# naws◇news

## 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-subs to *The NA Way* and *NAWS News*. This helps us to communicate more effectively and control distribution costs.

- The *Conference Agenda Report*, Conference Approval Track materials, Delegate Survey, and Regional Report form, as well as PowerPoints and profiles to use as a resource are centrally located on the conference page at **www.na.org/conference**. Accessing the *CAR* or the CAT requires the user name CP2012 and password WSC2012. This page will continue to be updated between now and WSC 2012 so please check back regularly. We also plan to post a link on this page for this material in Spanish as it is translated. That link will be: **www.na.org/conf-span**.

- The Service System third draft proposals, history of the project, a summary of reporting, as well as other material relevant to the project can be found at **www.na.org/servicesystem**.

- If you are a current conference participant or were one during the 2008-2010 cycle, please sign up for the conference participant bulletin board at **http://disc.na.org**. This board can be viewed by any interested member. We would like delegates and members to participate; members of the World Board will be actively involved on the boards.

- Regional report and delegate survey deadline is 1 March 2012:

  Please help us be better prepared by providing your information before the deadlines. Your information helps us more effectively prepare conference sessions and serves as an important record for each region. The regional reports are also included in the March *Conference Report*. We will also be sending delegates their candidate profiles with the *Conference Report* mailing for the first time as an experiment.

- We have persisted with our efforts to reduce expenses across the board; we continue to ask for your financial support in providing services that help in carrying the NA message worldwide. Please see the members' contribution portal at **www.na.org/?ID=donation-external-index**.

- Membership Survey – delay no longer. Participate! We have the survey online until 10 February 2012. Tell a friend. Help us to present a picture of recovery in NA, go to: **www.na.org/?ID=membership_survey**.

Go to *NAWS News* at **www.na.org/?ID=reports-nawsnews-nawsmain**

# INSPIRED BY OUR PRIMARY PURPOSE

## MOVING TOWARD WSC 2012

To begin the New Year, we met 5-7 January 2012 at WSO Chatsworth, CA. We had an ambitious and productive three-day meeting with our primary focus toward the Conference Approval Track (CAT). We discussed the Service System Project, focusing on delegation and proposal issues; the website is a great source for current and past information about this project. We hope that you take the time to visit the Service System Project area on the website, www.na.org/servicesystem.

During this meeting, we finalized the Strategic Plan for 2012-2014 and discussed WSC sessions; including how to talk about our planning process and communicate effectively how that process is clearly linked with scanning and other information in *Planning Basics*. We spent time discussing the upcoming budget proposal and project plans including possible next steps with the Service System Project.

Our agenda covered a financial update and an initial discussion of a website revision. Changes were discussed to improve the website and make it more user friendly. We are constantly challenged to keep up with current technology and we plan to better address this in our next Strategic Plan. We are researching iPhone applications, e-publications and a mobile website.
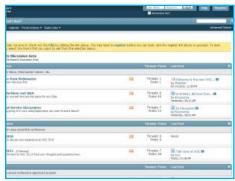
We decided with all the information that is being distributed along with *CAR* and CAT workshops, the upcoming *Annual Report* and *Conference Report,* we would provide members with a brief update in this issue of *NAWS News*. We encourage members to visit the conference page at www.na.org/conference. All conference materials—including the *CAR*, CAT, regional report template, and the delegate survey, etc.—will be found here. Conference materials are centralized on one page to ease website navigation. We will continue to update this page between now and WSC 2012, so please check it frequently.



You can either complain that rose bushes have thorns, or rejoice that thorn bushes have roses.

We also encourage interested members and particularly conference participants to join us in discussions on the conference participant bulletin board at http://disc.na.org. While only conference participants can post, anyone can view this page.



## FISCAL UPDATE

As is our practice, we provide you with our financial picture in each *NAWS News*. We continue to practice a stark program at the WSO Chatsworth where we currently function with nine fewer than our normal compliment of staff members. Contributions from the fellowship in the last three months of 2011 were dismal and recovery literature sales were down. We have an approved budget from WSC 2010, and contributions are far below the expected amount included in the approved budget. We discussed ways to reach members and increase their awareness of the financial need and the ever-increasing importance of continuing the services we provide to the fellowship and the general public in these difficult economic times. Addicts continue to need help and we believe that NA offers what they need. Part of our responsibility is to help them know about NA and be able to find us.

We continue to be cautious and conservative, yet we hope to be able to provide increased public relations activity which has virtually been non-existent; we believe that an essential part of our mission is to maintain our presence at conferences and maintain relationships with professionals so addicts will be referred to the NA program where they can find freedom from active addiction. And, we may be able to expand fellowship development efforts in our ever growing worldwide fellowship; addicts in many areas in North America and throughout the globe do not know that recovery exists and we believe we can help to carry our message of recovery to them.

