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## INSPIRED BY OUR PRIMARY PURPOSE RAPIDLY APPROACHING WSC 2014

Our first board meeting of 2014 was held 8–11 January in Chatsworth, California. We started on Wednesday with discussions related to the *Conference Agenda Report*: the regional proposal process, the videos, input received from delegates, *CAR* workshops attended, and any other items relating to the *CAR*. Following those discussions, we began to focus on Conference Approval Track items: the strategic plan and project plans as well as the WSC seating memo.

Thursday started with a review of the proposed changes to *A Guide to World Service in NA (GWSNA*) and the cover memo. We moved on to discuss points raised in letters the board received from delegates.

Friday we covered our corporate responsibilities including a WCNA 35 fiscal update and progress with WCNA 36, which will be held in Brazil in June 2015. We also got updates about the development of a *Step Working Guides* mobile app. The final items for the Conference Approval Track material, the NAWS budget and cover memo, followed. At the end of the day, we broke into small groups to discuss ideas for sessions for WSC 2014.

The second WSC participant webinar was scheduled for Saturday morning of our meeting. Eighty delegates or alternates joined the webinar. This second webinar had greater international participation. After the webinar finished, we discussed what seemed to go well and areas that could be improved for subsequent webinars. The next webinar is scheduled for Saturday, 22 March 2014. Following the webinar discussion, we turned our attention to a discussion of board leadership for conference cycle 2014–2016, and that concluded our meeting.

## **FISCAL UPDATE**

In the proposed budget for 2014–2016, our projected expenses are conservative and our projected income could be described as flat. We are not projecting any tangible increase in literature sales other than that resulting from the recent price increase.

When reviewing the proposed budget, members will see there is a net loss in the second year of the budget and for the cycle, which means the flat projection of income doesn't yield enough money to cover costs we consider critical to the cycle ahead. In order to cover the projected loss, we need to use operating reserves. This is why we maintain reserves—to cover times when expenses exceed income. It's not something we plan to repeat, however. Relying on reserve funds is not a sustainable practice. We continue to hope for a future in which we are less reliant on literature sales, where member contributions are sufficient to cover expenses at all levels of service. Sustainability of NA is more than the expenses associated with the Conference or World Services; this affects our worldwide fellowship and service provision.



## **CONFERENCE AGENDA REPORT ITEMS**

As we mentioned in our recap of the board meeting, we spent some time hearing from the board members who attended *CAR* workshops and who shared attendees' comments, some of which are reflected below.

#### ADDENDUM A: AN INTRODUCTION TO NA MEETINGS

Many are aware that this was a service pamphlet, and a project plan was approved at WSC 2012 to put the pamphlet through the process to become a fellowship-approved IP. The pamphlet has been revised after a review-and-input period, and is now in approval form in the *CAR*. One conference participant raised a concern about the use of the phrase "our primary purpose," which is on page 47 of the *CAR*. The point was that the reference is potentially confusing; we have but one primary purpose, which is outlined in Tradition Five. We discussed the point and will be recommending to the conference that those two dashes and three words, "—our primary purpose—" be removed from the draft before publication. The sentence reads well without those three words.

A second delegate made us aware of a typo on page 48 of the *CAR* which currently reads, "We encourage you to read

literature including the Basic Text and the booklet In Time of Illness." The "s" in Times was inadvertently left out. We will correct this error before any publication of the IP.



#### **REGIONAL PROPOSAL PROCESS**

We know that the WSC 2014 regional proposal process was frustrating to some members, and we took time at our meeting to review the process and talk about what happened this cycle and where we should go from here. We recognize that the GWSNA description of proposals is inadequate, in part due to the experimental nature of the proposal process. When the idea to utilize proposals rather than motions was first discussed at WSC 2010, the intent, which was explained at the Conference, was to present ideas for discussion at the WSC. This seemed to work reasonably well at WSC 2012, which was the first conference where regional proposals were submitted by regions and included in the CAR. One example of the five proposals included in the 2012 CAR was the idea of a book composed of NA Way articles through the years. Another proposal was to create written service material about literature and publications projects and processes. These proposals were both broad ideas for discussion. They were conceptual in nature. WSC 2014 regional proposals were more directive and, for the most part, geared toward stopping actions rather than initiating new approaches or projects. The 2014 proposals, in this way, seemed more like motions intended to gather a yes or no response than proposals.

