

What's happening in NA World Services that you may want to know...

We hope you will continue to forward this page by email, or copy it for interested members, your ASCs, and your RSCs. We continue to encourage people to obtain e-subscriptions to *The NA Way* and *NAWS News*. This helps us to communicate more effectively and control distribution costs.

- ✦ *Living Clean: The Journey Continues*, our new Fellowship-approved book, is available in hard and soft cover. Both are selling for \$8.75. The electronic version will be released soon. The limited, hand-numbered commemorative edition is still available and priced at \$30. The commemorative edition of *Just for Today* is also still available at \$30.
- ✦ We have electronic versions of the Basic Text, *Sponsorship*, and *It Works: How and Why* available. These are available on Amazon and the iTunes store with links on our website.
- ✦ WCNA 35: As we celebrate 60 years of recovery (our diamond anniversary) at this World Convention in Philadelphia, we will certainly be living the theme, "The Journey Continues." Visit www.na.org/wcna for updates.
- ✦ Service System: We are closing out our field test of what we are now calling GSFs and LSCs. Partially as a result of these field tests, we have decided to offer decisions about local services for the 2014 conference and to continue gathering information about services at the state/nation/province level. Decisions about local services will be in the 2014 *CAR* and if the conference passes them, the transition plan, which will be in the *CAT*, will be offered. We continue to post tools and updates about the project online as they are available: www.na.org/servicesystem.
- ✦ Zones: We continue to talk about the role of zones in a new service system and there is more on that topic in this *NAWS News*. One idea we're thinking about is how many zones would be most effective within the US. What do you think about between three and six US zones instead of eight? Let us know your thoughts: worldboard@na.org.
- ✦ World Service Conference: We are considering a couple of specific proposals pertaining to the WSC. One is to institute need-based rather than automatic funding of delegates to the WSC. The other is to eliminate alternate delegate attendance at the conference.
- ✦ WSC Seating: We are not making any recommendations for a new seating policy until we, as a conference, can come to a better shared understanding of what we want the future of the WSC to look like. In the meantime, we are recommending that the conference seat no new regions until we can come to that shared vision.

Go to *NAWS News* at www.na.org/nawsnews

nawsnews

- ✦ **An Introduction to NA Meetings Project:** We appreciate all the input we received—at least five countries and 19 states—most of which indicated that members like this resource as it is. There were some useful suggestions about minor improvements, and those are reflected in the approval draft, which will be available in the CAR.
- ✦ **Traditions Book Project:** We have been receiving input from those who have held fellowship workshops using the first session profile we created for this project. To begin gathering input specifically targeted to each tradition, we have created new workshops—one standard 90-minute profile, along with a shorter 20-minute workshop for group use. We are excited to add new avenues for participation in the input gathering. Find materials online and submit input through the project webpage at www.na.org/traditions.
- ✦ **Online Webinars—sharing experience:** Participation in our online webinars has increased, and we would like to encourage more area and regional chairpersons to participate. The areas of service we would like to bring together are conventions, H&I, and PR. If you would like to join us and discuss issues and solutions with others who are serving in these areas, please send your name, email address, trusted servant position, and region and/or area to events@na.org for conventions; handi@na.org for H&I servants; and PR@na.org for PR/PI trusted servants.
- ✦ **WSC Participant Webinar:** We had our first conference participant webinar and we considered this a success. We look forward to more.
- ✦ **Financials:** We are committed to providing services worldwide; all of us love NA and are proud that the Fellowship is in 129 countries. Let's reflect that love and pride in our actions and contribute financially through our portal at www.na.org/contribute.
- ✦ **There are shipping and literature price increases scheduled for January 2014. More information can be found in the Product Update and the full version of this *NAWS News*.**



Go to **NAWS News** at www.na.org/nawsnews

How Can We Help??

More than two decades ago, World Services began a process focused on how to improve NA services. Starting with World Services' inventory in 1992 and continuing into this decade, we have been looking at service issues relating to groups, members, areas, and regions. We have gathered and reported on information from Issue Discussion Topics such as Infrastructure; Atmosphere of Recovery; Leadership; Our Freedom, Our Responsibility; etc. We reviewed all the data, and everyone involved seemed to agree that apathy, lack of trusted servants for carrying the message of recovery, low GSR attendance, poor fund flow, and inadequate service delivery (for instance, phonelines that don't get answered) were some of our issues. No one seemed to argue with these facts. Our most requested workshops have been helping members get involved in service and Building Strong Homegroups.

More than five years ago World Services proposed initiating a comprehensive change from a service structure to a system which we hoped would help resolve some of our ongoing struggles. The World Service Conference agreed, and together we decided to move forward. This proposal was not a magic bullet; none of us anticipated that overnight we would have all the money to do service, all GSRs participating at area service, and an abundance of trusted servants. Rather, we began building on our foundation, our primary purpose. With that in mind, our first job was to revise A Vision for NA Service.

We have been discussing the topics of Infrastructure and Our Service System for the last four years. We believe it is now time to take the results of those discussions, including the information gathered from the 2008 Conference Agenda Report, and move into framing recommendations for the fellowship to consider. Our existing service structure was developed for a fellowship with much different needs than we now have globally. Because of this, it is no surprise that we have volumes of information about ineffective services. However, we also have heard new and creative ideas that local NA communities have adopted, and we hope to build on these.

From the 2008 Service System project plan

Now, years down the road of proposed change into a service system, some members appear to be blaming World Services for forcing a change upon us, when in fact we have done our level best to partner with the Fellowship every step of the way to bring the Service System Project closer to a common vision. We seem to agree on where we fall short in our service efforts and even have common concurrence of identified problems, and a shared vision for NA service—so how can we move forward together?

