

2023 Conference Approval Track Material

The following is a summary of the 2023 CAT material. For more information and the complete CAT, visit: www.na.org/conference

CREATING OUR FUTURE



The 2023 Conference Approval Track Material Introduction gives a good overview of the contents. Here is a list of what you will find in the CAT.

This **PowerPoint** only covers the main points of the CAT

Please visit <u>www.na.org/conference</u> for the complete 2023 CAT, the *Conference Agenda Report*, and more

This presentation only summarizes CAT material. Please read the complete CAT for comprehensive information and reports: <u>www.na.org/conference</u>.



The World Board intends to offer twelve motions related to material in this CAT.

These motions will all be decided on during the CAT-Related Discussion and Decisions session except for Motions 33–36, which will be decided on at the beginning of the *CAR*-Related Discussion and Decisions session because these motions decisions relate to the discussion and decision-making processes that will be used throughout the conference.



This cycle there are six projects proposed—two literature projects, a project about Issue Discussion Topics (IDTs), a service material project, a project on the future of the WSC and a project on Invest in our Vision.

The WSC will determine the focus of the plans for creating and revising IPs and service materials as well as for IDTs.

The *CAR* survey results will help guide those decisions. For more information about the role of the *CAR* survey in shaping project plans, see p. 4–6 of the *CAR* introduction.

What happened to the Strategic Plan?



Typically, the NAWS Strategic Plan is included in the CAT along with the project plans that it generates

NAWS has not engaged in the strategic planning process this cycle

Reboot the strategic planning process at the upcoming WSC

Typically, the NAWS Strategic Plan is included in the CAT along with the project plans that it generates.

This is not a typical cycle, however, and NAWS has not engaged in the strategic planning process.

The intention is to reboot the strategic planning process at the upcoming WSC with the help of the conference. More will be revealed.

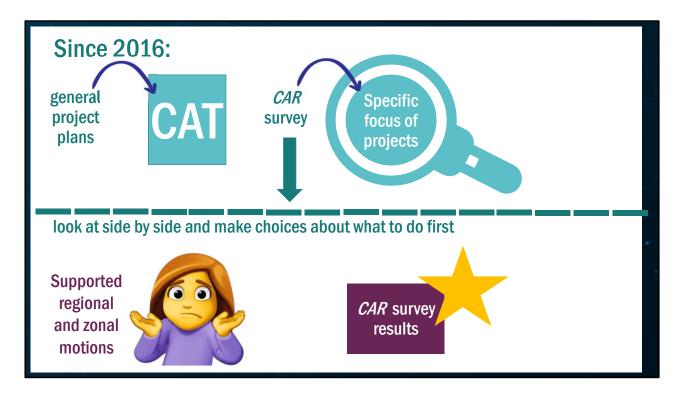


There are no face-to-face meetings of workgroups planned for the proposed projects in the upcoming cycle.

Work will be accomplished with virtual workgroups, open web meetings, online surveys for Fellowship input, and/or focus groups.

This is a more economical and inclusive approach to project work, and it has been effective in the past three cycles.

It means that there is no budget line item for these projects.



Since 2016, general project plans have been included in the CAT, and the conference determined the specific focuses using the *CAR* survey results to help guide their decisions.

This allows the conference to look at all the possibilities side by side and make careful choices about what they consider most pressing to do first.

Regional and zonal motions often call for specific project plans and many have been supported.

The challenge is that support for these motions indicates members like the ideas, but it does not provide the WSC or the World Board with a sense of which ideas members and participants consider a priority.

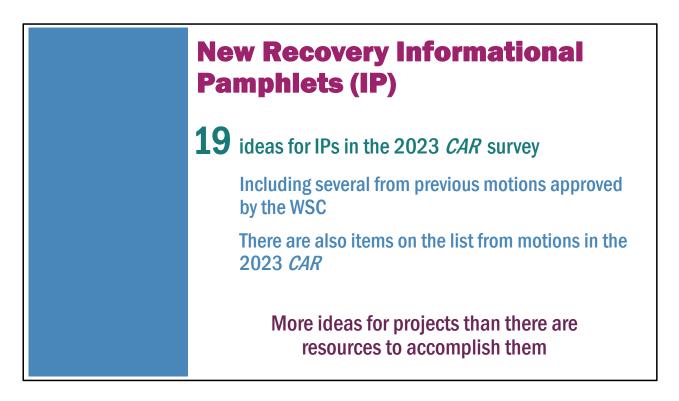
Including all the ideas in the *CAR* survey allows members to express what they consider most important to work on first.



