

naws on news

GREETINGS FROM YOUR WORLD BOARD



Since our last *NAWS News*, we have continued to function productively in what feels like “full speed ahead.” Our activities and actions on behalf of our fellowship include continuing to ready the Basic Text personal stories for the approval draft, working on a draft for consensus-based decision making at the WSC, finalizing the two-page WPIF with the HRP, developing several service IPs, initiating our strategic planning process for 2008-2010, developing additional resource material for the *Public Relations Handbook*, and facilitating numerous workshops throughout our global fellowship. Of course, WCNA-32 in San Antonio is right around the corner and our energy levels are high as we approach this event.

Now, as we catch our breath, we will provide you with a recap from our last board meeting which was held in San Diego, CA, from 11 to 14 April 2007 as well as *NAWS* activity since our January meeting.

For the first day of our meeting, we (board and staff) engaged in our initial strategic planning session facilitated by Jim DeLizia. This day-long session focused on an environmental scan, which is similar to the inventory and listing-of-issues aspects of the Area Planning Tool. Greg Muth, executive director of Alcoholics Anonymous’ General Service Office in New York, NY, was also present for this planning process and was an active and valued participant. We spent a great deal of time discussing each of our organizations’ primary purposes.

On our second day we started with an interactive collaborative discussion with Greg that centered on their donations system, communications throughout their fellowship, literature publishing and distribution, their specialized focus with professionals, and their cooperation with Al-Anon. This session helped us to gain a perspective on interacting with professionals in our public relations efforts, to consider new avenues for member donations, and to better understand cooperation as it relates to Nar-Anon.

We moved to a discussion of the Basic Text where we approved the introduction and preface for the approval

draft. We continued our discussion with the personal stories and the gaps that we believe exist in the stories. The BT workgroup will have its final meeting in June, and we will be finalizing the approval draft at our July meeting. The approval draft will be available for the fellowship by 1 September. We completed our ambitious second day with a report from the *NA Way* Editorial Board, an update regarding our website, and a productive feedback session for the drafts of several service IPs.

During the third and fourth days of our meeting we went into our retreat, which means that we addressed fellowship matters and discussed philosophical and practical board issues. We engaged in fruitful sessions regarding responsibilities as a World Board member. Additionally, we reviewed a draft of “Consensus-Based Decision Making” at the WSC and discussed the value members seem to place on Narcotics Anonymous, as well as their respective donations for services and for carrying the message of recovery worldwide.

Even though we met for four full days, we found that we didn’t have the time to address everything face-to-face. We are using technology—email, specifically—to meet our responsibilities.

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What's Ahead:

More planning and preparation. At our July board meeting we will formulate objectives and approaches for the 2008–2010 NAWS Strategic Plan. Those of you who have used the APT may have attended an ASC with a similar focus. The project plans we present at WSC 2008 will evolve from this planning work.

STRATEGIC PLANNING



As part of our continuing effort to integrate and continually pursue ideals in the vision statement, we held the first of three sessions to create the 2008–2010 Strategic Plan. This plan lays out important actions that we need to undertake in the upcoming conference cycle to move toward universal availability and acceptance of our message of recovery and unity within our global fellowship.

Our planning process is similar to the Area Planning Tool process that many of you may have used in your local service efforts. We discussed the information gathered through an environmental scan and identified the main issues that seem to be affecting NA from outside and inside our fellowship. We then attempted to fit these into the four key result areas (Communication, Fellowship Support, Resources, and Leadership and Management) that are common to each cycle's plan.

Our environmental scan contained a variety of information: reports from outside agencies (such as the UN 2006 World Drug Report), NAWS operational records (for example, fellowship inquiries, literature sales, and financial data), and a broad-based survey completed by staff and board members. The survey focused on changes, both inside and outside the fellowship, and the effect they may have on our priorities.

Some of the major external issues identified were: large developing NA communities such as China and Africa, the changing and fragile political environment, new perceptions of addiction and new pharmacological ways of treating it by medical professionals and addiction professionals, new technology, and greater public visibility and acceptance of our message.

Some of the key internal issues were: continuing to carry our core message to an increasingly diverse fellowship, the changing age range of our members (both younger and older), maturity (increased clean time) within our fellowship, application of our pro-

gram within various religions and cultures, and the declining value of the dollar against other currencies and its effect on our finances.

As part of the process, we looked ten years down the road in an effort to anticipate changes that may affect NA. Some of these that we identified were: stagnation in the growth of the US fellowship, a huge increase in the worldwide number of our members, globalization and the economic and social changes that come with it, fund flow at all levels of the fellowship, communication needs both inside and outside the fellowship, and, once again, new technology.

Under the **Communications Key Result Area**, we discussed: public relations strategies (who we talk to, what we say, and how we do it), developing a clear statement of who we are and what we do, and ways to clearly define the message of our traditions and principles.

For the **Fellowship Support Key Result Area**, we identified: training tools, new literature to meet the changing profile of our fellowship, revision of the existing tools to better reflect our members' experience, and the possible use of nonaddict advocates.

The main issues identified with the **Leadership and Management Key Result Area** were: leadership development, communication throughout our service structure, and recognition of the rewards and spiritual benefits of service.

