

NAWS NEWS

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NA WORLD SERVICE NEWS
PO BOX 9999, VAN NUYS, CA 91409

Issue 2
World_Board@na.org

GREETINGS FROM YOUR WORLD BOARD

We are six months into the new two-year conference cycle! On 12-14 October, we held the second world board meeting since WSC 2000. What a change from the old one-year conference system! In past years under the old system, a World Service Meeting would have taken place by now to help finalize proposals for a *Conference Agenda Report*. Ordinarily, the November edition of the *Conference Report* would be in your hands now to report on the status of upcoming *CAR* proposals. But the communication rhythms of this new two-year cycle are different, so instead we have compiled this longer edition of *NAWS News*.

We believe a saner pace will translate into better results from our collective labors that you will see bear fruit at WSC 2002 and beyond. We hope this expanded issue of *NAWS News* will give you a better understanding of where we stand today. We devoted most of our meeting to our new committees: Publications, Fellowship Relations, Events, Public Relations, and Guardians. Inside you will find an update—from the viewpoint of the full board. On the following pages, you can read about the Sponsorship Project, Basic Text Evaluation Project, Worldwide Workshop Project, and other work-in-progress!

Building the foundations of the new system as we promised, we are getting closer to the halfway point (April 2001) of implementing this new world service system that began at WSC'98. Thank you for your ongoing patience, trust, support, and input during these changing and exciting times!

DATABASE PROJECT UPDATE

Beta testing is in progress on one of the most exciting features of our new database system. The new database will allow direct fellowship updates via the worldwide web. The information that NAWS maintains, on both the meetings of registered NA groups and regional and area service committee's trusted servants, will be available for fellowship access. With the new International Meeting Locator now on the NAWS website, www.na.org, the accuracy of the underlying information in the NAWS database will determine this tool's usefulness. We know there are significant inaccuracies in this information today. Only with your help can we gradually improve the accuracy. This will help still-suffering addicts (and addicts traveling on the road) to locate NA meetings. Another major benefit will be improved distribution, providing lower mailing costs for the various publications

NAWS produces—from *The NA Way* to *NAWS News*! A mailing to every registered NA group in the world (over 19,000 as of 15 September 2000) and all area and regional trusted servants is now in progress in order to update these vital records. If you have not received this mailing by 31 January, please contact the WSO at ext. 771 or FSteam@na.org.

LITERATURE SALES DOWN SLIGHTLY

For the fiscal year ended 30 June 2000, we have previously reported record annual sales and income (\$6,197,455 gross sales, less discounts), record fellowship donations (\$611,885), and record reserve funds prudently saved for a rainy day (\$672,458). Through August, however, income from sales and donations trended down slightly, rebounding by October. Income has gone up and down significantly in past years. Instability caused painful layoffs and service cutbacks. We have continued to control expenses and keep our eyes squarely on the bottom line. Although it is not raining yet, our conservative approach to managing your world service center keeps us ever alert. We are following-through on our plan to update the financial goals from the Fellowship Development Plan this cycle. As indicated in our mission statement, our goal remains to serve as a reliable, dependable, and stable resource for the fellowship.

FIVE PERCENT PRICE INCREASE ON 1 JANUARY 2001

Prices will increase five percent across the board on 1 January 2001. In 1996, we established the practice of adjusting our prices to offset the effect of cost increases once every three years. The first adjustment went into effect in January of 1996. That policy then scheduled a five percent increase for 1 January 1999. We postponed that increase for one year until 1 January 2000, but then delayed it again until 1 January 2001.

NEW PRODUCTS AVAILABLE

More progress! We are happy to report that the Swedish *NA Step Working Guides* and the Russian Basic Text will be available in January 2001, and keytags in Greek and Russian are available now. We are also happy to report that the new CD-ROM version of the Basic Text, with a searchable text index, has sold-out of the 1,000 copies we initially produced. We have re-ordered this new product and plan to continue its availability (\$17.95). Check out the enclosed flyer describing other new products!

