**2023 *CAR* PPT Script**

**2 of 7: World Board Motions 4-8**

**Slide 1**

This is the second of seven PowerPoints covering material in the 2023 *Conference Agenda Report* (or *CAR* for short).

**Slide 2**

This PowerPoint covers *CAR* motions 4 through 8. These motions are from the World Board and focus on virtual NA groups, A Vision for NA Service, personal stories in local versions of the Basic Text, the service terms of six World Board members, and the World Convention rotation plan.

**Slide 3**

These PowerPoints only cover the main points of the *CAR*. We encourage all members to read the *CAR* itself. Please visit [www.na.org/conference](http://www.na.org/conference) for the complete 2023 *CAR*, the other PowerPoints and videos, and other conference materials.

**Slide 4**

Motion #4 seeks direction on the status of virtual meetings.

NA meetings held by mail, phone, and online have existed for many years. The World Service Conference (or WSC for short) has had more than one conversation about recognizing online meetings, dating back to at least 1999. No clear direction arose from those discussions so World Services took the approach of continuing to provide information about phone- and internet-based meetings, but not registering them as groups.

At the 2018 WSC, participants prioritized a proposal to discuss the creation of a virtual group and service guide. During these discussions a majority of participants suggested that virtual groups should be recognized as legitimate NA groups. Several shared that virtual groups are included in their regional meeting lists and are involved in NA service in their communities.

**Slide 5**

The 2020 global pandemic forced much of NA to stop meeting in person and adapt to an online environment, which highlighted the need for service material for virtual meetings. The 2020 virtual WSC approved the Local Service Toolbox Project for another cycle and overwhelmingly selected virtual meetings as its focus.

World Services organized a new webpage containing resources for virtual meetings, and began the work of creating a new service tool, *Virtual Meeting Basics*, through a series of web meetings, conversations with experienced members, and online surveys in multiple languages.

*Virtual Meeting Basics* can be found at [www.na.org/basics](http://www.na.org/basics) and [www.na.org/virtual](http://www.na.org/virtual).

**Slide 6**

The survey posted between March and May, 2021, to gather input on a draft of the tool also asked this question:

“Do you believe that virtual meetings meet the criteria to be NA groups, as listed in *The Group Booklet*?”

A total of 4,230 members, groups, and service bodies from 62 countries responded to the survey. There was a consensus among respondents that virtual meetings do meet the criteria: Yes 3,466 (82%), No 407 (10%), and Not Sure 357 (8%).

We asked the same question in a conference participant web meeting in October 2021 and got almost identical results.

**Slide 7**

The results of the survey were reported in the July 2021 issue of *NAWS News,* along with this statement from the board:

“Each service body is free to make their own decisions about member groups (or areas or regions). The question of whether to recognize virtual meetings as groups at NA World Services is a different type of decision that must be made by the NA Fellowship as given voice by the regional and zonal delegates at the World Service Conference. This does not and should not affect local decisions by service bodies to recognize these meetings as groups.”

Motion #4 addresses this question of whether to recognize virtual meetings as groups.

**Slide 8**

**Motion 4**: To acknowledge that an NA meeting that meets regularly in person or virtually can choose to be an NA group if they meet the criteria described in *The Group Booklet*, including the six points for an NA group, and are consistent with NA philosophy as expressed in our Traditions. (*Footnotes will be added to* The Group Booklet *and* GLS, *reflecting the decision of the WSC, if this motion passes, and referencing* Virtual Meeting Basics *as a possible resource*.)

**Intent**: To recognize NA groups that meet virtually, including online and by phone.

**PAUSE FOR DISCUSSION**

**Slide 9**

The next two motions are intended to help all members see themselves in NA literature and service material.

Motion 5 proposes a small revision to A Vision for NA Service, which is included in many publications and used in service meetings throughout the Fellowship. In order to make the statement a more inclusive piece, it is proposed to change the first bullet point so that it will say “their own language and culture” instead of “his or her own language and culture.”

If the motion passes, the vision will be revised wherever it appears in future printings of NA literature and service material after current stock is sold. The relevant part of the Vision is quoted in Guiding Principles Tradition Six, and that quotation would be updated. Guiding Principles is currently published in three languages, and corrections would be made in subsequent printings if that motion is adopted.

**Slide 10**

One of the regional motions in this *CAR* asks to create a project plan to investigate changes to make NA literature more gender-neutral and inclusive (see PowerPoint 5 for more about that) but because A Vision for NA Service is not NA literature, it would not be part of that process if that motion passes.

Gender and language in NA literature is a huge topic and the World Board does hope that the Fellowship will decide to take up this conversation in the upcoming cycle and approve a project in the cycle to follow.

Because there are so many motions in this *CAR*, the board wasn’t sure whether to include Motion #5. They decided to survey Conference participants and ask. 83% who responded to the survey gave it the go-ahead, so here we are.

**Slide 11**

**Motion 5**: To revise A Vision for NA Service, changing the phrase “his or her own language and culture” to the phrase “their own language and culture.” (If this motion passes, A Vision for NA Service will be revised in future printings, including in Fellowship-approved recovery literature.)

**Intent**: To revise the Vision Statement to be more inclusive.

**Policy Affected:** If this motion is adopted, A Vision for NA Service would be updated wherever it appears in service material and Fellowship-approved recovery literature. In addition, the reference in *Guiding Principles* will be revised. We will deplete existing stock of service material and recovery literature, and revise in future printings.

Please see the next two slides for those changes.

**Slide 12 - 13**

**[show changes]**

**Slide 14: PAUSE FOR DISCUSSION**

**Slide 15**

Motion 6 is motivated by the same Vision that every addict in the world has the chance to experience our message in his or her or their own language and culture.” One of the ways addicts experience our message is through personal stories, which can be found in the Basic Text and the Little White Book.

