NA WORLD SERVICES NEWS

naws news

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The World Board met in person for the first time in the 2026–29 cycle. After every World Service Conference, the board begins again with new members, a new executive committee, and the opportunity to start fresh. Orientations for the four new members were held online, and the board has met online several times since the conference, but this was our first time coming together face to face. Although the board does more and more of its business virtually, there really is no substitute for the opportunity to sit together in business, to break bread together, and to connect at a deeper level. It was a very busy and successful meeting, and we have so much to tell you about!

PROJECTS AND VOLUNTEER FORM

There are many projects going on this cycle, and we will be drawing from the volunteer form for members to participate. This form allows any member to share their interests and skills; we use the data here to invite members to help with projects as they arise. We'll be using focus groups and other task-based, virtual gatherings to do the work. This allows a broader cross-section of the Fellowship to be involved, and it allows the projects to be more nimble and less expensive as we push through an unprecedented volume of material. Truly we have our work cut out for us this cycle, and we can only do it with the support and participation of members and service bodies around the world.

> "You and I have been given, through illness—through suffering—and through disease, a talent for helping other human beings like ourselves. Let's never forget that we have it and that we are responsible for others."
>
> —Jimmy K

We are planning to host open webinars regularly about the projects to keep you informed and to solicit input. We have a variety of projects creating an unprecedented volume of work, beginning with the Safety and Belonging project on gender-neutral language in our literature. There's more on that project below. Over this cycle, we will be revising *A Guide to Local Services* (*GLS*), *A Guide to World Services in NA* (*GWSNA*), *The Group Booklet*, and *The Group* informational pamphlet (IP #2). These resources are vital to our service system, especially to groups and those trying to start NA groups, and yet they haven't had a thorough revision for decades. After each conference, the *GWSNA* is updated to include changes made at the World Service Conference (WSC), but there are many parts of this and other materials that are out of date, and do not reflect the growth and learning about service that have happened over time. Additionally, the Three-Year Conference Cycle project, which was a high priority among conference participants, calls for us to "further refine and describe the three-year conference cycle, including major meetings, policies, planning process, deadlines, and guidelines, so that participants are able to make an educated decision about whether to adopt a three-year cycle on an on-going basis." A revision to *GWSNA* is the best way to reflect this work. Today we have the benefit of decades of shared experience and new technology, and this is an opportunity for all of us to come together and share our best practices, best ideas, and most educational experiences. There are resources online, the first focus groups in English are well on their way, and we are coordinating international focus groups with members in non-English speaking zones, as well as those in time zones requiring different scheduling considerations. We are planning an open webinar on 21 November to talk more about the group project—Revising *The Group Booklet*, IP #2, and *A Guide to Local Services*. Stay tuned!

Together with the PR projects (more on those on the following pages), this project puts our focus squarely on how we welcome, how we build resilient home groups, and how we provide services for the groups that are effective, responsive, and appropriate to time and place. (In the PR presentation on Unity Day, we saw clearly that meeting growth is greater in places where PR service is active.) NA service will be different in very practical ways from one country to another, but the spiritual principles that animate our service are the same from Aberdeen to Zanzibar—and in virtual groups, which can include members from all over.

A board member reminded us that "many of our spiritual awakenings come through service. It's in service that we get clarity on how to practice our principles." Ensuring that members have the opportunity to serve and the opportunity to get the message in their own language and culture is what we do and why we do it. *How* we do it is a question we hope to answer through these projects, hearing from as many members as possible about experience, best practices, and the wisdom that service brings.

Vision for NA Service

All of the efforts of Narcotics Anonymous are inspired by the primary purpose of our groups. Upon this common ground we stand committed.