All the work for the two literature projects in this CAT will be done virtually.

This will be accomplished through surveys, input forms, webinars, and/or virtual workgroups or focus groups.

The conference will use the *CAR* survey results to help determine what to focus on in the first four projects here.



A list of 19 ideas for IPs is included in the 2023 CAR survey.

These ideas include several from previous regional motions approved by the WSC.

There are also items on the list from motions in the 2023 CAR.

There are more ideas for projects than there are resources to accomplish them.

That is why the survey is utilized to get a sense of members' priorities and ask the conference to select the focus for literature and service material projects.

The process for a new IP begins with a survey. 2018: Drug replacement therapy/medication-assisted treatment (DRT/MAT) as it relates to NA was an idea from motion that passed 2020: Chosen as Issue Discussion Topic This past cycle: Fellowship survey conducted. If chosen, the results of this survey will be used. Results of survey: The shared recognition of the importance of the Third Tradition and ideas already published in the PR pamphlet Narcotics Anonymous and Persons Receiving Medication-Assisted Treatment. Then a workgroup is created. (This cycle it will be virtual) Draft produced, followed by 90-day Fellowship review and input period Draft revised based on input and included in CAR No timeframe beyond these general parameters

Whatever topics the conference chooses as a priority for IPs, the process will begin with a specific survey about the issue to see what the Fellowship wants to see in an IP about the prioritized topic.

Drug replacement therapy/ medication-assisted treatment (DRT/MAT) as it relates to NA is an idea from a regional motion passed in 2018 and then supported as an Issue Discussion Topic in 2020.

If DRT/MAT as it relates to NA is chosen for an IP, the results of the survey that was conducted this cycle will be used.

The only consensus from the DRT/MAT survey is the shared recognition of the importance of the Third Tradition and ideas already published in the PR pamphlet Narcotics Anonymous and Persons Receiving Medication-Assisted Treatment.

A summary of responses from the DRT/MAT survey will be in the 2023 *Conference Report.*

After we survey the Fellowship about a potential piece of recovery literature, a workgroup is created to work with the WB and staff to develop the piece.

That workgroup would be virtual for the cycle ahead.

When a draft is produced, the Fellowship is notified of a 90-day review and input period.

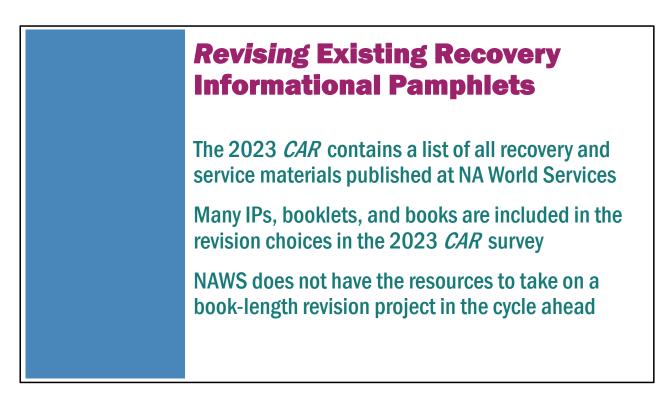
The draft is revised based on the input received, and ultimately an approval draft is included in the *CAR*.

Because the focus of the IP is not yet defined, it's not practical to try to frame this project beyond those general parameters.

DECISION

Motion 26

To approve the project plan for New Recovery Informational Pamphlets.



Addendum E of the 2023 *CAR* contains a list of all recovery and service materials published at NA World Services.

Many IPs have never been revised or have not been touched in decades

Many IPs, booklets, and books are included in the revision choices in the 2023 *CAR* survey. NAWS does not have the resources to take on a book-length revision project in the cycle ahead.

IP #21, *The Loner*2020 WSC: Selected IP #21, *The Loner* for the Revising Existing IPs Project Plan Fellowship was surveyed about possible revisions. Summary of survey results will be included in the 2023 *Conference Report*NAWS would like to take the next steps in the process of revising *The Loner* was written in 1986 and is outdated Input was received from members, and the IP would allow them to share their experience, strength, and hope

In 2020, the WSC had consensus when they selected IP #21, *The Loner* as the focus for the Revising Existing IPs Project Plan.

The Fellowship was surveyed about possible revisions.

