

Issue Discussion Topics for 2016–2018

Issue Discussion Topics (IDTs) are subjects that recovering addicts in NA communities around the world focus on in discussions and workshops throughout each two-year Conference cycle. Beginning in 2016, the *Conference Agenda Report* contains a survey for members to prioritize the topics they would most like to discuss in the upcoming cycle.

Each new cycle ushers in new IDTs for members to workshop, whether at the group, area, regional, or zonal level. These conversations encourage each of us to think more deeply about relevant topics and help build unity within our groups and service bodies. In addition, sending the results of your discussions to worldboard@na.org can help shape future Fellowship resources and services. The topics for this cycle were:

How to Use Guiding Principles

As has been our practice in recent cycles, one of the IDTs serves to introduce a new piece of literature. The resources for this topic focused on the questions from the “In Service” section of the first three Tradition essays in *Guiding Principles: The Spirit of Our Traditions*. Communities have also been adapting the workshop materials to discuss some, or all, of the Twelve Traditions. This has proven to be one of the most popular workshop sessions in recent cycles, with standing room only reported at several events. The value of this IDT has been that our principles, as described in our Traditions, address most issues we face, and this book seems to help frame those discussions in a helpful way.

Applying Our Principles to Technology and Social Media

This topic was one of the two prioritized in the 2016 CAR Survey. It addresses applying NA principles in the use of technology and social media by both members and service bodies. The session encouraged attendees to consider some of the available resources relevant to this topic and to discuss potential principle-based solutions to some of the challenges encountered by members and service bodies.

Atmosphere of Recovery in Service

This is another topic that was prioritized by the 2016 CAR Survey. The final focus of the discussion topic was influenced by a regional proposal asking that it be based on the second bullet point from A Vision for NA Service: “Every member, inspired by the gift of recovery, experiences spiritual growth and fulfillment through service.” The resulting session is simple; it provides attendees a chance to discuss ways to nurture an atmosphere of recovery and inspire more members to serve. The session has also proven popular at many types of Fellowship events.

Resources for all of the 2016–2018 IDTs can be found at www.na.org/idt in English and in six additional languages to help hold these discussions locally. A summary of the input received by NA World Services will be included with the *Conference Report*. We received more input this cycle than we have in the last few cycles, so thank you to all who sent us the results of your workshops!

Literature, Service Material, and IDT Survey

In 2016, we included a survey in the *Conference Agenda Report* to help set priorities for recovery literature, service material, and Issue Discussion Topics (IDTs). The survey results helped the 2016 Conference select Issue Discussion Topics and focus the recovery literature and service material projects it approved.

The 2016 survey seemed like such an effective way to get input from the Fellowship about priorities that we are including another survey in this *CAR*. This survey is longer than the previous one because we received so many ideas from Conference participants for what should be on the lists, and we tried to include most of those thoughts.

Members brought the items in this survey to our attention through input from their delegates, regional input to our strategic planning process, emails and calls to World Services, workshop results, conversations with Board members, and Conference participant input on an initial draft of this survey.

We're interested in knowing what the Fellowship believes are priorities for work on new recovery literature and/or service material. If any of these items gain traction—as did the possibilities for a new meditation book and an IP on mental health/mental illness in 2016—the WSC may approve taking next steps. This might involve collecting front-end input through surveys or web meetings in order to shape a project plan for consideration at WSC 2020.

The work of the literature projects for this past cycle has included collecting preliminary input on two potential pieces of recovery literature: a book of daily meditations and a pamphlet on mental health/mental illness. This preliminary input will shape the project plans that will be in the 2018 Conference Approval Track to be decided by the 2018 World Service Conference. Should these project plans be approved, work on these two pieces of literature will be a priority in the 2018–2020 cycle.

The work of the service material project this past cycle has been ongoing with two focuses—conventions/events and local service tools. As of this writing, delegates are reviewing the first two pieces from these projects, and the drafts are posted online at www.na.org/conventions and www.na.org/toolbox. We intend to include project plans to continue the work of the service materials project in the 2018 Conference Approval Track material, and the results of this survey may help shape the local service toolbox work, depending on what the Fellowship prioritizes.

Recovery Literature

Unless otherwise directed by WSC 2018, we are planning to prioritize work on:

A meditation book

An IP on mental health/mental illness

Both of these focuses were agreed upon by WSC 2016, and we had a survey during the 2016–2018 cycle to collect ideas to help frame and start putting together these pieces

The options below are a chance to prioritize possible future work/project plans. Any of these ideas that rank highly may lend themselves to a survey during the upcoming Conference cycle to help frame the project plan and gather front-end input, like we've done with the meditation book and mental health survey this cycle.