Our vision is that one day:

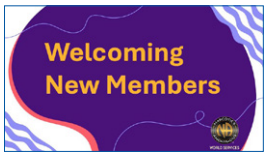
- **Every addict in the world has the chance to experience our message in their own language and culture and find the opportunity for a new way of life;**
- **Every member, inspired by the gift of recovery, experiences spiritual growth and fulfillment through service;**
- **NA service bodies worldwide work together in a spirit of unity and cooperation to support the groups in carrying our message of recovery;**
- **Narcotics Anonymous has universal recognition and respect as a viable program of recovery.**

Honesty, trust, and goodwill are the foundation of our service efforts, all of which rely upon the guidance of a loving Higher Power

ISSUE DISCUSSION TOPICS (IDTs)

The WSC chose four Issue Discussion Topics this cycle, and we are happy to have the first session profiles/workshop outline available, with more to come soon. Each topic will have an online input form with questions. The four topics are Welcoming New Members; Attracting Members to Service & Mentoring Them; Group Service; and Area Service. As you can see, all eyes are on the front door. As a Fellowship, we are focusing on how we help people find their place in NA, find their place in service, and create groups and services that help addicts find NA and make it home.

In contrast to previous cycles, these are not all on the same schedule. The Group and Area Service IDTs will generate input for the project revising *The Group Booklet* and *A Guide to Local Services in NA*, and therefore will move quickly. We expect to have more than one session profile for each as we integrate your input and build upon what we receive. We haven't worked in quite this way before, but we are confident that using IDT workshops and open input forms to generate input, focus groups to help guide the project, and the traditional review and input process will give us the ability to gather input both widely and effectively, so that we have the opportunity to learn from the experience of the Fellowship as a whole. The Group IDT is available now; Area will come later as the work progresses.









THE GROUP PROJECT

The Group Project is up and running! At the World Service Conference, delegates voted to begin a wide-ranging update of our service materials. We have a number of pieces for groups with confusingly similar names: there's *The Group Booklet*, IP #2 *The Group*—and there is material about groups in *A Guide to Local Services in NA*. All of it is useful, and all of it is painfully outdated. Mostly this material was written in the late 1980s and early 1990s; technology has changed a lot since then, and so has Narcotics Anonymous. Our message is still the same, but the ways we carry it have grown. Over this cycle, we are going to do our best to capture what we as a Fellowship have learned about groups in the last 30 or so years. We're starting with a couple of focus groups in early November and are working with non-English speaking zones and those for whom time zones have created barriers to participation to schedule more. And of course, this project can only reflect the experience, strength, and hope of the Fellowship if you share that with us! We have created a session profile and an input form so that you may share your best practices and allow the experience of your homegroup to help shape the work of this project.

Many members may not know about the resources that are currently available to NA groups. We have created a Group Resources webpage that offers a one-stop location for those materials. Please check it out.

SAFETY AND BELONGING: GENDER-NEUTRAL LANGUAGE

At the World Service Conference, delegates discussed the issue of making more of our literature gender neutral. Participants at the conference asked for concrete examples of what that would look like, so we began with IP #1. This pamphlet includes some of the first readings new members may hear at a meeting, and it is also where we begin all our translation projects.

Many other twelve-step organizations have already made changes to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to feel comfortable in their meetings; but perhaps more importantly, NA has been considering and revisiting this issue at least since 1981, when the original style guide for the members writing the Basic Text included direction to use gender-neutral language. The conference heard a report on the issue in 1989, as well—and our more recent literature does not specify gender when it refers to people. This project challenges us to

look at the needs of NA as a whole—and the member yet to come—rather than our personal preferences.

In the *Conference Agenda Report* published a year ago, the World Board reported that the approach to the question of gender-neutral language would be divided in three parts. First, the question of how we refer to people in our literature; second, the question of how we refer to a Power greater than ourselves; and third, the question of the language in our Steps and Traditions. At this time, we are only discussing that first question: how people are referred to in our literature.