We know from our personal experience that change is messy; many of us, most likely, recall our lives being in flux as we worked Steps Six and Seven, yet we also know how our lives improved—as did our relationships with others once we were on the other side of change. This analogy is true with the Service System Proposals. We believe that change is necessary for the future stability and flourishing of NA. It is our responsibility as trusted servants to inventory, analyze, and suggest ways to improve. As a fellowship, we have inventoried our service efforts repeatedly through the years and have shared those “assets” and “defects” openly with each other.

As It Works: How and Why tells us, “When the pain of remaining the same becomes greater than our fear of change, we will surely let go.” (*IWHW*, Step Six) Did any one of us know how we would be on the other side of Steps Six and Seven? No. The proposed service system changes ask us to let go of the old and risk moving to something new.

Now that we are presented with the opportunity to change, our road has gotten narrower. Many are excited at the opportunity to improve our services and to grow. However, there are those who are standing their ground, defending NA's right to continue in the same way we have always done things. As responsible leaders, the board has found ourselves obligated to make suggestions that some find off-putting or objectionable. Some may see the exercise of this responsibility as overbearing, and some may disagree with our suggestions, but doing less than our best to serve the future of NA was never an option for us.

In a paragraph just as true today as when it was written decades ago, the Basic Text cautions us that, “Everything that occurs in the course of NA service must be motivated by the desire to more successfully carry the message of recovery to the addict who still suffers. It was for this reason that we began this work. We must always remember that as individual members, groups and service committees, we are not and should never be in competition with each other. We work separately and together to help the newcomer and for our common good. We have learned, painfully, that internal strife cripples our Fellowship; it prevents us from providing the services necessary for growth.”

We have, as a Fellowship, adopted A Vision for NA Service and now we must figure out how to move forward to realize this vision. At the 2014 World Service Conference the Fellowship, through the *CAR*, will have the opportunity to choose the direction for our shared future. Our option is a leap of faith. Each and every one of us, everyone on the World Board and everyone reading this issue of *NAWS News*, is motivated by our desire to carry the message of recovery to addicts. In a sense, we are planting trees that someone else will be sitting under. What is the legacy we want to give to members who are not here yet? How can we move forward together and how can World Services help?



INSPIRED BY OUR PRIMARY PURPOSE THIS CONFERENCE CYCLE IS MOVING TOWARD WSC 2014

Our board meeting 10-13 July 2013 was held in Chatsworth,

CA. We started on Wednesday with Strategic Planning; we developed approaches for desired 2016 outcomes and conducted our initial prioritizing of approaches.

Thursday was spent in a facilitated discussion focused on the Service System. We started our day focused on the future of the WSC—how can the WSC evolve as an effective, efficient body that demands fewer of NAWS' resources. We also considered delegate funding that is not automatic and a new/revised role for the alternate delegate in line with the board's recommendation that the AD would not attend the WSC. Prior to reaching our recommendation, we considered a number of factors: the size of the conference and the ability to engage in CBDM, capacity and sustainability of our current configuration; our wants versus our needs; the fact that we are out of balance with many more US participants and fewer international members; and the improbability of moving to another venue due to cost. We even discussed removing the rounds, yet that is the setting where discussion, ideas for the future, and more interpersonal exchange happens. We closed out Thursday with next steps in the discussion on the role of zones.

Friday was opened with an update on the service system field testing, concurrence on closing the formal field testing phase, and a discussion offering those who participated in field testing an opportunity to assess how it went. We made a decision on terminology that we explain further in the "terminology" section below. What had been referred to as the LSU (Local Service Unit) will now be termed the Local Service Conference (LSC); the GSU (Group Support Unit) will be called the Group Support Forum (GSF); and the Local Service Board (LSB) remains unchanged. Following the service system discussion, we approved a revised version of *An Introduction to NA Meetings* for inclusion in the 2014 CAR and reviewed the Traditions Book project development and next steps.

The WSC participant's webinar started the day on Saturday of our meeting. Eight-six delegates or alternates joined for the initial webinar. Since this was the first, after it was finished we discussed positive aspects of the web meeting and areas of improvement for subsequent webinars. Following the webinar discussion, we turned our attention to literature and shipping increases effective 1 January 2014, and the electronic version of *Living Clean: The Journey Continues* production and roll-out. We concluded our board meeting with a WCNA 35 update.

FISCAL UPDATE

We wish we had something new to report pertaining to Basic Text sales and contributions. The fact remains that contributions are below the WSC-approved budget amounts, and Basic Text sales continue to decline. Of course, this is a serious and ongoing financial problem, but an even bigger concern is the fact that fewer members are seeking our book each year. At some point we have to discuss instilling a sense of responsibility in our members to care for their Fellowship and help to carry the message to the addict who still suffers. This discussion, like the service system discussion, needs to be one focused on sustainability and what we want to build for those yet to find a new way of life. At World Services, we have cut expenses and made proposals for additional changes, and we will continue to examine what we do and how we do it. Some of these changes have been relatively "invisible" to the Fellowship, but others, such as curtailing our PR activities or having to prioritize translations projects, hurt our ability to carry the message. At the close of the last fiscal year we were still in decline except for *Living Clean*, and are moving backward with services that are needed and requested because contributions and literature income are not meeting need or the amounts approved in the budget.

SHIPPING INCREASE—USA AND CANADA

Effective 1 January 2014 shipping prices will increase. We have not raised shipping prices in four years, while the cost of fuel for shipping and cost of labor associated with shipping have both been rising. It is irresponsible for NAWS to continue paying more than what we charge for shipping. In the first eleven months of the 2012-2013 fiscal year, we had spent \$113,000 more for shipping than we had charged.

