

nawsnews

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WHAT'S HAPPENING IN NA WORLD SERVICES THAT YOU MAY WANT TO KNOW...

We hope you will continue to forward this page by email, or copy it for interested members, your ASCs, and your RSCs. We continue to encourage people to obtain esubs to *The NA Way* and *NAWS News*.

This helps us to communicate more effectively and control distribution costs.

- ✚ WSC participants unanimously approved the Information Pamphlet #29, *An Introduction to NA Meetings*.
- ✚ Service System: The Service System “agreement in principle” motions were passed by a two-thirds majority. Eventually, these will be included in *A Guide to Local Services in Narcotics Anonymous (GTLS)* as an option for communities who desire to move to group support forums, a local service conference, and a local service board. The project plan also passed which paves the way for resource and tool development. Updates will be posted online as they are available: see www.na.org/servicesystem.
- ✚ Traditions Book: A project plan was approved, calling for development, review and input, and presentation of an approval draft in this cycle. Please join us at www.na.org/traditions for more information. The workshop material we have posted is short and simple to do and creates a great foundation for discussion and input.
- ✚ PR News: Updated versions of the *Membership Survey* and *Information about NA* pamphlets will be available soon; we aspire to release these in July 2014. These items are being updated to reflect the 2013 *Membership Survey* results. This cycle, we received 16,750 survey responses. Webinars are held every 3 – 4 months for PR, H&I, and Inmate Step Writing. Please write PR@na.org or Handl@na.org to sign up for these member-driven web meetings.
- ✚ We will be coordinating virtual workgroups and project-related webinars this cycle. If you are interested in the future of the WSC, Service System, or decision making at the WSC, please let us know at worldboard@na.org.
- ✚ We devoted five WSC sessions to “Planning Our Future” as a global body; these sessions had us moving in the same direction. We will be carrying this effort forward in this cycle and will engage delegates at zonal workshops.
- ✚ WCNA 36, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 11 – 14 June 2015: Make your plans to celebrate recovery with us. Subscribe to updates at www.na.org/wcna for more information.
- ✚ Financials: We mentioned in the NAWS Report session that long-term financial viability is a priority for us this cycle; we are focused toward NAWS sustainability. Additionally, we provided an overview of the F/PT issues with our Basic Text and asked for members’ help in curtailing the distribution of illicit literature. We all need to protect the copyrights of NA’s literature.

Go to **NAWS News** at www.na.org/nawsnews



THE TIES THAT BIND US TOGETHER

A NEW CONFERENCE CYCLE BEGINS

We experienced a productive, ambitious, and fulfilling World Service Conference 27 April – 3 May 2014 in Woodland Hills, California. Our diverse global fellowship came together at our biennial meeting with the theme "The Ties that Bind Us Together." This theme helped to inspire us as we all worked together in unity for our common welfare.

This NAWS News provides an overview of the conference week activities and decisions. This report does not reflect all the discussions that we had at the conference. The highlights reported here are merely synopses of some of the conference activities.

WSC 2014 was certainly a gathering of committed trusted servants, many with strong opinions and passion. We began the week, and particularly old business, seemingly divided on a number of issues. We believe, however, that by the end of WSC 2014 we had made major steps together to build consensus on many issues. We want to thank all conference participants for being a part of the solutions. Many of our discussions were not intended to be resolved or decided at WSC 2014. Our challenge, for both NA World Services and RD teams, will be to further some of these discussions during the upcoming conference cycle together. We are often not very good at this, and the WB will be discussing ways to assist us all at our July meeting. As always, we are also open to your ideas and have already asked for those who are willing to serve on virtual workgroups to let us know.

Our discussion-based decision making still needs work, and we are hoping in this conference cycle to have a virtual workgroup to help with ideas to move us forward for the WSC, as well as encouraging discussions and input about CDBM throughout the fellowship. For purposes of the WSC, the conference decided to return to the use of regional motions, not proposals, in the CAR while we explore ways to offer items for discussions worldwide. We will continue with proposals in the New Business session of the WSC.

Even though the work ahead is daunting, we are enthused that the Service System agreements in principle were supported by over two-thirds of the delegates. Amendments were offered, and accepted, to each of our motions regarding the Service System Project, to add these ideas to *A Guide to Local Services in Narcotics Anonymous* as an option along with our current service units. We believe these amendments showed that a significant majority of us are open to exploring new ideas and processes to improve our services, as long as they are an option and not proscribed or mandated. For those who choose to try a group support forum and/or local service conference, we have already drafted a number of tools to assist members in their process, and we plan to develop additional tools as well as hold a series of webinars this cycle. We will also be focusing on having fellowship-wide discussions on two of the important processes described in this project, decision making and planning. We believe these processes can be improved, and we can learn from each other in doing so, regardless of structure.

Two of our CAR motions were not adopted. These motions, #2 and #3, dealt with eliminating alternate's attending the WSC and the automatic funding of delegates by NAWS. We were not at all surprised by either of these results, and believe that some of the thought and discussions that went into considering them helped us all be better prepared for the five "Planning Our Future" sessions. It was clear from the discussions that many did not fully understand the possible ramifications of these motions, which may have created confusion and frustration in the future had they passed. The majority of regions, 64 out of the 108 regions voting on Motion 3, supported eliminating automatic funding by NAWS, but the motion was not supported by the required two-thirds. We believe we started a discussion that is critical—that we create solutions for the future and that we do it together.