Recovery Literature—Pick Two

Adapt <i>Social Media and Our Guiding Principles</i> to an IP from an SP	
An IP for members: NA and addicts on DRT/MAT	
Booklet of Step study questions taken from “How It Works” in the Basic Text	
Booklet of Step study questions from <i>It Works: How and Why</i> and/or <i>Living Clean</i>	
Step working booklet focused mainly on Steps 1–3 aimed primarily for new members and those in treatment and drug courts	
Step working guide aimed at members not new to the Steps, as a follow-up set of Steps	
Concepts book similar to <i>Guiding Principles</i>	
List and definition of spiritual principles	
The spiritual benefits of service	
Members’ experience, strength, and hope on trustworthiness and trusting	
Atmosphere of recovery in service	
Appropriate meeting behavior	
Pamphlet on the First Tradition	
Literature targeted to: Younger members	
Literature targeted to: Older members	
Literature targeted to: Experienced members/“oldtimers”	
Literature targeted to: LGBTQ members	
Literature targeted to: Women in recovery	
Literature targeted to: First nations/indigenous members	
Literature targeted to: Members who are professionals	
Literature targeted to: Members who are veterans	
Literature targeted to: Atheists and members with non-mainstream spiritual beliefs	
An IP: Regardless of age, race, sex, sexual identity, creed, religion, or lack of religion	
What does it mean that NA is a spiritual, not religious, program?	

Revise the <i>Sponsorship</i> book	
Revise <i>The Loner</i>	
Revise <i>H&I Service and the NA Member</i>	
Revise <i>PI and the NA Member</i>	
Revise another piece of NA literature:	
Other:	
No new recovery lit	

Service Material

As with the recovery literature category, work is already underway on previously prioritized service material. We began work on two service material project focuses after WSC 2016: Local Service Toolbox and Conventions and Events.

Unless otherwise directed by the WSC, we plan to continue developing pieces for a Conventions and Events Toolbox. So far, we have worked on two smaller pieces—one piece on Program, and one on Money Management—which are meant to be part of the larger Toolbox.

The Local Service Toolbox pieces we have drafted, on the other hand, can function as stand-alone pieces. So far, we have worked on CBDM Basics and a piece on Serving in Rural and Isolated Communities. Most of the items below could easily fit into a Local Service Toolbox along with those two pieces already in development.

Service Material—Pick Two

Carrying the NA message	
Principles in service	
Atmosphere of recovery in service	
Applying the Concepts—videos of members sharing in their own words how they applied each Concept	
What is NA World Services and how does it work?	
Our public image: dealing with loss of confidence in NA	
More social media guidelines above and beyond the service pamphlet	
More short, focused PR resources	
Tools to assist PR efforts to reach the medical community	
Literature for justice department professionals/referrers	
Sponsorship behind the walls basics	
Fellowship development basics	
FD—it's not just something that happens "somewhere else"	
Collaborating among service bodies	
When service bodies split or reunify	
How to hold a virtual service meeting	
Facilitation basics	

How to plan a learning day	
Best practices for service workshops	
How to put on a planning assembly (including sample agendas)	
Getting started with project-based services	
Revise <i>Planning Basics</i>	
Regional inventory process/questions	
Description of service commitments at areas and regions [Note: We already have a service pamphlet on group trusted servants. If this piece is prioritized, it might make sense to somehow combine this information.]	
Effective report writing	
GSR orientation material	
Literature on mentorship, including as it relates to service bodies and new meetings	
Service system basics	
Local service conference and local service board basics	
Role of zones in the service structure	
Policy in NA—different kinds of policy styles and approaches	
Information for creating legal entities/incorporating	
The <i>Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust (FIPT)</i> and local websites	
Dealing with banks and government financial regulations	
Dealing with misappropriation of NA funds	
Area treasurers' basics	
Area budgeting basics	
Revise <i>Translation Basics</i>	
Revise and update <i>PR Handbook</i>	
Other:	

Issue Discussion Topics

The Issue Discussion Topics are just that—issues that are discussed throughout the Fellowship for the two years between Conferences. The results of those discussions can contain some of NA's best practices and have created the foundation for several service pamphlets and other tools and literature, including the Building Strong Home Groups worksheet, service pamphlets such as *Principles and Leadership in NA Service* and *Disruptive and Violent Behavior*, the *Money Matters IP*, and more.

This past cycle's Issue Discussion Topics are described on page 30 of this CAR.

