## **A Note from Your World Board**

## "Our gratitude speaks when we care and when we share the NA way."

We are grateful this year to see the Fellowship we serve reviving and rebuilding after so much struggle. During the darkest parts of the pandemic, we discovered our resilience as a Fellowship and found renewed faith in our Second Tradition. We have learned a lot, and changed a lot, as a result of our experience. And the journey continues. We are reminded that change is part of growth, that sometimes destruction allows us to make changes that we couldn't have imagined before—and that we are always beginning, in our recovery and in our growth as an organization.

Every year, we report on our operations. The *Annual Report* allows us to gather in one place information on what we have done, how we have done it, where money has come from, and where it has gone. Every year we report on the growth of the

Fellowship, literature sales and disbursements, the offices and staff, and your contributions. What doesn't always get reflected in these reports is how much love and service these numbers represent: how much we all work together to bring addicts to NA and bring NA to addicts suffering in our own communities and around the world.

In July 2022, the World Board met in person for the first time since March 2020. Board members elected in 2020 finally met their colleagues face to face. There is no substitute for in-person meetings to work and think through challenges together, but the board has learned to do much of its business virtually, and has been able to participate in events around the world through virtual connections. As a result, we are able to economize, expand our reach, increase our communication with each other and with the fellowship—as we optimize our in-person meetings to make the most of our time together. (continued on page 5)





## **World Board Members**

Board Member	First Elected	Term Ends	Location
Tana Agostini	2012	2026*	Woodstock, New York, USA
Irene Crawley	2012	2026*	Westmeath, Ireland
Paul Fitzgerald	2012	2026*	Norwich, Great Britain
Hammed Al-Tamimi	2018	2026*	Kuwait City, Kuwait
Lib Edmonds	2018	2026*	Christchurch, New Zealand
Yoel Geffen	2018	2026*	Ashdod, Israel
Michael Bennett	2020	2026	Murfreesboro, Tennessee, USA
Danny Gershman	2020	2026	Chapel Hill, North Carolina, USA
Eduardo Gilioli	2020	2026	Jundiaí, São Paulo, Brazil
Jorge Mejia	2020	2026	Envigado, Colombia
Jose Luis Andreu	2016	2029*	San Juan, Puerto Rico
Jack Hovenier	2016	2029*	Bellingham, Washington, USA
Tim Smith	2016	2029*	Darlinghurst, Sydney, Australia
Carla Wensky	2023	2029	Powell, Wyoming, USA
Veronica Bistrom-Ferris	2023	2029	Nässjö, Sweden

<sup>\*</sup> The 2022 and 2023 World Service Conferences decided to extend these terms to coincide with a longer conference cycle.

## **Human Resource Panel**

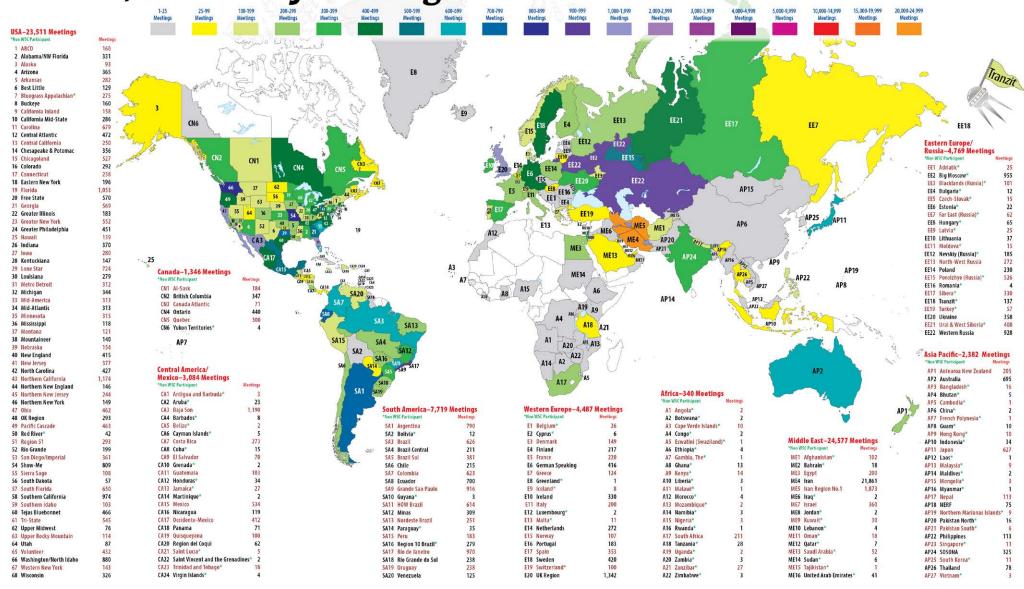
	First Elected	Term Ends	
Laura B	2020	2026*	Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA
Arne H-G	2020	2026*	Le Val, Provence Côte d'Azur, France
Ron M	2023	2029	Winter Haven, Florida, USA
Sam L	2023	2029	Windham, Maine, USA