In the **Resource Key Result Area**, issues included: responsibility for self-support and discussions about our being partners and owners of our fellowship, financial expenditures (how and where we spend our money), and our over reliance on the Basic Text as our main source of revenue.

We are not able to capture every significant trend and change, even with such an extensive list; we believe that our efforts will help to prepare us for the next cycle. Our next step, at our meeting in July, is to finalize our objectives and begin to formulate our approaches.

FELLOWSHIP ISSUE DISCUSSION

As we reported in January, we are using the results of the discussions thus far to take another step forward with a revised set of Issue Discussion questions that dig deeper into the issues. In all of the workshops that we are reporting on in this *NAWS News*, we facilitated workshops with our members using the revised IDTs. Members seemed to embrace the group worksheet in the *Strong Home Groups* sessions and appeared to en-

gage with the solution and action plan aspect of the *Our Service System* sessions. The twelve- and four-page versions of this update are posted on our website (http://www.na.org/discussion_boards.htm) in a variety of languages. Please continue to check this section of the website. We will post additional tools to facilitate these discussions, including the enclosed session profiles to help you conduct your own workshops. Upcoming discussions will reflect the shift in focus.

We strongly encourage groups, areas, and regions to work together and hold workshops on the IDTs to raise awareness, increase fellowship dialog, and collect input. The sessions we develop are meant to make it easier for you to plan, prepare, and facilitate workshops. Background information and tips for holding your own workshops, as well as electronic discussion areas to exchange ideas with members worldwide, can be found online at the discussion board page of our site: http://www.na.org/discussion_boards.htm. If you do hold a local workshop, please send us your input on the IDT questions. Your responses to these issues will help us frame our work for the next cycle.

Conference Participant Bulletin Board

http://www.na.org/discussion_boards.htm

The Issue Discussion Topic board may be getting plenty of posts and views, but the traffic on the Conference Participant bulletin board is still low. We have been talking about how to increase interest and participation. Send us your ideas—or better yet, if you’re a current or past conference participant, log on and join the conversation.



WHO’S MISSING: YOUTH IPs AND COMMON NEEDS AT WCNA

Youth IPs update

We’re happy to report that we’ve been hearing from members about their efforts to get the review and input drafts of the Youth IPs out to the fellowship. Area and regional committees, individual members, and youth groups have been requesting materials and forwarding their input. NAWS conducted a bilingual workshop at the Youth Convention in Montreal, Canada, with a translated version of the IPs made possible by the Youth Convention trusted servants.

We’ve already received some great input from members who have shown the parents’ piece to their family and friends. We’ve also heard some members’ con-

cerns about whether the piece for parents falls outside our focus. The workgroup and board felt that it was essential to include this public relations piece as a part of this project, so that we could address some of the questions younger members have tried to answer for their parents. We hope the approval draft will do an even better job of communicating the experiences of younger members navigating recovery with their parents in a voice nonmember parents can appreciate.

As we’ve previously reported, we believe we cannot ignore the need to speak to addicts in a language they understand when they are first looking for NA. This need to identify is crucial for many newcomers. It’s true that many of us found the rooms without these additional ways of identifying with NA’s message, but we do not know how many did not. We feel that it is part of our primary purpose and our vision to provide even more avenues for people to find NA. We cherish the unity that is the foundation of our ability to come together from a variety of backgrounds and share in NA’s message of recovery. Our hope is that more and more addicts will continue to find NA through a variety of ways and have a chance to experience the unity and diversity we hold so dear.

We know these IPs are just a beginning, but we’re excited to take these initial steps in making NA’s message more accessible to our growing membership of young addicts around the world.

BASIC TEXT PROJECT

The Basic Text project continues in full swing as we count down these last months until the approval draft is published. The review period ran from September 2006 through this last February. In that time, we distributed more than 7,500 copies of the draft—4,493 paper copies mailed and 3,009 electronic copies downloaded. Given those numbers, we were expecting more input than we received. All totaled, we had approximately 350 pieces of input, with 60 percent coming from individuals, 17 percent from groups, and 23 percent from committees.



From the input: “I’m currently in the highest security unit [in this prison]. I have no real fellowship available. I have only my literature. I’m not sure where I stumbled across this suggestion but . . . I remembered how someone said I could have a meeting of one. . . . I picked out a random story and enjoyed

the speaker meeting as I read it out loud. I'm striving for ninety meetings in ninety days. . . . I'd had fourteen of my "meetings for one" when this edition arrived. Looks like I'll have a real diverse '90 in '90.' Tonight's meeting was in Saudi Arabia."

When we initially posted the input forms online we tried to make them as anonymous as possible to encourage members to submit their thoughts. Only after the pages were up for a while did we realize it would be helpful to know where the input was coming from, so we know locations for a little more than half of the input. About 90 percent of that input came from inside the US and about 10 percent came from a dozen other countries:

Brazil	Canada	Gibraltar
Greece	Ireland	Kuwait
New Zealand	Norway	Russia
Turkey	Uganda	United Kingdom

For the most part, input on the draft was positive. The small amount of general negative feedback was overwhelmed by members who wrote to say they appreciated the emphasis on diversity, the international quality of the collection of experience, and the changes in organization. The workgroup has met to discuss and make decisions about the input, and we are at work revising the draft as a result.