The Steps and Traditions are not currently being discussed. That would require a separate process. In IP #1, we're looking at four changes in the language of the pamphlet. We released that draft on 18 July and held an open webinar on the subject in September. The audio of that webinar is posted, and a page that talks more about the project as a whole is here. We posted an updated FAQ on the project page inspired by the questions we received at the open webinar.

The input form about the proposed revisions to IP #1 was open until 31 October. We received just over 8,000 responses. We are reading your input and considering where we go from here. While some members have written with concerns, early indications show most in support for the proposed changes, but the World Board has not yet had a discussion about the input. The World Board and conference participants will be having conversations about this soon.

As a reminder, no Fellowship-approved literature is ever revised without a motion in the *Conference Agenda Report* and a vote at the World Service Conference.

WEBINARS AND WHATSAPP

While we're talking about webinars, we have had some remarkable turnout for open webinars, including World Unity Day (audio recording available) and the ongoing quarterly webinars for H&I and PR trusted servants. You can sign up to be notified of future webinars, if you're interested. We've also created WhatsApp groups where PR and H&I trusted servants can talk freely with one another. The WhatsApp groups are growing every day! Members are sharing really interesting experience and resources with one another. If you're interested, email pr@na.org for a link. We will share on the WhatsApp when we have PR related news, webinars, or other invitations when they are announced; mostly this is a place for members in service to share with each other.

HELPING MEMBERS TAKE ROOT

The conversation in our Fellowship about medication-assisted treatment continues, as it has for decades. Although we don't have consensus about what abstinence looks like in today's landscape, we do have consensus about carrying the message as best we can and understanding that the results are not up to us. We seem to share a belief that people struggling to get clean need compassion and patience, and to understand that even some of our most experienced members struggled to achieve—and even to understand—abstinence. In June 2026, we announced that we were removing Bulletin 29 from the na.org website because it did not reflect the conscience of the Fellowship today. Since then, some of you have asked for another publication to replace that Bulletin.

The Bulletins were a way our old Board of Trustees shared opinions or positions that may have reflected the thinking of that body or even of one or two members. Today's World Board doesn't create or share its opinion in this way. More and more, the bulletins, service materials, and other statements that come through the board reflect the views of the wider Fellowship, as we have been able to collect and understand that broad conscience.

The input on the IDT about Helping Members Take Root made clear what we already knew, that Bulletin 29 no longer reflected the conscience of the Fellowship as a whole. Conversations with conference participants in web meetings last fall and winter seemed to confirm this view. It was clear to us that the bulletin, written so long ago and under a very different process, was giving the impression to readers that we had consensus as a Fellowship where in fact we have a wide range of views, and strong feelings about those divergent viewpoints. Accordingly, the WB raised the possibility in the *Conference Report* that we might pull the bulletin from the website. There was some discussion at WSC and in June the board made the decision to pull the piece.

In the *Conference Agenda Report* (*CAR*), we published an essay on the state of affairs within the Fellowship regarding this issue. It didn't draw conclusions but rather tried to reflect the positions as we heard them through the surveys and issue discussions during the past few cycles. Some of our members shared the *CAR* essay in PR contexts and found that it was useful: it shows us wrestling with the issue in good faith and allowing members' different viewpoints to stand within our unity. We are lightly editing the *CAR* essay so that it will make sense outside the context of NA service and it has been posted on na.org in the hope that it will speak both to professionals and NA members about our shared commitment to help addicts find a home in NA and take root.

> "Every day, something can happen that will broaden my perspective and change how I think."
>
> — World Board member

TRANSLATIONS

We are astonished at the number and speed of translations around the world. The Basic Text has been published in 42 languages, and if you follow us on Instagram (@narcoticsanonymous) or Facebook (@naworldservices), you see new IPs coming out every few weeks in languages many of us have never even heard of. These efforts are all driven by members in those language groups, working together in local translations committees. We are pleased and proud to support those efforts.