## **WSC Cofacilitators**

	First Elected	Term Ends	
Mario T	2020	2026*	Oakville, Australia
Louis H	2023	2029	Chicago, Illinois, USA

<sup>\*</sup> The 2022 and 2023 World Service Conferences decided to extend these terms to coincide with a longer conference cycle.

# Regions Around the World 72,215 Weekly Meetings Worldwide



Data is based on regional/zonal reports to WSC 2023 and NAWS database when available. Map not intended to be geographically accurate. Meeting numbers include both in-person and virtual meetings. Virtual meeting numbers were drawn only from regional reports and many may be missing. For a current map and additional Fellowship development resources, visit <a href="https://www.na.org/fdresources">www.na.org/fdresources</a>.

(A Note from Your World Board continued from page 3)

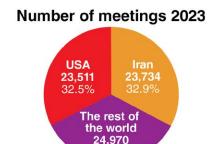
After a forest fire, the first green shoots are not the same plants as the old growth; a whole new ecosystem develops from the ashes. And so it is with World Services: The fiscal year 2022–2023 saw lots of new growth, but things are undeniably different—and in many ways, that will have been a good thing. In fiscal year (FY) 2022–23, meetings that had been shut down during the pandemic re-opened and started to fill again; service bodies have come back from dormancy; and members all over the world are working every day to ensure that Narcotics Anonymous can come back better, stronger, and more creative than ever.

The new green shoots are exciting: In this fiscal year, NAWS has gone mostly paperless, relying on electronic publications for most of our communications. We continue to do more with fewer people than we thought possible. We began upgrading our data hardware for the first time in years, and we began an ongoing effort to hire new staff after the painful furloughs and layoffs the pandemic required. And again, the new growth is not the same: We are re-thinking and updating our approach to databases, from accounting to the meeting finder, to increase efficiency and decrease reliance on human resources.

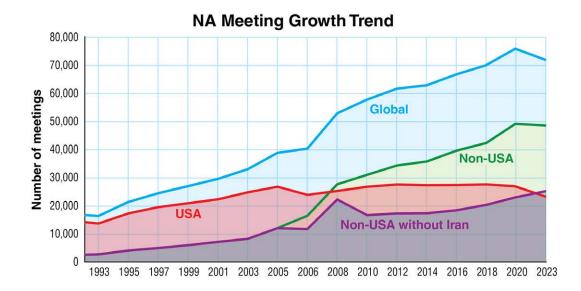
By the middle of the fiscal year, we were selling literature at a rate 34% over our projected budget. A 58% increase in cost of goods has offset the income from literature sales and reminds us that direct contributions are the most reliable and consistent way we can fund world services. The shutdown brought new awareness to the Fellowship of the literature available online, and informational pamphlet (IP) sales are not recovering as quickly as other products. People are reading and sharing those free online resources at ever-greater rates—and we're glad to see it. Even so, income from literature sales was 35% ahead of budget projections: New growth brings new hope. The literature inventory is being increased beyond our pre-pandemic levels to create a cushion against disruptions in the supply chain, and the new growth is being nurtured by our ongoing investment in our vision.