What this vote made clear to us is that funding the WSC is to remain our priority, over workgroups and other WSC-related expenses. We still are committed to finding more effective ways to hear from delegates and the fellowship so we will be facilitating virtual workgroups as well as trying some more open types of webinars. This way of meeting is not ideal for complex discussions, but we believe we all left WSC 2014 with a commitment to try to make this work. We are hoping that the discussion boards continue to be used by delegates to share ideas, and we ask that delegates take the time to send us their feedback. Communication is a two-way street; we need and want members' thoughts and ideas in this upcoming conference cycle. We can be successful together!



We are enthusiastic about the 2014 – 2016 cycle, which asks us to remain open-minded, willing to change and plan effectively. As we all know from the conference, we had been stuck for over 20 years, and our willingness in those "Planning Our Future" sessions helped to begin to move us forward toward a shared vision of a future WSC. We know that our collective enthusiasm needs to continue in our zonal interactions and in our communication with each other, and, as always, we will continue to ask your help in keeping the level of enthusiasm high.

We are gratified the Traditions Book Project was supported; currently, we have a workgroup which will meet in June; we will also be using targeted webinars to gather input and will be holding workshops for input. IP #29, *An Introduction to NA Meetings*, was approved, and we are in the production process so our members can have access to this IP. Additionally, we have essential services, Issue Discussion Topics, and the 36th World Convention in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to bring into being. The conference also approved a Public Relations project; our hope remains that we will be able to have a Public Relations roundtable. Of course, we need human and financial resources to implement all of this work.

As usual, there is so much we need to talk about together, yet the way we communicate continues to be our biggest and most overwhelming challenge. Staying responsible with the trust you gave to us is always at the forefront of all we do. We continue to embrace our vision and remain guided by the theme from last cycle, "The Ties That Bind Us Together."

We ended the conference with our usual farewells to those who have served the WSC. We were also able to present the draft translation of the Spanish *Living Clean* to the Spanish-speaking delegates present. We produced this edition in-house with our new production capabilities. It was a great reminder of why we were all present.

UNITY AND OUR COMMON WELFARE

Before the World Service Conference officially begins, we bring together international and local NA members in a Unity Day filled with recovery and sharing. On Saturday, 26 April, after a World Board open forum, we enjoyed a Unity Day that included an open house and lunch at the World Service Office, an afternoon of recovery workshops, and an evening panel of regional delegates followed by a dance and world market. These types of activities help to strengthen the bonds among conference participants in ways that unify our efforts and that last far beyond the business of the WSC.

The West End Area hosted hospitality efforts, coordinating volunteers from the West End and San Fernando Valley Areas, as well as other Southern California Region members. They provided airport transportation, rides to local meetings, and invaluable "insider" information on the best shops, restaurants, and other local resources. For their tireless efforts throughout the conference week, we send out a hearty and sincere "Thank You!"

Continuing in the Unity Day spirit, our first session (aptly named "First Things First") marked the official opening of The 32nd World Service Conference on Sunday, 27 April, at 9:00 am sharp. First, we heard that we had 115 seated regions represented by 112 RDs and 83 ADs. Unfortunately, Le Nordet, France, and Nepal were not able to attend. Rather than introduce everyone, we asked regions seated in the 70s, 80s, 90s, and 2000s to share about their NA communities. The Georgia Region was seated in 1978, the Arizona Region in 1984, the Portugal Region in 1992, and the Chile Region in 2004. Our conference countdown followed, identifying conference newcomers and longtime conference veterans. As we circled up, our moment of silence was followed by the Serenity Prayer offered in each of the 21 languages spoken at the conference. There aren't many WSC experiences that can rival the emotionally charged energy of this closing.

With that, we progressed in our community-building session, "The Ties That Bind." This session allowed conference participants to become familiar with working in a small group setting and to share about the spiritual principles in Tradition One: surrender and acceptance, commitment, selflessness, love, and anonymity with each other. Then, individual conference participants took time to personally reflect (in writing) on "Why I Serve."

HOW WE DID BUSINESS AT WSC 2014

There was a session to explain the business session processes. General points made were acknowledging that there would be discussion prior to decision making both in old and new business, and that motions and proposals would be grouped by topic. These pre-business discussions allow for a more full discussion of each item before entering into formal business, and also to come to an agreement on procedures such as committing or dividing a motion outside of formal business. Straw polls gain a sense of the body on an issue, and in the case of proposals, determine which are supported by the body for further action. Straw polls are generally taken by voice vote, yet standing straw polls may be taken.

Decision making sessions are more formal and use WSC Rules of Order. The business sessions ideally formalize decisions that have been discussed previously. Ideas agreed on at WSC 2012 to help make business more effective (pg. 46 *A Guide to World Services in Narcotics Anonymous*) were reviewed.

