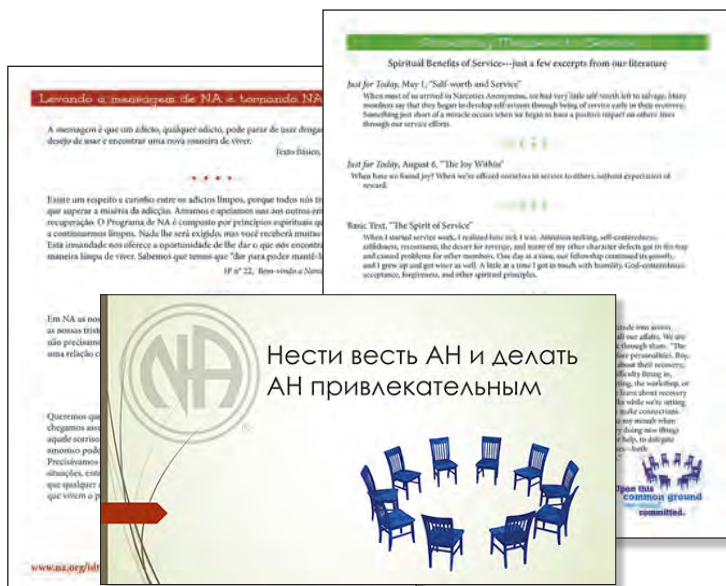# Issue Discussion Topics for 2018–2020

Issue Discussion Topics (commonly known as IDTs) are selected each Conference cycle and are issues of Fellowship-wide concern or interest. Conference participants choose these topics, guided by the results of the *CAR* survey, which is open to any interested member, group, or service body. It is also possible for the World Board to independently add a topic if they believe there is a need to do so, as was the case in this cycle with the third topic listed here. The focus and content of the IDTs can be influenced by discussions and decisions at the WSC.

Conference participants framed the two topics prioritized in the 2018 *CAR* during a web meeting after the WSC. We continue to be grateful to the trusted servants who were able to give their time and experience to this process.

Resources for local workshops for each topic can be found at www.na.org/idt in English, Spanish, and Russian. We encourage groups and service bodies to hold these discussions in their communities and to forward the results to worldboard@na.org. Once again, as in the last cycle, we have received an increased number of responses to the IDTs, and we are grateful to all the members who have taken the time to share their ideas on these topics. We've included a few highlights below and will provide a summary of the input with the *Conference Report* as in previous cycles.

The three topics for the 2018–2020 cycle were:

Attracting Members to Service

This topic was one of those highly rated in the 2018 *CAR* survey. The discussion session outline focused on sharing information and best practices and, hopefully, increasing participation in service. Following an introduction that included a brief overview of the structure of our service system, participants were asked to imagine what NA would look like without service. Unsurprisingly, all the responses centered around the critical role of service within NA, and how without service there would be no NA. Most of the personal benefits of service shared were about personal and spiritual growth, increased knowledge, and a greater sense of connection. When asked about what changes could be made to attract more members to service, particularly underrepresented populations, the responses offered ideas about inclusivity, personal behavior, and a focus on our primary purpose.

Carrying the NA Message and Making NA Attractive

This topic was also prioritized in the 2018 *CAR* survey and focused on better carrying the message and welcoming any addict who comes to a meeting. The session outline opened with members sharing some of their experiences, both positive and negative, of being welcomed into NA. Responses to the questions that were asked showed that members have a clear understanding of what the NA message is, and a variety of ways to demonstrate a commitment to carrying it were mentioned. Much of the input mentions specific actions to make this a reality, including sharing positively, working a Twelfth Step, and actively supporting groups and group support forums. The importance of regular group inven-

tories and workshops to help train and mentor newer members were also mentioned. A commitment to carrying the message was seen as a way to increase unity within NA and help create a positive structure that will encourage newcomers to stay. It was also seen as improving society's perception of NA as a viable program of recovery. Ideas for ways to welcome newcomers included having a greeter and offering phone numbers, meeting new members "where they're at," and remembering to welcome every addict, "regardless of . . ."

