

naws on news

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GREETINGS FROM YOUR WORLD BOARD



We met 10-13 October in Chatsworth, California with an ambitious agenda, which we thankfully completed. Initially, we discussed and affirmed the Business Plan Workgroup's recommendations pertaining to literature pricing, which will be thoroughly explained to members in the literature distribution and convention workshop to be held 9-10 November 2007. We also explored avenues for reaching out to members; one of our focuses is on contributions. As we have reported, this continues to be an issue we hear about from areas, regions, zones, and here at world services. We want to increase our groups' awareness with contributions; we remain committed to the need to discuss fellowshipwide the groups' responsibility to support and contribute to the services provided on their behalf. We believe our core philosophy of sharing what has been so freely given to us, and our personal responsibility, is the basis of this discussion. We think ensuring that literature is provided to all who need it, regardless of their ability or lack of ability to pay for it, is one of the reasons world services exists. As always, what we most need to further this discussion is both your ideas and your experience. We thank all of you who have already responded to our previous *NA Way* articles.

We moved into our third round of the 2008-2010 strategic planning sessions on Thursday, 11 October. Our consultant, Jim DeLizia, facilitated our final round of prioritization of approaches. Many of these approaches will appear as project plans in the Conference Approval Track. Additionally, in this session, we were able to focus on the monitoring and evaluation component of the strategic plan. Our strategic planning discussions this conference cycle illustrated the importance of this element of the process. We are looking forward to increasing our focus on evaluation in the next cycle. Each revision and tailoring of the strategic plan helps us to provide more effective services to our worldwide fellowship.

On Friday, we entered into an in-depth discussion of the service pamphlets. We focused on the motion passed at WSC 2006, the process for developing these pamphlets for the groups, and the content of the pamphlets. We affirmed our support for the motion that passed. The process allows us to create service materials for groups in a timely manner, and equally permits the removal or revision of these pieces without being encumbered with the current process where change would minimally have to wait for the next conference. We offer you a more in-depth narrative later in this *NAWS News* and plan to frame and promote a dialogue about this issue on the conference participant bulletin board and to have discussions at WSC 2008.

2007 Fellowshipwide Survey Available Online for Limited Time



Your participation counts...

<http://www.naws.org/surveys/index.php?sid=1>

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We moved from service pamphlets toward framing the 2008 World Service Conference, establishing a theme of **“Our Freedom, Our Responsibility”** for the 2008 *Conference Agenda Report* and the 2008-2010 conference cycle. Many of the issues for discussion and motions for decision at the conference will be outlined in the *Conference Agenda Report*, which will be available in English 21 November 2007, with translated versions available in December. Additionally, the *CAR* will outline many of the items of the Conference Approval Track, which will be distributed 25 January 2008. As many of us know, the *CAR* contains materials such as the Sixth Edition Basic Text Approval Draft and Youth IP Approval Drafts, as well as motions and discussion questions. The *CAT* materials are geared toward provision of services such as revisions to *A Guide to World Services* and the 2008-2010 Strategic Plan, budget, and project plans.

We wrapped up our meeting on Saturday by affirming our decisions regarding the WSC seating moratorium and holding discussions geared to frame the project plans arising from our strategic plan.

Our meeting was productive; and we could feel the energy that accompanies the anticipation of the World Service Conference. Identifying the theme, discussing the *CAR*, and reviewing *CAR* workshop requests—all of these actions and more helped to infuse us with the enthusiasm and commitment to serve our fellowship into the future.

What’s Ahead:

When we meet in January, we will focus our efforts toward finalizing the Conference Approval Track materials which will be distributed on 25 January 2008. We have outlined in the *Conference Agenda Report* what materials will be included in the *CAT*. The *CAR* will be distributed 21 November 2007 and will be available online at www.na.org.

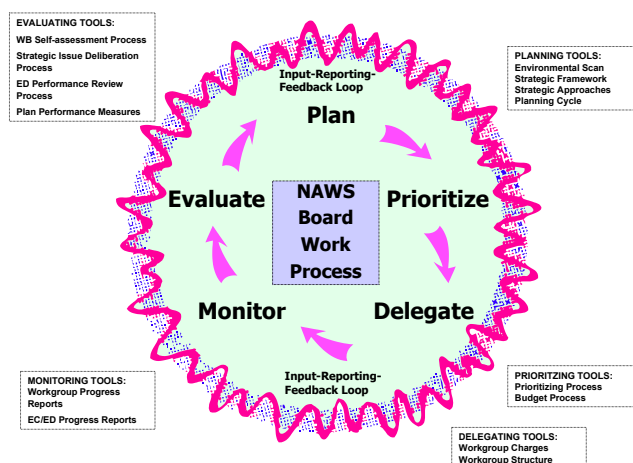
STRATEGIC PLANNING



At our October meeting, we completed our third and last session to update the strategic plan for the 2008-2010 cycle. This is a complex, but methodical process that allows us to go step-by-step through fellowship input and feedback, results of our interactions at numerous fellowship events, detailed discussions and

evaluations, and prioritization of the approaches that will help us meet the plan’s objectives.

