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NA WORLD SERVICE NEWS
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GREETINGS FROM YOUR WORLD BOARD

We met on 11-13 January 2001 for the third time since WSC 2000. As usual, we began our meeting with an action group process to unify the board. Our group process exercise focused this time on each board member subjectively assessing their own performance on the board.

Two-thirds of our meeting was again devoted to our new committees. This issue is a quick summary of the board's progress. After our April meeting, we'll send out more detailed information in the *May Conference Report* and *NAWS News*.

DATABASE PROJECT UPDATE

Last issue we reported that a mailing to every registered NA group in the world and all area and regional trusted servants was in process. We are still working on the database feature that will allow direct updates—via the worldwide web—of information that NAWS maintains on both the meetings of registered NA groups and regional and area service committee trusted servants. So we're sorry to report that we have run into further delays with this mailing. We're sending out confirmations by mail again of changes made to group/meeting information. One feature that is working is the new events calendar on the website. We hope that as more members and committees become aware of this calendar that more will take advantage of it.

WSC ISSUE DISCUSSION TOPICS

We've enclosed material to help facilitate fellowship discussion of the two issue topics selected at WSC 2000. These are: "How can we continue to provide services to our fellowship and at the same time decrease our reliance on funds from events and conventions?" and "How can we create a bridge that builds and maintains a connection to service for home group members?" We've enclosed one *WB News Flash* insert for each topic. We remain committed to providing some guidance and support to the fellowship with this process. We hope these simple one-page inserts will help stimulate fellowshipwide discussion and create something different with the outcome.

ANOTHER FLASH— NA WAY ARTICLES NEEDED!

You are the *NA Way*! See the enclosed *WB News Flash* with the magazine themes for the next year. The October issue deadline is 1 July 2001. You can help!

UNITY DAY 2001 AND WORLD SERVICE MEETING

Plans are underway for the celebration of Unity Day on 1 September 2001 in Vienna, Virginia, near Washington, D.C. As in past years, the World Service Meeting (31 Aug-2 Sept) approved at WSC 2000 will coincide with the Unity Day event. World Service Meetings are a chance for the board to have a face-to-face dialogue with regional delegates about current work-in-progress.

WORLDWIDE WORKSHOP NEWS

We're excited to announce that the first worldwide workshop will occur in Burnaby, just outside of Vancouver, British Columbia, 29 June to 1 July 2001. We're partnering with the BC Region to transform a Multi-Regional Service Learning Days weekend that they had been working on for months into the first NAWS Worldwide Workshop.

The project plan budget allowed for four to six workshops. We've now decided to offer a total of five. Our tentative timeline is: Europe (Sept/Oct 2001); Asia-Pacific (Nov/Dec 2001); Latin America (Jan/Feb 2002); with the final workshop this cycle in the USA, in the Midwest, with the final site selected in cooperation with the Midwest Zonal Forum, if they agree to host (Feb/Mar 2002). We welcome your input about how to make these successful (no deadline). Also, to deliver the workshops and other key NAWS events more successfully, we're getting facilitation training in April for the board and staff.

SALES DOWN—DONATIONS UP AND AUDITORS SAY WE'RE CLEAN!

From July thru December, income from all literature sales (before discounts) totaled \$2,684,706. That's \$74,845 below budget (-2.7%). Fellowship donations totaled \$330,206. That's \$58,244 above budget (21%) or up 7.9% versus last year. The increase in donations is excellent news—doubly so since NAWS income has historically been sensitive to changes in the overall economy.

We received a squeaky-clean audit report of the financial statements for the year-ending 30 June 2000. For a few years, our audit report contained a qualifying note, since our former auditors failed to inform us of a change in an accounting rule for non-profits. We now comply fully! Conference participants receive the audit report with the quarterly financial report by mail. These are also available upon request. **(Continued, back page.)**

EVENT NEWS: BOARD DISCUSSES WCNA PHILOSOPHY: NOT A FUNDRAISER

We discussed the underlying philosophy of the world convention. We affirmed the following summary philosophy as a result of our discussions.

The world convention is a special and unique celebration of our recovery and, as the largest single event in NA, seeks to express our diversity and demonstrate our unity as a fellowship. Further, the convention sets the stage for the exchange of recovery and service principles, by world services and others, to the most diverse gathering of our fellowship that exists today. As the convention attracts the single largest and most diverse group of NA members to gather at any one place at the same time, it therefore makes the convention uniquely different than any other event in NA. WCNA is an integral opportunity for NAWS to interact with the fellowship at large and for members to interact with each other. Formal and informal opportunities for this sharing to occur should be made throughout the convention experience. Through recovery meetings, service workshops, social activities and fellowship interaction, the convention should convey the clear message that recovery is possible for all. In this respect, we should strive to make the convention reflect the unity and the diversity of our members. The convention should always strive to be self-supporting—understanding that this goal is an ideal that may take time to achieve in light of the overall mission and purpose of the convention. Our actions in the planning of the convention should always acknowledge the importance we place on inclusion, access, freedom, and unity, considering these principles in our business decisions always.

