

# NAWS NEWS

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na world services news

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## HELLO FROM YOUR WORLD BOARD

First, we would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year. As we turn the corner on 2005, and as the 2006 World Service Conference approaches, we have been participating in many *CAR* workshops. We also distributed a proposed *CAR* workshop sessions profile to assist regional delegates in facilitating workshops in their regions. Electronic versions of these materials are still available on our website, [www.na.org](http://www.na.org), along with other conference-related resources.

We encourage delegates to provide their input to the *CAR* questions as they are completed. Delegates can submit their input online at <http://www.na.org/WSC2006/disc-input.htm> or they can email their responses to [worldboard@na.org](mailto:worldboard@na.org). We hope to receive this information before the conference so we can spend more time at WSC 2006 talking about our members' input rather than gathering results. This input will also help us frame the conference sessions and have a clearer idea about the next steps we need to take in these discussions.

This is a slightly abbreviated *NAWS News*; the majority of the conference week and its activity will be covered in the *March Conference Report*. However, we believed it was important to publish a summary of our activity to date.

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## WORLD BOARD STRATEGIC PLANNING 2006–2008 CONFERENCE CYCLE

The board and staff met in January for our third planning session for the 2006–2008 Strategic Plan. This document and the project plans that come from our planning sessions can be found in the Conference Approval Track material, distributed 23 January 2006. See page five for more information on the Conference Approval Track and a link to this material on the web.

The Strategic Plan lays out the most important changes or improvements needed to help us all better carry the message. It contains objectives, which are longer-term goals, as well as the approaches (actions) that we believe are necessary to help us reach those goals. The project plans for 2006–2008 were developed from the identified approaches. As in the past, we have included more project plans than we can accomplish in one cycle, but we have tried to be more realistic about what can reasonably be completed in two years.

Our major focuses for the upcoming cycle are on finishing the revised personal stories for the Basic Text review and approval drafts, the implementation of the *PR Handbook* and further development of our PR activities, and basic service tools for use by groups and service committees. There are a number of other items contained in the 2006–2008 Strategic Plan and project plans detailed in the *March Conference Report*. This activity is in addition to the rather daunting list of essential tasks that NA World Services does consistently: fellowship support and development, the activities associated with the World Service Conference, literature translation, production and distribution to a global fellowship, and the world convention.

Planning has been a critical component in bringing NAWS together with a common focus. We have continued to improve and develop our processes and we have come a long way in identifying our common goals. We feel so strongly about this process that we have tried to share some of it with you in the Area Planning Tool draft. We encourage you to review this tool and, most importantly, to try using it in your local service committees. It is our hope that the more the Area Planning Tool is used, the more it will evolve and develop to become an important resource for areas, regions, and zones.

### SEATING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR WSC 2006

Based on input from the WSC Seating Workgroup, responses from the regions that requested seating, and careful evaluation of the conference and its needs, we have recommended five of the six regions that entered this process for seating at WSC 2006 (which would allow them to be seated participants at WSC 2008). The recommended regions are: Bluegrass Appalachian, North Carolina, Iran, South Africa, and Western Russia. Region Mexico Occidente is not being recommended for seating at this time.

The workgroup diligently followed the policy that appeared in the 2000 *Conference Agenda Report* and that is found in *A Guide to World Services in NA*. We thank them for their outstanding work on this difficult task.

One of the criterion for seating is that the region has existed and provided services for three years. Based on this, the workgroup recommended that South Africa and Western Russia not be considered for seating. The workgroup felt these regions may not be ready for the leap to the WSC and that they may

**A gentle reminder for  
Regional Delegates:  
Housing forms  
and travel arrangements  
are due in no later than  
15 March 2006.**

need to focus on their own growth within their respective regions.