To bring all delegates up to speed concerning how we arrived at our current business process, a short history of the decision making process at the WSC was provided. This process has been evolving for many years, and it can be traced back to 1993 with the World Services inventory and the resolutions being presented in 1996. Resolution A contained this phrase: "to encourage a consensus-based decision-making process." The 2000 WSC approved changes to the description of the conference and a two-year conference cycle was adopted. Beginning WSC 2002, the small group discussion process was used. CDBM language in GWSNA (pg. 8 – 10) was adopted by WSC 2008. During WSC 2010, a motion was

WSC 2014



THE TIES THAT BIND US TOGETHER

committed to the World Board to develop a plan to eliminate the use of motions at the WSC. As a result, proposals were used for the first time at WSC 2012, and the Moving Forward session of this 2014 conference indicated continuing support for the proposal process with a return to regional motions only for the CAR.

WSC 2014—WHERE WE ARE TODAY

The conference is in a transitional period with CBDM, and we want a way to make decisions without having to use parliamentary procedure. The process used at WSC 2014 was basically the same as at WSC 2012. The process was outlined in Motion 7, which was overwhelmingly supported by the body with an important amendment. The conference clarified that whether an idea was called a motion or a proposal, it was a binding decision of the WSC, and both required the same level of support. (For the exact text of the motions and proposals decided on at the WSC, see the Draft Summary of Decisions posted on the conference page: www.na.org/conference)

A GUIDE TO WORLD SERVICES IN NA

GWSNA changes every conference cycle and reflects the decisions made at the WSC. Crafting specific policy language on the floor of the WSC does not seem to help us in our efforts to move toward a more strategic, discussion-based conference and away from a WSC dominated by administrative detail. At the same time, having a clear record that reflects the decisions of the WSC is crucial. Because we do not have the time or resources to do everything we would like to this cycle, we spent our time identifying the portions of GWSNA that most immediately need to be changed for the 2014 – 2016 version. These decisions were made with the understanding that we will have a virtual workgroup to help move decision making at the WSC forward, and that we need to spend time and energy in the future for a major rewrite of the guide.

The following passed unanimously at WSC 2014.

For changes to GWSNA and the WSC Rules regarding decision making at the WSC, to identify the following as items that we are willing to make decisions about at WSC 2014 and those that will be brought back to WSC 2016.

For decision at WSC 2014:

1. Decisions at the WSC are binding, whether made by motion or proposal, and require the same majority for support as if they were a motion.
2. To clarify in GWSNA and the WSC Rules the terms used for straw polls and decisions and what majority they represent.

3. That only motions from seated regions or the World Board appear in the *Conference Agenda Report*, and those motions are what will be considered in the formal old business session.

4. Proposals will continue to be used for ideas to change any CAR motions in the old business discussion sessions. All ideas to change or modify old business should be considered in the discussion sessions.

5. New business will continue to use proposals for all ideas with the exception of the NAWS Budget and project plans.

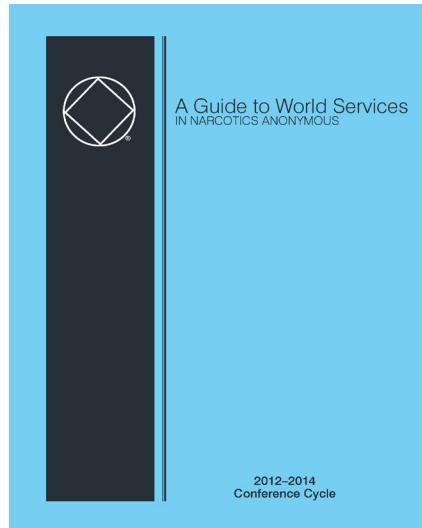
6. When the draft of GWSNA for the conference cycle is finalized, it will be sent to conference participants for a ninety-day review. We treat a lack of response as no objection.

Ideas to be developed for the future include:

1. A process and mechanism for forwarding, considering, and evolving ideas for discussions.
2. To continue to develop ideas about utilizing CBDM at the WSC. The World Board will be responsible for this, but will be asking delegates for ideas and input and may create a virtual workgroup that includes current or recent conference participants to assist in the upcoming cycle.

There were policies in GWSNA that are not currently in practice, and the conference strongly supported removing these from GWSNA. The policies included zonal reports at the WSC, distribution of audio recordings of the WSC, and terms no longer in use.

The draft of the 2014 – 2016 GWSNA will be sent to conference participants for review sometime following our July meeting.



PLANNING OUR FUTURE

As already stated, we held an unprecedented five sessions on our collective future as a world body at WSC 2014. The initial session provided participants with historical highlights and a glimpse at the Board's strategic planning process. Sessions two, three, and four were held in break-out rooms in a small group setting. Two of the break-out rooms were comprised of RDs, two of ADs, and one of Spanish-speaking RDs and ADs. The WB members were distributed among the groups, and we also facilitated the discussions along with NAWS staff. The fifth session was held as a large group in a small group table setting.

The WSC has become so large that it is difficult to move complex discussions along. By breaking into five coordinated groups, all talking about the same issues, we seemed to make progress that has not previously appeared possible. This was the first time we tried to develop consensus as a conference on a broad topic beginning from a blank slate, and we were frankly surprised at how productive the series of sessions were.

