

nawsnews

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In late July, the board met in person for the first time in over two years. It was the first ever in-person board meeting for the four members elected in 2020. Meeting virtually every month has become our norm, and it felt great to be together under one roof. The HRP met in person in late August for the first time, and we know they felt the same way. You can't hug through a screen!

Much of our meeting focused on plans for the 2023 World Service Conference, including the *Conference Agenda Report*. This issue of *NAWS News* covers some of the other topics we've been focused on and work we've accomplished. With



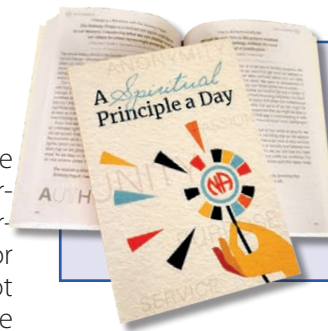
web meetings and NAWS Updates provided to conference participants every other month, much of this information will not be new to them, but it is provided here to inform all members.



STARTING THE CONFERENCE AGENDA REPORT (CAR)

The English language *Conference Agenda Report* will be posted no later than 30 November, and the translated versions by 30 December. (Don't forget you can find important dates and deadlines here www.na.org/dates.) For the last two WSC meetings, in 2020 and 2022, we did not mail printed copies of the CAR but posted it online for free download. That seemed to work well, and we intend to take the same approach for WSC 2023. We have not printed copies of any NAWS publications in more than two and a half years, and that saves financial and human resources.

It looks like there will be about 25 motions in the CAR, with half coming from the World Board and half from regions and zones.



A Spiritual Principle a Day is in stock!!!
Here is the link for the book in www.na.org/webstore

If you want to get a head start on some of the issues that will be decided at WSC 2023, check out the PowerPoint posted in **English** and **Spanish** on www.na.org/conference about the Future of the WSC. The board is recommending changes to the conference cycle length, the funding policy, the CAR publication date, and more. The PowerPoint explains the recommendations and gives some of the history of the discussions that have led to them.

**www.na.org/virtual
on-screen resources
to download this slide for your meetings**

SURVEY SAYS . . .

Since 2016, we have included a survey in the *CAR* and posted at www.na.org to help the conference set priorities for literature and service material to develop and issues to discuss. We list all of the ideas we receive for projects and topics of Fellowship importance, and ask members to select what they believe to be the most important things to work on and discuss next. We also ask regions and zones to fill out the survey. The results from members and from regions and zones are compiled and distributed to conference participants to inform their decisions about projects. (The survey results are included as an addendum to the WSC minutes.)

There are always more ideas for projects than there are human and financial resources to accomplish them, and often a member submits what they think is a great idea, but the Fellowship as a whole may or may not see it as a high priority. The survey helps the conference determine what rises to the top and make strategic decisions about what to work on next. This is more important than ever given the backlog of motions and projects previously approved by the WSC and the resource crunch brought about by the pandemic. We intend to include all of the recent project ideas—from motions, emails, and conversations—in the next *CAR* survey. If you have an idea that you'd like to see included—new literature, service material, or issue discussion topics—please let us know: wb@na.org.

IRAN REGION

If you're on any NA social media groups, you may have read something about the Iran Region deciding to print their own literature. In fact, that is where the board first heard about the situation as well. Since the World Board heard about recent decisions by the Iran RSC, we have been doing our best to open lines of communication. It is important to note that there is more than one region in Iran, and this decision was made by one of the regions, not by a national service body.

From what we understand, the decision to print literature was made by the RSC without consulting its member groups. The RSC body recently met again and has formed a workgroup to discuss the issues with World Services. Discussions have been promising so far. We are hopeful that the Iran Region will reverse their decision.

As one might expect, there has been a great deal of tension and disharmony within Iran NA over these issues. The sad fact is that the controversy has been fueled by disinformation and rumors coming from some members outside of Iran who have a history of similar attempts to sow discord in other communities.

We have kept regional and zonal delegates informed about our communications with the Iran region. It is a developing situation, but we wanted to report about it here. We have answered many members' questions about these issues. We don't want to take up this whole *NAWS News* on the topic, but we will give a bit of brief background and encourage anyone who has questions to ask: wb@na.org.