In the last *NAWS News*, we reported on some of the specific objectives and approaches within each key result area. Much of that has not changed; however, we did another round of prioritization, which clarified and reaffirmed our focus and helped us in this final round of discussion. As we considered the plan in this round, we saw many connections and overlaps and noted that most of what is being proposed is rooted in previously established or continued priorities such as furthering the understanding of the *Public Relations Handbook* within our fellowship and continuing our leadership efforts to better train, nurture, and cultivate leaders at the local level.



Additionally, we reaffirmed our prioritization of a revision or update to our current service structure, focusing on local services. We expect this to ultimately result in a rewrite of *A Guide to Local Services in NA*, but there is much to do before that rewrite can occur. The NA World Services Vision Statement has been a great help in guiding world services, and we think something similar is needed for all NA services. In order to take the next step in both this project and the fellowship issue discussions about Our Service System, we are going to be asking areas and regions to help us by providing input as to what is working and what is not working in local service efforts. You will see more information about this in the *Conference Agenda Report* and online at www.na.org.

We also discussed the need for our next recovery literature project. It takes at least four years to create a book-length piece under the current literature process. We have many ideas for book-length pieces

from previous literature surveys, from input we have received in the literature review and input process, and from ideas submitted. These include a book on life in recovery, a revision of *The NA Step Working Guides*, a traditions workbook, revision of the *Sponsorship* book, and a history book. We are forwarding a request to begin work on a book-length piece that focuses on our experiences in living daily life as recovering addicts. This kind of project will hopefully address many of the topics members have requested to be covered in literature. Topics such as relationships, grief, parenting, work, illness, sponsorship, and so on would be included within a book that captures living life in recovery. We will also be forwarding a request to update the booklet *In Times of Illness*.

The other project plans that we will be forwarding include additional service material and taking the next steps with the topics of leadership and training. We will keep you informed as we continue to develop our ideas into actual plans.

We are truly seeing the effect of our planning process because we are acutely aware of the impact of our growth—growth due to our ability in getting the message out, which has effected change and improvement. This is one of those “luxuries” that we rarely experience. We truly appreciate our members’ efforts in helping us, recognizing that achievement of our goals would not happen without members’ participation. Now, we are challenged to reach higher because we continue to raise the bar. This is actually a natural process—reaching higher to be more effective in carrying our message of recovery to a diverse and global membership.

Another key point is that for the first time since we began utilizing a strategic planning process, we are actually “on schedule.” Our goal has always been to work through this third round by this time in the cycle, but in the past we weren’t able to do this until January. This is a positive sign of our growing familiarity with and understanding of the process and our cohesiveness as a board. One of the advantages of being in this position is that we have been able to devote time to the monitoring and evaluation segments of the input-feedback loop that drives our planning process. We have discussed several aspects of this part of the process and believe that we’ll be working toward more thoroughly monitoring and evaluating our progress. We need to monitor and evaluate to help ensure that our projects actually achieve the aims laid out

in the project plans, and that the work benefits the fellowship as a whole and helps us toward fulfillment of our vision statement.

CONFERENCE AGENDA REPORT

The *Conference Agenda Report* will be distributed 21 November 2007 in English, while the translated versions will be distributed 26 December 2007. We would like to give you a preview of **“Our Freedom, Our Responsibility,”** which is the theme for our World Service Conference and, therefore, our *CAR*. We are looking forward to the discussions that we will be having with members during our *CAR* workshops. In order to include as many members as possible in this process, we will be publishing the entire *CAR* online and we will have an online form for members, trusted servants, or committees to use to answer the discussion questions in the *CAR* at <http://www.na.org/conference/index.htm>. As we all know, addiction is an inclusive disease; it does not discriminate. We believe it is our responsibility to be inclusive with discussions—to hear as many members’ and trusted servants’ perspectives as possible. We all are responsible for services in NA and for effectively carrying our message of recovery.

In keeping with our discussion-oriented conference, and to follow up on the Issue Discussion Topics, this *CAR* includes several questions that will assist us in our service provision. We would like to know whether the group worksheet we put together earlier this year is helping members with Building Strong Home Groups, and with Our Service System, we would love to hear from you on what is working and what needs improvement in your local efforts. We hope delegates will help us to get information from areas, regions, and committees at all levels during this process. The results of these discussions can be submitted to us online and we will be collecting this information to frame discussions at WSC 2008. We need this information to help us provide you with resources that will assist in the delivery of services and to frame the projects for the next conference cycle. Finally, with the third topic, *Who Is Missing from Our Meetings and Why?*, we would love to hear how members have welcomed those who were identified as missing, what stands in the way of our success in attracting those populations, and how we may help you. We will be collating and reporting back to you on what we have heard regarding all of these topics.