That left us uncertain how to proceed. The proposals submitted were more motions than proposals, but as motions, none would have met the criteria to be included in the *CAR* either because it was unclear what they were asking for or because they asked for actions that were not possible or that were beyond the scope of the conference. As the body responsible to implement decisions of the WSC between conferences, we decided the best thing to do was to try to summarize the ideas of the proposals for discussion and to include all of the proposals as submitted as an addendum to the *CAR*. We do not usually translate the *CAR* addenda, but this time we did because we wanted everyone interested to have access to the information.

We missed the mark in several places and apologize for that. We did not anticipate the confusion resulting from so little guidance in *GWSNA* and so did not communicate this ahead of the published deadline. We were not prepared for what we actually received as "proposals," and our communication with delegates about their material suffered as a result. Delegates have a right to expect clear, timely information from us, and we are committed to doing better in the future.

As we report in the *GWSNA* cover in the CAT material, we plan to have language drafted on the proposal and motion process before the World Service Conference.

As explained in the *CAR*, we are recommending that, moving forward, we return to regional motions for old business and continue to try using proposals for new business. New business tends to lend itself better to the discussion of new ideas, for which proposals are better suited. It may be that, after the conference has some time to practice using proposals in new business discussion, we return to some sort of better-defined proposal process for the CAR, but for now, returning to regional motions for the CAR seems to be the simplest approach.

## **CONFERENCE APPROVAL TRACK**



The CAT was published a couple of days early on 24 January 2014 and contains the NAWS Strategic Plan with four proposed project plans. The project plans presented for 2014–2016 are for the Service System, the Traditions Book Project, Fellowship Issue Discussion Topics, and Public Relations. Additionally, the CAT includes the NAWS budget as well as the WSC seating memo and a description of proposed changes to *GWSNA*.

## **WSC SEATING**

As we report in the WSC seating cover memo, we are recommending that the conference not seat any regions at this time. We are cognizant of the fact that this has been our recommendation for three cycles (six years). We honestly believed that we would have developed seating criteria long before this conference, but we've been unable to develop a recommendation that doesn't seem to have as many challenges as solutions.

At the last conference, delegates passed a resolution that "State/national/province boundaries are the primary criterion for seating consideration at the World Service Conference," and so after that conference we began discussing what seating criteria might look like, with this as a jumping-off place. But each conversation seemed to raise as many questions as it answered: Should all states be treated the same regardless of population or geographic size? What about border communities? At what point do we seat individual states or provinces in a large country with a large NA population—or do we? What other criteria do we need to put in place?

All of these questions, together with the narrow margin by which the resolution had passed 60-46-1-3 (yes-no-abstainpresent not voting), led us to realize that we need to back up and think more broadly about the purpose of the World Service Conference and how to have an informed conscience and planning body. Strategic planning has taught us that we need to begin with a shared vision and a set of objectives or goals. In the case of the Conference, however, *GWSNA* outlines so many different purposes for the WSC that it's difficult to see one clear path to a set of seating criteria.

At this point, the smartest approach seems to be to talk together at the conference to see if we can make any collective progress on a shared vision for seating. We are planning conference discussions on seating, the role of zones, and the future of state/nation/province bodies, all of which are related issues (at least tangentially). We (the Board and the Conference) have many different ideas about what the future of the conference might look like. Talking together may provide the synergy to light a path forward. At worst, we will all better understand each other's ideas and the complexity of the issues.

#### A Guide to World Services in NA



In addition to the changes mentioned previously about regional motions and proposals, there are several other items for possible revision to *GWSNA* in the 2014 CAT. These range from removing policies no longer in use to removing the mandate for when the HRP selects its own leadership. *GWSNA* is updated each conference cycle to reflect current deadlines and any relevant decisions made at the previous

conference. Those types of changes are purposely not reflected in the CAT draft.



# SERVICE SYSTEM

One of the projects being proposed next cycle is a continuation of the Service System Project. We mention in the CAT cover memo, but it's worth repeating here, that there has been some misunderstanding about this project plan. We have referred to this project plan as a "transition plan" because it outlines work world services can do to support communities in the process of or thinking about transitioning to a new system. For instance we plan to continue developing tools and resources for local implementation of service system elements such as planning, group support, mentorship, and consensus-based decision making. This is not a plan for local communities giving them instructions or guidance on how to move forward; it outlines the work NAWS could do to support those efforts over the next two years.



## **TRADITIONS BOOK PROJECT**

Please help spread the word about the Traditions Book Project mini-workshops and our "Tradition a month challenge." Materials for 90-minute workshops, mini-workshops, and input forms are all available at www.na.org/traditions. An updated project plan, including plans for a workgroup, is included with the strategic plan in the Conference Approval Track material. We are accepting nominations for workgroup members through 1 April 2014, and a link to the nomination form can be found on the project webpage.