These sessions were planned as a response to what delegates most wanted to talk about at this conference. Prioritized topics included service system, future of the conference, and seating, which led us collectively to the topic of planning our future together.

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

Historical perspective varies greatly from member to member. Some at WSC 2014 were involved with efforts to improve service delivery in the 1980s, while others were not even clean yet. In our history, we had three serious and focused attempts to improve our services:

- The Ad-Hoc NA Service project of the late 1980s and early 1990s
- The Inventory, Composite Group (CG), Resolution, and Transition Groups (RG & TG) in the mid- to late-1990s
- The Service System Project of this decade

We did not spend our limited time together at the conference focused on the past. To provide background for this session, we had previously posted the RG and TG reports to na.org.

Those early discussions have continued through the years with little to no resolution. As we said in the 2014 Conference Report: "As a fellowship, we have wrestled with how to improve our system for decades. We have a pattern of devoting significant resources to the issues, coming to the conclusion that we need to change, developing options, and then balking when we come to the decision point. The issues do not go away, we just keep 'kicking the can' to the next group and going through the process again."

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Many delegates expressed a desire to be involved with strategic planning, and the "Planning Our Future" sessions were designed to help to accomplish that. We were hope-

ful that, with engagement of the participants, we would be able to shape a vision of where we are today and what we want our future as a worldwide body to look like. The aim of these sessions was to develop a shared vision or a set of options, not a decision.

NA TODAY

According to meeting information in regional reports, NA today meets 63,000 times per week in 77 languages, which is certainly a long way from 1982 when the Basic Text was first approved and there were less than 3,000 NA meetings. Even though we have had tremendous growth in 30 years, our efforts are not complete. We need to ask ourselves, "How can we better carry the message of recovery to the addict who still suffers where does NA not exist, and what populations of addicts are not represented in NA today?" Answering those questions is a starting point. Then we need to consider our Public Relations efforts. The NAWS Membership Survey tells us that 52% of members find NA through treatment. Yet, there is a large group of professionals who do not want to suggest NA to their addict clients for various reasons. This seems to indicate that we need to improve our cooperative efforts and our communication with professionals. Providing active Public Relations service is a vital component of growing our fellowship, of Fellowship Development.

A recap of today's challenges as indicated in regional reports was provided. Noted challenges include finances along with trusted servant participation (or lack thereof). The common list of challenges continues with communication, geographic difficulties, fellowship development and growth, and conflict/dissent within the region. However, in spite of the challenges identified in the regional reports, there was a message of hope and a willingness to serve—to do one's best to fulfill the primary purpose of carrying the message to the still suffering addict, which remains one of the strongest ties that binds us together.

The participants had a short Q&A period and were given the task for the next session—identifying the needs of NA today and for the next five years.

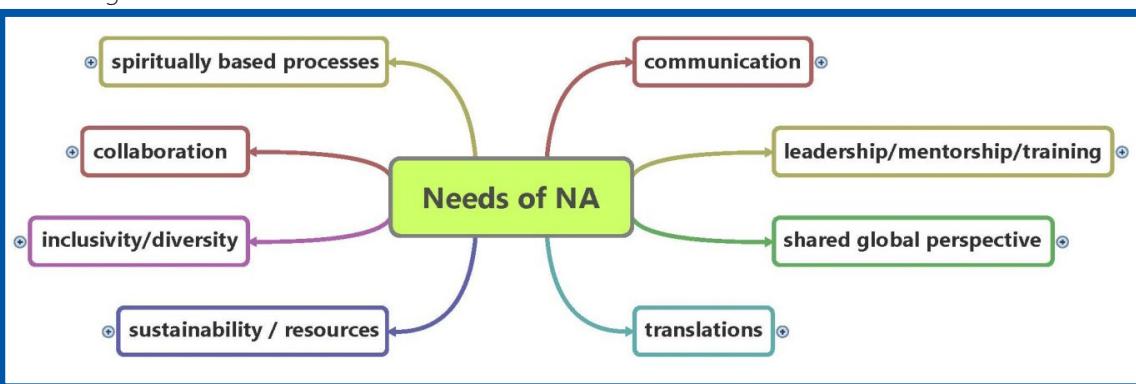


PLANNING OUR FUTURE SESSION 2: NEEDS OF NA TODAY

With creative juices flowing, participants were asked to recall what was learned from our history and from the snapshot of NA Today. Taking that information and keeping the NA Vision in mind, small groups were asked to answer, "What does our fellowship need to help achieve our vision's goals?" An example was provided: access to the NA message through translations. Once the small groups identified the needs of NA, they were asked to identify what is most important. Each table reported their top three priorities, and like-minded priorities being grouped together at the front of the room. Then, on their way out of the session, participants marked what they believed to be the three most important things on the combined list in the room.

The same process was followed in all break-out groups, and the Post-It sheets from each small table were displayed in a gallery so all participants could see their work and the work of others. The top priorities for the needs of NA from each of the break-out rooms were synthesized and captured in a mind map which was presented and distributed to the full body. As you can see in the mind map, one of World Services' biggest challenges, communication, was also prioritized by the conference as a need of NA as a whole.