World Services has a branch office in Tehran. Like the other four World Service locations, the office in Tehran is directly accountable to NA World Services, the World Board, and ultimately the World Service Conference.

As we do in many parts of the world, we do our best to keep the price of literature low as an accommodation to their economy, and any net proceeds from literature in Iran are not able to be removed from Iran for legal reasons. In the past, we have used excess funds to bring the region to workshops and meetings, support local workshops, and provide new groups with free literature. As is the case with any business, we have tried to cover general inflation and rising costs across the board, but we did have two years of expense exceeding income at WSO Iran. The inflation rate in Iran topped 50% in 2022.

The reason that we were able to keep prices artificially low in Iran for some time was because of the foresight of the office manager, who stockpiled paper in the face of rising costs of goods. Now, those supplies of paper and other raw material have been fully used, and given the rising cost of production, we have planned for a price increase everywhere, including Iran.

The members who are fueling the current controversy seem to have seized on the issue of a price increase as an opportunity to stir up anger and resentment. This is the latest episode in an ongoing and purposeful attempt to disrupt NA World Services and to consume the Fellowship's time, energy, and resources.

We will continue to reach out to Iran and to provide guidance and support as it is requested, and serve the Fellowship of NA to the best of our abilities. We pray that unity can be restored in Iran.

NAWS' long-term self-support goal:

Member contributions cover at least 70% of expense for services.

We are more than half way there!



Member contributions for Fiscal Year 2022 will total approximately \$2.2M!!

In 2021, we were at \$1.7M, and 2020 was just under \$1M.

Thank you to everyone who made this possible!

You are amazing! www.na.org/contribute

INVEST IN OUR VISION

On a happier note, we are making progress toward our goal to become self-supporting through member contributions. Member contributions were at an all-time-high in the last fiscal year ending 30 June 2022 at over \$2.2 million. Thank you everyone who has contributed, helped spread the word, and organized events to raise awareness.

We have come a long way, but we still have a lot of road in front of us before we reach our self-support destination. We are not there yet.

World Services has cut costs drastically. The board is budgeted for half the number of in-person meetings as in the past. Staff levels are 40% less than they were a few years ago. We have not published *Reaching Out* or *The NA Way*, and we have discontinued all paper publications. But some expenses are beyond our control: We are facing rising costs of goods and the cost of the upcoming World Service Conference. We are not trying to sound an alarm, but we are trying to let you know we all need to work together to make more progress toward being self-supporting through member contributions (www.na.org/contribute).

Again, thank you to everyone for all you do for NA. Not every member is in a position to contribute financially, and it costs nothing to belong to NA. Thank you for your service and dedication.

WEBINARS

We hold an open webinar every quarter. To be notified in advance, sign up for any of our subscriptions (www.na.org/subscribe), and you will receive NAWS Update emails—or just follow [@narcoticsanonymous](https://www.instagram.com/narcoticsanonymous) on Instagram. We post flyers for every open webinar.

The Unity Day webinar was so great. Between Zoom and YouTube we had over 1,000 connections, many of them events. Thank you to all of the events who joined us and to the many translators who helped to make this truly a global meeting. We have posted an audio recording to www.na.org/webinars.

We are planning two extra open webinars in November—one focused on public relations NA service and another on hospitals and institutions service. Each will feature members sharing their experience on a range of related topics and will have time for questions and answers. Everyone is welcome. Come see what's happening with PR and H&I service around the world!

- Open PR Webinar Saturday, 5 November at 10–11:30 am Pacific Daylight Time (17:00–18:30 GMT).
- Open H&I Webinar Thursday, 10 November at 3–4:30 pm Pacific Standard Time (23:00–00:30 GMT).

STAFFING CHANGES

We are happy to report that we have filled the three open positions we had posted for our Chatsworth office. Bob Schott is returning to work as the PR assistant. Some of you

may have communicated with him in that capacity before the pandemic. Our new writer/editor is MJ Weerts, who comes to us from UCLA, where he was teaching writing. Sumit Dagi, a former RD from Nepal, who has been living and working in the US, will join us as an administrative assistant. We are pleased to welcome MJ and Sumit to World Services and welcome Bob back.