#### **PUBLIC RELATIONS**

A project plan to hold professional roundtables is included in the 2014 CAT. We held one roundtable discussion this past cycle with addiction psychiatrists and heads of major medical schools and found it invaluable in helping to understand their perceptions of NA and further in-



forming them about our program. Even basic information like the fact that we are a worldwide program wasn't widely understood by all of the attendees. We would like to follow up with our past participants and expand the targeted populations for these types of interactive dialogues.

Another PR issue in the 2014 CAT that we have received questions about is in the 2014–2016 NAWS Strategic Plan. Approach D-1 reads, "Create a new PR pamphlet (similar to Information about NA) for professionals regarding medicalization of addiction treatment and the NA Third Tradition" Our use of the term medicalization of treatment means that now addiction is identified as a disease, and the way the medical community typically treats disease is through medication. This is an issue that many parts of the world have dealt with for a long time and one that has been becoming more of an issue in the US in recent years. This pamphlet is intended to provide information to professionals that NA is a community resource that may be useful for clients or patients who may be transitioning from medication to abstinence. The 2011 NAWS membership survey illustrates that 49% of the 17,492 respondents were influenced by a treatment or counseling agency to attend NA. We believe we need to maintain these cooperative relationships with addiction professionals and desire them to see NA as a valuable community resource. One of the most common perceptions about NA in the US that we hear from addiction professionals is that members taking medication are not welcome in NA, so they refer their clients to other places and programs. This action does not help addicts find their peers in recovery in NA. Addiction professionals need to know that NA is a program whose members choose complete abstinence but our aim is to welcome anyone seeking help to our meetings.

One of the most important things we can do to further our primary purpose is to let people know who, what and where we are. If we do this and keep our good reputation, we will surely grow.

#### Basic Text, Tradition Ten

We do not intend to state anything new about NA philosophy in this pamphlet, and it is not a piece intended for our own membership like Bulletin 29. Under current conference policy, "service tools, PR material, bulletins, and other material will continue to be developed and approved by the World Board." If we are able to develop this pamphlet this cycle, we certainly see no issue with sending this out to conference participants for a 90-day review-and-input as we would do for a service pamphlet, if this is what the conference desires.

The bulk of NAWS PR work is considered an essential service and is not covered by this project plan. NAWS usually participates in five or more professional conferences in a fiscal year. When NA is a consistent participant attendees see that NA is credible and reliable. Some may wonder why this is important. Through NAWS attendance, professionals are able to gain information about NA, ask guestions about NA, and hopefully see the value of NA for their clients. There are many alternative modalities for treating addiction-other twelve-step fellowships and alternatives like pharmaceuticals. It is important that professionals who refer addicts know that NA exists and what we have to offer. Nearly all of us arrived in NA because someone had heard that NA is for addicts who want to stop using drugs. PR efforts help to carry the message of recovery through professional interactions so addicts can find our meeting rooms.

In October of 2013 NAWS participated in the International Federation of Nongovernmental Organizations (IFNGO) conference in Macau, which is a Special Administrative Region of China. At this conference, representatives from the United Nations were in attendance. Fortunately for addicts, the UN is familiar with NA and prompted the attendees to discuss the effectiveness of NA for the citizens of China. This is a small but significant step toward addicts recover-

ing in China, and it is a first step in Macau. This does not happen by accident; NA has demonstrated cooperative relationships with IF-NGO and the UN; there is a familiarly with NA without which these sorts of conversations wouldn't happen. We are one step closer to being within reach of addicts who are trying to get clean in China and Macau today. In November of 2013 NAWS attended the International Society of Addiction Medicine (ISAM) conference in Malavsia. In attendance was the President of the World Federation of Therapeutic Communities who introduced NAWS to the chair of ISAM for 2014. The chair for the upcoming conference invited NA to attend, offered NA a workshop, and requested an NA meeting at the conference. NA is gaining credibility with addiction physicians and is demonstrating reliability through its consistent presence. Take a moment and consider how many addicts around the world may realize recovery because of these actions. Additionally at ISAM 2013, professors from the University of Malaysia requested presentations and offered NA meeting space at the university, which will offer more opportunities for recovery. There was a presentation about NA at this conference. The remaining dozens of workshops at the conference were focused on various forms of drug replacement therapies.