Drug Replacement Therapy/Medication-Assisted Treatment as It Relates to NA

The World Board notified the 2018 WSC that it was likely there would be a third IDT and decided to add Drug Replacement Therapy/Medication-Assisted Treatment as It Relates to NA during the June 2018 Board meeting. The issue of addicts attending NA meetings while being prescribed medication to treat their addiction and the ability of groups to make them feel welcome has become increasingly pressing for many NA groups over the last few Conference cycles. This was identified as having a high impact in the 2016–2018 NAWS Strategic Plan and was the subject of a regional motion in the 2018 *CAR*:

Motion 9: To direct the World Board to create a project plan for consideration at WSC 2020 to create or revise one piece of recovery literature to directly address Drug Replacement Therapy (DRT) and Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) as it relates to NA.

Intent: To begin the discussion on how to address DRT/MAT in a piece of recovery literature as it relates to our message and program and have a unified fellowship position.
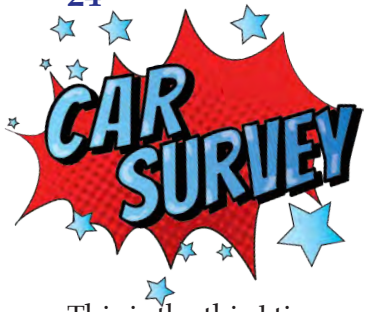
During a web meeting in July 2018 Conference participants helped to frame the discussion, which aims to gather input, raise awareness among members, and encourage dialogue within the Fellowship about how NA members and groups respond to and welcome addicts on DRT/MAT.

It was intended that the input to this IDT would help shape the project plan called for in Motion 9, and this has been partially successful. We've received a lot of ideas about how we can better welcome members and potential members, and it's notable that these ideas are consistent no matter where the workshops were held. The main ideas shared are:

- Welcome addicts attending NA while on DRT/MAT. They are still NA members and should be treated like any other member.

- Connect members on DRT/MAT with others who had the same experience and achieved abstinence.

- Consider developing consistent language in the form of a statement that can be included in meeting formats.

What we have not heard is input that helps us frame a piece of Fellowship-approved literature about this issue. Unless the Conference can provide us with other directions, we will propose that we frame an additional discussion about this topic for the 2020–2022 Conference cycle that seeks to gather the needed input.

Literature, Service Material, and Issue Discussion Topics

This is the third time we will include a survey in the *Conference Agenda Report* to help set priorities for recovery literature, service material, and Issue Discussion Topics (IDTs). The responses to this survey will help frame delegates' discussions and inform their decisions at the WSC.

We are asking members to fill in the online version of the survey posted at www.na.org/survey by **1 April 2020**, and we will compile those responses for the Conference to consider. We are also asking Conference participants to collect the conscience of their service bodies by 16 April 2020. We will send delegates a link to submit those results when it's closer to the WSC. We will compile those results to distribute as well.

Many of the items in this survey are simply carryovers from the surveys in the previous two *CAR*s. We added ideas we have heard since the last Conference through conversations, emails and phone calls, workshops, and input to the planning process. After compiling all of those ideas, we distributed a draft of this survey to Conference participants for input, and we have added their input to the lists that follow. We also have included all of the ideas in the current *CAR* motions.
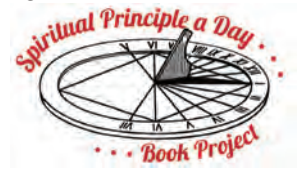
Members' responses to this survey will help Conference participants decide on what local service tools and recovery IPs to develop next. We are committed to completing the Spiritual Principle a Day book (www.na.org/spad) in the 2020–2022 Conference cycle, and we do not anticipate we will have the resources to fund any other in-person workgroups. That means we will use web meetings, focus groups, and virtual workgroups to develop smaller pieces such as IPs and service tools in the cycle ahead. With this approach in mind, we are planning to offer two general project plans in the Conference Approval Track material, one for IP development and one for local service tools. The specific focus of those two plans will be determined at the Conference using the survey results as a resource.

After the sections of the survey asking for your priorities on recovery literature, service material, and Issue Discussion Topics, we are including a section on the future of literature and service tools. We would like your input on some questions that will help shape Conference discussions on improving access to materials and implementing better processes to respond to Fellowship needs.

Recovery Literature

Unless otherwise directed by WSC 2020, we are planning to continue work on:

- the Spiritual Principle a Day (SPAD) meditation book (www.na.org/spad)

WSC 2018 passed this project with the intention that 2018–2020 would be the first of two cycles for the project. We will offer a project plan for the second cycle of the project in the Conference Approval Track material.