A summary of those survey results will be included in the 2023 Conference Report.

NAWS would like to take the next steps in the process of revising *The Loner*, but they are open to whatever the WSC chooses.

The Loner was written in 1986, long before the internet and technology made online and virtual types of connections possible, and the IP is embarrassingly outdated.

Input was received from members who are or have recovered as a "loner," and the IP would allow them to share their experience with other members looking for experience, strength, and hope.

If taking the next step with IP #21, *The Loner* is supported, the typical process would be followed: Create a draft, send it out, and post it on na.org for at least a 90-day Fellowship review and input; revise the draft based on the input received; and ultimately have an approval draft in the next *CAR*.

If a different focus is selected, we would begin this project by surveying the Fellowship.

WSC 2023 is being asked to choose at least one IP for revision this cycle.

DECISION

Motion 27

To approve the project plan for Revising Existing Recovery Informational Pamphlets.



Issue Discussion Topics (IDTs)

Experience with IDTs has changed and grown over time Discussions on DRT/MAT as it relates to NA helped gather information to shape the New Recovery IP Project Plan Fellowship-wide discussions on virtual meetings and carrying the message effectively and virtually helped NA thrive through the pandemic and to create *Virtual Meeting Basics*

Our experience with IDTs has changed and grown over time.

IDTs have created the basis for many of our current service pamphlets (SPs), because they helped us to gather best practices from the Fellowship.

Over the course of the last cycle, discussions on DRT/MAT as it relates to NA have helped us gather information to shape the New Recovery IP Project Plan.

Though not a formally selected IDT, the Fellowship-wide discussions on virtual meetings and carrying the message effectively and virtually this cycle have helped NA continue to thrive through the pandemic and given rise to our newest piece of service material, Virtual Meeting Basics.

What topics do you think we need to share and gather Fellowship-wide experience about?	
Topics could help with projects and also be group-focused and of interest to NA as a whole	
Having a variety of IDTs that fit different needs and audiences makes sense	
 Plan to schedule time at WSC 2023 to begin framing the strategic plan for 2023–2025 This will take place before the IDT list is prioritized and may influence which topics are chosen Results of <i>CAR</i> survey also available before IDTs are chosen 	

Everyone is encouraged to think about what topics they believe we need to share and gather Fellowship-wide experience about when choosing the IDTs for the 2023–2025 cycle.

Besides topics that help with other projects, think about group-focused topics that may be of broader interest to NA as a whole.

Having a variety of IDTs that fit different needs and audiences makes sense.

There is a plan to schedule time at WSC 2023 to begin framing the strategic plan for 2023–2025.

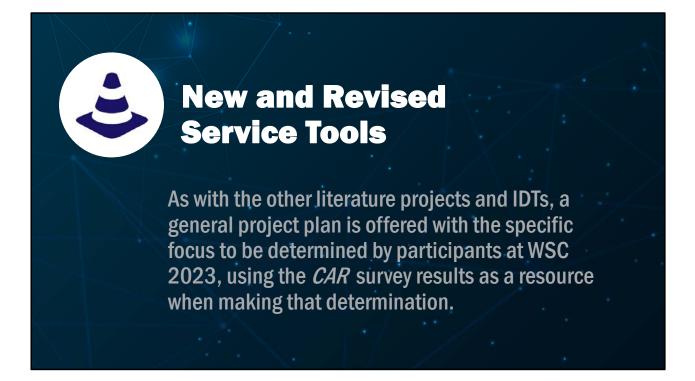
This discussion will take place before the IDT list is prioritized and may influence which topics the WSC wants to carry forward into the upcoming cycle.

Conference participants will also have the results of the *CAR* survey before they are asked to choose the IDTs for the cycle.

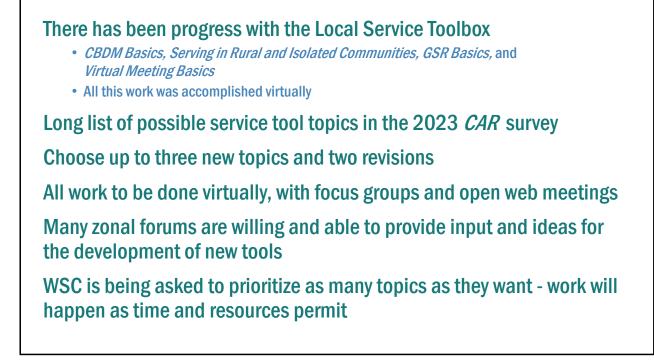
DECISION

Motion 28

To approve the project plan for Issue Discussion Topics.