However, our discussions highlighted the ways in which the conference would benefit from having these two regions attend the biennial meeting of world services. We have encouraged Iran, South Africa, and Western Russia to ask for WSC recognition, and we believe that the WSC needs these regions to participate as much as the regions need the worldwide connection at the WSC. South Africa and Western Russia have had NA meetings for over fifteen years and they have been providing services within their communities for over ten years. While they were not formally calling themselves a region for this entire period, we believe the spirit and nature of the services they have provided are consistent with what the policy is looking for when it asks how long they have been a region. It is our feeling that, due to this continual provision of services, the conference is best served by recognizing these communities. We feel so strongly about all three of these regions and their value to the WSC that we have invited them to attend WSC 2006 as non-seated participants. It will be up to the conference to decide whether they can sit on the conference floor as non-voting participants.

During the conference and in the future, we would also like to review the limitations of the current seating policy. It was created to provide standardization, but after using the policy for three conference cycles, we do not believe it adequately serves its intended purpose. The policy does not sufficiently address the issue of NA communities that are the only service bodies in their community or country to provide the needed services for members. This policy was also created to help stem the growth of US regions seated at the conference, and the current policy does not adequately address that situation. World services' policy often takes some refinement when the initial attempt doesn't seem to actually accomplish the original intent. We recommend that we refine this policy, and perhaps look to see if there are other policies that may have similar issues. In our review, we will see which additional policies may benefit from some sort of modification.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

The Business Plan Workgroup met 6–7 January 2006 to strategize a plan for the coming fiscal year. The workgroup is being charged with the fiscal responsibility of overseeing NAWS' spending policies. Rather than discuss incoming revenues, we would like to tell you about the projects we hope to tackle over this coming conference cycle. Hopefully, this will give you an idea of the proposed budget's magnitude. (The budget is in the Conference Approval Track materials.)

As with every cycle, there will be a need to account for world services activities that are recurring in nature (fixed operational funds), projects and activities that vary from year-to-year (variable operational funds), and the maintenance of a reserve fund.

In addition, the budget for this conference cycle will consider expenses for the Basic Text project, the *Public Relations Handbook* project, training and orientation, workshops, basic service material, targeted literature, public relations development, and NAWS communications. The direction of the *PR Handbook* and targeted literature projects will become clearer at the World Service Conference.

## WHAT'S NEW AT WWW.NA.ORG?

The conference section of the website has been completely updated to reflect the upcoming conference, including the *Conference Agenda Report (CAR)* and other material. We are continuing to slowly post all recovery IPs and booklets in all languages on the website as well. We have started to post all pertinent service material on the website, including *A Guide to Local Services* and the NAWS bulletin, "USA Banking, EIN, and Tax Liability". We will continue to post material as it becomes available. Traffic

on the website continues to be on the upswing. During 2005 the main website, online database, and online literature sales (the shopping cart), and donation server received 29,914,421 hits. The main website continues to get about two million hits per month. The area and regional links page was visited 248,152 times. The event calendar was viewed 286,036 times, the main recovery literature was visited 121,434 times, and the online database gets about 1,350 visits per day. IP #1 is downloaded almost 1,000 times per month, The White Booklet is viewed about 700 times per month, and *A Guide to Local Services in NA* has been downloaded 19,180 times since it was posted at the end of July. The e-subscription process seems to be working well, as more and more members are signing up for *The NA Way Magazine* and other publications. The online shopping cart is also proving to be extremely useful. Shopping cart views realized a fifty percent increase in the course of a year, with 40,797 views in January 2006.

## PUBLIC RELATIONS

Along with members from the Southeast Zone, we again interacted with professionals at the Southeast Conference for Addiction Counselors (SECAD) in Atlanta, Georgia, in December. Although this event in recent years has been smaller than it was previously, there is still a strong contingent of treatment professionals who attend. It serves NA well to continue representation at this event.

## fellowship development

### Worldwide Workshops and Other Events

World Board members and NAWS staff attended a worldwide workshop in Portugal and Eastern European workshops in the Ukraine and Lithuania. We funded an unprecedented

number of participants to the Eastern European workshops from locations that ranged from the countries of Slovenia, Slovakia, and Croatia to the eastern most parts of Siberia.