Perhaps the largest amount of input centered around the "reflections," the shorter collections of experience that lead off all of the sections except "Beginnings." Many thought it was a great idea to include shorter "shares," sort of like a topic meeting rather than a full-length story, which is more like a speaker meeting. The reflections will be especially important for addicts who don't read as well or who have shorter attention spans. On the other hand, many thought the reflections were distracting and confusing. After discussing the issue, we decided to keep the reflections in the draft, but we will include them in the table of contents and include a short explanation of them at the top of the page.

Of course, that's only one of the many things covered by the input. Guided by your suggestions, we have revised parts of the introduction and preface, changed the order of some of the stories, and made a list of some pieces that may benefit from another edit. We will also add reflections to the "Beginnings" section, as many of you suggested. In addition to those larger changes, there are countless small details that have been smoothed out and refined.

To be frank, the process of reading through input can be challenging at times. What do you do when one piece of input says, "There is too much emphasis on difference," and the next piece says, "How great to have stories that emphasize our diversity"? or when one says, "That was the best story I read because it covers every single aspect of the program!" and the next piece says (of the same story), "There is too much talk about using and not enough recovery. Not interesting"? We hope these examples help you understand our process and the crossroads we sometimes reach during our review. The workgroup diligently read all the input, and we've done our best to make decisions, incorporating the input that we believe will work for the fellowship as a whole.

Among those decisions are those that come from our efforts to fill the "gaps" in the draft. Your input has helped us put together a "wish list" of experience and demographics we would like to see in the final draft, and we are presently in the process of reading and making decisions about pieces to add to the draft. We have nothing definitive to report yet, but we can say the approval draft will contain a number of "new" pieces to fill those gaps, and some of the pieces that are now in the review draft will most likely not be in the approval draft. We should have more to report after our next meeting.

Those of you who read the review draft and sent us your thoughts—thank you. You have helped to make the draft better.



SERVICE MATERIALS

The 2006 World Service Conference approved a motion to *"allow the World Board to develop and approve service-related information pamphlets and tools for distribution to the fellowship."* As we reported after our January meeting, we have been hard at work on some of these service-related pieces. At our April meeting, we had further discussions and direction about our initial batch. We anticipate that we will finalize the pieces described below in the near future and make them available. At our July meeting we will be continuing to work on these resources with pieces on: *Atmosphere of Recovery: Medication and the NA Group; Leadership, The Benefits of Service, and What Is NAWS.* We believe these resources will more effectively help our members and groups in their efforts to fulfill our primary

purpose. As always, what we need most is your ideas and feedback. Below are the four pieces that will be available soon:

Atmosphere of Recovery: Violent & Disruptive Behavior

Another difficulty groups may need to address involves behaviors that interfere with maintaining the atmosphere of recovery in meetings. This piece helps groups consider approaches to resolve issues of disruptive behavior in meetings.

An Introduction to Narcotics Anonymous Meetings

Our meetings can be very confusing to people who have never attended. This tool is meant to help them understand our meetings and give them an idea of what to expect.

Group Trusted Servants: Roles and Responsibilities

This piece is meant to be a more easily accessible explanation of group-level service positions. It summarizes, clarifies, and updates parts of *The Group Booklet*.

Group Business Meetings

This is a resource to help groups conduct their regular business. It includes ideas for groups to consider, including a sample business meeting outline.

All of these service pamphlets will have a different look to distinguish them as service materials. When they are released, please be sure to give us your thoughts about them. Also, continue to send us any ideas you have for other new service-related topics.



Public Relations Handbook update

The initial twenty-eight *PR Handbook* chapter resources have been completed. These resources include addenda for chapters two, four, five, six, seven, nine, and eleven. They can be found on the web at www.na.org

by clicking on “Handbooks” or “PI Basics” (found on the main page), or on “Public Relations” or “New Additions” (from the “Other Items of Interest” drop-down menu). The PRHB is currently available with tabs, which can be used to place the new resources with their corresponding chapters.

We have approved an additional fourteen addenda for the handbook. These are currently being formatted and will be available in the coming months. These addenda are resources for chapters three (service assessment form), six (H&I forms and letters), ten (web-site steps and page), eleven (event planning steps

and twelve (fellowship development questionnaire and letter).

With the addition of addenda, the handbook has grown ... it is double the size compared to when it was initially published. We needed to increase the price to \$8.50 for the handbook, the tabs and the addenda; this new price will be effective 1 September. For those members who have the handbook and simply desire the resources and tabs, these can be purchased separately for \$3.50 for a limited time of one year. And, the additional resources and handbook are available by download at no cost at na.org

WEBSITE UPDATE



Traffic to the NAWS website continues to grow. During March 2007 we had over 4.5 million hits on the various websites we collectively call www.na.org.

These include the main website as well as the database and online literature sales areas. Traffic continues to grow as more and more literature sales are taking place online, and visitors continue to increase their use of the database to find local NA meetings. We will provide more updates about the high-traffic areas in future issues.