(continued on page 7)

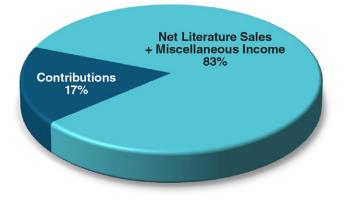
Regular readers of the NAWS Annual Report will recognize this graph of meeting growth trends. Pandemic safety measures drove many of us online and changed how we look at meetings and groups. The 2023 WSC voted to recognize virtual groups, and we know our current count of virtual groups lags substantially behind the actual number. We look forward to more accurate information as virtual meetings are welcomed into service systems locally and worldwide.



34.6%



#### Income by Source for 2022-2023



#### **NA World Services Staff**

#### Chatsworth, California, USA

#### Administration

Executive Director: Anthony Edmondson (ae@na.org)
Assistant Executive Director: Becky Meyer (becky@na.org)

Executive Assistant: Eileen Perez (eileen.p@na.org), Elaine Wickham (elaine@na.org)

Administrative Support Specialist: Johnny Lamprea (johnny@na.org)

#### **Asset Management**

Comptroller and Team Leader: Debbie Carnahan (debbie@na.org)

Staff Accountant: Aisha Corning (aisha@na.org)

NAWS Bookkeeper/Operations Coordinator: Rochelle Medina (rochelle@na.org)

Accounting Assistant: Eleonore Buffington (eleonore@na.org), Eden Perez (eden@na.org)

Customer Service Supervisor: Sylvia Cordero (sylvia@na.org)

Customer Service Representative: Jennifer Wonderling (jennifer@na.org)

#### **Communications**

Director of Communications: Travis Koplow (travis@na.org)

Project Coordinators: Daniel Crotinger (daniel@na.org), Nick Elson (nick@na.org)

Writer/Editors: Eren Harris (eren@na.org), Andrea Lapin (andrea@na.org)

Publications/Graphics Consultant: Stacy Fowler (stacy.m@na.org)

#### **Fellowship Services**

Team Leader: Steve Rusch (stever@na.org)

Administrative Assistant: Keri Kirkpatrick (keri@na.org), Shirley Pius (shirley@na.org)

#### **Information Technology**

IT Manager: Matt Schmeck (matt@na.org)

Network Administrator: Lori Wheeler (lori@na.org)

Database Administrator: Lori Wheeler (lori@na.org)

Database Assistant: Donnell Buckley (donnell@na.org)

IT Special Projects/Web Specialist: David Buffington (davidb@na.org)

#### **Production**

Production Manager: Fatia Birault (fatia@na.org) Production Assistant: Jesus Iniquez (jesus@na.org)

**Public Relations** 

PR Manager: Jane Nickels (jane.nickels@na.org) PR Assistant: Bob Shott (bob@na.org)

**Translations** 

Translations Manager: De Jenkins (de.j@na.org)

Team Assistants: Sumit Dagi (sumit@na.org), Matt DeLuca (matt.d@na.org), Sasha Petrenko (sasha@na.org)

Warehouse

Warehouse Manager: Vince Alcala (vince@na.org)

Shippers: Deivis Ghiglione (deivis@na.org), Hugo Ramirez (hugo@na.org), Kelley Taylor (kelley@na.org)

New Staff Departing Staff

 Daniel Crotinger
 Eden Perez
 Paul Decock (WSO-Europe)

 Matt DeLuca
 Sasha Petrenko
 Tanya B Matheus (WSO-Europe)

Brian Sullivan Jeff Rodriguez (Shipper)

Eren Harris Ilda Sullivan

Andrea Lapin

**Deivis Ghiglione** 

#### **Staff and Offices**



#### Your World Service Office (WSO)

Narcotics Anonymous World Services in Chatsworth, California, is the central resource hub for NA members, groups, and service bodies worldwide. The executive and administrative staff work with the World Board to carry out conference-approved projects, coordinate workgroups, and support the World Convention. They communicate with members

and the public through various periodicals, reports, webinars, and emails. The California office also produces and distributes NA literature, protects the Fellowship's copyrights and trademarks, and maintains our website, <a href="https://www.na.org">www.na.org</a>.