Also, regarding future WCNA site selection, last month we reported our decision to implement the simple process that TWGWSS calls “a feasibility study.” The feasibility study is just a review of the initial data collected on each city and a narrowing of the list based on the overall goals of the board for each convention. This will save staff time and make a fair process more sane. Consistent with longstanding TWGWSS policy, we used the new procedure to narrow the cities for WCNA 2007. The feasible cities still under consideration are: Toronto, New Orleans, Dallas, San Antonio, and Nashville.

We’re still reconciling the financial accounting for the 28th World Convention in Cartagena. So, the report we promised you in the last edition of *NAWS News* will be delayed till the next one. Details to follow! Cartagena workshop tapes have finally been mailed out. Contact WSO if you haven’t received your order.

LITERATURE DISTRIBUTION/ CONVENTION WORKSHOP

Another literature distribution and convention workshop is set for 3-4 August in California near WSO. Call WSO for details or checkout our website.

SPONSORSHIP PROJECT MOVING FORWARD

We also heard a report from our Publications Committee. They held a four-day meeting immediately preceding ours—their first since October. Four pool members joined them to help brainstorm a vision for future literature development. We understand the meeting was positive and productive. We’ll discuss what came out of that committee meeting in April. Stay tuned!

Input about the sponsorship project has been trickling into the WSO since our *World Board News Flash* came out in December. We need input about the *ideas and concepts* members everywhere would like to see on this topic. We want to open up a broad and inclusive communication channel with NA members everywhere. You don’t have to be a writer—or an NA Litwit. NA literature matters for our entire fellowship, not just for those who have historically been involved with its development. All members have experience relevant to the question: What Should NA Literature Say About Sponsorship? All input requires a copyright release to be considered (available by request or use the work-in-progress release form on the website). The deadline for input isn’t until 1 June 2001. But please don’t wait until the last minute!

We’re forming a workgroup now to evaluate this input (using the World Pool as a resource). The workgroup will consist of Cindy M (California Mid-State), Emma W (Pacific Cascade), Karen C (Southern California), Steve M (Freestate), Jim B (Chicagoland), Mickey R (New Jersey), and Bob B (Southern California).

REGIONAL RECOGNITION WORKGROUP

To implement the WSC’s new policy for seating prospective regions, we agreed to a plan to put together a workgroup. The delegates selected are Michael Cox of Spain, Mukam Harzenski-Deutsch of New Jersey, and Seth Sparks of New Mexico. Board members Michael McDermott (Oregon/California) and David James (UK) will round out the five-person workgroup, with Lib Edmonds (WB, New Zealand) attending the first workgroup meeting (22-23 April at WSO). The deadline for seating requests is 27 April 2001.

SERVICE MATERIAL EVALUATION PROJECT

Our Fellowship Relations Committee reported progress evaluating the *Treasurer’s Handbook* and *Group Treasurer’s Workbook*—created back in 1985 and now out-of-date. They asked for written input from a group of past conference participants who worked on these issues in the early 1990s. They’re helping us evaluate material developed back in 1998. We’re looking at the new process for the approval of service material for the best way to proceed with this. Again, as the service material evaluation project unfolds, we’ll keep you updated.

UNIFYING NA'S GLOBAL PUBLIC RELATIONS EFFORTS

Our public relations initiative continues to generate much excitement. We remain committed to developing an effective long-range public relations plan. We'll build on our current PR Statement of Purpose, so that it will address both our fellowship and the public as a whole in a clear and concise manner.

We believe there is a tremendous opportunity for the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous to approach the broad range of issues pertaining to public relations with a fresh, newly-focused, and global vision. Our Fifth Tradition is the central point of all our public relations endeavors. Expanding these efforts will help us better fulfill our primary purpose by making NA more known to suffering addicts who may not be aware of our program and what we have to offer.

The PR Plan we are creating will help us develop a unified fellowshipwide understanding, especially at our group and area levels, of the vital importance of implementing public relations in conjunction with public information. Today, many doors are open to NA. Because of the increased visibility and respect that our fellowship increasingly enjoys, we are in a position to move forward through the uncertainty that had sometimes held us back in the past. This newfound credibility, with both the general public and professionals, is something we could only dream about 15 or 20 years ago. We hope to learn from our past efforts though, and make better-informed decisions today, while continuing to make public relations an even more pro-active activity.

Up until recently, NA did not actively seek to have much interaction with the public. Most of the efforts we exerted in the past were done by us and for us. We did not invite the public in, especially to our meetings, groups, or conventions—NA was much like a secret society—and for a number of years, that worked for our fellowship. However, while the face of addiction has not changed over time, the public view of addiction and treatment has changed slowly.