The two Eastern European workshops were held in English and Russian, which are the two most commonly understood languages among the delegates who represented a vast range of mother tongues. These languages included Ukrainian, Slovenian, Slovakian, Moldavian, Bulgarian, Polish, Latvian, Lithuanian, Estonian, Serbian, and Croatian. Many delegates from the European Delegates Meeting (EDM) also stayed for the workshop held in Lithuania, and we thank them and the EDM for a level of unprecedented communication and cooperation this conference cycle.

There was NAWS representation at a translations workshop in Bangkok on 10 February 2006; at the Asia Pacific Forum (APF) on 7-9 February in Bangkok, where NAWS facilitated two workshops; and at Malaysia's first convention, which was held in Kuala Lumpur on 4 February.

We were pleased to be invited to hold NAWS sessions during the APF again this year. As noted above, we held an all-day translation workshop on Friday, 10 February, right after the APF and before the Thai convention began that evening. The APF in Bangkok provided us with an excellent and necessary opportunity to address translation-specific issues, as well as broader issues, with representatives from many communities.

We invited representatives from several NA communities (such as Pakistan, Nepal, Indonesia, and the Philippines) that have translations in progress and complex issues to resolve. Several communities had requested our assistance in the form of a workshop.

NAWS staff continued their ambitious trip by stopping in Iran before returning home. As mentioned in the November *NAWS News*, Iran continues to experience unprecedented recovery growth. We all are doing what we can to support our brothers and sisters in Iran. More details about all of these trips will be in the *March Conference Report*.



The *Conference Agenda Report* was mailed to conference participants on 12 November 2005. Since then, *CAR* workshops and other worldwide events have been scheduled, allowing the fellowship to become familiar with the contents of the *CAR*.

One issue that seems to be of interest is Motion Three: "To change the time frame for approval of recovery literature from the current minimum of 150 days to a minimum of one year." The intention of this motion is to allow more time for rough translations of approval-form material. In our travels to *CAR* workshops, we have noticed that this motion has sparked discussion, as it speaks to a desire to participate in the approval process of NA's message in print. It is gratifying for us to see conference participants looking beyond their own local concerns toward the needs of a truly worldwide fellowship.

A discussion at WSC 2006 will give all of us a chance to participate in an international dialogue about this issue. Although we understand the motivation behind this motion, we have some serious concerns about the practicality and potential impact of this particular idea. The policy for review and approval spells out the minimum requirements of ninety days for review and 150 days for approval of any recovery material. The specifics of the review and approval time for each piece of recovery material are spelled out in the project plan that is adopted by the conference. In the case of the Basic Text, these details were also sent out in the *CAR* and called for a ninety day review period and an eight-month or 240-day approval period.

We believe that part of the original motivation for this motion was a desire to participate in the process of approval and a belief that if a piece was available for a longer period of time, a substantial number of members would read a book-length piece that was pending approval at the conference. Sadly, this has not been our experience, even in English. Our experience indicates that a majority of our members do not read a book-length piece before it is approved at the WSC. We sincerely hope this will change with the Basic Text, but to date this has not happened.

The review and input stage, rather than the approval stage, seems to be the avenue to effectively impact a piece. By the time a piece of literature is in the approval stage, it is time for our members to provide a simple yes or no to the entire piece. The approval-draft stage does not allow for any meaningful content changes. From our discussions of the approval policy time frames, we do not believe that a one-year approval period is desirable or necessary, particularly for short pieces like IPs. This would mean a minimum of four years' development time for an IP, which does not seem to be a practical and responsive approach to serving the needs of our fellowship.

We look forward to having an international discussion about this issue at WSC 2006. Our experience has been that meaningful discussions are often needed to truly understand and address the challenges raised by motions. This may be an issue impacted by the opportunity for the delegates to hear from worldwide conference participants prior to making a decision on this motion. We look forward to engaging conference participants in a discussion about what we want to see in all stages of the literature development and approval process at WSC 2006.

We are sure that by now you are aware of the dates of the conference: 23–29 April 2006. We are excited that we will soon be spending a week together focused on our theme "It's All About Carrying the Message."

## Conference Approval Track (CAT)

As a result of a motion passed at the 2000 World Service Conference, in a general sense, the Conference Approval Track (CAT) is different from the *Conference Agenda Report (CAR)*.