#### **Branch Offices**



WSO-Europe distributes literature in 35 languages, including no-cost literature shipments to emerging NA communities in Eastern Europe and elsewhere. The office serves members, groups, and institutions seeking information about NA, and supports the European Delegates Meeting.

Currently, WSO-E is undergoing some staffing changes, and NAWS is in conversation as to how we can achieve sustainability without diminishing the quality of the services we provide to the groups we reach best via satellite offices. We will keep you posted as we move forward.

Siamak Khajeian manages the Iranian branch of the World Service Office. He and his staff—Mohammad Ahmari, Shahram Chegini, Nemat Hosseini, Farhad Poorsohi, and Saeed Khosravi—support NA's

largest community and its 20,000+ meetings. WSO-Iran produces and distributes NA literature in Farsi. They also assist in the translation of documents and support many of the essential services offered by the region.

#### **Distribution Centers**



Two distribution centers—one in Mississauga, Ontario, Canada, and the other in Bangalore, India—play vital roles in furthering our vision. Pramila Dias distributes literature in twelve languages

throughout South Asia from the Bangalore center. The Mississauga center serves the literature needs of Canadian NA communities. Paul and Jacquie Sullivan have recently retired from their posts in Canada. We wish them health and happiness. Brian and Ilda Sullivan (Paul and Jacquie's children) have stepped in to staff the center on an interim basis.

Jacquie Sullivan (Distr. Center Canada)

Paul Sullivan (Distr. Center Canada)

current staffing as of June 2024

returning staff

#### (continued from page 5)

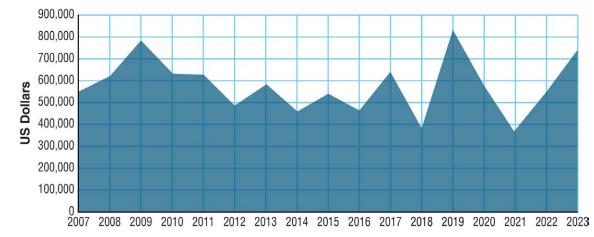
Fellowship development is back on the increase, as well. FY 2022–23 found us 12% over budget in FD for the best reason: a 45% increase in developmental literature. We were able to provide \$738,826 in free and subsidized literature—a 35% increase from 2022. We are so proud that even in this time of financial challenge, NA World Services was able to give close to three quarters of a million dollars in free and subsidized literature to NA communities and to members in institutions.

We have been talking about direct contributions in one way or another since 1984, but beginning in 2020, members, groups, and service bodies stepped up to make contributions and help shift our model from one dependent on lit sales to one based on contributions. As groups returned to meeting in person, we saw literature sales increase, and direct contributions decrease. This is not surprising: As local communities resume service, resources that had been passed directly to NAWS are again needed at the local level. But we can see the momentum building. Now more than ever, we are calling on established members to consider making regular donations part of their Twelfth Step, so we can ground our efforts in a consistent, steady fund flow.

We were happy to publish the *Spiritual Principle a Day* book during the 2022–2023 fiscal year, after a supplyrelated delay. *SPAD* was the first booklength piece created almost entirely through virtual workgroup meetings. The result is enriching the recovery of many members every day. In the previous fiscal year, free email subscriptions for the *Spiritual Principle a Day* had launched together with the *Just for Today* reading, well before the book itself was available. This seems to have generated additional excitement about the book when it went on sale in September 2022.