A by-product of these translations efforts is that more members in more language groups than ever are participating in

service. The efforts to carry the message in these often small and new communities are amazing. In one example, members in Greece have been supporting meetings in Albania. As NA takes root in a community, it grows and we grow. Lives are saved and all of our lives are changed. Remember our symbol: The broader the base, the higher the point of freedom. As our Fellowship grows in numbers and diversity, we all have the opportunity to learn from each other and grow in surprising ways. So many of these new communities are doing creative and enthusiastic PR and are innovating in their methods of providing services.

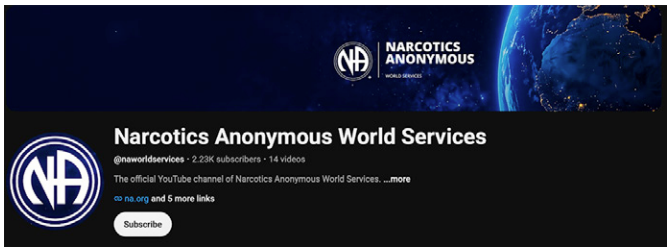
We have the opportunity and the responsibility to learn from one another, and we need one another's help. The proliferation of language communities in service creates a particular resource challenge for NA World Services: We simply can't afford in-house translations for all of our communications into all of our languages. We began discussing this at our last board meeting, and we may have more to report in the future. So many members are already helping to translate project material, flyers, and input forms into a range of languages, and this kind of service is invaluable.

PUBLIC RELATIONS (PR)

At the World Service Conference and World Unity Day, PR trusted servants shared that they had crunched data on PR and meeting growth around the world, based on everyone's regional reports—and found a clear and strong correlation between active PR and NA communities growing. Without active PR, NA communities stagnate. PR is how newcomers find us, and it's some of the most important work we do.

Accordingly, PR is a priority this cycle in projects and planning. Again, please volunteer and keep up on the projects and PR pages.

Our YouTube channel is launching! Expect to see a lot of new content—for members, potential members, and professionals. We hope to have some initial posts out by the time this issue of *NAWS News* goes live. Keep an eye out!



We're going to be rolling out tools for PR service, and we'll need the help of those of you with experience to help create them. Expect *Basics*-style guides and templates to help local PR servants get up and running quickly and with confidence. Sign up at the Get Involved page on the website.

In the US, NA World Services continues to invite local communities to attend major conferences among corrections professionals, health care, and addiction treatment organizations with us. It takes some of the weight off NAWS and gives local communities solid training in best practices for PR events.

So much is happening in NA around the world. Have you visited the websites from zones beyond your own? Check out the PR page for the European Delegates Meeting, or the FD page at the Asia Pacific Forum, or the virtual meeting resources at the Latin American Zonal Forum, or the region page for someplace you've heard about or dreamt of going. Seeing the service efforts of our fellow members in other places is interesting and can help us think creatively about how to approach our own communities. And don't forget, World Services has a library of locally developed resources posted. Send us the tools working for you locally and we will post them.

MY NA



Hey, remember the old Meeting Search App? It grew up! The new version is called My NA, and it's not just a meeting finder anymore. My NA can track your clean-time, help with a regular 10th Step (a secure feature based on IP #9, *Living the Program*), and more! Features will continue to be added over time. Just like the meeting search at na.org, the app connects you to local NA websites so you can access the most accurate and current meeting info available. If you were one of the 166,000 users of the old app, you'll find that it has automatically upgraded to My NA—or go to your app store for a free download.