The website is updated often and has multiple additions each month, ranging from new issues of our periodicals to entirely new sections or webpages. Some areas that may be of interest to the readers are:

- **2006–2008 Issue Discussion Topics** can be found at http://www.na.org/discussion_boards.htm, which includes links to the Fellowship Issue Discussion Topics bulletin boards and the WSC Participants bulletin boards.
- **A new public relations area** has been set up at <http://www.na.org/PR/index.htm> that includes links not only to the *PR Handbook* but also to the *PR Handbook* resource material as soon as it becomes available.
- **A new general area for NA service material** is at http://www.na.org/servicemat/service_material.htm, and contains links to a variety of service-related resources.
- **The locally developed resource area** at http://www.na.org/local_resource_area.htm provides a link to our FTP site that contains many items developed by NA service communities locally. We also invite local service committees to share their

resource material with the fellowship at large. For more information about how to gain upload access to the FTP area, please contact our fellowship services department at fsmail@na.org, or simply send them your material to share with others.

- And last, but not least, is [the new website search page](http://www.na.org/search.htm) at <http://www.na.org/search.htm>. This version of the search tool is database-driven and has the ability to search all documents online. This will continue to be a work-in-progress, as we want to ensure that all types of documents, including PDF and RTF, can be scanned and included in the search results.

We expect the website redesign to continue slowly but steadily. The changes may appear to be subtle, as we are not intending to change the appearance and functionality of the front page until later this year at the earliest. Stay tuned for future updates about this important communications tool.

WCNA UPDATE

The 32nd World Convention of Narcotics Anonymous, Our Message Hope, Our Promise Freedom, is coming up in San Antonio, Texas! Have you registered yet? Have you made your travel arrangements? Have you gone to www.na.org/wcna32/index.htm for WCNA-32 updates? You will not want to miss out on this world convention. As NA World Services shifts into "world convention mode," the program group has given us final recommendations for main speakers and is beginning to take a look at workshop speakers based on the pre-registration list. We are also beginning to take a look at workshop topics, are finalizing entertainment (including the Saturday concert), and expect to have some of the very best merchandise yet!



*Henry B Gonzales Convention Center
San Antonio Riverwalk, WCNA-32*

For your convenience we have posted the approximate start and end times for events on the website. We hope this will help you plan your arrival and departure and, more importantly, help you figure out what times you can volunteer. If you haven't filled out a Volunteer Info Sheet, please go the website and do that now. Okay, now that you have signed up to volunteer, please expect a call from a member of the WCNA-32 Support Committee. They are working hard to get in touch with everyone who filled out a form!

ADA Information

Also available online is ADA information for those with disabilities. If you or anyone you know requires things like scooters, wheelchairs, special shuttles, or any other special need, we are asking that you go online and fill out the form. This will help us better serve your needs during the world convention.

Alternative Merchandise Store

The "Instructions for Selling" in the WCNA-32 alternative merchandise store are available online. If your area or region is interested in selling merchandise at WCNA-32 on Sunday, 2 September, you must register for an assigned table slot by filling out the application by 1 August, and obtain a tax permit issued by the Texas state controller. People who have not obtained a seller's permit from NAWS and have not obtained a tax permit will not be authorized to sell in the alternative merchandise store. You can fill out the WCNA-32 Alternative Merchandise Seller's Permit online and can fill out the Texas state controller tax permit application by going to: www.window.state.tx.us/taxpermit/.

World Unity Day – Telephone Hookup

Registration is now available for a World Unity Day telephone hookup to the worldwide conference call to take place on Sunday, 2 September 2007, during the last day of WCNA-32. We are offering one free regional hookup to all regions outside North America. So if you can't make it to WCNA-32, be a part of the experience and plan an event with your group, area, or region. Maybe your event will be announced around the world! If we don't see you in San Antonio, then we hope to hear from you.

**For all this and more,
go to www.na.org/wcna32/index.htm.**

CONTRIBUTIONS

As we mentioned in the last issue of *NAWS News*, the Business Plan Workgroup forwarded some ideas and recommendations to us regarding financial contributions. We believe it's essential to relay a message of shared responsibility for our primary purpose—that money in the basket, or directly contributed to NAWS supports our vision to carry the NA message around the world. Approximately 88 percent of our income is from literature sales, and only about 11 percent is from members' contributions. How are we self-supporting? We seem to have come to rely on the sale of our literature rather than accept our responsibility for fully supporting ourselves through monetary contributions. Many of us put the obligatory dollar in the basket, yet when we consider the value of the dollar today versus five years ago we might realize that a dollar doesn't go very far. We wonder: What is the value of recovery to our members?

Our challenge is to make financial responsibility an issue that matters to our members, to help them see what a difference each member, group, area, and region can make throughout the fellowship. We are all committed to carrying the message of recovery throughout our global fellowship so that "any addict seeking recovery need not die from the horrors of addiction." How can we help our members realize that we are all equal partners in these efforts? We believe that we may need to illustrate the point that membership in NA comes with responsibilities—for carrying NA's message to newcomers, for our personal recovery program, and for supporting this fellowship that has saved our lives.