Shipping recommendations effective 1 January 2014:

- Orders under \$25, increase from \$5.00 to \$6.00
- Orders from \$25 to \$50, increase from \$7.00 to \$9.00
- Orders from \$50 to \$150, increase from 15% to 17%
- Orders from \$150 to \$500, stay at 12%
- Orders over \$500, increase from 6% to 8%

The new shipping price grid can also be found on the back of the Product Update Newsflash.

LITERATURE PRICE INCREASE

We delayed any price increases since 2008 hoping that contributions would increase and sales of the Basic Text would increase or at least remain stable. Neither has happened. We realize there is a disparity between our philosophy and our reality. Our philosophy is one of funding services through direct contributions; our reality is one of funding services through literature sales and events. As much as we would like to come closer to our ideals and be able to fund our services through money that reaches us through the basket, with a posture of humility we

accept who and where we are. The reality is that to continue meeting our responsibilities as an organization, we must raise prices of our literature.

Everything has increased in the last five years—cost of materials and cost of printing to name two that directly affect literature. We are not immune or exempt from the realities of daily living. This is the 30th anniversary of our Basic Text which cost \$8.00 in 1983. Using most US inflation calculators, that item should cost \$18.76 thirty years later in 2013. The only price increases on the Basic Text have been to directly recapture cost of goods or the raise in price when we approved the 6th Edition, and that was solely a consequence of the increase in the number of pages with the addition of personal stories from members worldwide. That increase took the cost of a Basic Text from \$9.70 to \$11.00 five years ago. In keeping with our primary purpose and the belief that our Basic Text is integral to those efforts, we plan to raise the cost of the Basic Text by only 5% to \$11.55 and almost all other items in our inventory by approximately 10%.

	Current	Jan-14
BASIC TEXT	\$11.00	\$11.55
JUST FOR TODAY	\$8.10	\$9.00
IT WORKS: HOW & WHY	\$8.10	\$9.00
SPONSORSHIP BOOK	\$7.40	\$8.25
STEP WORKING GUIDES	\$7.70	\$8.50
LIVING CLEAN	\$8.75	\$9.75
MEDALLIONS	\$2.90	\$3.20
KEY TAGS	\$0.48	\$0.53
IPs	\$0.22	\$0.24



SERVICE SYSTEM

Sometimes it's hard to know what affects NA as a whole. The Fourth Tradition offers a way to balance the freedom of autonomy with our responsibility to preserve NA unity. We are challenged in Tradition Four to apply autonomy in ways that will enhance the growth and vitality of NA. Autonomy encourages groups to become strong and lively but also reminds them that they are a vital part of a greater whole: the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous. We consider our common welfare when we make decisions in our groups.

Tradition Four, IWHW

Members who regularly read *NAWS News*, participate on the WSC participant discussion board, or serve Narcotics Anonymous may have heard some of the spirited opposition to the Service System Project. Differences of opinion

can be healthy and ultimately lead to better decisions, but it takes open minded dialog to get there. We embrace the discussion and we ask that we all remain open-minded.

We all want the same thing for NA: We want to be as effective as possible in achieving our primary purpose of carrying the message to addicts who still suffer. Yet we seem to differ in ideas about how to do that. In fact, some of our differences may actually be misunderstandings.

Perhaps the most common misunderstanding we hear is that World Services intends to force change, including restructuring, on groups, areas, and regions. We want to be clear: NAWS is not planning to impose structural or procedural changes to local service bodies. The idea that NAWS could or would somehow force a group to affiliate with a certain body, or an area to reunify with another area, or a region to reunify with another region is simply not true.

However, the Service System Proposals do recommend structural change—local service bodies that are formed along county, town, or city lines; group forums consisting of recovery groups in the same neighborhood; service bodies that are formed along state, country, or province lines. They also suggest service bodies adopt certain processes: planning and consensus-based decision making, for instance.

But it is crucial to keep in mind that any decisions—how to structure oneself, how to make decisions, how to plan services—will be made collaboratively. If the Fellowship decides to move forward adopting the ideas in the Service System Proposals, groups, areas, and regions will talk together about what changes they want to make. A transition into a new service system wouldn't be about World Services telling any local service body what to do. It would be about World Services providing the tools and blueprints for local service bodies to talk together about what they want a transition to look like.

We hope to get a Fellowship conscience at WSC 2014 on whether members want to move forward in the first stage of a process of change to a new system. We have invested a great deal of time, energy, and money into this project and we still believe in dedicated support of groups, planning and budgeting for local services, service body boundaries that make it easy for potential members and professionals who refer addicts to find us, and collaborative decision making.

More than anything, in this *NAWS News*, we are asking how we all can move forward in a spirit of loving service and unity toward our future.



TERMINOLOGY

We reported in the last *NAWS News* that we had heard from many of you that the word “unit” didn’t really sound like an NA service body. We continued our discussion about terminology at this meeting and came to consensus on the term “group support forum” rather than “group support unit” as it’s been called up to now. We also agreed that “local service conference” was a better description than “local service unit.” We will start to use this new terminology and as we update the documents on our website we will make the changes to them over time.

FIELD TESTING UPDATE

We are wrapping up the formal part of our field testing, though we know several of the nine core communities as well as many of the non-core community field testers plan to continue holding group support forum meetings and planning conferences. We will be working between now and the conference to collect thoughts from the field testing communities and we will continue to report on what we find in *NAWS News* and the conference reports.