COUNTERFEIT LITERATURE

We will be talking more about counterfeit literature in the coming months because that material is once more being distributed in some communities. We hope that all members come to understand that counterfeit lit costs NA locally and worldwide, many times over. Each book sold by NAWS funds literature donations and subsidies for those who need them most. Counterfeit books do not only drain those resources; they also cost unity, anonymity, and self-determination in our communities. The production and distribution of this literature is not only a threat to our Fellowship's intellectual property and our ability to carry the message; it's a manifestation of a decades-old resentment and an act of self-will. As the steward of NA's intellectual property, NAWS is legally obligated to defend our literature and trademarks. We regret that there are some members who want to draw NA World Services into expensive and protracted legal battles; this diverts the time and resources so dearly needed to carry the message. It's destructive and wasteful—it costs money, unity, and ultimately, it costs lives. It's up to each of us as members to stop this pernicious, repetitive behavior; we can and must do better to protect each other and the Fellowship we all hold dear.

PLANNING

Conference participants have done an absolutely lovely job of helping to build workshop outlines for the Issue Discussion Topics. Next on our agenda for the bi-monthly online CP meetings will be taking up the planning process once

more. In early 2027, conference participants will be working together to create the foundation for the 2029–32 plan that they started at the WSC. This ongoing, cyclical planning process means that we are planning our future while we're doing the work we agreed upon for this cycle. You can keep up with the process at na.org/planning. This planning process is making it possible for us to take on so many diverse projects without losing sight of where we are going. We've been collaborating in unprecedented ways with conference participants in developing long-term plans and priorities. The result is that we can work together to make decisions over the course of the cycle rather than waiting for a flurry of motions in the months before the conference. We are so excited and impressed with the ability of delegates to see the big picture, the long view—and make practical decisions that will help build Narcotics Anonymous for the addicts yet to come.

HUMAN RESOURCE PANEL

Hello from the Human Resource Panel.

After the World Service Conference (WSC), we held two virtual wrap-up meetings over the summer, and our first in-person meeting of this conference cycle took place 5–7 October 2026, at the World Service Office in Chatsworth, California. To return to the regular practice of electing two HRP members at each WSC, we drew names during one of our virtual meetings to determine which of the three newly elected panel members would serve a single cycle. Cindi B was selected and graciously accepted the outcome. Sam L was chosen to serve as the panel leader, and Cindi B will serve as panel leader during the second half of the cycle.

Our in-person meeting was the first opportunity for the newly elected panel members, Bella A, Cindi B, and Troy B, and the returning HRP member, Sam L, to all meet face-to-face. Much of our in-person meeting was spent reviewing the work ahead, updating the action plan and timeline, and considering possible improvements based on the experience of the last cycle.

As some of you know, the HRP facilitated a CP web meeting during the last cycle that was focused on leadership identification. This web meeting was an effort to assist conference participants, and the general fellowship, with their important task of identifying qualified members to recommend to the HRP for inclusion on the ballet of candidates for election to World Service trusted servant positions. Due to the favorable response, we intend to host two of these web meetings during this cycle; one for conference participants only, and one that will be open to any interested member to attend.

The window for regions, the World Board, and zones to recommend potential candidates will open later next year. This process, known as the RBZ recommendations, will be supported by various materials in addition to the web meetings. The exact dates for the web meetings and the RBZ recommendations will be announced in due course.

WORLD CONVENTION OF NA (WCNA)

We are getting excited for WCNA 39 in Dublin, Ireland, in July 2028—firm dates to be announced soon! We will be celebrating the 75th anniversary of NA there; in that spirit, our theme will be **A Legacy Woven In Hope**. So excited to see the art that emerges from that! We are grateful for the creative action exhibited by members of the Fellowship in Ireland who offered their ideas toward theme and artwork, and we look forward to more.

Of course, we'll announce in all the ways when we have dates pinned down. Contracting with local municipalities in countries we don't usually do business in can ask of us more patience than we're used to. But we're still a long way out. Don't worry—we'll have room blocks, amenities, and advice to make your travels easy and memorable.

WAIT, THERE'S MORE....