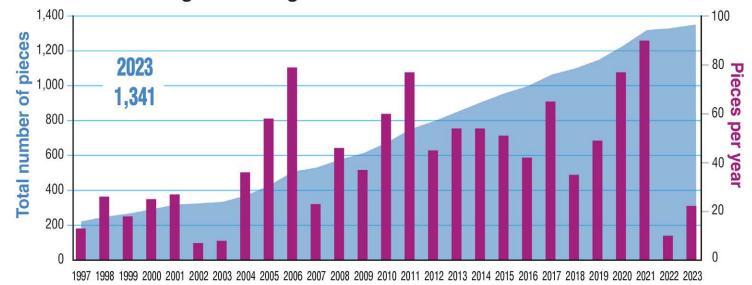
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#### Cost to NAWS for Free & Subsidized Literature, 2007–2023



We support incarcerated members and NA communities in need by providing free and subsidized NA literature. This year we were able to provide nearly three-quarters of a million dollars in free and subsidized literature. Your contributions make it possible to carry the message this directly. Our gratitude speaks!

#### **Our Multilingual Catalog: Translated Literature and Other Products**



At the end of the fiscal year, we began an expensive, complex undertaking that will bear fruit for many seasons to come: We began updating our databases, our servers, and—in the coming fiscal year—our websites. This investment in hardware, software, and tech strategy has been a long time coming. (Our hardware was very old, and we've been keeping it running with hard work and ingenuity—but eventually that becomes a losing battle.) Investing in the databases, software, and hardware we need will allow us to run more securely, more reliably, and faster. Did you know that na.org fields over 400,000 emails a year? That includes everything from inquiries on how to start a meeting to pernicious spam. Managing so much information and communication takes a lot of hardware and a lot of attention. In June, our online store closed for two weeks as we mounted a massive installation, replacing 25-year-old software with shiny new, functional stuff. The results have been immediately felt in the important, invisible "back end." We plan, over the course of the next several years, a steady rolling out of improvements on the front end—where members will see and feel the difference in our web presence, app, portals, and the store. (continued on page 10)



## **Actual Expenses for FY 2023**

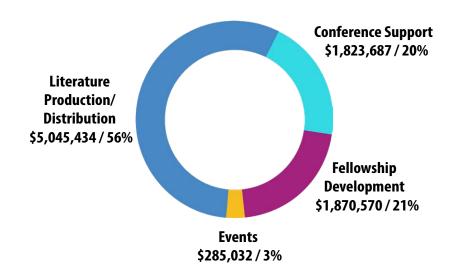


Table 1: Annual WSC & Fellowship Development Expenses and Total Weekly Meetings Worldwide

Fiscal Year	2019	2019 w/out Iran	2020	2020 w/out Iran	2021	2021 w/out Iran	2022	2022 w/out Iran	2023	2023 w/o Iran
Number of meetings (worldwide approx.)	70,065	48,091	76,075	50,000	76,075	50,000	76,075	50,000	72,215	48,481
Total contributions received from meetings worldwide	\$805,208	\$805,208	\$999,209	\$999,209	\$1,731,015	\$1,731,015	\$2,224,917	\$2,224,917	\$1,982,110	\$1,982,110
Annual contributions received per meeting worldwide	\$11.49	\$16.74	\$13.13	\$19.98	\$22.75	\$34.62	\$29.25	\$44.50	\$27.45	\$40.88
Cost to fund Fellowship services (WSC support and	\$5,108,158		Cost to fund 70% of all services		Cost to fund 70% of limited services given emergency budget and layoffs		\$2,941,021		\$3,694,257	
Fellowship development)			\$3,85	58,948	\$1,827,480					
Dollars needed annually per meeting worldwide to cover Fellowship services	\$72.91	\$106.22	\$50.73	\$77.18	\$24.02	\$36.55	\$38.66	\$58.82	\$51.16	\$76.20
Percentage of expenses currently covered by Fellowship contributions	16%	16%	26%	26%	95%	95%	76%	76%	54%	54%

## 101 languages! Such a great milestone. We can do together what we cannot accomplish separately.

Afrikaans 0000

Amharic o

Arabic O O O O

Armenian •

Assamese •

Bengali ○ • •

Blackfoot o

Bosnian O .