The most encouraging part of this session, as well as the subsequent sessions, was how similarly we seem to see the needs and challenges facing NA. And nothing that was identified seems insurmountable. To make progress, we simply have to have shared goals where we each do our part in creating the solutions. These broadly based Needs of NA formed the basis of the "Planning Our Future 3" session.



**For a more detailed version of the two mind maps included here, see the Draft Summary of Decisions posted on the conference page: www.na.orgconference.

PLANNING OUR FUTURE SESSION 3: REASONS WE COME TOGETHER

Participants met once again in break-out rooms with small groups; the overall goal of this session was to discuss the purpose of a worldwide service body that would best serve the needs of NA. Each small group table had a copy of the mind map of Needs of NA which was reviewed. To begin the process, small groups were asked to vision. All were asked to close their eyes, take a deep breath, and pretend the conference as we know it doesn't exist. Then, participants were asked to consider: "If the conference doesn't exist, what are the reason(s) we need to come together as a worldwide body to satisfy NA's needs and bring us closer to our vision?" An example, such as "the exchange of ideas and experience to respond to global needs," was offered to ensure participants understood their small group work.

The small groups identified the roles/reasons for a worldwide body and again prioritized their top three most important reasons. The reasons from all small groups were captured with like responses being grouped together, and again participants marked the reasons they considered most important.

Again, all small group post-it sheets from the break-out rooms were posted so conference participants could view them. The top prioritized reasons from each break-out group were posted and like reasons were grouped together as before.

As you can see from the mind map on the conference page, the reasons we come together were further broken out and formed the basis for the "Planning Our Future 4" session.



PLANNING OUR FUTURE SESSION 4:

OPTIONS FOR THE FUTURE

In this the third and final break-out session, small groups were asked to develop two options for a worldwide body. The reasons we come together formed the foundation for these options. Participants were asked to consider, "Who needs to be at the worldwide body?" and "How often does this body need to meet?" The same process was used with prioritizing options and then combining common points to have a full group list of options.

There was strong support in each of the five break-out rooms for some sort of zonal representation and the scheduling of a worldwide body meeting every 2-3 years. Within the general agreement there was variation about zonal composition, election of board members from a zone, functions of a zonal body, and using virtual technology in between worldwide body meetings.

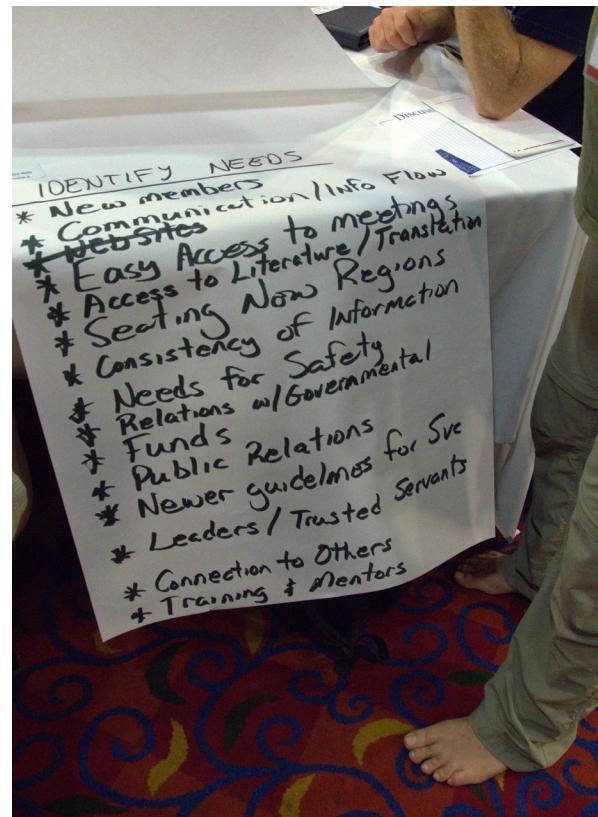
PLANNING OUR FUTURE SESSION 5:

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

For the final "Planning Our Future" session, we once again met as a full group, with all conference participants in one room. World Board members who facilitated each of the five break-out groups provided an overview of their groups' options for the future. Once the five break-out groups' reports were heard, conference participants answered the question "where do we go from here?" in small groups.

Small groups talked about principles of courage and open-mindedness, the need for a strategic plan, the formation of a workgroup to carry these ideas forward, the use of technology, communication in regions through workshops about the process, and the need to involve groups to garner trust and support in the moving forward process. Some groups discussed composition of workgroups and some discussed zonal makeup and the need to be sure that all zones are functioning relatively the same. No decisions were made.

This will be a major focus and challenge for us in the upcoming cycle. We are working on one of the requested tools—a zonal map—and will be sending it out soon for review and comment. We do not see our challenge as the need to make a decision now, but to keep this discussion alive and vital in the upcoming two years. It will take all of us!



SERVICE SYSTEM

There were three motions related to the Service System in the *Conference Agenda Report*, and a project plan in the Conference Approval Track. It's worth noting that everything associated with the Service System passed by at least two-thirds. We are moving forward!