Perhaps the most important thing we’ve found is that communities need to take the time to develop awareness and community support, and changes need to be planned so that they can be adopted in stages.

Some ideas we have collected that may help that evolution include:

- Service bodies transitioning from monthly ASCs to quarterly LSCs might start by changing from a monthly service meeting to one that’s held every other month, before moving to a quarterly meeting to create a more gradual, less drastic shift.
- Some of the projects that come out of the initial planning assembly could be specifically focused on the transition itself, so workgroups are tasked with figuring out difficult pieces of the transition.
- One idea for transitioning to group support forums is to begin with one GSF for the whole community that gradually morphs into a number of them. A single GSF can model best practices and help people see value in them.
- It may help to have CBDM be among the first things to be implemented. Given the potential strain on a service body from so much change, learning to build consensus may be a helpful first step to put in place to ensure a more effective change.

Other things that have worked well in some of the testing communities include:

- Group support forums seem to thrive best when they are given some structure. There has been success in making someone on the local service board initially responsible for administering and facilitating the GSF and then gradually training someone from within the GSF to take the helm.

- There has also been some success in setting up topics for group support forums for the year. These topics could be related to or coordinated alongside the planning cycle for the local service conference.
- If GSFs are seen as more of a community resource, they seem to be more successful. Most of the field testing communities have been challenged to get the word out to the community at large that the group support forums exist, where and when they are, and what they do.

TOOLS

We continue to develop tools to help with the field test and to give a more concrete idea of what the ideas in the proposals might look like when put into practice. The most recent tools we’ve developed are a sample agenda for the third local service conference and an “LSB Basics” document. We are also currently working on several calendar-type tools.

Among the other tools we know we would like to develop at some point are:

- Reporting template from local service board to the groups—like a monthly LSB equivalent of the front page of *NAWS News*.
- Reporting template for ongoing services/subcommittees to the local service conference (or local service board)
- Post-planning assembly local service board agenda or task list, or perhaps LSB task lists for LSB meetings between each local service conference
- Tools to process survey results
- Budget tools

We’ve already learned quite a lot about how to improve the tools we’ve drafted, and we will probably get more ideas as we talk further with the communities that have field tested them. To date, we’ve been fully occupied supporting the field test and developing new tools. Nonetheless, we hope to find the time to revise at least some of the tools we’ve developed for the test so that they can be more useful in the cycle ahead should the conference determine to proceed with a transition.

ROLE OF ZONES

We continue to talk about the role of zones in a new service system. What seems essential to all zones is their role as a hub for fellowship development. Zones are a forum where regions can gather to feel connected, share resources and experiences, and foster unity. They function well as training forums and help regions with planning and leadership development.

Of course, that’s not all that zones do. Some have a public relations or translations role. Others work on events and hospitals and institutions work. They can also help border communities to communicate within their own state when they belong to a neighboring region.

Were the conference to adopt the recommendation (described below) about eliminating alternate attendance at the conference, zones would be an even more crucial training ground for alternate delegates. A zone can be a sort of microcosm of the WSC, a place to engage with others who serve beyond the local fellowship. Yet at the same time zones are intimate enough settings to allow substantive, in-depth discussion.

Given this role or potential role as a microcosm of the conference, we also discussed US zones and whether it makes sense to have fewer, larger US zones. This would increase the diversity within the zone and for some would make their zone feel more valuable as a result. If the primary focus of zones is fellowship development, that purpose might be better realized in a zone that could share a broader range of experience. This is a discussion we want to have with delegates. It makes sense to us to have between three and six zones in the US rather than eight. What do you all think? We look forward to continuing this discussion with you. As always, we can be reached at worldboard@na.org.

WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE CONSENSUS-BASED DECISION MAKING (CDBM) AND WSC RULES OF ORDER

We continued our discussion about conference processes and how to move further toward consensus-based decision making. At WSC 2012, we said we would come back with ideas for change because we recognize that we are in a transition right now—we are utilizing both parliamentary procedure and consensus-based decision making at the conference, and we are trying to improve our ability to develop consensus at the conference without prolonging the business sessions into the wee hours of the morning.

We still have not resolved our question of how to hear from a range of voices and how to hear all perspectives when a few tend to dominate. You have read our brainstorming ideas including utilizing something like a digital clock with red numbers and a second hand, inviting quieter delegates into the discussion, and placing those who have already spoken to a proposal or amendment at the end of the queue. However, we need to hear your suggestions. We seem to want the same outcome—an international discussion with many voices and perspectives. Please forward your ideas to us at worldboard@na.org.



DELEGATE FUNDING AND ALTERNATE DELEGATES WSC ATTENDANCE

We continued our discussions about the future of the World Service Conference and how to make the conference more sustainable for the future. By sustainable, we mean a focus and expense that we can afford and that is appropriate to the efforts. All funds, whether spent by World Services, a zone, or a region, are “our” funds. We have tried to consider these issues with that perspective in mind and not just considering direct expenses to World Services.

As we reported during the conference participant webinar, we’ve decided to recommend no automatic delegate funding. Need-based funding would be available to delegates who apply, but the expectation would be that regions that can afford to fund their delegate would be responsible for doing so.

The original thinking behind funding all delegates was that it would make the conference equally accessible to all, and that regions would contribute the funds they would have used to send their delegates so there would be no or minimal financial loss. That, however, hasn’t happened, and the cost of funding all delegates to the conference is not sustainable in the long term.