Issue Discussion Topics—Pick Two

Our Symbol—a closer look	
Group conscience	
Carrying the NA message and making NA attractive	

Remaining nonprofessional and carrying the NA message	
PR 101	
Simplicity and flexibility in service	
Empathy in service	
Attracting members to service	
Getting youth and newcomers involved	
Becoming a better sponsor	
Creating community in NA	
Mentorship and how members learn in service	
Leadership in NA	
The integrity and effectiveness of our communications	
Eleventh Concept	
Respecting our differences and building our unity	
Regardless of . . . race, ethnicity, culture	
Retaining members	
<i>In Times of Illness</i> and what our literature says about illness and medication	
Other:	

ISSUE DISCUSSION TOPICS

Some background information and links related to this topic can be found below. These may be helpful when considering the motion related to Issue Discussion Topics.

The selection process for Issue Discussion Topics is described in Addendum E of *A Guide to World Services in NA* (p. 71):

https://www.na.org/admin/include/spaw2/uploads/pdf/conference/2016-18%20GWSNA_Web.pdf

Beginning in 2016, we started using a Fellowship survey in the *Conference Agenda Report* to prioritize ideas for decision by the World Service Conference, including IDTs for the upcoming cycle. The 2016 survey begins on page 19 of the CAR:

<https://www.na.org/admin/include/spaw2/uploads/pdf/conference/CAR/2016CARv2.pdf>

This webpage lists the current Issue Discussion Topics and those of previous years: www.na.org/idt

Motion 14: Fellowship Issue Discussion Topics (IDTs) will be selected based on the following process: By August 1 following the World Service Conference (WSC), NAWS will create a section on na.org for IDT submissions. The poll should be translated via available software into as many languages as possible. Any member, group, area, region or zone will be able to add an item to the poll. Beginning February 1 in the year before the WSC the process of voting on the poll will start. Any member, group, area, region or zone will be able to vote on the choices in the poll. The poll will close on the final day as set by the Guide to World Services (GTWS) for regional motion submissions. The top six Issue Discussion Topics in the poll will be placed in the Conference Agenda Report and voted on in old business at the World Service Conference with the top three being the Issue Discussion Topics for that next conference cycle.

Intent: To have more direct and specifically defined fellowship involvement in the creation and selection of Fellowship Issue Discussion Topics.

Maker: South Florida Region

Rationale by Region: Between 1998 and 2002, a list of possible Issue Discussion Topics were provided in the CAR. The two favored by the most regions became the IDT's for the conference cycle. This was discontinued after the 2002 WSC. With the increased usage of the internet and the widespread availability of free polling software, we feel that direct, identifiable fellowship involvement in the creation of topics can be achieved. We believe that this grassroots involvement, along with participation available for members of all languages at the inception of the IDT process, will yield increased local participation in the discussion topics selected, and provide results of greater value to the fellowship as a whole.



World Board Response: This is the second cycle that we have used a simple survey, included in the *Conference Agenda Report* and posted online, to determine the Issue Discussion Topics. This survey process seems to have a high level of Fellowship participation, and we are recommending that we continue to use it, rather than the process outlined in this motion. The process outlined in this motion seems more complicated, and machine translation is fraught with peril. The picture to the left from a recent social media screenshot is just one example of the challenges of machine translation for NA language.

Policy Affected: This motion would change Addendum E (Issue Discussion Topics—Selection and Discussion) of *A Guide to World Services in NA*, p. 71.

ROLE OF ZONES

Some background information and links related to this issue can be found below. These may be helpful when considering the motions related to the Role of Zones.

A Guide to World Services in NA (pp. 1–2) describes zonal forums this way:

Zonal forums are service-oriented sharing and/or business sessions that provide the means by which NA communities can communicate, cooperate, and grow with one another. Although not a part of NA's formal decision making system, World Services and zonal forums interact in many ways. Zonal forums are encouraged to provide written reports to the WSC and may also provide short videos that are shown at the WSC and distributed to conference participants following the WSC. In order to improve communications, they are provided with conference participant mailings and are requested to send their minutes to World Services. World Services typically attends zonal forum meetings, and may provide funding for some participants' attendance at zonal forums. Maintaining effective communication between the zonal forums and World Services is a high priority. In order to more effectively serve the Fellowship, World Services and zones should develop a partnership for the planning and conducting of the worldwide workshop system, and by assisting each other in the coordination of a variety of service efforts such as professional events and fellowship development activities.

In practice, zones vary a great deal. During the 2014–2016 Conference cycle, one of the Issue Discussion Topics was the Role of Zones. The workshop materials and results are all posted at www.na.org/future. The webpage also contains a zonal map and zonal survey data.

We are currently collecting updated information from zones about their roles and functions and will post that data when we receive it from all of the zones.