To launch this discussion with the fellowship, a series of articles will be published in *The NA Way Magazine*. The first of the series, a personal reflection about donations, was the feature in the April issue of the magazine. The content of each article will take more shape as we move ahead, but our discussion included many ideas. We're considering ways to utilize existing materials such as IPs and what other resources could be developed to help relay this message.

We welcome your experience and participation in this discussion. We recently learned from our attendance at the Nepal workshops that members have a touching and inspiring observation regarding the Seventh Tradition. Members treat their contribution to the basket as bhakti (offering), an expression of their purest,

most heartfelt love for NA, by touching the money to their foreheads, second to their lips, then to their hearts. Each member does this ritual twice before they place it in the basket. What experiences do you have to share with us? We want to hear from you.

NAWS Literature Distribution and Convention Workshop

9–10 November 2007 in Woodland Hills, CA

If you distribute literature or plan conventions, we have a workshop just for you!

Register or download flyer:

<http://www.na.org/nawsevents/event-reg.htm>

FELLOWSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Workshops and Trips: Traveling the Globe

These are the events that we participated in that took place between our January and April meetings. Many events have taken place since then and you can read about them in the next issue of *NAWS News*.

Nicaragua

In late March, NAWS attended the first Nicaraguan regional convention. Members traveled from all over Latin America and the United States to support the event. The Nicaraguan members were outnumbered nearly two to one by visitors, but they were incredibly well prepared and put on an impressive convention. The main speaker meeting each night featured a panel of speakers from various countries, as well as cultural displays such as dancers, a singer, a band, and fireworks.

We held four NAWS workshops over the course of the weekend, as well as the NA history presentation. Many of the local members had never participated in the group discussion workshop process, but they adapted quickly and energetically. The members who participated were inspired and passionate about the Issue Discussion Topics. Their excitement was contagious and we encouraged everyone to carry their ideas back to their groups and service bodies.

Puerto Rico – Traditions Festival

NAWS traveled to this event in an effort to reestablish direct interface with members of the Puerto Rico Region and to raise awareness regarding the building

of strong home groups, creating regional guidelines, and creating a service structure that serves members and groups. We also had the opportunity to present a workshop on the history of NA.

The workshops were well attended and participation was vibrant. The *Building Strong Home Groups* workshop had sixty-four enthusiastic members in attendance. The workshop on Creating a Service Structure sparked lively discussion, questions, and solution sharing. The members' concerns were similar to those that many areas and regions are experiencing with service: apathy, retaining experienced members in service, and delivering creative, effective service. There were recovery meetings throughout the festival, and we also participated in a recovery meeting in San Juan.

Asia Pacific Forum

This marked the fifteenth year that the Asia Pacific Forum has met. Their first meeting was held at the 1992 WSC. For the 2007 meeting, twenty-three communities attended and sixteen communities were represented by new delegates. Saudi Arabia was seated as the newest APF community. It was noted that more communities were self-funded than ever before. NAWS participated in several sessions, including an update on the Basic Text, implementation of the *Public Relations Handbook*, consensus-based decision making, and the Area Planning Tool. We also participated in discussions about fellowship development, and community concerns that were particular to the communities of Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan (North and South), Cambodia, Australia, NERF, China, Saudi Arabia, Philippines, and Iran.

Translations Workshop

A NAWS all-day translations workshop had over eighty participants, including twelve representatives from the six-area literature translation subcommittees of Nepal. This represented growth within these communities, with six new participating LTCs. Highlights of the translation sessions included shared experiences with the translations process, a conceptual fidelity exercise, and discussion of LTC challenges.



NA on Top of the World – Convention

This celebration of recovery took place following the APF, and also included a NAWS workshop. The event was well attended with over 600 addicts from twenty-five countries. There were speaker jams; participation meetings called "burning desire meetings"; workshops on PI and H&I, sponsorship, and the steps; women's meetings; and a clean time countdown that culminated with a candle-lighting ceremony that depicted the convention logo and the theme "NA on Top of the World."

The Nepal Workshops in Kathmandu and Pokhara

Each workshop was very well attended. Members were funded from four other areas to travel to these two locations. The Kathmandu workshop needed to have its date changed, but this did not affect the attendance or enthusiasm of the members. Session topics for these workshops were focused on Building Strong Home Groups, Leadership, and the Traditions and Concepts. Workshops were followed with a recovery meeting.

Mexico

In March, the Tenth Annual Mexico Regional Convention was held in Mexico City. NAWS was invited to facilitate three workshops on the topics of H&I, Unity, and



Our Service System, and to conduct a history presentation. With over 100 participants in each session, these workshops gave members in Mexico a chance to sit down together and discuss local challenges and possible solutions. Participants remarked that the sessions left them with

a feeling of unity and a sense of how to hold similar workshops in their local NA communities. The enthusiasm and dedication of members in Mexico made this celebration of recovery an even greater opportunity to further NA's message of recovery.