*Conference-approval materials are those items approved by the World Service Conference that are intended primarily for use by service boards or committees. This type of material is sent to conference participants at least ninety (90) days prior to the World Service Conference meeting, to be considered during a new-business session.*

*A Guide to World Services in NA, page 33*

The CAT was sent out to all conference participants on 23 January 2006. You can also download this material from our website at <http://www.na.org/cat2006/>. This site has been password-protected to ensure that only NA members have access to our proposed budget material and the approval draft of the *Public Relations Handbook* chapters. This material is targeted at regional delegates, so that they can read it and prepare for the World Service Conference in April; however, delegates are free to share their password and the material with interested NA members. Any member is welcome to access this site and the material—just ask your delegate or go directly to the website. (The user name is “cat” and the password is “cat2006”.)

Some members may be wondering why only the regional delegate receives Conference Approval Track material. Members have had questions about wanting to review service material that may or may not directly affect them. Items that are found in the CAT include conference-related and service materials. Our response to these questions is that we anticipate delegates will gather information from other members regarding CAT material in order to help them prepare for discussions.

As stated in the last copy of *NAWS News*, the *Public Relations Handbook* project represents the first time that we are utilizing the service material approval process for a new service

piece. This year, the CAT includes the approval form of the first nine chapters of the *Public Relations Handbook*, the Area Planning Tool, the WSC Seating Report, the *2008 NAWS Strategic Plan*, and a Revised PR Statement for inclusion in *A Guide to World Services in NA*. The CAT also includes the proposed budget and project plans. The material contained in the mailing is intended to help regional delegates, your trusted servants, be better prepared to discuss these issues at the World Service Conference.

## CONFERENCE AGENDA REPORT (CAR) WORKSHOPS

The CAR workshops began in December 2005 and were completed in mid February 2006. The feedback so far has been very positive and has given us a chance to understand the needs of the fellowship at the local and group levels.

We greatly appreciate all the hard work of the fellowship, its delegates, and service committees. We all felt very welcome in the workshops we attended. It is evident that the aggressive agenda for these one-day sessions would not have been as successful without the work of the service committees and the commitment of the fellowship as a whole.

We are very excited about the direction that the World Service Conference is able to take now. Information about the Issue Discussion Topics (IDTs) such as Atmosphere of Recovery, Leadership, Infrastructure, and Tools & Literature will form a significant part of the World Service Conference sessions.

Your World Board members and/or NAWS staff attended the following workshops:

Multi-Regional Learning Event, CAR workshop, in Alfred, Maine, 2–4 December 2005; Rocky Mountain Zonal Forum in Salt Lake City, Utah, 9–10 December 2005; Plains States Zonal Forum in McPherson, Kansas, 6–8 January 2006; Northeast Zonal Forum in Newark, New Jersey, on the last weekend in January 2006; Southern Zonal Forum in Fort Smith, Arkansas, 28–29 January 2006; Midwest Zonal Forum and Multi-Regional Assembly in Kalamazoo, Michigan, 4–5 February 2006; Southern California

Regional Assembly Workshop, in Stanton, California, 4 February 2006; and Mid-Atlantic Regional Learning Conference XXII in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, 9–11 February 2006.

## WORKGROUPS & PROJECTS

### BASIC TEXT PROJECT UPDATE

The Basic Text project is moving into a new phase. The collection period for submissions formally ended on 31 December 2005. If members sent in submissions after that date, we may be able to still use them. We cannot, however, guarantee that submissions received after the deadline will get the same level of attention as those that were sent prior to the deadline.

For the next six months, we will be filling in gaps in the material as we begin to put together the collection of experience for the Basic Text. What we mean by “filling in the gaps” is that we will be actively soliciting some material from members for identified recovery-related gaps.

The review and input draft for the Sixth Edition Basic Text will be mailed in September 2006. (The essay on the project in the *CAR* mistakenly says July 2006.) Input on the review draft needs to be completed by March 2007. The approval form draft will be released in September 2007.