As with the other literature projects and IDTs, a general project plan is offered with the specific focus to be determined by participants at WSC 2023, using the CAR survey results as a resource when making that determination.



There has been progress with the Local Service Toolbox.

Already posted: *CBDM Basics, Serving in Rural and Isolated Communities, GSR Basics,* and most recently, *Virtual Meeting Basics*.

All this work was accomplished virtually, with thanks to the members who submitted materials and/or participated in online discussions and focus groups.

There is a long list of possible service tool topics in the 2023 *CAR* survey, and members are asked to choose up to three new topics and two revisions.

All the new and revised work can be tackled virtually, utilizing focus groups and open web meetings. The approach will depend on the topics chosen by WSC 2023.

Many zonal forums are willing and able to provide input and ideas for the development of new tools, and this may be an opportunity to better partner with zones.

The WSC is being asked to prioritize as many topics as they want, with the understanding that work on them will happen as time and resources permit.

DECISION

Motion 29

To approve the project plan for New and Revised Service Tools.



The scope of this project will depend on the decisions made at WSC 2023 regarding Motion 9 in the 2023 *CAR*. Motion 9 is to try a three-year WSC cycle.

If Motion 9 is adopted, a main focus of this project will be developing ideas about how a three-year cycle might work.

Even in that focus, there is much more than just the length of the conference cycle to be addressed.

Ideas for discussion in this project include:

- Vetting CAR motions and the CAR survey
- Determining what must be decided in-person and what can be decided virtually
- Improving communication between meetings

Size of the WSC has been a discussion topic for years and will also need to be addressed (criteria for the seating of regions and zones)

One of the many ideas heard this cycle is improving the collaboration and planning between zonal forums and NA World Services

Discussion at WSC 2023 and expected focus of workgroup

The World Board has asked zones to select a person for this workgroup by WSC 2023

All work will be done virtually, and discussions at WSC 2023 will help to frame the work

Some of the ideas for discussion in this project include vetting *CAR* motions and the *CAR* survey, determining what must be decided in-person and what can be decided virtually, and improving communication between meetings.

The ever-growing size of the WSC has been a discussion topic for years and will also need to be addressed, which will include a focus on the criteria for the seating of regions and zones.

If Motion 9 is not adopted, there are still improvements to be made and ideas to be discussed but the pace and priority of this project will be lower.

One of the many ideas we have heard this cycle from conference participants is improving the collaboration and planning between zonal forums and NA World Services.

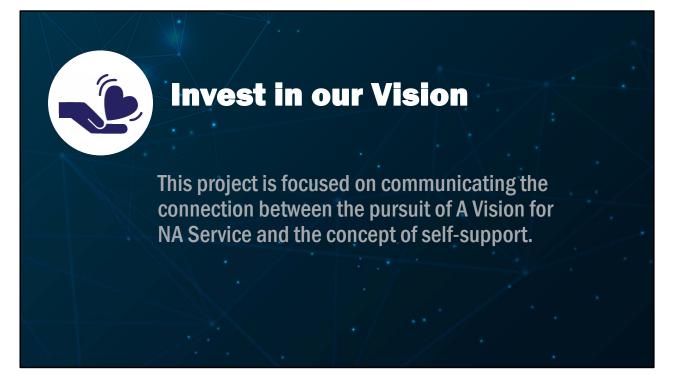
We plan to further this discussion at WSC 2023 and expect it to be a focus of this workgroup.

The World Board has asked zones to select a person for this workgroup by WSC 2023. All work will be done virtually and discussions at WSC 2023 will help to frame the work.

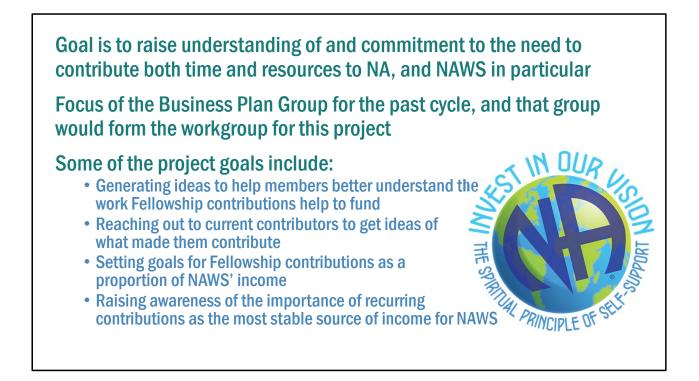
DECISION

Motion 30

To approve the project plan for Future of the WSC.



