**2023 CAR PPT Script
3 of 7: World Board Motions 9-12 (Future of the WSC)**

**Slide 1**

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

**Slide 2**

This PowerPoint covers motions 9 through 12, all of which deal with World Board motions concerning the **Future of the World Service Conference**.

**Slide 3**

These PPTs 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 other conference materials.

**Slide 4**

The World Board and other conference participants have had many discussions about what’s next for the World Service Conference. This cycle alone there have been conference participants webinars dedicated to the subject, a survey for delegates, and a few sessions on the topic at the partial, interim WSC in April 2022. These conversations have helped shape some recommendations from the board. We are offering four motions related to what we’ve been calling the Future of the WSC.

Motion 9 is to try a three-year WSC cycle. Motions 10 and 11 will only be offered if 9 passes. Motion #10 is to hold an interim, virtual WSC between in-person meetings. Motion #11 is to post the CAR six months before the in-person WSC. Motion #12 is to make delegate funding available upon request rather than automatic.

**2023 CAR PPT Script
3 of 7: World Board Motions 9-12 (Future of the WSC)**

**Slide 5**

We have been talking about the Future of the WSC for many years (decades, in fact).If you are interested in reading more about the ideas and discussions that have led to Motions #9–12, please see the Future of the WSC PowerPoint and the other resources posted in the Future of the WSC section on [www.na.org/conference](http://www.na.org/conference). Several concerns have motivated the conversations about changes to the WSC through the years. As NA grows, the conference has grown—in size and expense. And as the WSC gets larger, some would say it becomes less effective or it takes more time and attention to maintain its effectiveness. We’ve been cautioning for a while that business as usual is not sustainable, and then the universe obliged, and almost nothing was “business as usual” anymore.

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The pandemic forced change on most of NA. World Service was thrust into a financial crisis that we are slowly recovering from, but we are forever changed. More than half the staff at NAWS were furloughed or laid off at the onset of the shutdowns. As of the writing of the *CAR*, there were 29 staff employed in the Chatsworth office, which is about 2/3 of the pre-pandemic levels.

The World Board has met virtually throughout the pandemic. In the past, there have been 3 or 4 board meetings each year. World Services is budgeting for 2 board meetings a year in the cycle ahead.

The WSC is the last piece of the World Services system to reduce its resource allocation to align with the current circumstances. It cost around a half million US dollars to hold the in-person WSC in 2018. Since that time, five regions and six zones have been seated at the WSC, adding a potential of 22 more participants in the room. Airfares and hotel costs have increased, and technology costs may also rise as more participants join virtually.

We now have 142 conference participants: 123 regions, 6 zones, and 13 World Board members. With alternates, that’s a potential for 271 seats. Plus there are WSC Cofacilitators, Human Resource Panel members, staff, and interpreters. The meeting is translated into five to eight languages, depending on the needs of the participants. In short, the conference, and the season leading up to it, requires a lot of human and financial resources.

A three-year cycle will allow some of those resources to be allocated to NA Fellowship development worldwide.

**Slide 7**

The board is recommending trying a three-year conference cycle for two cycles—from 2023 to 2029. A three-year cycle may sound like a radical change to some, but the reality is that we are living through a three-year cycle right now*.* We are currently in the final year of a three-year conference cycle—the first in our history necessitated by the pandemic. We have two virtual WSC meetings under our belt—the first two in our history.

We learned that we can meet online as a conference, and we can make decisions virtually. Delegates were able to choose what to address at the virtual WSC meetings, giving them more control over the agenda than ever before. The conference approved policies to continue to meet and make decisions virtually, as needed.

Because of the extended time between in-person WSCs, we’ve been able to focus more attention on work that directly carries the message to the addict who still suffers.