In keeping with our commitment to reach out to those who may not currently feel included in NA, we would like to hear from you about what should be our next targeted literature project. What population would most benefit from a piece of targeted literature? And, what would be the focus? We will be asking these types of questions in the *CAR*.

Additionally, we have included the *Sponsorship* book as an item for discussion with you. We have ideas about why this book is not better received in our fellowship, but these are just our best guesses. When we presented the project plans for this book as well as the book itself for approval at the conference, they were overwhelmingly approved by the fellowship. However, based on low sales of this book, it appears that our members have not embraced this piece of recovery literature that illustrates our shared experiences with sponsorship, a key component in a member's recovery toolbox. To benefit future literature projects, we need to understand why this book may not be what the fellowship wants to know about sponsorship. We do not know whether the lack of sales is indicative of the content of the book, expectations of our members were not met with this book, lack of exposure within our fellowship or what. We want to create literature that speaks to our members and captures our shared experience as a fellowship, but in order to do that, we need to evaluate where this piece may fall short. Please take the time to discuss the questions pertaining to *Sponsorship* book that will be outlined in the *CAR*. We look forward to hearing your comments regarding any or all of the questions posed in the *CAR*, whether in a *CAR* workshop or online at <http://www.na.org/conference/index.htm>.

Of course, the *CAR* would not be complete without the approval drafts of the Sixth Edition Basic Text, the Youth IP, and the IP for parents or guardians. These approval drafts illustrate our fellowship's diversity, the global nature of recovery, and the inclusiveness of NA. We hope that you enjoy reading the shared experiences of our members from around the world, whether through the personal stories in the Basic Text or as expressed by young addicts for young addicts or for their parents. As many of us recall, identification with others in NA helped pave the way for a sense of belonging, which helped propel us down the path of recovery and freedom from active addiction.

Conference Participants' Discussion Area

<http://www.na.org/IDT/IDT.htm>

The issue discussion topic board may be getting plenty of posts and views, but the traffic on the conference participants' discussion area 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 about consensus-based decision-making at the WSC or the new service pamphlets or any other issues that you would like to see discussed.

BASIC TEXT PROJECT

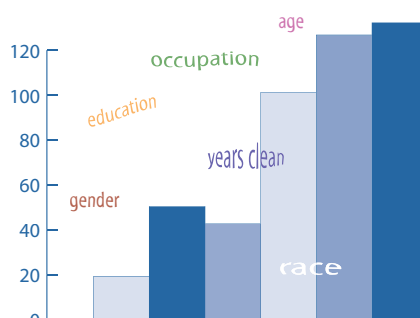


The cover essay for the draft details much of what we would report on here—the history of the project, the changes to the draft since it went out for review, the motions related to the Basic Text that will be in the *Conference Agenda Report* that is

being released 21 November 2007, production issues, and our discussions about translations policy. Rather than repeat ourselves here, we urge you to read the cover essay for the approval draft if you haven't already. You can access it on the Basic Text project page: www.na.org/conference/bt.

And while we've said it many times already, it bears repeating: a big thank you to all who participated in this project—conducting workshops, writing material, and sending input on the review draft. Thanks especially to the workgroup members who spent three years and countless hours working on this project. We send them our heartfelt gratitude.

MEMBERSHIP SURVEY



We want to thank our 4,409 members who responded to the online member survey as well as the hundreds more who completed paper surveys and sent them to NA

World Services. This survey is helping us move toward fulfillment of the third bullet point in the NAWS Vision Statement: "Narcotics Anonymous has universal recognition and respect as a viable program of recovery." The results from the survey are used in the membership

survey brochure; and at international, national, and local conference events, this brochure is handed to professionals who are in a position to refer addicts to Narcotics Anonymous.

For those of you who have yet to complete the survey, there is still time. The online survey at <http://www.naws.org/surveys/index.php?sid=1> is available until **31 December 2007**, and we will continue to accept the paper survey until that date. We all desire to more effectively carry our message of recovery; let's all participate in this survey.

We would like to let regional delegates know that survey results can be tabulated and given to you for your regions. As we pointed out above, these results may be useful in your public relations/public information service work. So, if you would like your region's demographic data, please drop us a note: NA World Services, attn: World Board, or email us at worldboard@na.org. We thank you for your willingness to participate in this endeavor and to help us achieve a realistic member demographic picture of Narcotics Anonymous.