We will continue to ask members to *Invest in Our Vision* and encourage regions to contribute to our fellowship. Each and every one of us earned our seat in NA through active addiction and we have received the gift of recovery. This precious gift, inspired by our primary purpose, is to be shared with others. We share our gratitude for this daily reprieve by paying it forward financially, thus making it possible for addicts throughout the world to recover in NA.

# Service System

We had attended two *CAR* workshops prior to the board meeting and discussed our interactions with members in these workshops along with their issues of concern. We heard three recurring issues.

One thing people asked about was project background – where did this project come from? The Service System Project stemmed from efforts to address what seem to be perennial challenges on a local level. Over the years, we have heard the same concerns with local service delivery from various sources. Worldwide workshops asked what were the significant issues members faced and apathy was usually the #1 challenge – members did not want to be involved. During the PR roundtables, professionals from treatment, medical, and judicial fields stated that there were significant challenges with contacting NA in specific locales, often involving the need to contact multiple services bodies. Finally, we had several IDTs focused toward service delivery (e.g. Infrastructure, Our Service System, and Leadership) over the last ten years. Members repeatedly brought up lack of training and mentoring, a lack of trusted servants, negative atmosphere of recovery in service meetings, and ineffective services such as helplines with no one answering the calls. There have been efforts over the years to "patch" some of the "holes" in the system, but after hearing the same challenges for so long, taking a holistic approach to examining and suggesting improvements to the service system seemed to be the wisest approach to resolving some of these issues. More information about the background of this project can be found at www.na.org/servicesystem.

A second issue which has been voiced at the *CAR* workshops is that of delegation. For one thing, there seems to be a misconception that the Service System Proposals are outlining a system in which groups would no longer be voting on matters for the WSC. There is no intention whatsoever to distance members, and certainly no suggestion to remove a member or group's voting privilege for WSC matters. The proposals are geared toward consensus-based decision making, but this in no way removes the group's ability to vote on proposals/motions/ items affecting the WSC. It's worth noting that not every region in NA functions the same way with *CAR* voting; some gather their conscience at workshops or assemblies, some use area voting, and some gather group tallies. *We are not proposing anything that would change those practices.*

Delegation on a local level, on the other hand, may function a bit differently for some communities, if the ideas in the Service System Proposals were put into practice. The group support unit is focused toward group issues, and GSU

meetings would be held separately from the LSU, which is based upon a planning cycle for local service projects and ongoing services such as H&I. The local service unit, as described in the proposals, meets quarterly to make decisions and have discussions about planning, prioritizing, and overseeing work. Much of the administrative detail on a local level is delegated to the local service board, as well as the project workgroups and committees, in the hopes that the LSU meetings can be focused on broader strategic discussions, more deliberate decisions about resources, and oversight of the work being done. In other words, delegating more of the administrative detail ideally would promote groups' participation in decision making, rather than discourage it, as groups are better empowered to make decisions that affect local practices and outcomes.

Thanks to the discussions held at the two *CAR* workshops, we were able to clarify these points on the session profiles and PowerPoints for subsequent *CAR* workshops. These third draft proposals, outlines and PowerPoints for local *CAR* workshops can be found at www.na.org/servicesystem.

Finally, the third issue regarding the service system centers on a common theme of questions about the specifics of implementation (e.g., "What will happen to my ASC if…", "What if other ASCs in the region decide…?", "What if my group decides…?") In a sense these sorts of questions put the "cart before the horse". We are offering resolutions in the *CAR* which move us in a direction. Until we know whether we have agreement in principle about the broad ideas being proposed, it seems premature to work out the details of a transition to that system. We will be offering a project plan at the conference to accomplish the next steps with the service system project; the concrete details of implementation will be addressed in the transition/implementation aspect of this project.

## CAR WORKSHOPS

There seems to be some confusion about the different type of decisions contained in the 2012 *CAR*.

**Two types of binding decisions will be made at this conference:**

- **Motions**: These are decisions about actions to be taken now.
- **Resolutions:** These are intended to reach agreements in principle on broad-based ideas. They help create a conceptual foundation for future changes.

**Two types of items in the *CAR* are designed to gauge preferences and support** levels for ideas that will inform and guide future work. They may lead to future decisions, but are not decisions that will be made at this conference:

- **Straw polls:** Non-binding votes intended to gauge support for more specific aspects of the service system proposals. Results are intended to be used to guide future work.
- **Regional proposals:** Ideas forwarded by regions for study and consideration in lieu of regional motions. They are not being presented for decision at this time.

