss during the time in between the meetings of the WSC conference cycle.

We propose a solution which would provide us the possibility of maintaining a more fluid contact, dealing with the topics of the cycle and the different motions in a more practical manner and arrive to the conference with the topics and proposals after they have been worked by the regions, and to have the *CAR* available a few months in advance.

In regards to the economic impact and according to the financial reports, it directly reduces it in a very significant amount and at the same time it allows regions to generate funds to finance its delegates.

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Due to the different proposals to change the size of the WSC, which we believe are not the most appropriate ones, we are proposing a solution that would give us the possibility to maintain a more fluid contact, so we can deal with the topics of the cycle and the different motions and in a more practical manner so we can arrive to the conference after having worked these topics and proposals in the regions, and so we can receive the *CAR* several months in advance and financially we can reduce cost substantially which we would allow us not to reduce the representation and the conscience of the regions.

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**World Board Response:** This motion is really about creating a project plan to explore this issue and develop plans. We do not see a three-year cycle as a solution to the size of the Conference, which we believe is too large to be effective. We are also concerned about the effect this idea might have on the work cycle and our ability to connect together as a body. It feels premature to move toward a decision about the timing of the Conference cycle, but it should remain as one of many ideas for the Future of the WSC Project.

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PAUSE FOR DISCUSSION

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**Motion 24**: In new business the World Board will have one collective vote represented by the World board chair. Each World Board member votes only in Elections and may make motions in all sessions.

**Intent**: This motion would change World Board voting in new business from (up to) 15 individual votes to one collective

**Maker:** Israel Region

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**Rationale by Region:** In new business session every region has 1 vote and so does every WB member. WB members don't represent any region and yet they consist of up to 15 votes. This means that in new business the WB consists of more than 10% of the votes.

Giving WB members who represent only themselves so much power in votes, does not go side by side with the spiritual principle of anonymity which is a cornerstone of the N.A way...

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"Though we may *not all participate in every decision made in our fellowship*, we all have the right to participate fully and equally in the decision making processes…" (12 concepts booklet, 7th concept).

Following the 7thservice concept we are free to limit the vote of the WB, just as we limit the voting of other WSC participants such as alternate delegates, facilitators and NAWS members. By limiting the WB to one vote, we are enabling the fellowship a balanced and experienced opinion of all the WB members while still keeping a proportional weight of the WB in the voting process.

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Since the establishment of the WB, in the vast majority of WSCs that were held, motions were submitted to limit the WB's voting rights in different ways. In the last WSC (2016) a similar motion was submitted (motion 13). The results of the votes were 42% for, 52% against, 6% other. These results show that this voice is not of a small minority anymore but more close to half of the fellowship. It is the conscience of the fellowship showing us an injustice that wishes to be amended.

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**World Board Response:** The Seventh Concept explains that “All members of a service body bear substantial responsibility for that body’s decisions and should be allowed to fully participate in its decision-making processes.” We are compelled to follow the Concepts, and believe full participation includes voting.

As Conference participants, World Board members are in the unique position of being elected to serve the Fellowship as a whole. They are the only voting members of the Conference elected by the Conference, not by a local service body. The Board is delegated to perform work on behalf of the Conference including; suggesting direction, providing services, and overseeing Conference projects. Board members also communicate with service bodies around the world, some of whom may not have representation at the Conference. They serve the Fellowship as a whole, and their thinking is global and strategic in nature.

The Board does not vote on old business at the Conference, and as we move toward consensus-based decision making, it is our hope that there will be less voting on new business.

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PAUSE FOR DISCUSSION

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**Moti****on 25**: To authorize the World Board to investigate and pursue ways for conference participants who are unable to attend the WSC due to visa and other issues beyond their control, to engage in sessions of the WSC.

**Intent**: To not miss and voice and conscience and provide an opportunity for these delegates to be involved with the WSC

**Maker:** Iran Region

**Rationale by Region:** No rationale was provided by the region.

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**World Board Response:** We would like to try something for WSC 2018 so that we can connect delegates regardless of their visa status or political issues. We will research what is possible and report back before the Conference in *NAWS News* and/or the *Conference Report*. We believe that Conference agreement would be all that is needed in order to allow seated delegates who are unable to attend the WSC to participate virtually in some manner. It will be up to the delegates present to decide whether to adapt the rules to allow voting. Regardless of that decision, we hope to be able to connect in some way with delegates who are unable to attend this Conference.

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PAUSE FOR DISCUSSION

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We hope this video has helped in your discussion of this material. Please note that there are four other videos that focus on other *CAR* contents. These videos, the *Conference Agenda Report*, and the *CAR* survey are available online at [www.na.org/conference](http://www.na.org/conference). Hard copies of the *CAR* may be purchased from NA World Services.

We welcome your questions and your feedback on these videos, the *CAR*, and all other issues at <worldboard@na.org>.