SERVICE PAMPHLETS

As we've reported in previous issues of *NAWS News*, participants at WSC 2006 approved a motion to "allow the World Board to develop and approve service-related information pamphlets and tools for distribution to the fellowship." Following our July meeting, we were able to finish work on the following five service pamphlets:

- *An Introduction to NA Meetings*
- *Disruptive and Violent Behavior*
- *Group Trusted Servants: Roles and Responsibilities*
- *Group Business Meetings*
- *NA Groups and Medication*

We sent copies of all five pieces to conference participants, and also distributed copies to interested members at WCNA-32. The overall response to these pieces was very positive. A description of the word "clean" in *An Introduction to NA Meetings*, however, drew a fair amount of concerned input from members throughout our fellowship. Those concerns prompted us to halt distribution of the piece pending further discussion. The line in question pertained to a definition of abstinence which apparently failed to adequately

capture what we intended to express, but this situation provided us with an example of one of the advantages of this new process: the ability for the board to respond immediately to fellowship concerns, rather than having progress completely halted and having to await a conference motion.

The issue with the word "clean" is one that the fellowship has long discussed. As members we know what NA means by total abstinence from all drugs. And we know that alcohol is a drug. We tried to capture this by saying "abstinent from all drugs," but "not including prescription medication." We frequently get the question from professionals about people who are taking prescription medication for legitimate physical or mental health issues. This is a delicate issue and one that is best resolved personally. As it states in our booklet *In Times of Illness*, "Clean time is an issue for each of us to resolve individually with our sponsor and our Higher Power." We are aware that many people abuse prescrip-



tion medications and believe this was part of the reason for the reaction to our "definition" of "clean." The issue may be too complicated to describe

in a short bullet point definition. We invite your ideas and input on this and think this is an issue that should be discussed before any further revisions of with this piece.

With this new process, we have received written input and have had subsequent discussions with members; as we became aware of all the issues and concerns, we diligently tried to examine all of the issues that were raised. The piece, *An Introduction to NA Meetings*, was created in response to our discussions about groups in the last conference cycle as well as in response to numerous requests from professionals who send people to meetings who are unfamiliar with NA, including drug court clients. We still believe this is a piece we need, but the issue seems to be how we go about creating and approving a piece like this one. This piece is primarily intended for people who do not know if they are members yet, or for very new members who may not be familiar with NA meetings.

In addition to the above piece, there are many service issues we need to address to members rather than speaking to service committees. The next two pieces we have reported that we are working on, *Leadership* and *The Benefits of Service*, also fall into this category. Their creation came about because of service needs, but they are intended to speak to members. In the past, we would have simply created bulletins about these topics, but as we all know, most members are not even aware that bulletins exist. We thought that service pamphlets could make the distribution of this material easier and more widespread for our membership. But when we begin to speak directly to members, the question of “what is recovery material and what is service material” is not as clear. When we are creating tools for a group or service committee, the issue is much clearer.

What we all seem to want is a timely process that can create service material for our membership that depicts our collective experience on a variety of issues. And we want to do this in a way that serves your needs and portrays the fellowship's voice. The process we used to create the service pamphlets allows us to capture what we have heard in the fellowship issue discussions in one conference cycle.

We acknowledge the flexibility that you allowed us in developing the service pamphlets; this process may be unfamiliar to members and represents a change. But, we, as your board, are not trying to circumvent any process simply because it falls under the service pamphlet category. We have heard from some members that these pamphlets should have gone through the literature process; the current recovery literature process is a much more costly and time-consuming process.

A key issue with service pamphlets seems to have focused on who approves these pieces. We believe this is an oversimplification of the issue. Almost all material that is presented in the *Conference Agenda Report* or Conference Approval Track is approved. What can change or affect a piece is not the approval process; it is the review and input process. One of the ideas we discussed was sending these pieces out for delegate review. This would allow delegates to have an opportunity to impact a piece before it is published and also to determine if it would be helpful for a committee or members in their region to review and input. And at the same time, we do not want to lose the timeliness

and responsiveness that this process was created to achieve. In the end, we want to create material that has value to our membership and will be utilized in their service efforts.

We have put off completion of any of the pieces, *An Introduction to NA Meetings*, *Leadership*, and *The Benefits of Service*, until we can have further discussion with you. We see the real issues to discuss as focusing on two areas. One is the intended audience. How do we want to classify material that is directed and written to members, but is not clearly recovery material? And the second area for discussion is the process. Would delegate or some other review process improve the content and still allow us to have a responsive and simple process?