We also are recommending no alternate attendance at the conference. This was a difficult discussion for us and a hard conclusion to come to as a board. This is an issue many of us feel passionately about. Those of us who have had good experiences as alternates are challenged to imagine denying other regions and alternates that experience. We see the value in having an alternate to share experience and sometimes language with a delegate as well as a training position. Nonetheless, after much discussion, we determined that the best option we have when facing the future is to recommend no alternate attendance. For one thing, having fewer people on the floor of the conference would allow us room for growth in our present space. Moving locations would involve an outlay of human and financial resources that we hope to avoid and may well not have available.

We also believe that fewer people will make small group discussions more productive and more diverse. Right now, with more than 200 people in the room, it’s almost impossible to productively use small group discussions to build consensus. Having fewer people will allow more in-depth discussions. And participants will be more internationally diverse since a disproportionate number of US regions are presently able to fund their alternates. Of course, eliminating alternate attendance at the conference would also reduce the cost of the conference to regions and World Services, with more resources freed up for fellowship development and local services.

At the same time, we imagine that the role of the alternate can be refocused on communication throughout the region and support locally. We even talked about the possibility of a team of alternates locally that could work in concert, supporting and helping to communicate throughout the region. In short, we’re trying to think creatively. None of us

like being in a position where we have to make recommendations about giving something up, but our present reality is that we are stretched past physical and financial capacity and it's our responsibility to the Fellowship to figure out how to make some changes in the conference. This seems like the best set of recommendations to us at this time.

We've gotten a number of questions about whether these recommendations would affect the upcoming conference, and the answer is that they will not. These recommendations will come in the form of motions in the 2014 *Conference Agenda Report*. If the conference passes the motions, they will take effect at the close of the conference so the changes would take effect at the 2016 conference.

WSC SEATING

We reported in the last *NAWS News* that we want to hold off making any recommendations about a possible transition from regions to state/nation/province service bodies as well as recommendations about a seating policy for the conference. Nonetheless, we need to offer something as an "in the meantime" recommendation, what we might call a band-aid while we talk further together as a conference about what we want a seating policy to look like.

This was another challenging discussion for us. Some of us can see the wisdom in a zonal seating approach for the future, while others of us are not as enthusiastic about that idea. Regardless of where we stand about our ideas for a future conference, without further development of the state/nation/province parts of the service system as well as shared agreement about the role of zones, we have to come up with a stop-gap recommendation while we consider how to move to a bigger vision.

What seems to make the most sense to us for now is to consider no new seating requests. As some of our sponsors say, "When you don't know what to do, just wait." Planning for the growth of NA over the years and the impact on the conference is no easy feat. We need to work together to drive toward a vision for the conference. When we can come to that shared vision of the future WSC, it will give us a foundation upon which to begin to build seating criteria.

TRADITIONS BOOK PROJECT

In response to the first round of workshop materials we made available late last year, we have received stacks of input from workshops, as well as over 200 pieces of input submitted through our online questionnaire. These responses have included both experiences members have had with the applications of various Traditions, as well as thoughts on what they would like the book to be and what they think it shouldn't be.

Pending WSC 2014 affirmation of the project's continuation into the next cycle, we know that drafting, reviewing, and approving the book in 2014–2016 will make for a tight timeline. We will need to have plenty of input on hand going into the conference cycle in order to be as successful as possible. To help gather as much input as we can on each of the Traditions, we decided to create two new types

of input-gathering workshops. First, we created a new workshop profile that can be adapted for use with any of the Twelve Traditions. Our hope is that areas and/or regions can hold a series of workshops using this profile and cover as many Traditions as possible over the course of a number of months.

The second new type of workshop we developed for this next phase of input-gathering is one that we're pretty excited about: short, group-focused Traditions input workshops focused on one Tradition at a time. These brief workshops can be held in 15 to 20 minutes, or the discussion can be stretched out to any length desired by those participating. Our hope is that these will generate discussion and ideas from members at the group level; and to make it easier to send in the input, we're letting members know they can take pictures of their hand-written input and send it to us right away with smartphones.

In addition to making these new workshops available very soon, we encourage members to continue signing up and participating on the Traditions Book Project discussion board (<http://disc.na.org/trads>). We would also like you to send us your speaker tapes/CDs/mp3s for any Traditions-related shares, old or new. These recordings may serve as useful input to the project—please don't hesitate to send us whatever you might have. Find out more at www.na.org/traditions.

We look forward to your continued, enthusiastic participation.



AN INTRODUCTION TO NA MEETINGS

The review and input period for this pamphlet came to an end on 30 April 2013, and we are very thankful to all who sent their thoughts and ideas. We received input from Canada, Nepal, Sweden, Germany, and at least 19 states in the US. The majority of the input was very positive about the piece in general and excited about the prospect of having this resource more widely available.

While there weren't all that many pieces of input suggesting changes, we did receive a handful of ideas about relatively minor edits that could help improve the pamphlet. Those ideas are being incorporated into the approval draft, which will be included in the *Conference Agenda Report* later this year. Thanks again to everyone who sent input—we look forward to offering the pamphlet for Fellowship approval at WSC 2014.

WEBINARS

We are moving forward. Webinars offer the opportunity for exchanging information and discussing solutions for common issues. We are planning a Public Relations webinar for September and an H&I webinar early October. We are asking those who have not signed up yet to please join us. PR has a favorable number signed up (78), and H&I is somewhat less (55); we suspect that there are many more of us who may be interested who have yet to sign up. We would love for you to participate.

The inmate step-writing webinar will also be held at the end of September or early October. We believe that more inmate step-writing committees are being formed and would like to invite you into the process. Please sign up via the handi@na.org address and identify as wanting to join Inmate Step Writing.