As a frame of reference, we are recapping the motions in the *CAR* with the change that came through the conference discussion and decision in all three: "to be included in the *GTLS* as an option along with our current service units."

Motion #4: To agree in principle to move in the direction of a service system that contains group support forums: discussion-oriented gatherings focused on the needs of the group, as described by the characteristics below (see *CAR* for details) to be included in the *GTLS* as an option along with our current service units.

Motion #5: To agree in principle to move in the direction of a service system that contains local service conferences: strategic service-oriented planning conferences as described by the characteristics below (see *CAR* for details) to be included in the *GTLS* as an option along with our current service units.

Motion #6: To agree in principle to move in the direction of a service system that contains local service boards: a body overseen by the local service conference that administers the work prioritized by the LSC, as described by characteristics below (see *CAR* for details) to be included in the *GTLS* as an option along with our current service units.

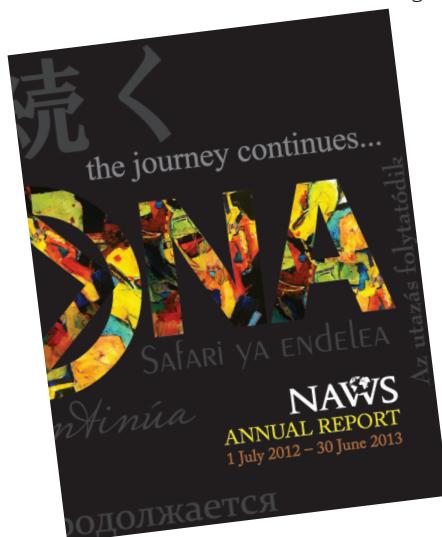
We are gratified that the fellowship sees merit in these components of the service system, and we look forward to hearing from members as they try these options. As members begin to utilize these options, please write worldboard@na.org.

To help members in their efforts, the project plan which was passed lists a number of tasks in the cycle ahead. We plan to continue developing tools and resources for local implementation of the service system ideas, planning, mentorship, group support, consensus based decision making, and project based services, etc. As we mentioned above, we will continue to collect input about how local communities are adapting the ideas that have come from the Service System Project to best meet their particular needs. Collecting those experiences and those best practices will allow us to draft some general ideas to help communities with a transition to a new system.

As with anything new, we may not feel we know how to start; putting together some basics about how to phase in a transition will help communities not to feel overwhelmed as they consider a transition from an area service committee to a local service conference and board, along with group support forums. We realize there will be variations based on local communities' service needs. We embrace the adaptability variations, and again, want to hear from you.

The overall responsibility for this project will reside with the World Board. We will be discussing how to involve delegates and local communities at our July meeting. We know that we need focused groups of trusted servants to review tools and materials, or we may involve those who have experience from field testing to help communities who are trying to implement these new ideas. Additionally, we plan on using webinars with the initial rollout phase to reach a broader audience with minimal expense. Later in the cycle, we hope for more face-to-face interaction.

This feels like an exciting phase of the Service System Project. We are practically applying the Service System principles to achieve service delivery through planning, collaboration, and group support. It's another step toward answering the question: "How can we best achieve our vision and reach the still suffering addict?"



NAWS REPORT

In this conference session, Anthony Edmondson, our executive director, informed conference participants about eLit sales, mobile apps, *Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust* issues, and literature distribution coupled with the financial sustainability of NA World Services.

ELIT AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

Initially some thought that distributing literature electronically would have a significant positive financial impact as a major revenue source. However, that is not our current reality. It appears that many members continue to prefer paper books. Thus, e-lit has not had and is not expected to have a dramatic effect on sales in our immediate future.

The meeting locator app continues to grow in popularity. We ask every region to make sure their meeting lists are up-to-date. The increasing rate that this app is downloaded provides us all with an even greater motivation to strive for accurate meetings lists. This is especially true as our members begin to travel this upcoming summer. Many members visiting places want to be able to attend a meeting in their vacation spot, and their ability to hear the message is dependent on accurate meeting information.

NAWS facilitates several webinars—PR, H&L, Inmate Step Writing, and Regional Service Offices. Members who participate in these webinars share best practices and identify challenges and subsequent solutions. This technology has also been used with the Service System Project with tool development and field testing, and the Traditions Project gathering of input. We plan to increase our use of webinars to assist with projects this cycle.

We are updating our accounting system, which includes an update to the shopping cart. We are aware that the shopping cart experience has been frustrating for many members. Our aim with the upgrade is to make the shopping cart more user-friendly. We expect the upgrade will take four to five months to complete.



FELLOWSHIP INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY TRUST

In 1991, NA had a member who was printing and distributing his own version of the Basic Text. As many of us remember, this was a very painful time in our history, and the illicit printing did end up in a court case. Apparently, we didn't learn from the divisive painful action of some of our members in 1991. Once again, it seems there are a group of members that have decided for a variety of reasons to distribute a self-published version of the Basic Text in some communities, and this is creating a growing level of conflict in some of these communities. The World Service Office has a responsibility to protect the fellowship's intellectual property. We always try to do so without resorting to legal action. In our experience, courts don't resolve these kinds of challenges. What resolves this problem is the will of the fellowship; until the fellowship decides this behavior is unacceptable, it will continue. NAWS stated that we would not pursue legal action against NA members without giving conference participants notice at WSC 2014 about this type of illicit distribution. We will continue to keep participants apprised in this cycle.