The motion passed at WSC 2006 placed significant trust in the World Board, and we intend to honor that trust. We hope to engage regional delegates in a conversation about ways to improve the selection of topics and the development, review, and approval process. The *Conference Agenda Report* will contain further discussion of this process to help us begin these discussions with RDs.

WSC SEATING

In our discussions, we became acutely aware that trying to function within our current seating criteria may be inhibited by our service system. We seem to be operating in a service system that was designed nearly twenty years ago when NA was not a truly global fellowship and our membership was smaller. We are examining issues such as a global vision statement that is accepted and owned by our fellowship, and, to achieve that vision, what a service system would look like. What would global representation at the World Service Conference resemble? Naturally, we need our members' help in designing the vision and service system that would be most effective for carrying the message of recovery worldwide. We will be forwarding these ideas, and hope to engage in a productive discussion at the conference with our delegate partners.

In the meantime, we reaffirmed our decision to recommend a moratorium until 2012 on conference seating of regions that have split from an existing region. This would give us two conference cycles to discuss this issue and frame plans for the future.

As much as our hearts may have been pulled in one direction, we did step back and consider our service system as a whole. We considered whether regions that split to provide better local services can still be represented by a single delegate at the conference. This appears applicable to the regions that split from seated regions. We also examined the contribution to the collective voice of our fellowship that is found at the World Service Conference from regions that have yet to be seated. Throughout our discussions and deliberations, we returned to our service system. There are many areas within our fellowship whose members have no voice at all, while others seem



to dominate the conference. Ultimately, what we need is a group that comes together every two years to discuss with each other the issues we face as a worldwide fellowship. We feel we would be irresponsible and shortsighted simply to seat regions without discussing how we envision our conference functioning—the aims of the conference in our global fellowship. We will be reporting in greater depth regarding our moratorium recommendation and those regions that we will be recommending for seating in the Conference Approval Track.

Another related issue that we hope to discuss during the conference is when to bring potential new participants to the conference. In 2006, we brought South Africa and Western Russia to the conference as nonvoting participants. We also invited Iran, but they were unable to travel to the US. This allowed these communities to begin to understand the conference and their participation in it before they were required to gather a regional conscience and vote on business before the conference. We think this benefited both the conference and the communities. The conference overwhelmingly supported this action by allowing these communities to participate and not vote. We do not plan to bring any potential new participants for WSC 2008 until we have had the opportunity to discuss this practice with you.

CBDM AT THE WSC

As we have repeatedly reported, we have been working on capturing what we use as the process for consensus-based decision making at the WSC. We have a draft out for review, and it is posted on the conference participant bulletin board.

During our meeting, we reviewed the sparse input that we have received to date. We would like your ideas and comments. The deadline for input is **30 November 2007**. We will need to make any changes or improvements to this piece shortly, as we need to ready the piece for inclusion in the Conference Approval Track along with other proposed revisions to *A Guide to World Services in NA*. So please go to <http://www.naws.org/wsc-forum/> and let us know what you think!

WCNA-32

“It was the best world convention I’ve ever attended!” We’re pleased to report that this was typical of comments and feedback from attendees of WCNA-32, held 30 August through 2 September in San Antonio, Texas, USA. Many have praised the variety of workshops and speakers, entertainment events, and the venues themselves. NA members also appreciated the warm welcome from San Antonio—from welcome banners in the airport to friendly and supportive business and community leaders to the just-plain-friendly San Antonians encountered throughout the convention weekend.

We tried some new things at this convention, like common needs workshops and events, which were well received and very well attended. We also implemented new processes and systems for registration and merchandise sales to better accommodate our members, and we are happy to report that these changes significantly improved the flow of service.



WCNA-32 merchandise is still available in limited quantities and sizes until **15 December 2007** or until the items are sold out. This is another first-time offering

that has been very popular. To purchase WCNA-32 merchandise, go to <http://www.na.org/wcna32/merchandise.htm>.

CDs and MP3s of convention speakers and workshops continue to be available at <http://www.siattend.com/Conference.aspx?cid=241&aid=10>.

Yet another first is that DVDs of all WCNA-32 main meetings are now available with American Sign Language translation. To order yours, just click on the World Convention link at the bottom of our web page (www.na.org) or go directly to <http://www.siattend.com/Conference.aspx?cid=241&aid=10>.

We will have more detailed information to report on WCNA-32 in the next *NAWS News*.

We want to extend our sincerest apologies to all those who sent emails to events@na.org with questions, concerns, and general inquiries over the past few months and had not received a response. We had problems with a function of this email account and we didn't become aware of this technical difficulty until recently. We have corrected the error and hope this helps to prevent this problem in the future. Again, we regret any inconvenience this may have caused you and we appreciate your interest in NAWS events.