We now recognize the importance of becoming more visible in the treatment and corrections arenas since the first link to learning about Narcotics Anonymous is not always the addict. A variety of complex issues challenge our fellowship. These include drug courts, mandatory treatment, mandatory meeting attendance, etc. How we respond to these issues will determine to what degree our image as a viable source of recovery from the disease of addiction is elevated. In other words, we need to make ourselves available so that people can find us.

In developing this global public relations vision and directive, we're focused on the importance of reaching out not only to the public, but also to NA members everywhere. The NA membership themselves will be our most vital link to the public. For public relations' most generic definition

is simply, "relating to the public." How we act as individuals, within NA and out in the public arena, is a direct reflection of who we are and what we have to offer. As we move forward, we will invite your ideas, suggestions, and feedback on this plan's development.

During our January meeting, our PR Committee led us through a comprehensive discussion regarding the basic philosophical themes and concerns about public relations, and how they relate to NA and the public and/or society, as we understand it. This discussion was a first step in identifying the priorities and goals necessary to define the direction of our public relations work.

We affirmed the need to not only improve the general public's awareness of the NA program of recovery, but to improve our fellowship's awareness of public relations. This led us to an in-depth dialogue as to what "public" really meant. One thing was clearly apparent during our discussion. This seemingly innocuous word: public, in and of itself, has a variety of meanings. The public relations challenge will be how to compare all these global differences with the word *public*, and how to address each one. NA communities around the world have many different levels and stages of development. To be more effective in this area then, our efforts must be more inclusive so that our PR vision can become a practical reality.

A primary concern of our public relations is how do we reach those places and/or professionals that will have an impact on getting our message out to addicts. Upon closer examination, we realize that these PR efforts ought to be clearly defined and versatile enough to achieve the global type of interaction with the public that will not only be an invitation to observe what the NA program has to offer, but also show how our members contribute to society by becoming responsible and productive members of that society. In addition we believe all our PR efforts and activities should always be consistent with and reflective of our program's principles.

Lastly, we determined that the World Board PR Committee will continue to oversee the periodical, *Reaching Out*, and not change the current editorial policy until further discussion can take place. Committee members will rotate on the conference calls so that one of the three board members will always be present, as well as the more frequent rotation of pool members.

We hope to continue to receive your support as we stand together on this exciting threshold, and move forward into a new chapter of our recovery journey.

UPDATE FROM THE HUMAN RESOURCE PANEL

Greetings from the Human Resource Panel,

This report is a brief summary of our meeting in Chatsworth on 23 and 24 February. Most of our time so far has been devoted to completion of the revised World Pool Resume form by the target date of June 2001. As we stated in our last report, we want to offer the fellowship a simple form that will be both useful to conference participants in selecting trusted servants, and to the World Board in utilizing and selecting members for WSC projects and initiatives. All members of the Human Resource Panel have been mindful of the World Board's concerns about the resume, and as a result we have asked for and been appointed a liaison from the executive committee to improve communication on this project.

We have received a lot of significant and helpful input from the board and staff, and the revised form is now nearly complete, so we believe that it will be ready for use by our target of 1 June. For the next several weeks, we will be asking a few people to fill out the new form and give us direct feedback. Then, we will probably need a few conference calls to finish.

One of the significant changes to the resume form that we will propose is renaming the resume to the "World Pool Information Form". The panel feels this is not only a friendlier term but also more accurate and easily understood. The terminology "World Pool Resume" and "service resume" is used in *A Temporary Working Guide to Our World Service Structure*. We believe these terms are used in a descriptive sense rather than being used as formal nomenclature, so changing the name of the form does not seem like a problem to us. However, to avoid any misunderstanding, we would like to get your feelings, input, and direction on this point.

Increasing the size of the World Pool is still the highest priority of the HRP, and upon completion of the resume, we will redouble our efforts in this area. We've been trying to wait until a permanent resume form could be utilized so that the information in the World Pool will be more complete.

In the upcoming *Conference Report* we will:

- ❖ Include the new resume;
- ❖ Report on the utilization of the World Pool;
- ❖ Present the revised interview and reference questions for input; and
- ❖ Describe the timeline for the nomination process.

Currently, there are 439 total service resumes in the World Pool. We would like to remind you that the deadline for resumes to be in the World Pool for consideration as

potential nominees at WSC 2002 is 1 September 2001. During September, we will include all people in the first grouping of potential nominees who have ten (10) years clean for World Board, eight (8) years clean for WSC Co-facilitator and eight (8) years clean for the Human Resource Panel. The first step in our process will be to send letters to each person asking their willingness to be considered.

Pending budgetary approval, the Human Resource Panel members are planning to attend the World Service Meeting. If this is the case, we will report to conference participants, answer questions, and address any input you may have. Our plan is to hold an HRP meeting there also, and this would take the place of our scheduled meeting in October.