Since the beginning of the project we've reported that we have been trying to remove any possible impediments that might have stood in the way of members contributing to the project, so, we utilized a number of different methods to collect stories for the text. These included interviews (some conducted by members in local NA communities, and some by NAWS staff), local workshops, email, and post submissions. We've given feedback to members who asked for it and facilitated local collaboration and teamwork. Without exception, everyone we talked with found participating in this project—by writing something, going to a workshop, or helping someone else write something—a wonderful experience. And many members actually felt transformed in some way.

### PR HANDBOOK WORKGROUP

The *PR Handbook* Workgroup met 8–10 December 2005. At that time the fellowship input regarding Chapters 5–9 was reviewed and factored in. The material was then readied for inclusion in the Conference Approval Track. On 23 January 2006, the CAT was released, containing Chapters 1–9.

Section 3 (chapters on Technology, Event Planning, Fellowship Development, and Government) was released to the fellowship for review and input on 15 December 2005. The last day for input on these chapters will be 15 March 2006. The workgroup will have its final meeting the weekend of 17 March 2006 to factor in the input received for Chapters 10–13. The approval form drafts will be available to conference participants by the beginning of April 2006.

## world convention update

**WCNA-32** 29 AUG–2 SEPT 2007 IN  
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, USA

**WCNA-33** 20–23 AUGUST 2009 IN  
BARCELONA, SPAIN

**WCNA-34** 1–5 SEPT 2011 IN SAN  
DIEGO, CALIFORNIA, USA

### WCNA-35

After serious consideration and an extensive conversation by the World Board regarding the five finalist cities—Minneapolis, Indianapolis, Toronto, Orlando, and Philadelphia—we are announcing at this time that we have chosen Philadelphia as the site for WCNA-35 to be held 29 August to 1 September 2013. While all sites were fully considered, and negotiations were conducted and thoroughly analyzed, the results quickly focused our conversation on Philadelphia and Orlando, since their bids were the strongest overall and were virtually identical from a financial and operational perspective. The determining factor for us had less to do with the cities and more to do with our membership and the fact that the driving corridor between Washington, DC, and New York is probably our

most densely populated membership area in the world. Philadelphia offers the largest number of our members a once-in-a-lifetime, affordable opportunity to drive to the convention site in one to three hours. Congratulations, Philadelphia!

## from the Human Resource Panel

Greetings once again from the HRP. We are very busy preparing for the final selection of candidates for your consideration at WSC 2006. That list will be published in the upcoming *March Conference Report*. We are currently in the interview phase of our nomination process, talking one-on-one with members from around the globe. This includes talking with the potential nominees as well as their references. It is a time-consuming process, but it helps to ensure the quality of nominees forwarded by the HRP. We encourage you to remember our diligence in this process and in creating the resulting list of candidates. As we stated in our last report, we are working hard to bring the very best group of HRP nominees to conference participants for their consideration. We are hopeful that you will share our confidence in the outcome of our work; in that way we will be more likely to fill the vacant World Board, Human Resource Panel, and Cofacilitator positions at the upcoming WSC.

As we prepare for WSC 2006, we are also looking forward to another workshop session with RDs and alternates. In considering your comments from WSC 2004, the HRP workshop session was successful; and though we might

change the focus a bit, we are confident that you will find this session as valuable as the last. We encourage you to forward any thoughts or ideas to us for this workshop. We are happy to consider them.

The HRP would like to thank you for reminding members to complete their World Pool Information Form so that they might be considered for any world-level service opportunities. Those forms are available at our website or by contacting NA World Services. Currently, there are 740 members in the World Pool. As always, we thank those members for their service in making themselves available to the fellowship in this way.

## NAWS staff updates

Wendy Kemptner, Production Assistant and an employee at NAWS for over five years, has moved to Kansas. Sara Jo Gladle, Team Assistant with Fellowship Services, has decided to devote her time to her family. Sara Jo was with NAWS for nine years.

We are all saddened that NAWS is losing two valuable employees, but we wish them well as they embark on their new lives.

## world services calendar and deadlines

15 March 2006	Deadline for Housing
23–29 April 2006	World Service Conference