WSO STAFF CHANGES

Many staff changes have taken place the last few months. Shane Colter filled a long vacant Team Assistant position in Fellowship Services in June. Long-time employee Cindy Tooredman left the office in October after more than a dozen years of service. We want to thank Cindy for her tireless creative and editorial contributions to the WSO and to the fellowship. Nancy Schenck, with WSO since October 1998, will take over Cindy's duties as the Editor of *The NA Way Magazine*. This leaves two vacant editorial/project coordinator staff positions. Pam Martin has moved from data services to a newly created position in customer service. This is great timing because customer service is now missing the faithful labor of Sylvia Cordero. Sylvia is on maternity leave, having just had a beautiful baby girl (9 lbs, 11 oz.). Wendy Kemptner has come on board to take over Pam's position in data services. Nancy Good left the WSO in August after 12+ years of service. We welcome Kim Young who will fill that open Team Assistant position in Fellowship Services. We are also happy to report hiring Johnny Lamprea from Colombia, as a new bilingual member of the Administrative Team. And as we go to press, we are glad to report Carrie Brockstein has also been hired as an assistant on the Fellowship Services Team. Sara Jo Hampton left her position in Fellowship Services to take over as the assistant for Team Leader, Mary Hollahan. Elaine Adams formerly held this position, but she has changed teams to provide much needed support to Becky Meyer, Assistant Executive Codirector.

In September, WSO management hired Donna Markus as a short-term consultant. She is in the process of preparing a comprehensive analysis of world service public relations efforts. She is reviewing past and current PR efforts and how best to utilize the resources we have available. Donna is uniquely qualified to undertake this study by virtue of both her professional experience and her involvement with world services since the early '80s.

Finally, George Hollahan, one of our two Executive Codirectors, remains on medical leave recovering from his stroke last February. His absence continues to leave a void for management, staff, and us. We continue to pray for George's recovery and rehabilitation.

THE NOT CLASSIFIEDS

*Just so you know, this is **NOT** classified information...* The WSO has several vacant positions and opportunities for employment. We are currently accepting resumes, so please send yours in if you are interested in becoming a special worker.



COMMITTEE/PROJECT OVERVIEW

One of our biggest jobs of this conference cycle continues to be building the foundation of the board's committee system. We began our board meeting with an action group/team-building process focused on this important task. Each board member shared about the talents and skills we bring to the committee we are assigned to, as well as the biggest challenge facing his or her committee. All committees had a three-hour planning meeting in July. Publications met 27-29 September; Fellowship Relations met 28-29 August; Public Relations and Events had a one-day meeting before our October board meeting; the Guardians and Fellowship Relations met one day after. All of the committees are in the middle of taking the work delegated to them, identifying what needs to be done by when, and feeding issues back to the full board for direction and consensus.

We are working hard to maintain the unity of the board, even though we divided our work and our members, among a brand new set of board committees. With changes in our membership, our priority is to maintain the group dynamic of trust and goodwill that this board established in its first two years. This has been a foundation of our consensus-based decision-making process and unity of purpose. We delegated major conference projects and other functions to the various committees. But, our guiding principles are that the full board retains ultimate responsibility for all of the work, and that we are board members first and committee members second. It is human nature to become territorial; however, we are deeply committed to avoiding any sense of territory about the work we assigned to the various committees.

We clearly recognize that, as your World Board, we are administrators of these projects and need a great deal of help to do the work itself. Therefore, workgroups made up of committee members, World Pool members, WSO staff, and others as the need arises, will do the actual hands-on work. Input is welcome from any member, group, or service committee. We describe the key projects and kinds of input we are looking for in the following pages and in the enclosed inserts about the Sponsorship Project and the Worldwide Workshop Project. We look forward to hearing from you. If you are also interested in serving on a board workgroup, please submit your service resume to the Human Resources Panel (five years clean time required).

Another important task facing the board as a whole and each of our committees is the issue of long-range planning. We asked each committee to engage in long-range planning within their scope of responsibility at the same time that each has a very full plate of immediate responsibilities this cycle. Better long-range planning is a key element of the new world service system, so we are working together to keep that in focus.