This project is focused on communicating the connection between the pursuit of A Vision for NA Service and the concept of self-support.



The goal is to raise understanding of and commitment to the need to contribute both time and resources to NA, and NA World Services in particular.

This has been a focus of the Business Plan Group for the past cycle, and that group would form the workgroup for this project.

Some of the project goals include: generating ideas to help members better understand the work Fellowship contributions help to fund, reaching out to current contributors to get ideas of what made them contribute, setting goals for Fellowship contributions as a proportion of NAWS' income, raising awareness of the importance of recurring contributions as the most stable source of income for NAWS.

DECISION

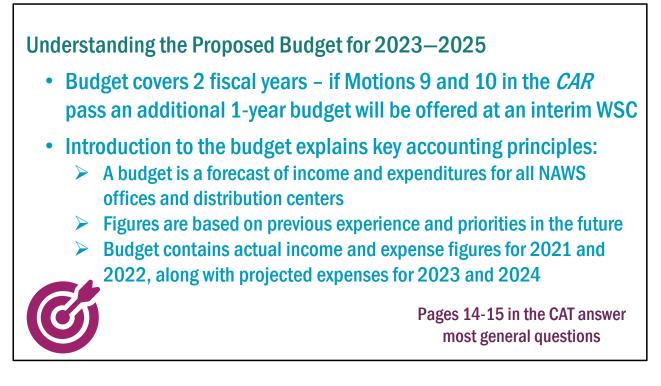
Motion 31

To approve the project plan for Invest in Our Vision.



The CAT material always includes the proposed budget and a cover essay that explains the budget and the terminology and categories that are used.

You can always email specific questions about the budget to wb@na.org.

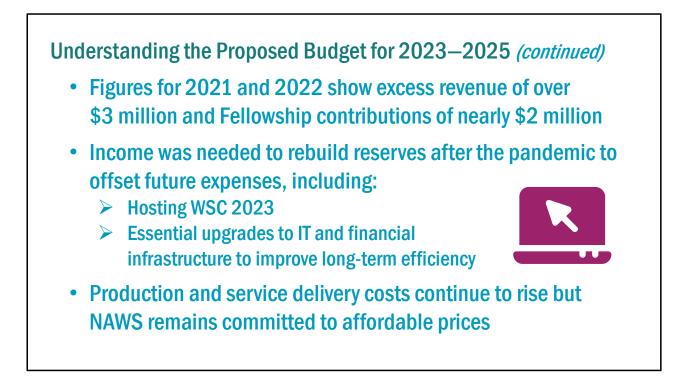


The budget memo on page 14 of the CAT explains the basics of the NAWS budget. Members who are new to the budget may find it helpful to read it more than once.

If Motion 9 in the *CAR* to approve a three year cycle passes, an additional one year budget will be offered at an interim WSC.

The introduction to the budget explains some key accounting principles, including forecasting income and expenses for all NAWS offices and distribution centers based on the experience of previous years.

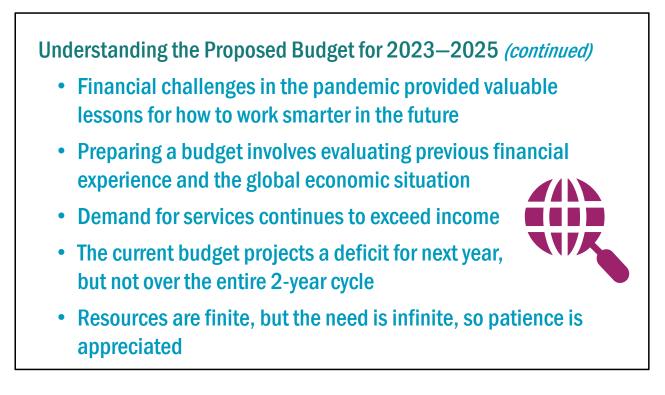
Budget serves as a plan of action, a reflection of priorities, and a tool to cope with adverse situations.



The budget shows excess income of over \$3 million for the 2021 and 2022 fiscal years, which is needed to rebuild reserves after the pandemic, as well as Fellowship contributions of nearly \$2 million.