Please send your name, contact information (email address), trusted servant position, and your region, as well as ideas about what you would like to see discussed, to:

- events@na.org for conventions,
- handi@na.org for Hospitals and Institutions, and
- PR@na.org for Public Relations/Public Information.

We realize that we have not held the convention webinar, yet we are still planning to hold one. We appreciate the patience and understanding of those who have already signed up.

WSC PARTICIPANT WEBINAR

We held our first WSC Participant Webinar Saturday, 13 July and were energized by the participation of 86 delegates or alternates. We thought this was a great start with delegates and hope that we can achieve even greater participation in the future. This was our largest webinar yet. Of course, we will be considering ways to improve this service.

Our format was simple. We began with a short presentation and then the board responded to questions that participants posed. We had a few general topic areas: service system, delegate funding, alternate attendance at the WSC, CDBM at the WSC, and current and future webinars. Delegate funding and alternate attendance garnered the most questions with delegates wanting to know the implementation date, would there be motions in the 2014 CAR, and how many regions had committed to funding their delegates. There were a number of questions about sustainability of the WSC and actions that may be taken like fund-raising. The webinar-focused questions centered on producing notes/transcript of the call, cost to host the webinar, and inquiries as to whether an additional webinar would be held.

Some of the service system questions were focused toward the upcoming CAR and CAT. Participants wanted to know what aspects of the service system would be addressed in the CAR and asked about changes in the naming with GSU and LSUs versus area service committees. There was a question as to whether the transition plan would be in the CAT or the CAR and about regional proposals pertaining to the Service System.

The above list of topic areas of questions is not the exhaustive list; it is provided to give a sense of the basic focus for this webinar. The complete question list was emailed to all WSC participants. We truly hope that those who were unable to join us this time can participate with us when we hold another WSC participant webinar.

OTHER FD ACTIVITIES

Since our last board meeting NAWS has been in Pennsylvania, Wyoming, California, Dubai, the United Kingdom, and Russia. A lot of the discussions in these locations were about local services and how to focus and improve our efforts. We thank members everywhere for their interest and attention.

We gratefully fulfilled our ongoing commitment to assist the Middle East in coming together without having to create a zone. Members from Turkey, Egypt, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Iran gathered in Dubai for recovery and service discussions, and for planning their next event!

The Russian zone met in the Urals and we were able to have our first workshop in the Ural Region. We have not been in the UK for many years and with great cooperation from their delegate we were able to hold workshops at both their RSC and their convention.

One of the most exciting opportunities we have had in some time was to bring eleven African communities together before the First East African Convention. Twenty African members from eleven African communities/countries attended a two day meeting: Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Namibia, Nigeria, Tanzania, South Africa, Uganda, Zanzibar, and Zimbabwe. By the end of this meeting, they had created the new African Zone. This would not have happened without the efforts of the RD from South Africa and a member from Kenya who are now the leadership of this forum. They are off to a great start with monthly Skype calls and we look forward to supporting their efforts.



STRATEGIC PLAN

In our July Strategic Planning day, we reviewed our objectives, created approaches to meet these objectives, and identified desired outcomes by 2016. We began our prioritization process. We, like most service bodies who use the planning process, have more desired outcomes than we have human and financial resources to achieve these outcomes. In October, we will need to make hard choices as to what we can realistically accomplish in the upcoming cycle. Each of our key result areas such as Trusted Servant Development, Public Relations, and Sustainability of NA World Services, would benefit from being able to achieve all of the desired outcomes; yet, the reality is we will need to make choices in every key result area. NA's needs—not just wants — will be our driving force.

As many of you know, once we complete our prioritization in October, we will be forwarding our revised and updated Strategic Plan, which will be included in the CAT along with applicable project plans. The CAT will be released 27 January 2014, and the CAR will come out two months prior: 27 November 2013 (27 December 2013 for translated versions). We hope that our process is becoming more familiar to members.



WORLD CONVENTION UPDATE

**WCNA 35, 29 August
1 September 2013
Philadelphia, PA USA**

“THE JOURNEY CONTINUES”

Excitement and anticipation continue to build toward the celebration of NA's 60th at the World Convention. Soon we all will be together in Philadelphia. The convention program, which was built

around our newest piece of recovery literature, *Living Clean: The Journey Continues*, is nearly complete. Our program includes recovery workshops, World Board forums, and PR treatment and criminal justice panels. The NAWs membership survey will be distributed at the Friday evening meeting and will be available in the onsite office and then online. We are jazzed with the number of institutions participating on the Unity Day call; it is anticipated that more than 10,000 inmate addicts will hear the message of recovery at our closing meeting.

We are looking forward to seeing you at registration in Hall F; the easiest access is through the entrance on 12th Street and Arch. The concert featuring Styx, and the Blues Luncheon have tickets remaining, and tickets for the comedy show are still available. The jazz breakfast and banquet

are sold out. Onsite registration is \$99, and registration includes the dances and coffee houses. As a reminder, WCNA 35 will be a registration-required event.

We hope that you will also visit NAWs onsite, which is located in the central walkway bridge area. We will have pieces of our history on display and recovery literature including our 30th Anniversary limited, hand-numbered edition of the Basic Text. It's a beautiful book and a great gift for your sponsors who couldn't make it to the convention.

Parking will be at a premium in Philadelphia. We encourage members to visit www.na.org/wcna and sign up for parking which will guarantee you a place to park. Members who are in the northeast corridor may consider taking a train into Philadelphia, particularly if you wait until close to the convention date to decide to attend.