Publications Committee Update

Our Publications Committee has begun to tackle the work involved with Motions One through Four (approved at WSC 2000) regarding recovery literature. The committee started to identify the major issues that need to be discussed internally, within the board, and with the fellowship. The committee proposed and we approved three workgroups: Literature Development Plan, sponsorship material evaluation, and translations evaluation. Two of these workgroups were finalized after our full board meeting—Literature Development Plan with Andrea L (PA), Vivian R (Sweden), Wally I (FL), and Joanna M (IL); and translations evaluation with Ralph K (Germany), Dora S (Brazil), Eddie E (Norway), and world board member, Giovanna G. In the coming months, we will discuss creating a detailed project plan for a comprehensive evaluation of revisions and additions to the entire Basic Text and the Little White Booklet. We plan to present this proposal at WSC 2004, with a preliminary status report at WSC 2002. We will report more fully as our discussions continue on this and the literature development plan.

Finally, the sponsorship project was a major subject of discussion at the board meeting. To help the fellowship's efforts with this project move forward, we have written an insert about it in this issue of *NAWS News*. If you are interested in the sponsorship project and want to participate in the process, please read the insert. Also, please share this info with all interested members. Thanks for your help, interest, and participation.

Fellowship Relations Committee Update

We asked our Fellowship Relations Committee to work on the Worldwide Workshop Project and the Communication Standards Project. Other priorities are the procedures for seating prospective new regions (based on the policy adopted at WSC 2000), two motions WSC 2000 committed to the board (regarding the WSC Rules of Order and adding a new summary to *A Guide to Local Services*), and the service delivery plan for WCNA-29 Atlanta. Most of the time to date has been spent on the Worldwide Workshop Project. Please read the enclosed insert describing where this project stands, and send us your feedback. We need your help!

The Communication Standards Project is about new or improved standards for communications between world services and the fellowship. This project follows-up last cycle's Communication Task Force Project and July's final report from the board. Any input, ideas, or reaction you send by April 2001 will still help us. The 29 problems in our report will help to guide the effort to improve NAWS communication with the fellowship.

To implement the WSC's new policy for seating prospective regions, we will soon form our workgroup to handle any requests. (Application deadline for seating at WSC 2002 is 28 April 2001.)

Public Relations Committee Update

There is a tremendous amount of work for all of us in the area of public relations. The good thing is that we are looking at a new horizon in this area of service to and for the NA Fellowship. We need to develop a long-range, comprehensive PR plan, up-to-date learning tools to assist the fellowship's worldwide PI/PR efforts, and last, but not least, a PR statement that reflects the view and public relations philosophy of the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous. We expect extensive discussions at upcoming meetings of this committee and the board to outline a clear direction for future efforts and, in particular, a clearly defined public relations philosophy.

Donna Markus met with the PR Committee to discuss how her work as a short-term consultant will complement the committee's efforts. These discussions involved a history of the various successes, failures, and missed opportunities that have occurred in NA's public relations efforts to date. The board also received her preliminary draft report at the October board meeting.

We think this is a time of tremendous opportunity. Public relations work is an ongoing function of NA World Services. Our goal, with the assistance of the PR Committee, is to bring renewed focus, energy, and planning to this vital area of activity. We plan to re-examine what the public relations philosophy of NA World Services should reflect. We think this is a way to put our philosophy into action more deliberately and effectively with a long-range plan.

Bulletin Development

We asked all of the committees to look at the list of more than 100 topics relating to existing service bulletins or possible new bulletins. We distributed this list at WSC 2000 and asked conference participants to give us input about possible priorities by marking all the topics that needed attention. We asked each committee to look at this list and make recommendations to the board. We are also looking at the list from our perspective as individual board members. We assigned the responsibility for bulletin development to the Guardians and asked them to assess and make recommendations to us. In the coming months, we plan to discuss and decide the priorities for bulletin development.

Guardians Committee Update

Helping to frame and structure philosophical discussions of our principles for the board will be an important function of the Guardians. The committee will work on identifying long-term needs of the fellowship, and make recommendations to the World Board about developing position papers/bulletins that concern NA's core principles. Some of these recommendations will probably result from assessing the list of ranked bulletin topics from WSC 2000. The Guardians will bring other important issues to the World Board for discussion to allow us to maintain overall responsibility for our work, without being immersed in details. This function is not unique to the Guardians—each committee will help us do this.