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Despite greatly reduced staffing levels, World Services has been able to

* Hold quarterly, open webinars on Fellowship-focused topics
* Hold conference participant web meetings every other month
* Publish more translated material than ever, and get caught up on posting IPs and booklets in 57 languages
* Finish a book project
* Launch two Instagram accounts, @narcoticsanonymous and @naglobalevents.
* Upgrade our database
* Build consensus on ideas about virtual meetings
* Publish Virtual Meeting Basics and post many other resources on a new page: [www.na.org/virtual](http://www.na.org/virtual)
* Increase access to NA literature for incarcerated people through agreements to load NA literature on tablets in a number of correctional facilities
* Hold a six-month Fellowship review for the first change to the Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust
* Post audio versions of the Basic Text for free streaming or download in eight languages on [www.na.org/audio](http://www.na.org/audio)
* Survey the Fellowship for revisions to *The Loner* IP and a possible new piece of recovery literature on drug-replacement therapy and medication-assisted treatment as it relates to NA

It’s not a zero-sum game, but there is only so much time, money, and energy, and if less of it is spent preparing for a conference, more of it can be spent growing NA. This has certainly been the case for World Services during this first-ever three-year cycle, and the board believes it would be the same for many regions, areas, and zones.

The decision to try a three-year cycle would just be the start. With communication throughout the cycle and the help of a workgroup to frame ideas, the conference would likely come to consensus about many other improvements as well.

**Slide 9**

Some of the ideas that came up repeatedly in conference participant discussion include:

**Help** participants disseminate information and build relationships within their regions and zones.

**Develop** processes for the body to build the *CAR* together, including mechanisms for delegates to prioritize, process, or vet motions.

**Focus** on what needs to be done in person and what can be done effectively virtually. Make decisions on some “old business” items virtually before the in-person WSC meeting so that the time together can be focused on the cycle ahead.

**Incorporate** WCNA into the work of the conference cycle in some way, since the two events, the conference and convention, would both be on three-year cycles.

**Build** more-inclusive planning processes to help amplify the voices, role, and participation of participants and members. Evolve the WSC into a planning conference with more training, mentorship, and conversation.

**Improve** collaboration with zones to accomplish the projects that are prioritized and approved by the WSC. Use zones to collect ideas and help develop the work.

**Slide 10**

One of the most frequent concerns we have heard is that regional and zonal delegate term lengths would lengthen if the conference cycle lengthens. That would not be the case for the World Board term lengths because they are six years, which is as easily divisible by three as by two. When the conference cycle doubled from one year to two there were similar concerns, and NA adapted. Creative ideas are already circulating about how service bodies might adapt. The decisions are up to each service body to make, depending on their needs;

Part of the benefit of a two-cycle trial period is that it gives us all a chance to try new things and see if this is workable. Then at WSC 2029, a decision will need to be made as to whether to adopt a three-year cycle on an ongoing basis.

No matter what happens, the conference cycle will change after 2023. If nothing is decided at WSC 2023, the following conference will be in 2025, effectively shifting the cycle so that the WSC happens every odd year. That is a big change in the cycle relative to how most service bodies think about and elect their delegates.

None of us is likely to be resolute about changes, because no one can see the future. Making decisions such as the ones suggested here takes a leap of faith. We don’t have all of the answers, but we are confident we will find our way into the future together, as a conference. Change was delivered into our lap; let’s surf the wave.

**Slide 11**

**Motion 9:** To approve a three-year World Service Conference cycle on a trial basis following WSC 2023 through WSC 2029. Following 2029, the WSC cycle would return to two years, unless another decision is made.

**Intent:** To put into practice some of what we’ve learned during the pandemic so that we can shift more resources to work that more directly carries the message. This would bring the WSC resource allocation in line with other changes that have been made in World Services—cuts in staff levels and a 50% reduction in in-person board meetings.

**Slide 12**

**Policy Affected:** If this motion is adopted, a footnote would be added to *GWSNA* about this trial. References to biennial and two year would be changed. Examples are included on the next slide and on page 35 of the CAR to give a sense of the changes throughout. All of the changes will be included in the draft of *GWSNA* distributed to conference participants for review early in the cycle after WSC 2023.