Current translation policy allows communities “with a history of successful translation efforts” to publish local stories in the Little White Book. If a community wishes to develop stories, they reach out to the World Board. World Services guides them through the process, and the board approves the final versions before publication.

This motion proposes revising the translation policy so that language communities that have published personal stories in the Little White Book be allowed to include up to six of those locally developed stories in a section of their translated Sixth Edition Basic Text, if they wish to do so.

Currently 13 versions of the white book have local personal stories. English-language versions of all of these can be found in the **60th** **Anniversary Edition of** **the Little White Book**.

**Slide 16**

This motion is in response to a request from the German Speaking Region to include local stories in the German-language Basic Text.

The board offered the alternative approach that communities with local stories already published in the white book be allowed to include up to six of them in the Basic Text. The number is limited to ease the burden on production; some translated versions of the Basic Text are substantially longer than the English-language version. Six is the number of stories in the Beginnings section of “Our Members Share” in the Basic Text.

Conference participants are always encouraged to reach out to the World Board with concerns and ideas as it may be possible to reach a resolution without the use of a motion. In this case, a *CAR* motion is required as this is a change to the existing translation policy.

The board believes that this proposed change will bring our vision a step closer by allowing members to read stories in their own language and culture.

**Slides 17**

**Motion 6**: To approve a change to World Services Translation Policy in *GWSNA* to allow the possibility for up to six locally developed personal stories to be included in translated Sixth Edition Basic Texts, if the stories have first been published in the Little White Book of that language. These stories would be placed in their own section in Our Members Share with the following language preceding them:

*A Vision for NA Service looks forward to a day when addicts around the world have the opportunity to experience our message in their own language and culture. In pursuit of that vision, communities or language groups that have published local stories in the Little White Book may include up to six of those stories in the Basic Text if they choose. These* [fill in the number] *stories were originally published in the* [fill in the language] *Little White Book in* [fill in the year].

**Slides 18**

**Intent:** To better reflect our Vision that “every addict in the world has the chance to experience our message in [their] own language and culture…” in our primary text.

The policy affected can be found on page 25 of the *CAR*.

**Slide 19: PAUSE FOR DISCUSSION**

**Slide 20**

Motion 7 proposes extending the terms of six World Board members until the end of the Conference cycle.

**Slide 21**

The disruption to the cycle caused by the pandemic means that six board members’ terms are currently due to expire in 2024, which will be mid-cycle. The World Board is responsible for overseeing the work of the WSC, and it doesn’t make sense their terms to expire mid-cycle. World Board members are elected to six-year terms and are eligible to serve for two terms.

This motion is similar to a motion that passed with unanimous support at the interim WSC meeting in 2022 to extend three board members’ terms by one year until 2023 so that those board members’ terms would not expire in the middle of the cycle.

Depending on the outcome of Motion 9 to adjust the length of the conference cycle (see PowerPoint 3), Motion 7 would extend the terms by either one or two years. This motion does not create a permanent change to the policy that defines the length of the board’s service term.

**Slide 22**

**Motion 7**:To extend the six World Board members’ terms currently expiring in 2024 through the end of the upcoming World Service Conference cycle.

**Intent**: To accommodate the change to the WSC cycle that has already occurred and avoid World Board terms ending in the middle of a conference cycle.

**PAUSE FOR DISCUSSION**

**Slide 23**

The final motion in this PowerPoint is related to the World Convention rotation policy contained in *A Guide to World Services in NA*.

**Slide 24**

The pandemic created significant challenges with planning the convention that was originally scheduled in Melbourne, Australia, in 2021. Despite every effort to reschedule, the event had to be cancelled in October 2021. The *CAR* essay offers more detail on that part of the story, but the end result is that the next World Convention will be in Washington DC in 2024.

What happens after WCNA in 2024 is open to question. Given the missed convention in the Asia Pacific convention zone, the increased costs of event planning in many parts of the world, NA World Services’ reduced income and staff, and the uncertainty about the conference cycle, it will take time and research to determine what is possible and practical. Motion 8 asks the conference to set aside the convention rotation policy after 2024 so that decisions can be made when there is more information to consider. The final approval will be up to conference participants.

**Slide 25**

**Motion 8:** As a result of the COVID pandemic, to suspend the World Convention of NA (WCNA) rotation policy after 2024, to allow the World Board to determine what is possible and practical moving forward and then seek approval from conference participants.

**Intent**: Given the disruption in the rotation of WSC and WCNA that has already occurred, the increases in event costs, and the other changes brought about by the pandemic, to allow an evaluation by the World Board for what is possible and practical in the future. The final approval will be up to conference participants.

The policy affected can be found on page 29 of the *CAR*. If this motion is adopted, a note would be added to the policy on page 47 of *A Guide to World Services in NA* that this Rotation Plan is suspended until a new decision can be made

**Slides 26**: **PAUSE FOR DISCUSSION**

**Slide 27**

We hope this PowerPoint has helped in your discussion of this material. Please note that there are six other PowerPoints that focus on the rest of the *CAR*. These resources, the *CAR* itself, and the online *CAR* survey are available online at [www.na.org/conference](http://www.na.org/conference).

We welcome your questions and your feedback on the *CAR*, and all other issues, at [worldboard@na.org](file:///%5C%5CFilesrv%5CUsers%5Cstacymcdade%5CDesktop%5Cprojects%5CWSC%5CWSC2020%5CCAR%5CPPT_videos%5Cscripts%20sent%20to%20WB%5Cworldboard%40na.org).