At its one-day meeting on Sunday, 15 October, it soon became apparent that one of the first subjects to be examined must be the issue discussion topics chosen at WSC 2000. These were: "How can we continue to provide services to our fellowship and at the same time decrease our reliance on funds from events and conventions?" and "How can we create a bridge that builds and maintains a connection to service for home group members?" Over the next few months, the Guardians will help the board to discuss the principles involved in these topics and to provide some guidance for members who choose to discuss these topics in their local communities.

For several months, the Guardians will function as the new NA Way Editorial Board. Members of the old editorial board are now serving on other committees. The Guardians will discuss the future make-up of the NA Way editorial group and how it should operate, keeping in mind that the planning for this magazine should complement the board's overall plan.

July 2001 NA Way Magazine

Theme: Carrying the Message

We are looking for articles! Please help us!

The deadline to submit to WSO for the July issue is:

1 April 2001

- ◆ Carrying the message, not the addict.
- ◆ Sponsorship and selflessness, humility, accepting limitations.
- ◆ Hearing the message.
- ◆ Why is carrying the message our most important (primary) purpose?
- ◆ Personal service and general service; places to carry the message—recovery meetings, service meetings, H&I, PI/public relations.
- ◆ How does NA unity help us carry the message?
- ◆ What does carrying the message have to do with our common welfare?
- ◆ Tradition Eleven—issues of attraction and promotion in carrying the message.

EVENT NEWS: BOARD APPROVES INTERNAL PROCESS FOR WCNA SITE SELECTION

We approved a new procedure for WCNA site selection recommended by our Events Committee. The new procedure considers some additional points for WCNA sites necessary to accommodate a convention that continues to grow in scope, magnitude, and complexity. The old procedure's problem was that it used valuable and scarce staff resources inefficiently.

The old process took over one full year to complete. It would take about 80 hours of staff time to complete just the first phase of bids for each city. For example, 15 sites were initially identified for 2007 (Zone Five—Central North America). If the old process was used to complete the bids for all 15 of these cities, it would have totaled about 1,200 hours or seven months of staff time.

Our solution is to implement the simple process that TWGWSS calls "a feasibility study." The feasibility study is a review of the initial data collected on each city, and an initial reduction of the list based on the overall goals of the board for each convention. Performing the feasibility studies will save staff time, and make a fair process more sane.

There is **no change** to TWGWSS policy. Until now, feasibility studies—narrowing the list of cities rather than doing complete bids on the entire list—have not been done. This probably helped to establish credibility for the selection process in its early years, which has been successful. Based on what we have learned about our needs in planning the event in any particular zone, we will consider the following feasibility criteria:

- 1) If the potential city has sufficient meeting and hotel facilities, then prioritize those cities that have the ability to handle a convention that is ten to twenty percent larger than current projections, to allow for additional growth.
- 2) When considering the number of meetings in the region, or surrounding NA communities, consider the pool of volunteers needed to support the event.
- 3) When considering potential attendance for the event, factor in members' access to the event; airport access for international travelers; and the numbers of potential attendees that may attend the convention from the six to ten hour driving radius around the site.
- 4) Identify and eliminate cities that the board is not willing to seriously consider, including but not limited to issues such as, the city is not viewed as an attractive vacation destination, or we already held a convention in that city, etc.

WORLD UNITY DAY 2001

When and where are we having next year's World Unity Day celebration? In recent years, World Unity Day has been held in conjunction with a World Service Meeting in the years when there is no world convention. Our discussions at the October board meeting explored the possibility of combining the World Unity Day event with one of the new, experimental worldwide workshops. We also discussed the advantages and disadvantages of holding a World Service Meeting separately from World Unity Day. We made no final decisions, but expect to decide by January. Once we decide, we will not have to face this question again until 2004, the next year without a world convention. World Unity Day normally occurs during the Saturday night meeting at the world convention, as with Cartagena this year. So, World Unity Day in 2002 will take place with WCNA-29 in Atlanta, 4-7 July 2002. Then in 2003, we have a one-time change in the every other year schedule of the biannual world convention. 2003 represents the 50th anniversary of Narcotics Anonymous, from its beginnings in Southern California in 1953. We are holding a special world convention commemorating this historic event in San Diego, from 3-6 July 2003.