Quebec – Youth Convention

The Quebec Region's 11th Youth Convention of NA took place over the first weekend in March in Laval, just outside Montreal. The convention committee invited NAWS to hold workshops on the recently released review and input drafts of youth literature and on the Issue Discussion Topic "Who's Missing from Our Meetings and Why." The convention was predominantly a French-speaking event. One of the members of

the youth workgroup, a French-speaking member from Quebec, was able to help us facilitate these workshops. In addition, this workgroup member put a great deal of time and effort into translating the review draft for the workshops. Thanks to that dedication, we were able to collect some valuable input on the drafts. The Youth Convention was very lively and energetic, with somewhere between four and six hundred members from Quebec, Ontario, New York, and beyond.

EDM – Geneva

We participated in the winter meeting of the European Delegates Meeting in Geneva, Switzerland. As always, it was a full agenda for four days and included a wide variety of updates and discussions. We provided a brief overview and run-through of the APT for delegates. We were able to plan a fellowship development trip to Turkey for the European Cities Against Drugs conference in Istanbul with the leadership of the EDM and their fellowship development committee. We also held several small workshops with the local fellowship in French-speaking Switzerland. They could not have been better hosts, and we thank them for sharing their recovery with us all.

Central California

NAWS facilitated a *Public Relations Handbook* workshop at the Central California Regional Convention. There appeared to be scheduling conflicts, with many convention workshops being offered to attendees simultaneously; the PRHB workshop was attended by just a few members. Those who attended participated in an interactive experiential workshop that appeared to foster an understanding of the handbook that will assist them in their local service efforts.

New York – Spanish-Speaking Convention

We attended the NA NY Metro Hispanic Area Convention in February 2007. There were approximately 900 members attending the convention, mostly from the NYC Metro Area, and some members from Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic. The program consisted mostly of recovery meetings and recovery workshops. They also had a couple of dances and a recovery play put on by the Puerto Rican fellowship. NAWS facilitated the IDT workshops. Afterwards we talked to the convention chair and suggested that in the future perhaps they could have the workshops scheduled in separate time slots in an effort to increase member attendance. The members who attended the workshops

seemed motivated and eager to implement these types of workshops in their local communities.

MARLCNA

In February, we traveled to Pennsylvania for our annual visit to MARLCNA—the Mid-Atlantic Regional Learning Conference of NA. We gave a NAWS update Friday night and facilitated workshops all day Saturday. MARLCNA provided us with an opportunity to “test drive” a couple of the Issue Discussion Topic sessions that we revised based on input midway through the conference cycle. Feedback from participants helped us put the finishing touches on the Strong Home Groups session and worksheet. The *Who’s Missing from Our Meetings* session began with some spirited discussion around the idea of considering and reaching out to those who have not found their way to our rooms. Many welcomed this approach, while a few others felt that no one was missing from our meetings. This, underscored the need to keep discussing this issue. We ended the day with a workshop that focused on the seven steps of the Area Planning Tool—a rewarding and productive afternoon. After a full day, we were grateful to have the opportunity to enjoy the evening recovery activities.

Florida Symposium

NAWS traveled to the second biannual Florida Symposium which was held in Tampa, Florida, in March. We attended a professional roundtable which was conducted for three hours Friday morning and facilitated by the RD team. There were member and non-member professionals who participated. The roundtable offered professionals an opportunity to discuss their service needs with members and acknowledge where we were meeting them and where we were falling short, like being inconsistent with commitments, meeting schedules that may lack current information, and helpline calls left unanswered.

Following the roundtable, the NAWS team facilitated eleven workshops over the course of a day and half. The workshops focused on Issue Discussion Topics, input for the youth IP, implementation of the Public Relations Handbook, and medication. A new workshop was introduced, How to Be an Effective RCM, which was modeled after How to Be an Effective RD. The RCM was recognized as a vital link between the areas and the region. Over the course of the two days, 322 members participated in the workshops. These members were group members, GSRs, area and regional trusted

servants, and interested members. Everyone was enthusiastic and seemed energized.



PUBLIC RELATIONS

Professional Events

We participated in four professional events between February and April. As mentioned in the last *NAWS News*, the Recovery Month planning partners in Washington, DC, requested that a NAWS representative present for fifteen minutes about advocacy and anonymity at the March meeting. The presentation went well, with many of the governmental and community partners expressing thanks for clarity on the topic.

In April we attended the Federal Parole and Probation Conference in Nashville, Tennessee. This marked the first time that NAWS was represented at this event, and the response from attendees was very positive, as they expressed gratitude that we were in attendance. For many of the attendees, this was their first exposure to Narcotics Anonymous.

Also in April, NAWS continued participation in the American Society of Addiction Medicine Conference, held this year in Miami, Florida. Many new contacts in the medical community were initiated and we rekindled relationships with medical professionals who are advocates for the NA program. Trusted servants from the Florida Region supported the NAWS team throughout the event. Many thanks for their efforts and support.

NAWS also continued participation with the California Twelve-Step Advisory Board. In January, the main topic of conversation was their increased focus on reentry to civilian life from prison. This may provide public relations opportunities for California NA service committees.

Cooperative Events

Since our last *NAWS News* we have partnered with members of national and international service committees to provide an NA presence at four conferences. By doing so, we are cooperating with local NA communities to raise awareness of NA as a viable, global community resource.