We also have a new staff person at WSO Iran, Saeed Khosravi, who has been a frequent interpreter on NAWS webinars. Saeed is translating materials and helping to build a Farsi website that can be accessed in Iran and linked to our main website at na.org.

Sadly, we also said goodbye to Pam T, last month. Pam worked on the communications team for almost 7 years. We wish her the very best in her new adventures.

Our staffing levels are still well under what they were before the pandemic. At the beginning of this fiscal year, we had

Please join us for an open webinar on Public Relations

5 November
10–11:30am PDT
(17:00–18:30 GMT)

We will hear from members around the world on these topics:

- Starting PR committees
- PR efforts outside the US
- Collaboration of PR & H&I
- Gratitude and joy with PR service

Narcotics Anonymous World Services

Spanish and Portuguese translation provided.
Contact pr@na.org if you require other interpretation.

Passcode: 1953
Webinar ID: 864 4205 2497

Please join us for an open webinar on H&I (Hospitals & Institutions)

10 November
3–4:30pm PST
(23:00–00:30 GMT)

We will hear from H&I trusted servants around the world on these topics:

- How to attract members back to H&I service
- How to handle the rotation of institutional officers
- Collaboration of H&I and PR
- Adjusting to the impact of COVID related requirements

Spanish and Portuguese translation provided.
Contact pr@na.org if you require other interpretation.

Passcode: 1953
Webinar ID: 860 7236 6690

almost 20 fewer staff than before the pandemic. We hope to be able to fill a few of the vacant positions through this cycle, in the hopes of being able to increase capacity to provide more services. Most open positions are for translations, Fellowship services, and project and conference support.

SPAD!! AND OTHER BOOK STUFF

A Spiritual Principle a Day is here, and boy does it look great!! It's available in our webstore as item #1110 for \$13: [here](#) or at www.na.org/webstore.

You can also subscribe to get an email of the daily reading delivered for free to your inbox: www.na.org/subscribe.

One of the frustrating results of the pandemic has been disruptions in the supply chain. For us, that means sometimes we run out of items. When we do, we take the listings out of our webstore until they are back in stock, as recently happened with the 60th anniversary Little White Book. We apologize for any inconvenience. The book is back in stock at \$15. Item #1501 [here](#) or at www.na.org/webstore.

We have a new *Guiding Principles* bundle available. For \$35, a stitched and hand-numbered edition of the book with coordinating bookmark comes in a handsome, laser-etched wooden box with a fold-out Basic Text timeline. Item #1205B: [here](#) or at www.na.org/webstore.



A NOTE FROM THE HRP

Hello from the Human Resource Panel. We want to offer a final reminder that the deadline for submitting an RBZ (Region, World Board, Zonal Forum) recommendation is **30 September 2022**. Conference participants can find the link to the online RBZ submission form in the HRP folder in Dropbox. As always, we welcome any comments or questions. Feel free to write to us at hrp@na.org.

More Good Stuff

Virtual Meeting Basics is now Board-approved service material, posted in English and Spanish at www.na.org/virtual and www.na.org/toolbox. Thank you very much to everyone who contributed to the project. It's a great new addition to "the basics."

We have just changed our antiquated database software (over 25 years old is antique for software!). This is the software we use to keep data on groups, meetings, trusted servant contacts, and much more.

We hope to resume publication of *Reaching Out* (www.na.org/reachingout) in early 2023, now that we have filled the PR assistant vacancy. We will send a NAWS Update email when we do. If you have experience, strength, and hope you'd like to share in RO, please send it to pr@na.org.

The survey on drug replacement therapy as it relates to NA is still posted through the end of November: www.na.org/survey. Surveys are a critical part of the literature creation process; filling out a survey helps us hear your voice as we frame a possible new piece of literature.

If you would like more information about what is happening at NA World Services, we post a NAWS Update PowerPoint at www.na.org/aboutus that is revised every few months.

Keep coming back, everyone. More is always revealed!

We welcome your ideas and input: worldboard@na.org