PLANNING WCNA-29—ATLANTA

Speaking of Atlanta, a decision we made at our October meeting was to add one more board meeting to our work-cycle this conference year. This meeting will be held in March 2002 to finalize plans for WCNA-29 and WSC 2002. We saw that this was needed because the Atlanta convention in July happens six short weeks after WSC'02 in April. We previously scheduled seven board meetings this cycle, plus the conference. Under this scenario, we were to meet in January 2002 and then not meet, outside of the WSC, until after the world convention. This meeting schedule change will afford us ample time to complete our planning for a convention that we expect to attract around 20,000 members. To that end, preliminary planning is already underway by the Events Committee and staff.

WCNA SURVEY ANALYSIS COMING SOON

An onsite demographic survey was conducted at the last three world conventions (St. Louis, San Jose, and Cartagena). The same survey form was used each time. We have decided to contract for a professional analysis of the data from these surveys.

WCNA-28—CARTAGENA SUCCEEDS!

We are now completing the process of reconciling the financial accounting for the 28th World Convention. We will report the outcome in the next edition of *NAWS News*. From a recovery standpoint, our ultimate bottom line, WCNA-28 was an unqualified success. It was one of the most memorable and emotional conventions in our history. Attended by over 1,400 members from 27 countries, the event climaxed with the Unity Day Meeting that linked 121 phone hook-ups, connecting countless members from 23 countries and eight prisons.

Members from 27 countries attended the convention. The majority of the members present were from Latin America. We are sure every member who was there will have his or her own very personal stories to treasure from this once-in-a-lifetime event. For those of us from outside of Latin America—who had our first glimpse of what the spirit of NA is like today with our members in Latin America—we suspect that our hearts will never be the same again. Giovanna G from Cartagena, Colombia, chaired the Host Committee before being elected to the board in April. At this board meeting, she delivered a plaque from the Colombian fellowship for the archives of NA World Services commemorating WCNA-28. It reads:

Our Eternal Gratitude to the World Board who forged and made possible the 28th WCNA in Cartagena-Colombia, and its memory will perpetually be sealed in our hearts, as a reminder of growth and service.

*Lovingly,
Colombian Region
September 2000*



OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE HRP Making the World Pool Work

The board discussed our relationship with the Human Resource Panel and the current state of the World Pool at this past meeting. Our committees are all beginning to grapple with defining what sorts of workgroups we may form to help us to accomplish the scope of work that is on our plate this cycle.

We spent time talking about the original hopes and dreams for the World Pool. We discussed where we are today—the challenge of taking something drawn up on paper as an idea and trying to make it work during this period of transition. We remain committed to the original ideals of the pool—to bring new people into world services whose talents, skills, and abilities were not being used because they were not well known. But making that work and still getting the best results for the fellowship by selecting the most highly qualified people, using some mix of objective and subjective criteria, is no easy task. We know the talent is out there! The challenge is to bring more talent into world services.

A basic problem is simply how small the pool is at this time. Identifying the skills, talents, and experience we think we need for specific tasks is challenging in itself. We have found it to be more challenging to make requests to the HRP in a way that will allow them to select candidates from the pool based upon the criteria and information currently on the HRP resume form. To find people skilled in simultaneous translations for the convention in Cartagena, for example, we put in a request to the HRP. The resume form asks people what languages they speak and write. But it does not ask what languages they can translate to and from.

An even more basic problem is that the resumes and the lists of people and/or candidate profiles (that the HRP is able to generate in response to specific requests), do not and can not provide the kind of intangible information that is often the most crucial factor in choosing one person over another who has similar skills or background. These qualities can include how flexible, open-minded, reliable, or hard working a person is. How well can they get along with others in a group setting and resolve conflicts or disagreements, placing principles before personalities? Do they have a broad perspective about NA that is sensitive and open to regional, cultural, and other differences? Or, do they have a narrow perspective confined to a limited geographic area or rigid ideas about the right and wrong way to do things?