Selecting up to three of the options on the next page will help the WSC prioritize the focus of an IP project for the upcoming cycle, and it will help set possible priorities for future work/project plans. We also are asking for your input on what pieces of recovery literature you would prioritize for revision. Please select up to two pieces to revise. We will offer a project plan in the Conference Approval Track material to revise one IP per cycle, and your responses to this list will help Conference participants decide what to focus on in the cycle ahead.

We will collect responses from members until 1 April 2020, and we will compile those responses for the Conference to consider. You can access the survey at www.na.org/survey or from the link on the NA Meeting Search app. We also will ask regions and zones to submit their regional and zonal consciences by 16 April 2020, so that we can compile those to distribute as well.

New Recovery Literature (choose up to 3)

Literature to support Step work
○ Booklet of Step study questions taken from "How It Works" in the Basic Text
○ Step working booklet focused mainly on Steps 1–3 aimed primarily at new members and those in treatment and drug courts
○ Step working guide aimed at members not new to working the Steps
Literature exploring specific spiritual principles
○ List and definition of spiritual principles
○ The spiritual benefits of service
○ Members' experience, strength, and hope on trustworthiness and trusting the process
○ Maintaining gratitude in early recovery
Create a new IP or booklet
○ On doing a daily personal gratitude inventory
○ On using social media in NA
○ Personal stories about relationships and families in recovery
○ Dealing with trauma/PTSD in recovery
○ Atmosphere of recovery in service
○ Dealing with grief in recovery
○ What is Narcotics Anonymous? (for newcomers and visitors)
○ Literature for atheists and agnostics
○ What does it mean that NA is a spiritual, not religious, program?
○ Literature for younger members
○ Literature for older members
○ Literature for experienced members/"oldtimers"
○ Literature for LGBTQ+ members
○ Literature for women in recovery
○ Literature for First Nations/indigenous members
○ Literature for members who are professionals
○ Literature for members who are veterans
Other
○ Other:
○ No new recovery lit

Revisions to Existing Recovery Literature (choose up to 2)

Revise an existing piece of NA literature
○ Revise *The Narcotics Anonymous Step Working Guides*
○ Revise the *Sponsorship* book
○ Revise IP #21 *The Loner*
○ Revise IP #6 *Recovery and Relapse*
○ Revise IP #26 *Accessibility for Those with Additional Needs*
○ Revise IP #7 *Am I an Addict?*
○ Revise IP #20 *H&I Service and the NA Member*
○ Revise IP #15 *PI and the NA Member*
○ Revise *Twelve Concepts for NA Service*
○ Review currently approved recovery literature to gender-neutralize NA literature where possible
Other
○ Other:
○ No revisions

Service Material

As with the recovery literature category, work is already underway on previously prioritized service material. We have been working on two service material project focuses since WSC 2016: Local Service Toolbox (www.na.org/toolbox) and Conventions and Events (www.na.org/conventions).

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

The Local Service Toolbox pieces that we have drafted, on the other hand, can function as stand-alone pieces. So far, we have finalized *CBDM Basics* and a piece on *Serving NA in Rural and Isolated Communities*. We are currently at work on "GSR Basics." Most of the items below could easily fit into a Local Service Toolbox along with the two published pieces and the third currently in development.

Selecting up to four of the options below will help the WSC prioritize the focus of a service tools project for the upcoming cycle, and it may help set possible priorities for future work/project plans.

Service Material (choose up to 4)

Service materials to support individuals' efforts

- ○ Carrying the NA message effectively
- ○ How to be a trusted servant in NA
- ○ Personal application of the Concepts and Traditions
- ○ Applying and working the Concepts
- ○ Respect as a spiritual principle of service

Public relations

- ○ Our public image: creating confidence in NA
- ○ More social media guidelines above and beyond the service pamphlet
- ○ More short, focused PR resources such as tools to assist in reaching the medical community, criminal justice, and those who refer people to NA
- ○ Sponsorship behind the walls basics