Since many members plan vacations around a World Convention, we are offering various excursions to sites around Philadelphia such as an Amish country tour, as well as places within Philadelphia such as the Liberty Bell. These day trips will be available onsite. Tickets will be sold by the tour company near the NAWs onsite location. For those members who arrive early, there is a bus tour of New York City being offered for Wednesday, 27 August.

We hope that you will be celebrating NA's 60th anniversary in Philadelphia with us.

WCNA 36: We have finalized our location—Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 11-14 June 2015

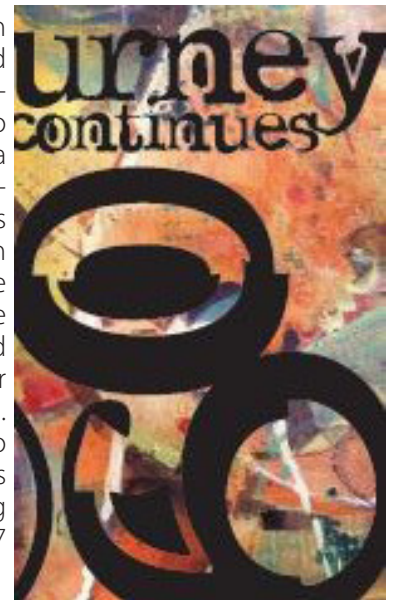
HUMAN RESOURCE PANEL

Hello from the Human Resource Panel!

We have just completed our July meeting, and are fast approaching a few important deadlines, and we wanted to remind everyone of them.

As some background, the World Service Conference created a process by which NA regions, zones, and the World Board can forward candidates to the HRP for our consideration. We call these RBZ (Region, Board, Zone) recommendations. It allows those service bodies to consider members for potential nomination to the World Board, cofacilitator, and the HRP roles, and send those names along. It is important to note that this is not a nomination, but rather a recommendation. The RBZ process foregoes the HRPs initial screening and ensures that the RBZ candidate will receive an interview.

Back in September 2012 we sent all regional delegates, zonal forum contacts, and the World Board an email with links to information on how to utilize the RBZ process. Attached to



that email was the rationale questionnaire and submission form. We asked the service bodies to complete this form for each candidate they submit. The deadline for candidate submission is 31 October 2013.

We also want to remind everyone that concurrently we contacted all members in the World Pool to remind them that they must update their World Pool Information Form (WPIF) in order to be considered for nominations this cycle. If we do not receive updated WPIFs for these members by 31 August, they will be removed from consideration in the upcoming nominations process.

Once again the important upcoming deadlines are:

- 31 August 2013: Deadline for individual members to submit WPIFs, and deadline to update any WPIFs in order to be considered for a WSC 2014 HRP nomination.
- 31 October 2013: Deadline for region, board, and zone candidate (RBZ) submissions to the HRP (with the new questionnaire form).

As previously reported, we have made some changes to our vetting process, identifying as early as we can those members who are most likely to be nominees. We are mindful that being a candidate can take an emotional toll, and as members move through our process they are asked to respond to questions and offer information. All of this takes their time, energy, and commitment.

There are two areas of focus. The first is based on recovery background. A few cycles back the WSC asked us to ask all candidates a few personal recovery questions that seem to be critical for election. We have moved these to the very beginning of our process, placing them on the World Pool Information Form. We now ask, "Do you have an NA sponsor? If no, please elaborate."; "Have you worked all Twelve Steps of NA? If no, please elaborate."; "Do you attend NA meetings on a regular basis? Please identify what you consider 'regular basis.' If no, please elaborate."

The second area is service background. Our understanding is that the WSC finds service background paramount in being considered for service to the WSC. A member must have some history of local service leadership in NA, or World Services exposure, to be able to be a viable nominee. With that as a foundation, we will use the current service history information to identify those members who have served in leadership at the local level, or in some capacity for World Services.

We will be using these two approaches to move forward only those members who are most likely to be nominated, and excuse those who are not, at the earliest opportunity.

For the first time since the initiation of the World Board, the WSC has filled every seat on the board. And with the election of eleven board members at WSC 2012, there will be only two board members whose current terms end at WSC 2014. Remembering that our guidelines require that we forward no more than two nominees for each available seat, we will be nominating no more than four members for those World Board positions at WSC 2014.

Currently there are 1,097 members in the World Pool. The World Pool Information Forms are available on our website at www.na.org, or by calling or writing NA World Services.

We thank you again for the opportunity to serve. Please feel free to forward any thoughts, ideas, or concerns to the HRP, c/o NAWS, or via email at hrp@na.org.

CALENDAR FOR 2013-2014

WCNA 35 29 August–1 September 2013 – Philadelphia, PA, USA

World Unity Day 2013 1 September 2013

Travel requests (considered by quarter)

15 August for October–December

15 October for January–March

Regional proposal deadline: 1 August 2013 and be in CAR-ready form by 31 August 2013.