The illicit distribution is not only about the version of the books sometimes referred to as "baby blues," but also includes the distribution of Basic Text pdfs or other versions of the text for free. We have telephoned or sent letters to some of the members involved, pointing out the fellowship's clear decision in 1991 and again in 1993, with the adoption of the *FIPT*, and requesting that they discontinue the practice of distribution. In some cases members have cooperated, and in others they have refused. In the coming months, we will report our next steps with trying to resolve these issues.

REGIONAL SERVICE OFFICES

RSOs were initially created to make literature locally available for distribution, and in some cases to provide services to groups and areas. Some RSOs served as meeting locations for subcommittees. As they ordered and paid for literature, greater amounts of credit were extended. Years ago, at the request of the RSOs themselves, changes in sales policy allowed RSOs to operate with fewer restrictions, and some have been very successful. Although we have tried to help some RSOs resolve their challenges, several have closed owing NAWS money for literature. NAWS auditors routinely suggest that we write those invoices off as bad debt. Despite those recommendations, we believe it is always important to have the expectation of repayment for the incurred debt. This seems consistent with our Seventh Tradition. There was one community who appeared as a bad debt for fifteen years and took this responsibility so seriously that they made payments for five years to clear their debt.

We remind regions who are involved with a service office to be ever mindful of the finances of the office. NAWS' communications processes with RSOs who have challenges now include the RDs and other regional trusted servants in the communication loop, because when there is a financial challenge that affects the ability to meet the RSO's obligations to NAWS, it needs to be addressed.

LITERATURE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

We have been using the same system for the distribution of literature for many, many years. As the world of literature needs has changed, we have adapted to meet those needs, but we need to take a more comprehensive look at the entire system. We will be undertaking an evaluation of the current system of literature distribution in this cycle, and framing recommendations to the fellowship about the future of our system.



WCNA NEWCOMER POLICY

The World Board will be reevaluating this policy, which is currently limited to newcomers with 30 days or less. We are examining how the policy is currently applied, and, as a result of our recent experience, will determine if it still is effective in its present form. The newcomer policy was clearly abused at the last World Convention, resulting in some deserving newcomers being denied the opportunity to experience the World Convention.

SUSTAINABILITY OF NAWS

NAWS is actually a hybrid corporation consisting of a publishing company and a service organization. We have a spiritual mission to ensure that we are moving towards the adopted vision of our fellowship. In pursuit of our vision and in order to achieve our mission, we need to focus on the financial sustainability of NAWS and continue planning for how to fulfill our philosophical purpose five years from now and on into the future. We need to ensure that NAWS stays healthy so that our future members will be able to experience freedom from active addiction just as we have been able to.

A price increase went into effect 1 January 2014 with all literature receiving a 10% price increase except the Basic Text, which was increased only 5%. Year-to-date gross literature sales are approximately \$678K over budget as of March 2014, and this has helped us to remain stable. Yet this is a short-term financial outlook, in essence what will help us today in our day-to-day operations.

To be effective stewards of the fellowship's primary service center, it is our responsibility as a board, as well as our collective responsibility as a conference, to have a long-term financial strategy. With declining trends for book distribution we have to look at not only our present but our future.

Many of the questions we received during this conference session were about RDs trying to understand how our funds are spent. The numbers are so far removed from most regional experience that it can be confusing. It is often more helpful to look at trends rather than a specific amount in one financial report.

PROJECTS FOR 2014 – 2016

All of the projects proposed at WSC 2014 were supported by the conference. At each conference, we offer project plans with a defined scope, some of which are ongoing every cycle, such as the Fellowship Issue Discussions. The Service System Project Plan describes some ways we plan to support communities thinking about making a transition to a new system in line with the motions passed at WSC 2014. The Traditions Book Project is being implemented thanks to the support of the conference.

We have not yet had the opportunity to meet and discuss how WSC 2014 impacts what we originally proposed last January. We will be sending out more details following our July meeting.

FELLOWSHIP ISSUE DISCUSSIONS

This ongoing project will be carried out by producing and updating session profiles to help discuss topics of interest to our members and service bodies. The next steps for discussing our Third Tradition seem best focused on welcoming all members to NA. Focusing on the newly approved IP #29, *Introduction to NA Meetings*, seems an ideal way to focus this discussion. We want to continue to encourage members and groups to participate in helping to create our next book by using the tradition workshop profiles and sending us your ideas.

For more service related topics, we have much to choose from. Planning, decision making, and service system are all possibilities. We will send out more information following our first meeting of the cycle.

SERVICE SYSTEM

In moving forward with the Service System, this project plan describes some ideas on how to support communities who choose to form group support forums, local service conferences, and local service boards. We plan to develop tools and resources for local use on topics such as planning, mentorship, group support, etc. Additionally, we will collect input from the communities implementing aspects of the service system and offer assistance to those communities who want more information or need support. We hope to leverage the experience of members who are already maintaining GSFs, LSCs, and LSBs by connecting them with other members and communities, perhaps through webinars.