CHamoru O Catalan •

Cherokee o

Cree •

Dari •

Dariia •

Chinese O O O O

Croatian O O O O

Danish OOOO

Dzonakha •

English OOOO

Estonian O •

Filipino O O O O

Finnish OOOO

French OOOO

Georgian 0000

German OOOO

Greek OOOO

Hawaiian O

Hindi OOOO

Hebrew ○ ○ • •

Hungarian 0000

Indonesian OOOO

Icelandic OOOO

Innu-aimun •

Inuktitut/Inuit •

Irish [Gaelic] o

Italian 0000

Japanese OOOO

Kannada OOOO

IsiXhosa •

Guirati •

Farsi OOOO

Czech OOO

Bulgarian 0000

Braille • •

Azerbaijani O •



This poster can be found at www.na.org/fdresources with many other Fellowship development resources.

(continued from page 8)

Some other highlights this fiscal year include:

- Audio Basic Texts were released in Brazilian Portuguese and Canadian French. (Find all eleven languages for streaming or download here: <a href="www.na.org/audio.">www.na.org/audio.</a>)
- IP #1 was posted online in American Sign Language. (ASL IP #1 video and other ASL resources can be found here: <a href="www.na.org/asl">www.na.org/asl</a>.)
- The Service Basics and Handbooks on www.na.org were reorganized to be more user-friendly and easier to find (<a href="https://www.na.org/basics">www.na.org/basics</a> and <a href="https://www.na.org/handbooks">www.na.org/handbooks</a>).

We are celebrating the return of *Reaching Out*, the periodical publication for incarcerated members. It is available both on paper and virtually, and is beginning to be available on tablets in some facilities in the US. *Reaching Out* has been a lifeline and an important tool in carrying the message behind the walls.

Virtual Meeting Basics (www.na.org/virtual) launched online as World Board-approved service material and provided much-needed help and support to our burgeoning online communities. The 2023 WSC voted to recognize virtual groups, and we welcomed the thriving online community into our service system.

Although staffing is still well below pre-pandemic levels, we are very grateful to have begun rehiring. We are still pushing hard, but there is a freshness and optimism in every department as we see capacity returning. We, the Board, would like to thank everyone who serves the Fellowship, keeping the doors open for those yet to come. We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the staff at NA World Services, whose tireless work is helping to make our collective Vision a reality.

Webinars continue to be well-attended and useful, bringing together NA members from across the world to share and care the NA way. In July, we had an open webinar on Fellowship development in English, Farsi, French, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish. We celebrated Sponsorship Day together online, and the Unity Day Webinar on 3 September had over 1,000 connections on Zoom and YouTube—many of them at events, meaning even more members were able to participate. Conference participants also took part in regularly scheduled webinars (five this year), which improve communication and allow unprecedented collaboration between regions, zones, and the World Board. Again—from the depths of the pandemic, we have learned to use and optimize tools that improve our ability to communicate, collaborate, and carry the message. We are not "coming back" to where we were, but moving ahead to a new place in our development as a Fellowship.

(continued next page)



#### **World Service Conference**

In 2023, the World Service Conference held its first truly hybrid WSC! While many of us were able to gather in person, almost 40 participants joined us virtually, and the Fellowship at large was able to listen live as well. Thanks to our staff and co-facilitators, the process was mostly smooth and very effective.

Remarkably in a year of scarce resources, the *Conference Agenda Report (CAR)* posted early, with video and PowerPoint summaries available online to help members understand and vote their conscience on the issues. The *CAR*, the Conference Approval Track (CAT), *Conference Report*, and supplemental materials were also made available virtually. The conference participant portal, electronic polling, and regular conference participant webinars improved communication and reduced costs. We are very grateful that 46 communities fully or partially funded their participation. The technology required for a hybrid WSC is expensive, and all the costs to hold the conference—travel, meeting space, A/V, and other services—have risen dramatically in recent years, more than offsetting any savings from self-funding and non-travelling participants. The conference determined that, in the future, all regions ought to self-fund if they are able; funding will be available upon request, but the conference is seeking sustainability in part by returning the responsibility of funding delegates to their regions and zones.