WCNA 35 in Philadelphia had two PR panel workshops. One of these was focused toward criminal justice and was well received, as indicated by the standing-room-only crowd. One of the panelists was from a prison in Pennsylvania (PA). Prior to WCNA there were minimal cooperative relationships with state of PA criminal justice. That one step at WCNA has led to the state of PA requesting a training workshop about NA for correction officers. Presently, the four regions in PA are working collaboratively to help this happen.

With public relations efforts, consistency is the key. Positive outcomes are realized over time; immediate gratification is not the norm. There may be more feelings of excitement and awe with China, yet the same general principle of consistent efforts applies in the US, Canada, and Europe. Through showing up year after year, attendees realize that NA is a credible and reliable community resource, and they are more likely to engage in conversation with NA when we are a continuing presence. NAWS evidenced this at the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (US). Many more treatment providers and judges stopped to learn more about NA and ask questions than was our experience at previous conferences, which helped us envision more addicts finding NA and recovering.



RECENTLY PUBLISHED PAMPHLETS IN BOTH TRADITIONAL AND SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

## **WEBINARS**

We are moving forward. Webinars offer the opportunity for exchanging information and discussing solutions for common issues. We recently held a Public Relations webinar, with a subsequent one planned for May 2014. The H&I webinar is scheduled for 20 February and will occur again in May or June. We are asking those who have not signed up yet to please join us. PR has a great number signed up (115), and H&I has somewhat fewer (81); we suspect that there are many more who may be interested but have yet to sign up. We would love for you to join us.

The Inmate Step Writing webinar was held 5 February. We believe that more Inmate Step Writing committees are being formed, and would like to invite you into the process. Please sign up via the **Handl@na.org** address and identify as wanting to join the Inmate Step Writing webinar.

Please send your name, contact information (email address), trusted servant position, and region, as well as ideas about what you would like to see discussed, to:

- Events@na.org for conventions,
- Handl@na.org for hospitals and institutions, and
- PR@na.org for public relations/public information.

We have not yet held a convention webinar, but we are still planning to hold one. We appreciate the patience and understanding of those who have already signed up.

#### **WSC PARTICIPANT WEBINAR**

We held our second WSC Participant webinar on Saturday, 11 January, and were gratified by the participation of 80 delegates or alternates and greatly increased international participation. We hope that we can achieve even greater participation in the future and have scheduled our third webinar for 22 March. Mark your calendars. We continue to look for ways to improve with this technology.

Our format was simple. We began with a short presentation and then the board responded to questions about the CAR. The webinar was divided into four sections (Motions 1-3, Motions 4-6, regional proposals, and CAT material), with each section including 15-20 minutes for guestions. We did not have time to respond to all questions, but we sent out the complete list after the webinar. Some questions were posed ahead of time, and submitters of these questions sometimes offered more than one question. There were times when only early submitters' questions were answered. We apologize if you participated and were unable to have your question answered. We are still working on the most effective ways for us to use this technology. We know that next time we need better ways to be able to mix up questions so that more people get a chance to ask at least one question. If you participated in both webinars, you may have noticed that the first webinar did not have questions visible and the second did. We're not sure making all of the questions visible during the webinar was an improvement. It seemed distracting, in fact. Since we send out all of the questions after the webinar, we are considering changing

back to an invisible question box for the next webinar if conference participants share our perception. Please let us know if you have other ideas for how we can improve the conference participant webinar. We truly hope that those who were unable to join us this time can participate with us when we hold the next WSC Participant webinar in March.

## WORLD CONVENTION UPDATE

#### WCNA 35, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA

As many of you may know, WCNA 35 had the largest number of paid registrations in the history of world conventions to date. They call Philadelphia "the city of brotherly love," and we certainly felt that spirit. Philadelphia embraced attendees, and attendees seemed to embrace Philadelphia. Some of you have been asking about the financial picture of the convention. One of the largest expenses and the one most out of our control and therefore difficult to budget or monitor came from convention center labor, which was at least 40% more than in San Diego.

Nonetheless, we were able to come in very close to our budgeted plan primarily because of the record number of on-site registrations. We had budgeted a profit of \$282,577 and were able to realize a profit of \$209,434. We are very

grateful that registrations were that high. A more complete report will be included in the *Annual Report* which will be released soon.



11–14 June 2015

**WCNA 36** 

#### Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Planning continues for Brazil, and hopefully members are making their plans to attend. We anticipate registration and hotels will be on sale before June 2014. We are offering payment plan options for this convention for the first time, and hopefully that will help members in their planning.

Most of the preliminary business arrangements will be done in Brazil, as this makes the most sense. The Brazil service office is totally onboard with helping in any manner for the convention. Yes, Brazilians are enthusiastically looking forward to convention preparation and the chance to welcome so many members to their country.