We have had several delegates ask how they should be gathering a conscience for the straw polls in the *CAR*. We have heard that some delegates were using straw polls to gauge the level of support in their region, while others were simply asking for a yes (support) or no (do not support) vote. For purposes of clarity and a definite direction, at the conference we will be asking delegates to vote yes (support) or no (do not support). This seems like the easiest way to measure the level of support for the ideas and to best serve the future of this work. Thank you to all who asked.

**Two types of proposals:**

- Service System Proposal Report (*CAR* Addendum A) – This is a **background** resource to understand the resolutions and the straw polls. It will not be voted on at this conference.
- Regional Proposals – These are ideas from regions for study and consideration at this conference.
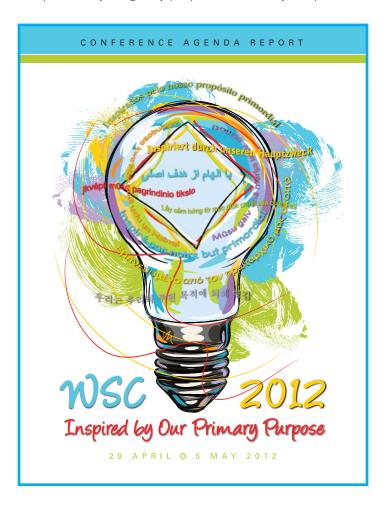
**Why regional proposals not motions:**

- Proposals are more flexible than motions.
- Motions are inherently rigid. The process of changing motions is complex and intimidating to many.
- Our hope is that proposals rather than motions will allow delegates to bring ideas that can easily be discussed without the pressure or formality of making a binding decision.
- We talked about it in terms of a metaphor: delegates often feel like they are bringing trees to the conference and getting all the branches lopped off in the process of making motions *CAR*-ready. We are hoping that bringing proposals is more like bringing seeds.

As we stated in a previous *NAWS News,* we believe this new process will foster a more discussion-based conference. Thus, an item for old or new business brought forth by a delegate will be presented in proposal form, offered to the conference for discussion, and straw polled for support. We will be measuring the level of support or lack of support for each regional proposal. Also, as we have done in the past, at the end of the week, the WB will be seeking the conference's support by straw poll for further direction on items discussed at WSC 2012. The future of regional proposals or motions will be among the items we will discuss with the conference, seeking ideas about the best way to deal with them in the future.

**Why the World Board presents motions:**

- The board presents motions rather than proposals because the policy hasn't changed in terms of how to pass a project or approve a book, for example. We don't feel it's responsible to experiment with conference processes for things like approving recovery literature or major projects. But in the future, it may be that we are able to conduct more business through proposals rather than motions.
- Also, the board's motions all stem from the strategic plan. Everything they propose is driven by the plan.



CONFERENCE AGENDA REPORT

WSC 2012

*Inspired by Our Primary Purpose*

29 APRIL ◊ 5 MAY 2012

## PROPOSED PROJECT PLANS 2012-14

We finalized our Strategic Plan, and these plans will help us realize our objectives. We identified desired outcomes, and approaches to reach those outcomes. Our project plans came from identifying 'how' to achieve the stated approaches. Prior to offering project plans, we also had to prioritize – we always want to do more than resources (human and financial) allow. Details of these plans will be in the CAT, which will be mailed by 28 January 2012 and posted at www.na.org.

We are mindful of our resources with the project plans that we are presenting. We will be offering Fellowship Issue Discussion Topics and a plan for possible next steps with the Service System Project which is contingent upon WSC direction. Additionally, we will present a plan for a book on the Twelve Traditions, which was an expressed desire of WSC 2010 and a demonstrated priority from the literature survey, and a plan that offers a process for the current Service Pamphlet, *An Introduction to NA Meetings*, to go through to become an IP. Finally, we again will be presenting a project for public relations to hold focus groups to help us develop effective strategies and improve our communication, as well as a plan for a Trusted Servant Support and Development Project.

## WSC SEATING RECOMMENDATION

We had a moratorium through WSC 2012 on considering seating requests from regions that resulted from a division of an already seated community. By the 1 April 2011 deadline, we had one request for seating from a region—Siberia/Far East RSC—that was not from a division. We diligently considered their request and even sent a NAWS travel team to their event in August 2011. Yet, given our current state of transition regarding seating and the fact that the conference remains divided on this issue, we could not see how it would be beneficial to bring a new region to the conference at this time. More information about this can be found in the 2012 Conference Approval Track (CAT) material.

## REMOVAL OF ONLINE PDF BOOKS

We have received inquiries about the removal of the online PDFs which were elementary electronic versions of our book-length texts. Our initial decision to post those files was so that people could access them for personal use, but some people began distributing the texts through mass emails and others even offered them for sale online through public commercial sites. We recognize that our decision to remove the .pdfs may have taken some members by surprise and may have created disappointment, yet in the face of the mass distribution and sales, as the trustees of the fellowship's intellectual property, we believe the responsible action was to remove the files from our site. In the future, we plan to offer excerpts of our books online.