In March, with the support of NAWS, NA travelers from Bahrain and Saudi Arabia attended the United Arab Emirates Addiction Conference. In April there were

three cooperative events: the Greater Illinois Region represented NA at the Illinois Probation and Court Services Conference; the Northern California Region represented NA and conducted a presentation at the California Drug Court Professionals Conference; and the Southern Nevada Area represented NA at the California Association of Alcohol and Drug Educators Conference in Primm Valley, Nevada.

There are seven more cooperative efforts planned for May and June, one each in the United Kingdom, Turkey, and Slovenia, and four in the United States. The members who are representing Narcotics Anonymous are doing a wonderful job, and the enthusiasm that these events generate among our trusted servants continues to grow, as does NA's recognition throughout the world.

THE NA WAY MAGAZINE

The NA Way Editorial Board met 2-4 March, and welcomed Marc G (Illinois) and Stephanie V (France) who replaced Marc S (Canada) and Sheryl L (Pennsylvania), whose terms ended in 2006. The scope and purpose of the workgroup is to review the content of *The NA Way* and make recommendations to the board about ideas for the magazine. They meet each conference cycle and work primarily by email to review each issue for content according to editorial policy. The workgroup's main focus was on ways to enrich content, update appearance, and explore technological improvements of the e-zine.

The most prominent idea was to continue broadening the global view of our fellowship by featuring details about NA communities around the world. For example, in France it is common to work one step each year. In some meetings, each attendee is greeted at the door with a cup of hot tea, and some meetings close with elaborate chants. In Iran, a celebration is held when a member finishes working his/her twelve steps. The workgroup also wants to mix things up a bit by including more variety in types of stories, including humor, opinion, and common needs experiences such as those specific to newcomers and oldtimers.

The editorial board intends to continue tweaking design, format, and graphic elements to refresh the look and feel of the publication. Also, there was no limit to the ideas considered for the electronic version of *The NA Way*. We now have more than 4,000 electronic subscribers, and we're happy to see this number increas-

ing. With postage costs alone at 58 percent (at least \$70,000 annually) of the total production and distribution costs, e-subs help us save the fellowship thousands of dollars.

There were no changes requiring board action, but the workgroup presented a plan to survey readers by including a simple form called “Letter to the Editor” in an upcoming issue. The form asks the reader to provide some basic demographic information and to complete several open-ended phrases expressing opinions and ideas about the magazine. This fulfills the workgroup’s desire to regularly assess the magazine.

The NA Way welcomes all input. For submission guidelines; current, past, and archived issues; e-subscription information; and more, go to www.na.org/naway/naway-toc.htm or email the editor directly at naway@na.org.

**WORLD POOL INFORMATION FORM:
NEW TWO-PAGE FORM AVAILABLE**

We (the World Board and Human Resource Panel) are pleased to announce the completion and release of the two-page World Pool Information Form (WPIF). You may remember the recent conference action that directed the World Board and the HRP to create such a form. Here is the applicable motion from WSC 2006:

To direct the HRP and the World Board to create a simple one- to two-page form for the World Pool. This form would be used for the workshops, workgroups, and other activities. It would be easily translated and used by those not interested in seeking nomination to a WSC elected position.

As the motion implied, the new form is much simpler than the four-page form. As we developed this form, it became clear to us that we might simply replace the four-page form with the new, two-page version. This would eliminate the confusion that could result from having two different forms in use at the same time. If more detailed information is needed from prospective candidates, like the information that was sought with the four-page form, we can simply ask for that at the appropriate time.

So this new two-page form will not only meet the need for those interested in being of service in workshops, workgroups, and other activities; it will also be used for those who are interested in WSC trusted servant positions, including World Board, Human Resource Panel, and WSC cofacilitator. Keep in mind that if you have

completed or updated your WPIF within the last three years, you DO NOT need to complete the new two-page form at this time.

At the same time we were developing the new WPIF, we were also working on converting to a new database for the WPIF. This includes a new format of the online version of the WPIF, so we are even more pleased to report that the new online version of the WPIF is scheduled to be up and running as of 31 May 2007. Now members can conveniently and easily log in and complete, review, or edit their WPIF electronically. We encourage you to visit the website and take a look at this new form. Again, this process requires a login and password and, of course, members can only view their own WPIF. The form is located at www.na.org/HRP/wpif-default.htm.

WSC SEATING

As you may remember, we have been reporting to you about our thoughts and actions regarding seating requests and recommendations for the upcoming WSC. For a reminder of the history and details of these discussions, you may want to review the November 2006 and January 2007 issues of *NAWS News*. In any case, we will touch on a few significant points here so that we have a common understanding of what to expect as we approach the 2008 World Service Conference.

As we reported, we intend to recommend that the conference suspend the existing policy outlined in A Guide to Local Services, and consider a moratorium on the seating of regions that result from regional splits until 2012. While this may seem a distant date, it would give us only two conference cycles after a decision is made at WSC 2008 to hold these discussions, formulate a plan, and present a proposal for your consideration at WSC 2012.