We are working hard to communicate our perspective and our needs to the HRP and strengthen our working relationship. We are hopeful we can work together to fix what is not working for the benefit of the conference and the fellowship.

Enclosed you will find a separate report from the WSC Human Resource Panel.

SERVICE MATERIAL EVALUATION PROJECT

The Service Material Evaluation Project is one where we have assigned partial responsibility to each of the board committees. The key objective with this project is to identify the extent to which various service materials are useful and relevant to the current needs of the fellowship worldwide. We know, in general, that much of the existing material is inadequate, insufficient, and/or untimely in its capacity to meet the needs of the fellowship today. Historically, this material was developed in response to the needs of the North American fellowship. Once the conference approved such material in English, other communities outside of North America have sometimes translated and adapted this material, generally with less success because of its limited relevance. As the board evaluates specific pieces of service material, we will have to wrestle with this underlying philosophical dilemma—how can we, if it is indeed possible, produce service material that provides helpful and relevant guidance and experience to the diverse NA communities that now exist in 95+ countries?

This project is first and foremost about identifying the *issues* that are not addressed effectively in the various existing pieces of service material. We have divided the work of identifying issues specific to each piece among the various committees. For example, we have asked the Fellowship Relations Committee to identify the issues that need attention relating to the *Treasurer's Handbook*. One such issue is the chronic problem of theft of NA funds. We assigned the *Convention Handbook* or resource material for issues surrounding events and conventions to the Events Committee. We assigned the *Hospitals and Institutions Handbook* and the *Public Information Handbook* to the PR Committee. Fellowship Relations has responsibility for identifying issues related to training workbooks in addition to the *Treasurer's Handbook*. We asked the Publications Committee to identify the issues with *The Literature Review Handbook*, with the exception of the literature distribution portion of the material. We asked the Executive Committee to look at those issues.

So each committee will be looking at past evaluations that have been done and/or fellowship input that has been received. Each committee will then bring these issues to the board. No committee is expected to jump directly into development or revision of any existing material. This is likely to happen only after the board presents project plan(s) to WSC 2002, proposing the development of new or revised service material.

We will report more on this project as the work progresses. We anticipate that some of the worldwide workshops may devote time to discussing the issues related to service material needs.

RESOLVING FELLOWSHIP CONFLICTS The Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust

We had some discussion at this board meeting about resolving fellowship conflicts involving the Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust. This discussion arose out of two separate issues. We had to discuss the next steps to take regarding a specific fellowship conflict that has been confronting us for some time. Separately, as the FIPT Trustee, we had to approve the list classifying all intellectual property held on behalf of the conference and the fellowship consistent with the new service material approval policy adopted at WSC 2000.

These discussions led us to address the misperception that some members have that the FIPT is like a club or a weapon that can or should be used to resolve disputes within NA about fellowship trademarks and our copyrighted recovery and service literature. The reality is that litigation is almost invariably the most expensive and least desirable way of protecting our fellowship's intellectual property from infringement by NA members or even outside enterprises controlled by NA members. If and when we have disputes among ourselves, our best hope for resolving conflicts rests in communication with each other, practicing and applying principles before personalities. Litigation, as a means of resolving conflict among each other, is a poor substitute for members applying the Twelve Steps and the Twelve Traditions to resolve such a situation. As our Basic Text says: "Our traditions protect us from the internal and external forces that could destroy us. They are truly the ties that bind us together. It is only through understanding and application that they work."

In NA communities where conflict and infringement has occurred, there have often been years of bad blood and escalating fighting that must be worked through and healed to avoid the high cost and the difficulties that come when we turn outside our fellowship to courts and to legal processes to resolve such matters. It can cost \$50,000-\$100,000 just to knock on the doors of the US federal courts. We believe, as board members and as FIPT trustees, that we have a responsibility to help communities resolve such conflicts short of such costly litigation wherever possible. NA members are the best hope of protecting NA's intellectual property from infringement.