- H&I Basics has been posted in English and Russian, so far. You'll find lots of helpful information sorted into three parts: Corrections, Treatment, and Committees.
- IP #21, *Staying Clean in Isolation* has been posted
- We had a lovely Unity Day celebration! Recordings are posted at na.org/wcna
- NA Logo style kit posted for those who make flyers
- FY 2026 Contributions Report has been posted
- There's new content posted, and more coming, on our YouTube channel!
- **PR and H&I WhatsApp groups**—If you are interested in participating, please email pr@na.org for a link
- In tandem with the Group Project, find Group Resources posted at na.org/group

CALENDAR

Group Services Project open webinar—21 November

Sponsorship Day—1 December

Dates for the cycle are posted here: na.org/dates

NAWS event flyers are posted here: na.org/annualevents

Fliers from zonal, regional, and area events are posted here as we receive them: na.org/events and on Instagram @naglobalevents

Heard at a Meeting

"Being of service has taught me that I have value in the world. It's taught me how to show up, how to persist, and how to ask for help. For me, NA service is where the principles of the program come to life."

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

NA WORLD SERVICES Product News Flash

Our vision is that one day:
Every addict in the world has the chance to experience our message in their own language and culture and find the opportunity for a new way of life.

NOVEMBER 2026

na.org/webstore For order forms and price lists: na.org/order-form

SPECIAL LIMITED TIME OFFER

Reduced prices available until 31 December 2026!

Special offer—marked down to $15

The NA Survival Kit *consists of five slip-cased sections: Steps 1–3, Steps 4–5, Steps 6–7, Steps 8–9, Steps 10–12. For each Step, there's a section from the Basic Text chapter "How It Works," the chapter from* It Works: How and Why, *and the chapter from* The NA Step Working Guides.

English
ITEM NO. 9425 • PRICE: US $15 / 13 €

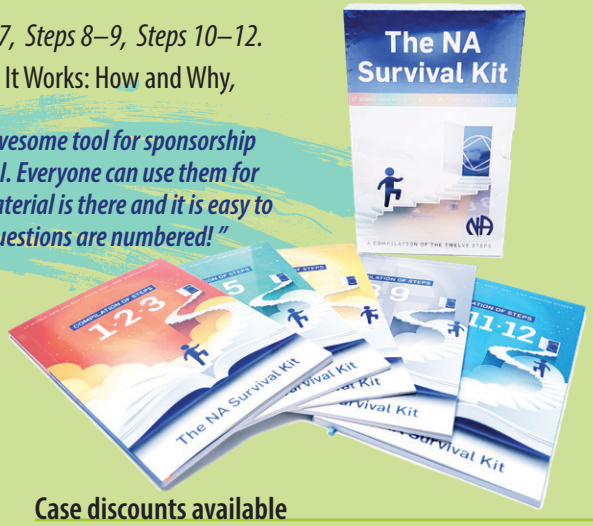
Portuguese (Brazil)
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Spanish
ITEM NO. SP9425 • PRICE: US $15 / 13 €

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"The NASK is an awesome tool for sponsorship and perfect for H&I. Everyone can use them for stepwork. All the material is there and it is easy to read and the questions are numbered!"





Case discounts available
ALL LANGUAGES • PRICE: US $13 EACH / 11 € (14 IN A CASE)

It's always a great time to think about gift giving—even better when it's a bargain!

A Spiritual Principle a Day Special Edition
ITEM NO. 1110S • PRICE: US $15 / 13 €

A Spiritual Principle a Day wooden box
ITEM NO. 9512 • PRICE: US $20 / 20 €

Special Edition *A Spiritual Principle a Day* bundle
ITEM NO. 1110B • PRICE: US $30 / 25 €
(includes book in slipcover, box, and Basic Text history timeline)







Case discounts available
ITEM NO. 1110S • PRICE: US $13 EACH / 11 € EACH (16 IN A CASE)
ITEM NO. 9512 • PRICE: US $17 EACH / 17 € EACH (8 IN A CASE)
ITEM NO. 1110B • PRICE: US $25 EACH / 21 € EACH (8 IN A CASE)

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