This moratorium would still allow new regions not resulting from a regional split, that have never been represented in any way at the WSC—those NA communities growing and developing throughout the world—to continue to apply for seating and be considered by the conference. We think this is in keeping with the purpose of the conference to speak for a worldwide fellowship as well as the expressed will of the conference at WSC 2006.

In conjunction with our recommendations, we did not form a Seating Workgroup but are continuing to gather information from these communities. We will forward information from any region that applies for seating

this conference cycle, along with our recommendations in the Conference Approval Track material, to be released in late January 2008, as has been done for the past several conferences. But again, we expect that we would only be recommending seating from the list of those regions that come from new communities not already seated.

Following is the current list of those regions indicating that they are interested in seeking seating at WSC 2008:

Eastern Pennsylvania	Nicaragua
Egypt	North Carolina
El Salvador	Southern Brazil
Nepal	

We are hopeful that this ongoing effort to keep everyone apprised of our discussions and decisions has been effective. We continue to encourage you to offer any thoughts or concerns about this important issue.

CBDM AT THE WSC

After our January discussion on consensus-based decision making, we were ready at this meeting to review the first draft of a document that describes consensus-based decision making. We've already acknowledged that our application of CBDM is different from true consensus as it is practiced by many other organizations. One of the trickiest obstacles for us is to meld the concepts of CBDM with the realities of a system that was founded on, and to some degree still depends upon, *Robert's Rules of Order*. We do think we can adapt a simplified form of *Robert's Rules*, and that, working together, we can move forward in this process.

HUMAN RESOURCE PANEL

We would like to remind you about a few things which were previously reported in NAWS News. We are fast approaching the following important deadlines:

31 August 2007 – deadline to submit WPIFs and to update any WPIFs (three years or older) to be considered for WSC 2008 HRP nomination

31 October 2007 – deadline for region, board, and zone candidate (RBZ) submissions

To ensure a common understanding of how to utilize the RBZ process, we have sent detailed information, including the applicable submission form, to all those service bodies able to participate.

As we last reported, we will be contacting all members who have not updated their WPIFs in the last three years. We will ask them to update their WPIFs; if they choose not to do so, they will be removed from consideration in the upcoming nominations process. This is a requirement outlined in *A Guide to World Services*.

We want to take one more opportunity to say that we are also very excited about the availability of the new two-page World Pool Information Form. Completion of this form was an effort that included both the HRP and World Board Executive Committee, and is a great example of that ongoing cooperative relationship.

Finally, Mary Kay Berger, a member of the HRP who was elected at WSC 2006, has resigned from her service position for personal reasons. We wish her well and thank her for her service.

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

WORLD SERVICES CALENDAR AND DEADLINES

29 Aug–2 Sept 2007

WCNA-32, San Antonio, Texas

29 August 2007

Regional motion deadline in CAR-ready form

31 August 2007

Deadline to submit WPIFs and to update any WPIFs (three years or older) to be considered for WSC 2008 HRP nomination

1 September 2007

Approval form of Sixth Edition Basic Text released

31 October 2007

Deadline for region, WB, and zone candidate submissions

9–10 November 2007

Literature and Convention Workshop—Woodland Hills, CA

NAWS Product Update

English

Public Relations Handbook

Revised to integrate the release of partial resources to Chapters 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, and 11 in both US and international formats.

Item No. 2102 and 2102-A Price US \$5.00/each

Arabic

IP No. 6: *Recovery and Relapse*

التعافي والانتكاس

Item No. AR-3106 Price US \$0.21

IP No. 23:

Staying Clean on the Outside

البقاء ممتنعاً في الخارج

Item No. AR-3123 Price US \$0.21



Chinese

Keytags

30 days through multiple years

Item No. CH-4101—4108 Price US \$0.37/each

French

Twelve Concepts poster

Item No. FR-9077 Price US \$2.40

Japanese

IP No. 6: *Recovery and Relapse*

回復とリラプス

Item No. JP-3106 Price US \$0.21

Group reading cards (Set of 7 cards)

Item No. JP-9130 Price US \$2.50

Norwegian

It Works: How and Why

**Det virker:
Hvordan og Hvorfor**

Item No. NR-1140
Price US \$7.70



Russian

IP No. 12: *The Triangle of Self-Obsession*

Треугольник Самонаваждения

Item No. RU-3112 Price US \$0.21

IP No. 14: *One Addict's Experience...*

**Опыт одного зависимого:
принятие, вера и преданность**

Item No. RU-3114 Price US \$0.21

IP No. 17: *For Those in Treatment*

Для тех, кто находится на лечении

Item No. RU-3117 Price US \$0.26

IP No. 23: *Staying Clean
on the Outside*

**Остаться
чистым
после лечения**

Item No. RU-3123
Price US \$0.21



IP No. 24: *"Hey! What's the Basket For?"*

**«А Для Чего
Же Нужна Шапка?»**

Item No. RU-3124 Price US \$0.21

Swahili

Keytags

Welcome through multiple years

Item No. SH-4100—4108 Price US \$0.37/each

Swedish

Basic Text – Pocket-sized hardcover version

Anonyma Narkomaner

Item No. SW-1105 Price US \$10.00