Reserves are needed to prepare for major expenses that are coming, including and inperson WSC, updating IT infrastructure, and shifting to a more usable, cloud-based financial enterprise.

NAWS remains committed to keeping literature affordable, but is challenged by rising production and distribution costs.



In many ways, NAWS has had to reinvent itself operationally to survive and do more with less resources.

The COVID years taught some painful lessons that will eventually be beneficial to the organization.

Preparing a budget involves reviewing previous financial experience and examining global trends.

Overall, the picture is not a rosy one as demands continues to exceed available resources.

The first year of the budget for 2023-2025 is projecting a deficit, but not for the

whole cycle.

For nonprofits organization like NAWS there will never be enough human and financial resources, and some communities have had to wait for things to be accomplished.

Resources are finite, but the need is infinite. The Fellowship's patience is appreciated.

Fixed Operational Costs are divided into four categories:

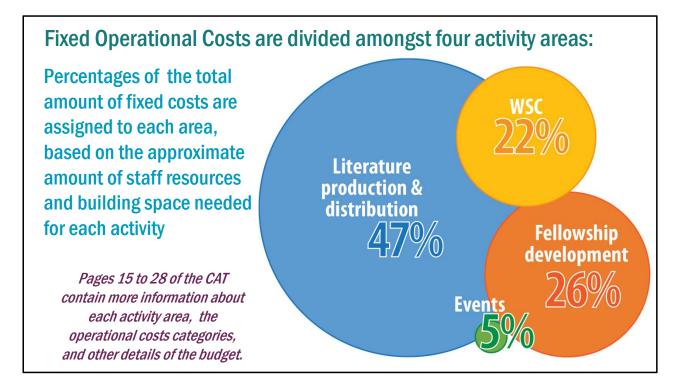
- Accounting- cost of annual audits and other professional services
- Personnel wages, salaries, taxes, health insurance, and other expenses associated with special workers
- Overhead facility and equipment leases and other costs
- Technology IT costs, including equipment and software

Changing circumstances determine the amounts spent in each category. For example: Overhead and Personnel costs were greatly reduced in 2020-2022 in order to survive the pandemic.

Fixed operational costs are divided into four categories: accounting, personnel, overhead, and technology. Details of these are shown on the slide and included in the CAT.

Amounts budgeted for each category vary according to changing circumstances and priorities.

For example: Overhead and Personnel costs were greatly reduced in 2020-2022 in order to survive the pandemic.



The total amount of the fixed operational costs are divided amongst four activity areas: literature production and distribution, WSC support, fellowship development, and events.

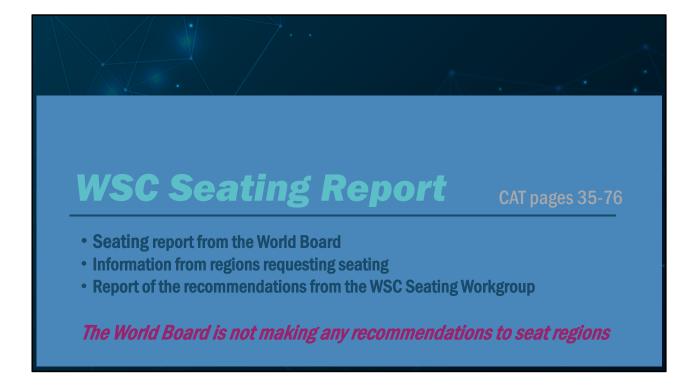
The percentage of the total cost allocated to each activity area is determined by the estimated staff resources and building space needed for each area of activity.

For example: it's estimated that 47% of the fixed operational costs are used in the production and distribution of literature, therefore 47% of the total fixed operational costs appear in the Literature Production and Distribution Expenses section of the budget on page 32 of the CAT.

These fixed operational costs are broken down into the four categories – accounting, personnel, overhead, and technology.

Motion 32

To approve the 2023–2025 Narcotics Anonymous World Services, Inc., Budget.



The CAT contains a seating report from the World Board, information from regions requesting seating, and a report of the recommendations from the WSC Seating Workgroup

The World Board is not making any recommendations to seat regions



The World Board again created a virtual workgroup to review the seating applications and offer recommendations to the board.

Five regions applied for conference seating by the 1 April 2022 deadline: Brazil Central, Brazil Nordeste, Iran 1, Rio Grande do Sul (Brazil), and Thailand.