Understanding the value of our literature, we will continue to post the booklets and IPs at na.org, and offer free printed literature to those who contact us and do not have the necessary funds to purchase. In this way, we believe we can balance our responsibility to protect NA's intellectual property and to provide NA literature to addicts seeking recovery.

## WORLD CONVENTION 34 UPDATE

We are still in negotiations for final resolution with two hotels where we did not meet our room block. We are not able to consider the figures below final until all negotiations are completed. As more and more members are choosing alternatives to booking within our room blocks, we will be reducing our room blocks for future conventions.

The summary for WCNA 34 as of 31 December is as follows. More information will be included in the *Annual Report*.

| INCOME | |
|---|---:|
| Registrations | $1,135,156 |
| Special Events | 483,270 |
| Other Income | 71,680 |
| Merchandise Income | 617,584 |
| TOTAL INCOME | $2,307,690 |
| EXPENSE | |
| Administration | $209,902 |
| Facilities Expenses | 174,732 |
| Merchandise | 551,010 |
| Program | 285,490 |
| Registration | 372,022 |
| Special Events | 420,732 |
| Support Workgroup | 11,225 |
| TOTAL EXPENSE | $2,025,113 |
| WCNA 34 NET REVENUE | $282,577 |

## HUMAN RESOURCE PANEL

Greetings again from your Human Resource Panel! As we have not met since the last edition of *NAWS News* was released, our report to you will be concise.

Our initial blind screening has been completed and we are currently involved with the interview segment. We have also contacted a number of local service committees to gain their perspective on those traditional candidates who are being interviewed. If your committee has received this form, please complete and return it to the HRP by 1 March.

As always, we invite any thoughts or questions. Feel free to contact us at hrp@na.org, or contact Roberta at the World Service Office at 818-773-9999 ext. 121.

## CALENDAR FOR 2010-2012

**Travel requests** (considered by quarter)
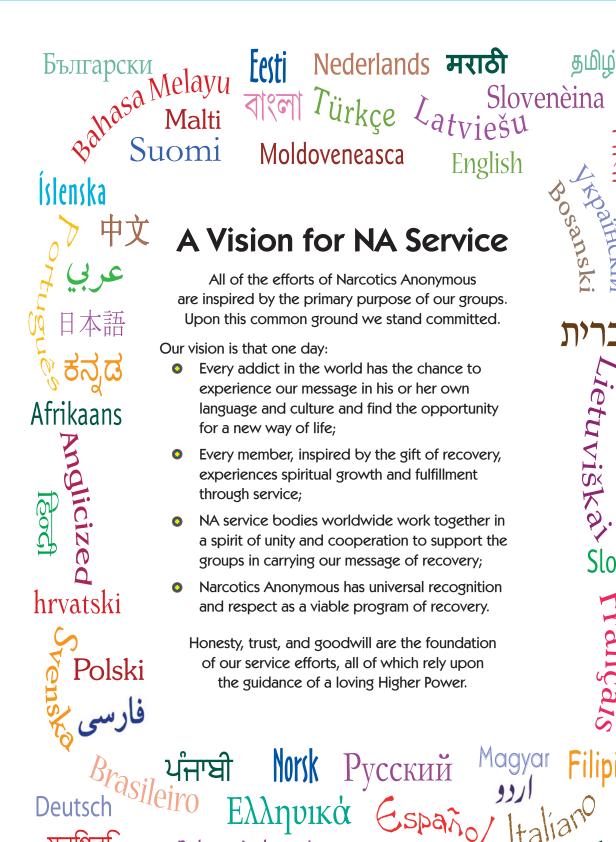    **15 February** for April–June
    **15 May** for July–September

**Conference Approval Track** 28 January 2012

**Regional report & delegate survey deadline**
    1 March 2012

**World Service Conference** 29 April – 5 May 2012

Български

Eesti   Nederlands   मराठी

Bahasa Melayu   বাংলা   Türkçe   Slovenèina   தமிழ்

Malti   Latviešu   नेपाली

Suomi   Moldoveneasca   English   Українскій

Íslenska   Bosanski

中文   עברית

عربي   Lietuviškai   Dansk

日本語   Português

ಕನ್ನಡ   Slovak

Afrikaans

# 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.

Anglicized   Français

हिन्दी

hrvatski

Svenska   Polski

فارسی

Brasileiro   ਪੰਜਾਬੀ   Norsk   Русский   Magyar   Filipino

Deutsch   Ελληνικά   Espaõl   Italiano   اردو

মনিপুরী   Bahasa Indonesia   ภาษาไทย   Swahili