Deadline for World Pool Information Form submission and updates, for consideration for WSC 2014 HRP nomination 31 August 2013

Deadline for submitting Region/Board/Zone (RBZ) recommendations for consideration for nomination: 31 October 2013

English Conference Agenda Report available 27 November 2013

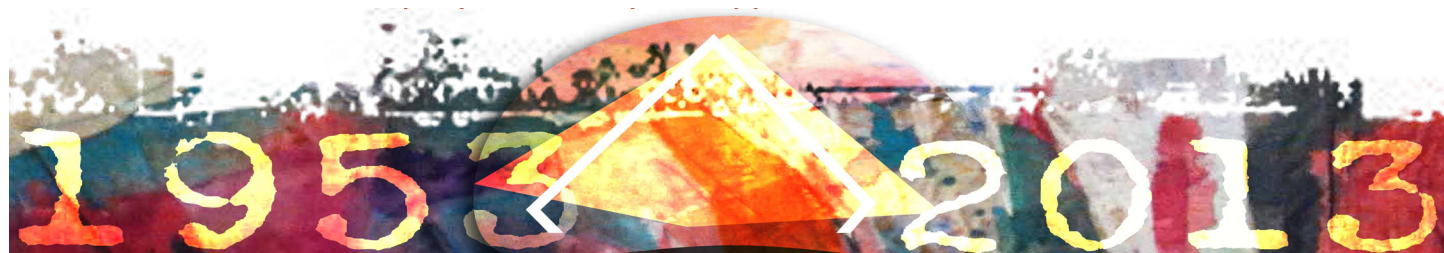
Translated Conference Agenda Report available 27 December 2013

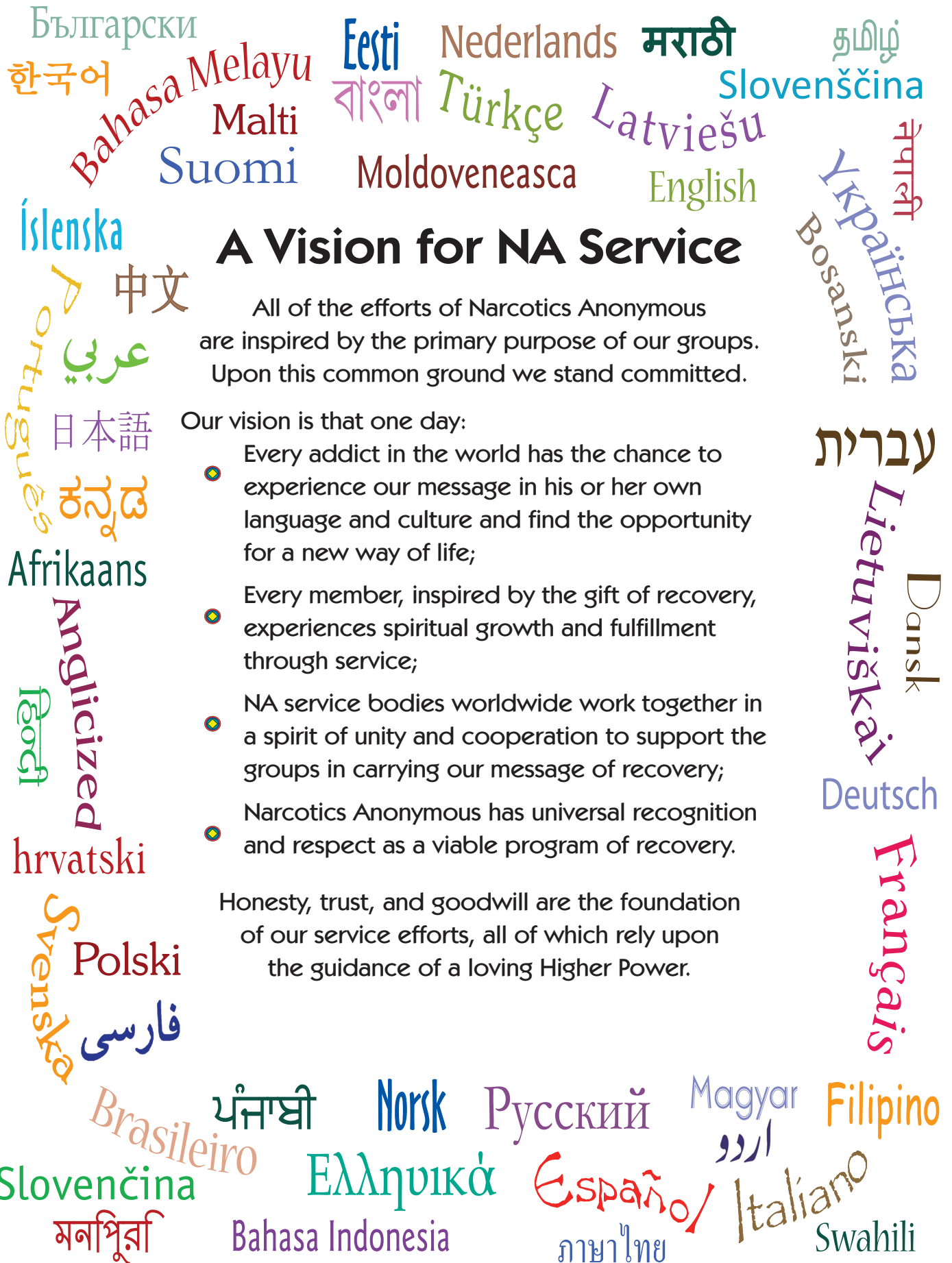
Conference Approval Track material available 27 January 2014

Regional report deadline 15 February 2014

World Service Conference 2014 27 April–3 May 2014

WCNA 36 11-14 June 2015, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil





A Vision for NA Service

All of the efforts of Narcotics Anonymous are inspired by the primary purpose of our groups. Upon this common ground we stand committed.

Our vision is that one day:

- Every addict in the world has the chance to experience our message in his or her own language and culture and find the opportunity for a new way of life;
- Every member, inspired by the gift of recovery, experiences spiritual growth and fulfillment through service;
- NA service bodies worldwide work together in a spirit of unity and cooperation to support the groups in carrying our message of recovery;
- Narcotics Anonymous has universal recognition and respect as a viable program of recovery.

Honesty, trust, and goodwill are the foundation of our service efforts, all of which rely upon the guidance of a loving Higher Power.