The board is in agreement that the seating process is a broken system and discussion at WSC 2023, and in the cycle ahead, is needed.

With this reality in mind, the board will not be offering any recommendations for seating, and instead is providing the results of the workgroup's discussions in the CAT for consideration by the conference.

Accordingly, the board will not be offering any seating motions at WSC 2023.

Seating Workgroup Recommendations:

- The workgroup reached consensus on recommending Iran Region No.1, Nordeste Region Brazil, Rio Grande do Sul, and Thailand for seating at WSC 2023
- Seating report contains additional information from the regions applying

Seating any new regions will require a motion from a conference participant. Notify <u>worldboard@na.org</u> by 1 April 2023. Final motions due 15 April using the Amendments and Seating Motions Form found at <u>www.na.org/conference</u>

The workgroup reached consensus on recommending Iran Region No.1, Nordeste Region Brazil, Rio Grande do Sul, and Thailand for seating at WSC 2023 after discussion of the applications and consideration of the seating criteria.

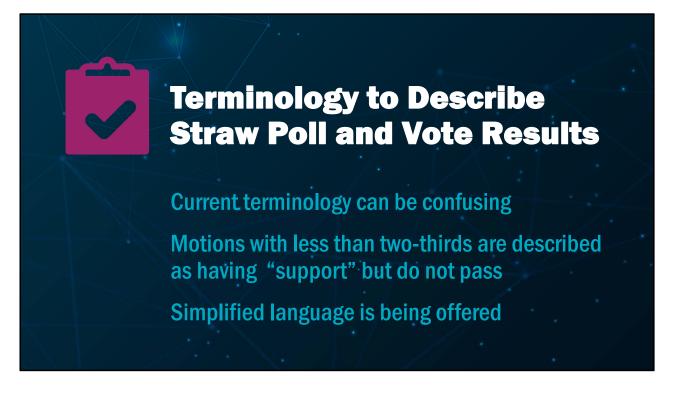
The seating report contains background information about the seating process, and additional information from each of the applicants.

Seating any new regions will require a motion from a conference participant, using the Amendments and Seating Motions Form found at <u>www.na.org/conference</u>. Please notify <u>worldboard@na.org</u> by 1 April 2023. The deadline for motions to be in final form is 15 April.



It is standard practice for the World Board to suggest discussion and decision-making processes to try for one conference only, with the understanding that if the WSC likes the processes, participants can decide to adopt them as ongoing policy at the end of the conference week.

Sometimes the processes suggested are new, and sometimes they are refinements of existing processes.



The current terminology to describe polling and voting results in *GWSNA* can be confusing.

Motions with less than the two-thirds needed to pass are described as having "support" but do not pass.

Simplified language is being offered in Motion 33.

Motion 33

To use the following terminology to describe straw poll and vote outcomes, for WSC 2023 only:

Unanimous support Consensus support Strong support Lack of strong support No support

(meaning 80% or greater support) (meaning 2/3 majority support) (meaning less than 2/3 support) Consensus not in support (meaning 20% or fewer support)

80% - <100% 66.66% - <80% 20% - <66.66% >0% - 20%

Intent: To simplify the terminology to describe voting and poling outcomes and make it less potentially confusing.

Amendments

WSC decisions, including amendments and motions to seat regions, are straw polled before the WSC New first draft deadline is one month before the WSC. Final form due 15 April. Allows time to revise or refine to be WSC-ready Motion will be offered if process works smoothly Handout explaining amendments, and form to submit them posted on WSC webpage

For WSC 2023, the Cofacilitators have asked participants who intend to offer an amendment to notify the board no later than a month before the WSC, in order to allow enough time to make sure the amendment is WSC-ready. Current policy is 15 days.

This first draft deadline allows time for amendments to be revised or refined if necessary before they are translated and polled.

If the process goes smoothly, a motion will be offered on the closing day of the WSC to make it ongoing policy.

A handout explaining amendments, and a form to submit amendments and seating motions, is posted on the WSC webpage – www.na.org/conference



Under the current policy, one-third of the body can overturn a decision of the chair.