NAWS STAFF

It is with great sadness that we report that Mike Polin, a long time employee and the Manager of Meetings and Conventions at NAWS, lost his fight with cancer at the end of September. Many of you may have had an opportunity to see Mike at WCNA-32 and numerous other conventions and events over the years. His passion, dedication, and commitment in helping to carry the message were tireless. He will be missed in more ways than we can possibly say. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

Jeff Gershoff, a nineteen-year NAWS employee, who many have come to know through the years with his tireless efforts on behalf of NAWS, is on permanent medical leave. We appreciate all of the messages, thoughts, prayers, and love you have sent for him.

And, we are happy to announce that we have a new employee starting with us at the beginning of 2008. Bob Jordan from Florida, with extensive world service experience, will be joining us as a Project Coordinator at the beginning of 2008, and we eagerly look forward to his arrival.

FELLOWSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Traveling to zonal forums, conventions, and service workshops helps us to build partnerships with members, area and regional trusted servants, and delegates and their alternates. Discussing the issues that affect all NA communities allows us the opportunity to exchange information and experiences so that, together, we can more effectively and responsibly carry our message of recovery.

Zonal Forums

Rocky Mountain Zonal Forum Grand Junction, Colorado, USA

The Rocky Mountain Zonal Forum (RMZF) includes the Colorado, Montana, Southern Idaho, Upper Rocky Mountain, and Utah Regions. Grand Junction, Colorado, USA, was the site for the RMZF held 27-29 July. NAWS representatives attended to conduct workshops on Building Strong Home Groups, NA Autonomy in Rural Communities, and Fellowship Development/Outreach. We also provided a NAWS update. Using the Area Planning Tool and the Strong Home Groups worksheet, participants identified and brainstormed solutions to issues specific to their areas and regions.

Members in attendance expressed that the remote or rural nature of their regions challenged service delivery efforts. Several people came and shared their experiences of keeping meetings going with only a handful of regular members, and reported on how public relations efforts were also affected. Things like drug court awareness of the NA program and treatment providers who do not refer to NA were some challenges expressed. Useful suggestions were offered to keep making NA available and to reach out to the courts with PR efforts highlighting what the NA program is and how it works.

All in all, it seemed that everyone in attendance found value in the workshops, and, based on the attendance, they were very interested in the discussions. It was good to see some of the local oldtimers in attendance as well.

ECCNA 24 European Delegates Meeting Llandudno, Wales

The European Delegates Meeting (EDM) and European Conference and Convention of NA (ECCNA) were held 2-5 August in Wales, where we facilitated two workshops and met with members from several

NA communities. Atmosphere of Recovery in Service meetings and Who's Missing from Our Meetings and Why? were well-attended sessions with lively discussion and participation. Attendees included NA members from several regions within and outside of Europe, including the United Kingdom, Portugal, Poland, Greece, Finland, Hungary, German-speaking, Sweden, Ireland, France, Malta, French-speaking Swiss, Spain, Western Russia, Lithuania, and Egypt.

Workshops and Conventions

San Salvador, El Salvador

At the Fourth El Salvador Regional Convention which was held the first weekend of August, NAWS facilitated workshops focused on our Issue Discussion Topics: Our Service System, Building Strong Home Groups, and Who Is Missing from Our Meetings and Why? NA members from several regions attended, including those from Costa Rica, Honduras, Guatemala, and Nicaragua, along with members from the Southern California Hispanic Area. We concluded our participation for the weekend with a presentation on NA's history to a full house prior to the closing meeting.

The El Salvador Region has an H&I group in a high-security women's prison where some of the most dangerous criminals are serving from eighty- to 180-year prison sentences. Of the seventy women in this facility, fifty-five attend the NA meeting on a regular basis.

Culiacan, Mexico



NAWS representatives attended the Culiacan, Mexico, Eleventh Birthday event 7-9

September to facilitate three workshops: Building Strong Home Groups, Who's Missing from Our Meetings and Why?, and Our Service System. We were also able to share the videos presented at WCNA-32 with the more-than-100 members. Most attendees were from the Sinaloa Area, but members from the Baja Son Region, the Southern California Region, and Chile also participated.

Portland, Oregon, USA

A focused workshop was facilitated with NA members of the Portland Area on 22 September. A NAWS representative devoted a half-day session to Building Strong Home Groups. This also included discussion of the local service structure and what system best serves the

groups in this area. The session was well attended and brought about some positive thoughts and results.

India

NAWS attended India's regional meeting held in Kolkata (formerly Calcutta) in September 2007. The Indian Region is known officially and colloquially as SIRSCONA (Society of the Indian Regional Service Committee of NA). Due to extreme travel distances, the RSC is held semiannually over three days.