The FIPT came into existence in 1993 as a result of extremely unpleasant litigation over such an internal conflict about the Basic Text. The FIPT is a legal trust instrument that describes in detail how NA's name, trademarks, and recovery literature are protected and administered by NA World Services, Inc. for the benefit of the NA Fellowship. The purpose is to help addicts find recovery from addiction and carry that message of recovery to the addict who still suffers, in keeping with the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of NA.

FELLOWSHIP DEVELOPMENT TRAVEL ICAA in Bahrain/Arabic Translations Meeting

We heard an exciting report at our board meeting about a very successful trip to the Middle East nation of Bahrain, 2-9 September 2000. The trip had a combined public relations and fellowship development purpose. We sent a four-person board/staff travel team to attend the annual meeting of the 43rd International Council on Alcohol and Addictions (ICAA). Our presence at ICAA over the years has been particularly important in opening doors for Narcotics Anonymous in Eastern and Western Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. ICAA rotates its annual meeting location around the globe. NA World Services has taken advantage of the opportunities ICAA affords us to exhibit (and in some years, make presentations) to an audience of professionals and government officials that is truly worldwide in scope.

The second purpose of the trip was to facilitate a three-day meeting held right after ICAA among members brought together from Egypt, Bahrain, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia. The goal was to facilitate the process of translating NA recovery literature into Arabic. The members assembled decided to form an Arabic local translation committee with two members elected from each of the four countries present to help resolve differences that have divided them over the years. Efforts have been underway off and on going back more than a dozen years in various Arabic-speaking NA communities. Despite an enormous amount of work over the years, there are still no approved translations. For every language, what must ultimately be translated is what we call the "glossary"—a collection of fundamental recovery terms and phrases, and then ideally IP #1, *Who, What, How, and Why*, which contains the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions along with other basic language of NA. This meeting made great progress in reaching consensus about how to translate terminology and concepts that have divided these individual communities. We are hopeful that this meeting has laid the groundwork for cooperation among these communities and NAWS, and that Arabic translation of the large number of items these communities have worked on separately over the years, will now progress rapidly to completion and approval.

Two or more NA communities, in the same country or separate countries, can often come up with multiple translations. Common differences include language variations, customs, cultural variation, and varying understandings of basic recovery concepts. This has happened again and again since the earliest translations were done in French, Spanish, and Portuguese, to name a few examples. Working together for consensus is always the key solution!

ANNUAL REPORT DELAYED

We are sorry to report that the publication of the annual report is late this year. We are essentially working with two fewer editorial staff members than we had last year. We are particularly interested in recruiting staff that have the talent and interest to help write and edit WSC publications (like *NAWS News*) and/or who have administrative skills to help manage board projects.

BOARD CORRESPONDENCE PROCEDURES REVISED

At this board meeting, we accepted a revised and streamlined procedure for handling correspondence directed to the board or that is relevant for the work on any of our committees.

As before, all input received will be directed to the attention of the full board. Staff will now prepare a monthly book of correspondence for our information, rather than one every three months.

Multiple committees increase the potential for internal miscommunication, so we have proactively set up new protocols to avoid that wherever possible.

As always, please send all correspondence pertaining to the world board or its committees to World_Board@na.org.

OUR NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting is scheduled for 11-13 January 2001. Look for the next issue of *NAWS News* in February.

In fellowship,

Your World Board

NA NEEDS YOU!!!



Here's your opportunity to give back what was so freely given to you!!! Help build the World Pool by sending in your service resume. Trusted servants for NAWS projects and elections will come from this pool. You can reach us by letter, phone, email, or visit our website at

www.na.org to request your resume form.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



Plan ahead and come celebrate in Atlanta, Georgia for the 29th World Convention of Narcotics Anonymous.

4-7 JULY 2002

Just a reminder...

- The deadline for regional motions for the *Conference Agenda Report* for WSC 2002 is **26 September 2001**.
- Issue discussion topic ideas for *CAR 2002* is **26 September 2001**.
- Issue discussion papers for *CAR 2002* is **15 October 2001**.
- WSC policy now requires the *CAR* to be published in English 150 days before the WSC, with translated versions available 120 days prior.
- WSC 2002 will be from **28 April to 4 May 2002**, so the 2002 *CAR* will be available in English by the end of November 2001, and in any translated versions by the end of December 2001.