NA Services 101

- ○ Online meetings best practices
- ○ Best practices for virtual service meetings
- ○ The impact of technology on services and workloads
- ○ Best practices for service workshops
- ○ Facilitation basics
- ○ Create a service pamphlet explaining what we mean by "under no surveillance at any time"
- ○ What is NA World Services and how does it work?
- ○ Fellowship development basics
- ○ Cooperation, not affiliation—our relationship to others, including AA
- ○ Collaboration among service bodies
- ○ When service bodies split or reunify
- ○ Description of service commitments at areas and regions
- ○ Effective report writing
- ○ Tools for mentorship, including as it relates to service bodies and new meetings
- ○ Group support forum, local service conference, and local service board basics
- ○ Policy in NA—different kinds of policy styles and approaches

Legal, financial, and Seventh Tradition tools

- ○ How we apply the principle of self-support in NA.
- ○ Fund flow in the digital age
- ○ Fundraising—what is appropriate?
- ○ Information for creating legal entities/incorporating
- ○ The *Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust* (*FIPT*) and local websites
- ○ Dealing with banks and government financial regulations
- ○ Dealing with misappropriation of NA funds
- ○ Area treasurers' and budgeting basics

Revise existing service material

- ○ Update *A Guide to Local Service in NA* (*GLS*)
- ○ Revise *Translation Basics*
- ○ Revise and update *Planning Basics*
- ○ Revise and update *PR Basics*
- ○ Revise and update *H&I Basics*
- ○ Revise and update the service pamphlet *Disruptive and Violent Behavior* to reflect current practices in the Fellowship and include the issue of sexual predators
- ○ Revise and update the service pamphlet *Group Business Meetings*, with a section on using a CBDM process, and the concept of delegation

Other

- ○ Other:
- ○ No new or revised service material

Issue Discussion Topics

The Issue Discussion Topics (www.na.org/idt) are just that—issues that are discussed through-out 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 (https://www.na.org/?ID=servicemat-svc-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.

The 2018–2020 Issue Discussion Topics (IDTs) are:

- Attracting Members to Service
- Carrying the NA Message and Making NA Attractive
- Drug-Replacement Therapy (DRT) and Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) as It Relates to NA

For more information on those IDTs, see page 22 of this *CAR*.

Selecting up to four of the options to the right will help the WSC select Issue Discussion Topics for the upcoming 2020–2022 cycle.

Issue Discussion Topics (choose up to 4)

IDTs for 2020–2022 cycle
○ DRT/MAT as it relates to NA—what do we want to say in a piece of NA literature?
○ What it means to be self-supporting in NA
○ The *Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust* (*FIPT*) and upcoming revisions
○ Our Symbol—a closer look
○ The importance of our Traditions to NA
○ Group conscience and consensus-based decision making
○ PR Basics—what they are and why they are important
○ Simplicity and flexibility in service
○ Empathy and respect in service—practicing spiritual principles
○ Growing NA in established communities
○ Social media and PR issues
○ Dealing with disruptive and predatory behavior
○ Making NA accessible for those with additional needs
○ Getting youth and newcomers involved
○ Becoming a better sponsor
○ Creating community in NA
○ Mentoring and learning in service
○ Leadership in NA
○ The integrity and effectiveness of our communications
○ Eleventh Concept—NA funds are to be used to further our primary purpose and must be managed responsibly
○ Building our unity while respecting our differences
○ Retaining members in NA
○ Illness/medication and our literature
○ Using *Guiding Principles* to frame discussions on current issues/challenges
Other
○ Other:

Members can fill out this survey online at www.na.org/survey until 1 April 2020.

ISSUE DISCUSSION TOPICS (CHOOSE UP TO 4)	
IDTs for 2020–2022 cycle	
DRT/MAT as it relates to NA—what do we want to say in a piece of NA literature?	
What it means to be self-supporting in NA	
The *Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust* (*FIPT*) and upcoming revisions	
Our Symbol—a closer look	
The importance of our Traditions to NA	
Group conscience and consensus-based decision making	
PR Basics—what they are and why they are important	
Simplicity and flexibility in service	
Empathy and respect in service—practicing spiritual principles	
Growing NA in established communities	
Social media and PR issues	
Dealing with disruptive and predatory behavior	
Making NA accessible for those with additional needs	
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Eleventh Concept—NA funds are to be used to further our primary purpose and must be managed responsibly	
Building our unity while respecting our differences	
Retaining members in NA	
Illness/medication and our literature	
Using *Guiding Principles* to frame discussions on current issues/challenges	
Other	
Other:	