This meeting was particularly notable due to the high and enthusiastic RCM attendance and because the neighboring region known as NERF (Northeast Regional Forum) was invited. NERF lies in the far eastern provinces of India, and the NERF delegate and chairperson attended, as did two RCMs.

One of the key discussions held with NAWS concerned the issue of literature distribution. Sadly, snags continue to plague the region's distribution system, and NAWS is working with local entities to iron out those wrinkles. We spent several days in the capital city of New Delhi after the SIRSCONA gathering to facilitate a mass shipment of literature stock to the ASCs of both SIRSCONA and NERF.

NAWS was able to meet with the Bengali and Hindi local translation committees (LTCs) while in Kolkata and Delhi, respectively. There have been exciting developments for translations in India, including recent publication of the Hindi White Booklet and final touches to the Hindi Basic Text, as well extensive progress on the Bengali Basic Text. Hindi is spoken in many parts of India, and Bengali is the language of West Bengal (an Indian state, with Kolkata as its capital) and the country of Bangladesh, bordering it to the east.

Van Nuys, California, USA

The Second Southern California Hispanic Area Convention was held 28-30 September 2007. This area has thirty groups throughout Southern California, including groups in Los Angeles County, Orange County, and the San Diego area. This was the first time most of these members had attended an interactive workshop, and they were very excited about it. Our Service System and Building Strong Home Groups sessions were facilitated in both English and Spanish, as there were a few English-speaking members in attendance. Besides the members from Southern California there were members in attendance from Sacramento, California, and Tijuana and Mexicali, Mexico.

Saint-Hyacinthe, Quebec, Canada

The Quebec Region invited NAWS to participate in their twentieth regional convention, held 5-7 October in Saint-Hyacinthe, just outside Montreal. We were asked to attend and conduct a workshop on Our Service System in an effort to inspire greater involvement in service. Service bodies in Quebec have recently been seeing a decline in active participation, so their trusted servants have been spread thin to cover various commitments.

The Saturday morning workshop on service drew some thirty people, while the convention itself had an attendance of between 800 and 1,000. Not all of the members who participated in this session were familiar with the small-group, roundtable discussion workshop format, but they got involved and enjoyed the process. By the end of the workshop, members seemed excited and enthusiastic, and we hope that energy will spread to others in their communities to help reinvigorate their service efforts.

Ogden, Utah, USA

Three members from NAWS were invited to participate in, and present at, Western Service Learning Days held 12-14 October 2007. The twenty-first annual event was held this year in Ogden, Utah. Among the geographic areas represented were Hawaii, Utah, Idaho, California, and Arizona, as well as several other states. The first part of the program was dedicated to presentations to professionals. Over twenty professionals were invited to the Friday program. These presentations were attended by professionals and NA trusted servants alike. NA World Services provided presentations on an Introduction to Narcotics Anonymous, Hospitals & Institutions/Public Information and Public Relations Resources for Professionals, and the Future of Public Relations in Your Community.

The History of Narcotics Anonymous held at the end of the day Friday began the portion of the program that was geared toward NA members in general, and area-level trusted servants in particular. On Saturday, the program continued with presentations for area and regional trusted servants. NAWS facilitated workshops on Utilization of the *Public Relations Handbook* and its resources; Supporting Meetings Behind the Walls, the History of the Basic Text Project, and the History of the New Service Pamphlets. Saturday night's speaker meeting was attended by over 300 NA members, and

the NAWS workshops were attended by up to 100 trusted servants each. All feedback to the NAWS travelers about the workshops was extremely positive. Most of the response from the professionals and trusted servants in attendance indicated that they had been offered new, pertinent, and useful information.

WEBSITE UPDATE



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 are:

- As we mentioned in the last *NAWS News*, we are in the process of updating our membership information. The results from our membership survey help nonmembers and professionals see NA in a more realistic light, and help to dispel myths about our membership. We want to encourage you and your friends to complete this anonymous survey. By offering the survey online (in English), as well as in a downloadable and printable version in five languages, we are seeking your partnership in helping to more accurately reflect the demographics of our worldwide fellowship. This survey will be online until **31 December 2007** at <http://www.naws.org/surveys/index.php?sid=1>.

We thank you for your efforts in completing the survey and for encouraging other members to complete it. And remember, please complete only one survey.

- With the release of the *CAR*, the discussion questions outlined in the *CAR* will be linked from <http://www.na.org/conference/index.htm>. We are encouraging every member to respond—members and trusted servants of areas and regions, as well as delegates and their alternates. We would like to hear from everyone. The discussion questions will focus on the Issue Discussion Topics, the *Sponsorship* book's usefulness, and the creation of the next piece of targeted literature. Visit the website and participate.
- We still have some WCNA-32 merchandise available for purchase online. Visit <http://www.na.org/wcna32/merchandise.htm>

- CDs and MP3s of convention speakers and workshops continue to be available at <http://siattend.com/Conference.aspx?cid=241&aid=10>.
- DVDs of all WCNA-32 main meetings are now available with American Sign Language translation. To order yours, just click on the World Convention link at the bottom of our webpage (www.na.org) or go directly to <http://siattend.com/Conference.aspx?cid=241&aid=10>.