As always, we are grateful for the opportunity to serve the fellowship and look forward to your input and suggestions.

In loving service,

The Human Resource Panel

☞ **Plan Ahead!!!** ☞

**Come to Atlanta, Georgia,
for the 29th World Convention
of Narcotics Anonymous**

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4-7 July 2002

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THE NOT CLASSIFIEDS

*Just so you know, this is **NOT** classified information...*

The WSO is always on the lookout for qualified & skilled applicants for vacant positions, so send in your resume if you are interested in becoming a special worker. All resumes are filed and then used as the first source when we look for candidates.



FROM PAGE 1: INCOME HOLDING STEADY

After a two-year delay, we implemented the regularly scheduled 5% across the board price increase on 1 January 2001—the first increase in five years. We planned this increase to offset rising costs of goods and overhead. With recent increases in costs for postage, shipping, raw materials, and printing, we don't expect to see any net revenue from this 5% increase. Our flexibility to delay this for two years came from not only strong sales but also record fellowship donations.

Goal One of the Fellowship Development Plan remains "to increase and improve world services available resources." One piece of continuing good news is that we have more money in the bank in reserve than at any time in our history! Our reserve stands at \$711,745, the equivalent of 43 operating-days. This is 48% of our stated goal of a 90 calendar-day operating reserve (nearly halfway!).

At the same time, the WSO remains significantly understaffed. We remain unable to provide desired fellowship services—and others are not delivered with the preferable quality or timeliness. Also, any downturn in sales or the economy only serves to remind us of our conviction that the best and most stable source of funds remains direct contributions from NA groups.

FDP Goal One also sets out an objective we have steadily sought your support for: to cover 25% of NAWS operational expenses from member contributions. Member contributions represent about 10% of NAWS income. So, we have a long way to go to meet this extremely important goal. Moreover, over 77% of current member contributions come from regions, with direct group contributions accounting for just 5% and direct member contributions just 2%.

The number of groups making direct contributions has increased since the fellowship fund flow system changed and the *IP Self-Support: Principle and Practice* began to encourage direct group contributions in 1998. But the long-established habit of passing funds along to each level of the service structure has been very slow to change. Only a tiny fraction of NA groups have ever made a direct donation to NAWS.

We continue to ask for your support for the same reason you want to give it. Improving and increasing world services' available resources makes it possible to better fulfill our fellowship's primary purpose and the NAWS Vision Statement. NAWS News readers make up the best-informed and most interested members of our fellowship. You are our eyes, our ears, our voice. Please do whatever you can to raise awareness in your home group, area, and region of the ongoing need for fellowship donations.

DOING THE NEXT RIGHT THING

We accepted a report from our Executive Committee about NAWS priorities. We agreed on three categories of work: (1) must-do, (2) do-as-best-as-we-can, and (3) may-not-be-able-to-do. We're striving for the best, planning for the worst.

As expected, creating five new committees does not make world services capable of handling a lot more work at the same time. And when doing any work, there's an inevitable trade-off between quality, cost, and speed. In the quality/cost/speed triangle, only two out of three are ever possible at the same time.

One thing is becoming clear. The limit to what can be done at any one time is not in the number of board members nor the number of committees, not the number of workgroups nor the depth of the World Pool, not even the amount of financial resources nor the quantity and skill of WSO staff. While each factor can matter (for better and for worse), there's a more fundamental limit on what the fellowship and world services—as a whole system—can handle at the same time. How much should our system digest and process at any one time? We have no easy answer, but we'll be framing an ongoing dialogue around this question from now through WSC 2002.

Calendar Reminders...

- ♦ Regional seating requests by **27 April 2001**
- ♦ NAWS Participation Requests: by **15 May 2001** for events from July to September 2001
- ♦ Sponsorship project input by **1 June 2001**
- ♦ The first worldwide workshop will be in Burnaby, British Columbia, **29 July to 1 July 2001**
- ♦ Literature Distribution and Convention Workshop, in vicinity of WSO, **3-4 August 2001**
- ♦ World Unity Day will be in Vienna, Virginia (near Washington, D.C.), **1 September 2001**; the World Service Meeting for regional delegates will coincide, **31 August-2 September 2001**
- ♦ Service resumes for elections at WSC 2002 by **1 September 2001** to be considered by HRP
- ♦ Regional motions for the *Conference Agenda Report* for WSC 2002 by **26 September 2001**
- ♦ Issue discussion topic ideas for CAR 2002 by **26 September 2001**
- ♦ Issue discussion papers for CAR 2002 by **15 Oct 2001**
- ♦ CAR 2002 publication in English by **29 November 2001** and translations by **29 December 2001**
- ♦ WSC 2002 will be from **28 April to 4 May 2002**