One thing to take note of, particularly if you are planning a vacation in Rio immediately before or after the convention, is that the site of the convention (an area called Barra) is 30 kilometers outside of central Rio. Be aware that downtown Rio is not a commutable distance from the convention locale. There are beautiful beaches adjacent to the majority of the hotels in Barra, just as there are in other portions of Rio. We will also be arranging for pre- and post-convention trips in Rio and around Brazil for those who want to explore more of this extraordinary country with other members.

Beautiful beaches abound and are waiting for you! Stay tuned for more information.

## **HUMAN RESOURCE PANEL**

Greetings again from the Human Resource Panel. It's been some time since we have had the opportunity to provide everyone with an update of our activities. As you may recall, we have only met twice this cycle, the last time in July 2013. This is our first chance to report since that meeting. In preparation for the nominations process to start, at our July 2013 meeting we reviewed every aspect of that process, the primary parts are a blind screening segment and an interview segment. We also took the time at the meeting to review the HRP Action Plan, and to practice our blind scoring and prepare for candidate interviews.

As we reported, for the first time, prior to initiating the blind screening segment we used two separate measures to identify those members who are most likely to be viable candidates for nomination. These measures focus on the member's recovery background and service history. In short, candidates were required to respond to three recovery questions and also show some history of local service leadership or world services exposure. The outcomes of the effort were as expected, we identified those members who do not have the necessary qualifications much earlier than previous cycles, and we had fewer potential candidates come forward from the World Pool. As an unintended outcome, it seems that even with five separate attempts to inform members of the need to update their World Pool Information Form (WPIF) by responding to the recovery questions, including direct emails, some were unaware and did not update their WPIF.

We also made some changes to our effort to gain a perspective from a member's local service committee. Our attempt last cycle had mixed results. This cycle we are asking the candidate to request their local service committee provide some specific information regarding that member's past service. Thanks in advance to those ASC or RSC trusted servants who may be asked to provide that information. We are hopeful that this new approach will yield a better outcome.

We are currently moving through our interview process. Again, we are trying something new and having a few challenges. We are conducting the candidate interviews so that most or all of the four HRP members can be present for all interviews. We have been using Skype for this and have had mixed success. Once we complete our process, we will assess this approach and consider alternatives for improvement. Again, thanks to those candidates and candidate references (referees) who have made time for these interviews. The information we collect is invaluable to our process.

As reported in the CAT material, we are asking for a change to the HRP external guidelines. For the past two cycles we have been experimenting with options for selecting a panel leader that better serve the panel, and make best use of the resources we have. This cycle we split the panel leader position into two one-year terms, allowing for both of the two returning panel members to serve in that position. We believe this is the best approach and intend to add these details to our internal guidelines, with your agreement to the requested change to the external guidelines.

Looking forward, we will be coming together for our last meeting in March to identify our nominees, and report that outcome in the upcoming *Conference Report*. And at WSC 2014, we will review our entire process with Conference Participants as a part of our HRP presentation. As always, we invite any thoughts or questions. Feel free to contact us at hrp@na.org, or contact Roberta at the World Service Office at 818-773-9999 ext. 121.

## **CALENDAR FOR 2014**

Travel requests (considered by quarter)

**15 January** for April–June

15 March for July–September

Regional report deadline:15 February 2014 extended to 1 March 2014

WSC rooming & travel deadline: 15 March 2014 Rooms must be reserved through the WSO. The room rate is \$135 per night, which is \$17 less than WSC 2012. With taxes, it is slightly over \$156 per night per room.

World Service Conference 2014 27 April–3 May 2014 WCNA 36 11–14 June 2015, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil



## Suomi Moldoveneasca English **A Vision for NA Service**

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

Our vision is that one day:

Every addict in the world has the chance to

experience our message in his or her own language and culture and find the opportunity for a new way of life;

Every member, inspired by the gift of recovery, 0 experiences spiritual growth and fulfillment through service;

NA service bodies worldwide work together in a spirit of unity and cooperation to support the groups in carrying our message of recovery;

Narcotics Anonymous has universal recognition and respect as a viable program of recovery.

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

Русский

ภาษาไทย

Slovenčina

Български

lslenska

Afrikaans

hrvatski

Polski

ahasa Melayu

Ελληυικά Bahasa Indonesia

Norsk

ית etuviš Deutsch rançai

Filipino

Swahili

Magyar

தமிழ்

Slovenščina

viešu