**Slide 13**

[slide of examples]

**Slide 14 PAUSE FOR DISCUSSION**

**Slide 15**

One of the features of this cycle was an interim decision-making meeting. The interim meeting was virtual and partial—not a full, week-long WSC. Among other things, at the interim meeting the conference passed a budget to cover the last year of the cycle and had small-group discussions that helped frame these motions on the future of the WSC. The board is suggesting that, if the WSC decides to try a three-year cycle, midway or two years into the three-year cycle, an interim virtual meeting would be held to decide on issues selected by conference participants. This is an idea many conference participants have expressed enthusiasm for. We would build on our shared experience with an interim, virtual WSC meeting.

**Slide 16**

**Motion 10**: If Motion 9 is adopted, to approve an interim virtual WSC in the middle of the conference cycle for decisions that are legally necessary and those that conference participants choose to address. As was done in the 2020-2023 cycle, material would be posted on na.org under the same deadline policies as the CAT (ninety days prior) and all voting conference participants would be polled to choose the items they wish to address.

**Intent:** To allow conference participants to address some WSC business between in-person conference meetings.

**Policy Affected:** None.

**PAUSE FOR DISCUSSION**

**Slide 17**

Another improvement a three-year cycle allows is an earlier release date for the *Conference Agenda Report*. If Motion #11 passes, the English-language *CAR* for the in-person WSC would be posted six months (180 days) prior to the meeting, with the translated versions posted a month later. This would be 30 days earlier than policy currently requires. For many, the *CAR* comes out at the beginning of a long holiday season. That can make it challenging to launch *CAR* workshops and inform members, and 30 days would make a significant difference.

Since the onset of the pandemic, World Services has posted electronic versions of reports on na.org and in a Dropbox for conference participants rather than mailing paper copies. The largest part of the expenses for paper publications in the past has been translations and mailing. This has worked well for the past three years and seems like the most prudent approach, particularly with the costs of paper and shipping increasing so dramatically.

**Slide 18**

**Motion 11**: If Motion 9 is adopted, to approve a change to the release of the *Conference Agenda Report* (*CAR*) to be thirty days earlier than the current policy of 150 days prior to the start of the World Service Conference. The new *CAR* release day would be 180 days prior to the in-person WSC meeting for English, 150 days for translated versions. The deadline for the finalization of regional and zonal motions would be 270 days. The *Conference Agenda Report* will be posted on na.org at no cost to members.

**Intent:** To release the *CAR* earlier to allow more time for review.

**Slides 19 - 20**

**Policy Affected:** The proposed changes to *A Guide to World Services* are shown on your screen.

**Slide 21 PAUSE FOR DISCUSSION**

**Slide 22**

The final motion from the board is asking that conference participant funding be opt-in rather than opt-out. Any delegate from a seated region or zone who requests total or partial funding will receive it. This is really about a change in our collective culture. Currently World Services automatically funds (including travel, food, and lodging) all delegates from seated regions and zones.

Over the years, an increasing number of regions have chosen to opt out of funding from NAWS and assume some or all of the cost to send a delegate themselves. Talking about the cost of the WSC and the possibility for regions to fund their delegates has made a difference. The board’s recommendation is to build on this change in culture and expectation. If this motion passes, delegates would indicate on the reservation form each participant fills out whether they need funding.

**Slide 23**

**Motion 12**: To change the current policy of NA World Services automatically funding delegates from seated regions and zones to the WSC to funding available upon request.

**Intent:** To encourage service bodies to fund their delegates, but ensure that regions and zones that need the funding are able to have it.

**Slide 24**

**Policy Affected:** The proposed changes to *A Guide to World Services* are shown on your screen.

**Slide 25 PAUSE FOR DISCUSSION**

**Slide 26**

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).