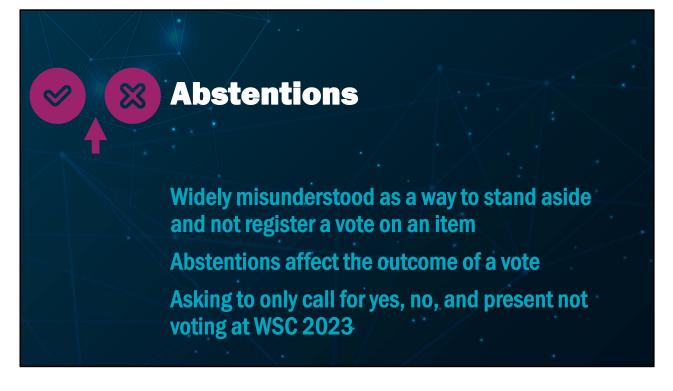
This seems inconsistent with the principles in the Traditions and Concepts.

This motion will make the threshold to uphold a decision of the facilitator a simple majority in favor of the Cofacilitators' ruling/decision, rather than two-thirds in favor that it is currently.

Motion 34

For WSC 2023 only: If a participant appeals a decision of the Cofacilitator, the Cofaciliator will explain why they ruled as they did, the participant making the appeal will explain why they are appealing the ruling, and then the body will vote. The voting threshold required to uphold a decision of the Cofacilitator under appeal will be 50% plus 1 in favor of the Cofacilitator.

Intent: To clearly define the process for a participant to appeal the chair, thus maintaining checks and balances.



Abstentions are widely misunderstood as a way to stand aside and not register a vote on an item.

However, the effect of an abstention on the outcome of a vote is the same as the effect of voting no.

This motion asks to try only calling for yes, no, and present not voting at WSC 2023.

If this seems to work well, a motion may be introduced on the closing day of the WSC to carry the idea forward as ongoing policy.

Motion 35

To eliminate abstentions when voting or taking straw polls, for WSC 2023 only.

Intent: To simplify the voting and polling process and eliminate an option that has the same effect as a no vote.

New Idea Proposal Discussions

Motion #53, adopted at the 2018 conference:

To acknowledge in the upcoming *GWSNA*, that formal new business has been eliminated. The process used at WSC 2018 to discuss New Ideas will continue to be developed in the cycle. A motion will be included in the 2020 CAT and offered at the start of WSC 2020 to outline the process to be used for that Conference.

Details of the process proposed for WSC 2023 is on pages 83-85 of the CAT

Motion #53, adopted at the 2018 conference eliminated formal new business at future WSCs.

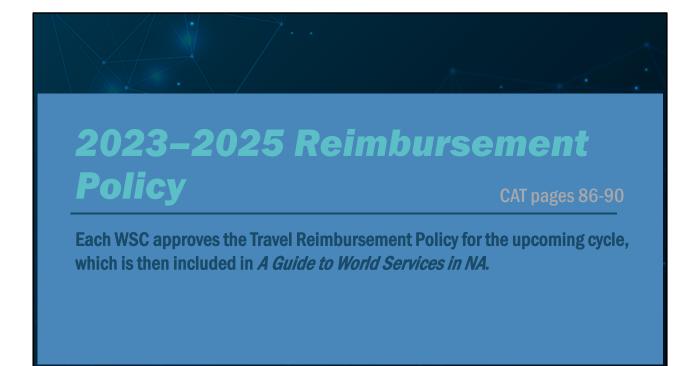
WSC 2018 adopted a process to discuss new idea proposals on a one-time basis. That process was updated and included in the 2020 CAT.

Because of the limitations of a virtual WSC, the proposed new process included in the 2020 CAT material was not offered at WSC 2020.

The proposed process for WSC 2023 is included on pages 83-85 of the CAT.

Motion 36

To adopt, for WSC 2023 only, the following approaches for New Idea Discussions *(Details in the CAT)*



Each WSC approves the Travel Reimbursement Policy for the upcoming cycle, which is then included in *A Guide to World Services in NA*.



All travel and hotel costs, and a per diem for food are provided.

Detailed instructions and the reimbursement form are on pages 86 to 90 of the CAT.

Motion 37

To adopt the 2023–2025 Reimbursement Policy.



Visit <u>www.na.org/conference</u> for everything WSC!

- Conference Agenda Report (CAR)
- Conference Approval Track (CAT) Materials
- PowerPoints and videos
- Survey and forms
- Important Dates & Deadlines
- GWSNA

Please provide input for literature and service material projects as well as Issue Discussion Topics.

Members, groups, and service bodies please fill out *CAR* survey by 1 April 2023.

www.na.org/surveys

Questions, Comments, Ideas: worldboard@na.org