The shutdown has afforded us an opportunity to move forward with ideas and plans that have seemed for many years too bold or too difficult for us to try. In this cycle, the conference is innovating in our practices and in our thinking, voting to

- try a three-year cycle with a mid-cycle virtual meeting, until 2029.
- reboot its strategic planning initiatives, moving toward a more collaborative and coherent decision-making process.
- the *Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust* was revised for the first time. Zonal delegates are now recognized in the *FIPT* as decision makers, and the definition of recovery literature has been clarified. The *FIPT* Operational Rules and Use Policy were also revised.

Also at the conference, NAWS Executive Director Anthony Edmondson announced his retirement at the end of his contract in 2025. We are grateful for all Anthony has done for Narcotics Anonymous over the last four decades. Anthony has been a wise and selfless leader, and has set an example of ethical, forthright, and caring service. Without his clear-eyed, careful planning, we might not have made it through this challenging time. Over the course of this conference cycle, we look forward to Anthony leading us through World Convention of NA (WCNA) 38 in Washington, DC—and a smooth and well-crafted transition to our next phase in Narcotics Anonymous World Services.

(continued next page)

# Distribution data in charts and graphs for the 2023 fiscal year (FY 2023)

Context is important when considering the following data. Production is back on the upswing, but it is coming back from the abnormally low numbers that were consequent to the pandemic shutdown.

So, even though the numbers are once again moving in the right direction, the disruption still bears on the figures and stymies the kind of trendline analysis we are accustomed to. It will take a few years before this new growth develops into a steady, predictable pattern once more.

#### **Book Distribution since 1983**

Book (pub date)	<b>Total distributed</b>	% of total	Average per year
Basic Text (1983)	13,003,551	51.5%	325,089
Just for Today (1991)	3,657,253	14.5%	114,289
Step Working Guides (1998)	3,577,989	14.2%	143,120
It Works: How & Why (1993)	3,179,370	12.6%	105,979
Living Clean (2012)	1,044,695	4.1%	94,972
Sponsorship (2004)	323,014	1.3%	17,001
Guiding Principles (2016)	292,293	1.2%	41,756
Miracles Happen (1998)	115,772	.5%	4,631
A Spiritual Principle a Day (2022)	78,095	3%	<u> 78,095</u>
	25,272,032	100%	924,932



The Basic Text still accounts for the "lion's share" of our book distribution.

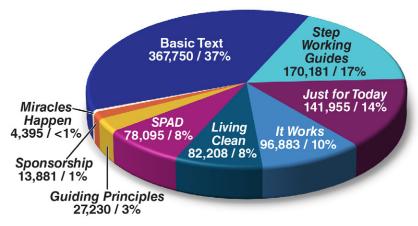
The increased cost of A/V and IT services impacted both the WSC and planning for WCNA 38. We are excited to be holding a world convention for the first time since 2018, but are confronting increased expenses of everything about the event. Now more than ever, WCNA would be impossible without your service. Please register and volunteer! www.na.org/wcna

FY 2022-23 was proof to us that Narcotics Anonymous can weather any storm. While we continue the process of healing and renewal, we can look back on this experience with relief and awe. In Step Twelve, It Works How and Why tells us, "Our empathy isn't abstract, nor is our understanding. Instead, it is born in shared experience. We greet each other with the recognition reserved for survivors of the same nearly fatal catastrophe. This shared experience, more than anything else, contributes to the atmosphere of unconditional love in our meetings." We are grateful—and we know that the indomitable faith and commitment that has brought us to this point will lead us forward into brighter days ahead.

In gratitude,

Your World Board

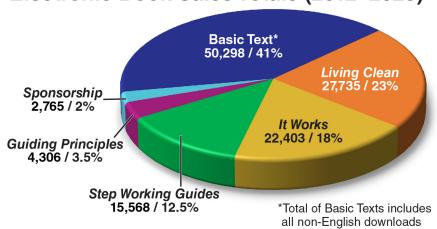
#### **FY 2023 Book Distribution**



#### **Basic Text Distributed** by Language FY 2023



#### **Electronic Book Sales Totals (2012–2023)**



#### Electronic Book Sales 2019–2023