Whether you are a frequent visitor to the website or have yet to visit, we will be notifying you in the near future that the *NAWS, Inc. Annual Report* has been posted. This is a great vehicle that recaps the year and is often of interest to professionals who have the ability to refer addicts to NA. We will be sending an e-blast when this report is available online.

HUMAN RESOURCE PANEL

Greetings again from your Human Resource Panel. It is a very active time in the conference cycle for us, and we are busy with our nominations process. Things have been even more challenging this cycle since we have made some changes to our process. You may remember that we are now using a simplified World Pool Information Form (WPIF), and are asking for additional information from members as we move through the process. As with anything new, it has had its challenges, but we are happy with the overall change and confident that it will support our work. Our thanks go out to all of those members who updated or submitted their WPIF, including those who used the online opportunity to do so. We are excited about this new and improved online WPIF, and we're glad that members seem to find it convenient and user-friendly.

As in past cycles, in mid-September we contacted all those World Pool members with eight or more years clean and an interest in being considered for nomination to World Board, HRP, or Cofacilitator positions; inviting them into our process. And as we reported back in May, we also contacted all regions, zones, and the World Board, inviting them to forward potential candidates to the HRP for our consideration. We are happy to report that from this "call for candidates" we have a substantial pool of interested members to evaluate and select from to create a list of nominees for your consideration at WSC 2008.

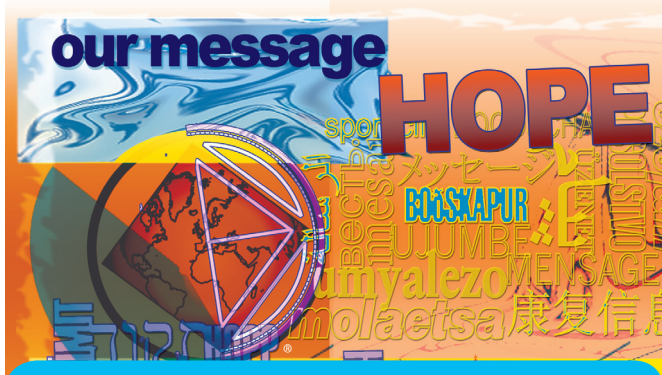
Speaking of the WSC, as we reported, and in response to concerns raised at the last WSC, we are also working on our presentation to the conference about our process. Our hope is that this will allow all who are interested to see and understand the HRP evaluation process for themselves. And while the presentation will include detailed scoring information, as a reminder to honor the privacy of everyone involved, we will not discuss any individual scores.

Also, we are working hard to complete our recommendations for changes to the HRP and "World Pool External Guidelines" section of *A Guide to World Services*. We believe that, if approved, these recommendations will update the guide to best reflect current practices.

Finally, the World Pool currently has 845 members. As required by policy, we recently removed those members whose information had not been updated for over three years. And, even though we reported many times over this conference cycle that members needed to update their information, and attempted to contact each of those affected members, we understand that some may have been taken by surprise when they found that they were removed. We encourage anyone who was removed but is still interested in serving at the world level to resubmit their information to the World Pool for future consideration.

As always, we invite any thoughts or questions. Feel free to contact us at hrp@na.org or contact Roberta at NAWS at 818-773-9999 x121.

WCNA-32 Merchandise Sales Available Online for Limited Time



For the first time ever, and for a limited time while supplies last, members can purchase WCNA-32 merchandise directly online.

Couldn't attend WCNA-32 in Texas, want to purchase additional merchandise, or want to buy goodies to give as gifts? Now is the time, and this is the place: <http://www.na.org/wcna32/merchandise.htm>. These items are available in limited quantities and sizes until **15 December 2007** or until they are sold out.

Orders will be delivered within a few weeks after the order is received. The orders are processed by us, but are sent to you from a fulfillment service. (All sales are final; no refunds or exchanges.) You can view and order the items at <http://www.na.org/wcna32/merchandise.htm>



WORLD SERVICES CALENDAR AND DEADLINES

21 November 2007

2008 Conference Agenda Report is available

26 December 2007

Translated 2008 Conference Agenda Reports are available

25 January 2008

2008 Conference Approval Track material is available

25–27 January 2008

Worldwide Workshop—Sydney, Australia

27 April – 3 May 2008

2008 World Service Conference