TRADITIONS BOOK

The project plan that will make the Traditions Book come to life passed at the WSC. In this cycle we will draft the book, send it out for review and input, and publish an approval piece of literature. We have been gathering input for the project since 2012, and we will continue to do so. This input will be used as source material. We are very pleased with the steady stream of input we have been receiving for the Tradition-a-month challenge. The first review and input release is expected to be October 2014. Mark your calendars to participate.

We had over 45 names submitted for potential members of this project workgroup and want to thank you for the response. The workgroup for this project will actually meet before our first WB meeting, with Bob G serving as the point person and Chris Corning (chris@na.org) as the project coordinator, and includes:

Bob G—WB and Florida	Mary B—WB and Texas
Arash G—Iran/California	Cristiano D—Brazil
Elwood K—New York	Etta F—Virginia
Helge B—Germany	Khalil J—Georgia
Pamela T—California	Sian J—UK
Terry B—Pennsylvania	

The workgroup will do much to move the project forward, but it takes our entire Fellowship to create the best NA literature possible. We are exploring possibilities for various webinars to help set the direction of the drafting and revision. We encourage everyone to participate by joining the discussion on the discussion board (<http://disc.na.org/trads>), workshopping the materials from the project webpage (www.na.org/traditions), and holding review and input workshops once the R&I materials are released. We're very excited to see this project move forward—stay tuned and stay involved!



PUBLIC RELATIONS

Much of what we call Public Relations is already captured under essential services in the NAWS budget. We aim to encourage more communities to collaborate with each other and NAWS in this cycle via PR learning days and various PR efforts. Depending on time and resources, we anticipate bringing professionals in related fields together to better engage them in discussions about Narcotics Anonymous. Additionally, we hope to create a PR pamphlet for professionals that address the medicalization of addiction treatment and NA's Third Tradition.

These projects represent a great deal of work, and there are still ongoing responsibilities for reporting and gathering feedback from the fellowship, the virtual workgroups resulting from WSC 2014 discussions, fellowship development, and travel, along with the other ongoing NAWS work. Our ability to achieve these tasks, as we frequently report, is contingent on the available staff and financial resources.

Our members are invaluable in helping us complete conference-related projects. If you are interested in participating or you know someone who may have a desire to help, please let us know. We are also interested in hearing from delegates why you think someone might be a good candidate for a project. You can always send this information to us. We also plan to assign new members to the ongoing editorial workgroup for *Reaching Out*, and *The NA Way Magazine* workgroup.

ADDITIONAL WSC BUSINESS

Even though the board recommended not seating any regions, several seated regions at WSC 2014 made proposals in New Business to seat regions. Six regions were presented and considered for seating by the conference. One new region was seated; the newly seated region is the Dominican Republic.

This is still a very emotional subject for the WSC and one that is far from resolved. We expect more discussions about this along with our discussions about the future of the WSC.

There are eleven proposals that were submitted to the World Board as input. (For the full text of these proposals see the Draft Summary of Decisions posted on the conference page www.na.org/conference.) These proposals pertained to the topics of CBDM, PR Project Plan items, CAR and CAT matters, GWSNA, and clearly defined form for WSC procedures. During the conference cycle, as each of the mentioned items are discussed by the World Board, the input from the conference will be considered.

One proposal that gained conference support in new business was the formation of a workgroup that will suggest a format for a sharing session at WSC 2016 for RDs to talk to each other in order to foster unity. The proposal requested a WB member as a liaison, and the work and interaction will be accomplished by virtual means.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

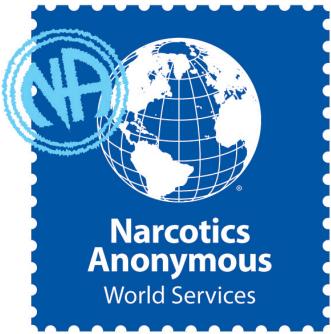
As the Basic Text explains in Tradition Ten, "One of the most important things we can do to further our primary purpose is to let people know who, what, and where we are." The WSC 2014 PR session highlighted ways we accomplished that goal during the 2012 – 2014 conference cycle, and

emphasized that PR service doesn't always provide the same kind of immediate results as in other areas of service. It takes hard work, persistence, and patience to effect gradual changes in the way NA is perceived and known.

This session included reports and materials from NA communities around the world, including public service announcement (PSA) videos from Montreal, Portugal, Israel, and Uruguay. PR efforts were highlighted in Bangladesh, Brazil, Germany, Ecuador, Panama, Arizona, and in Mexico where 60,000 meeting schedules were distributed at a music festival attended by 220,000 people. NA in Hungary was given a certificate of recognition and appreciation for work with addiction from the ministry of social affairs. In Iran, NA earned recognition as an NGO through successful cooperative work with the government over a 32-month period.

In an effort to support local NA communities and extend our ability to inform the public, professionals, and governments about NA, NAWS coordinates with NA regions and areas to provide resources and collaboratively participate in PR events. This is a practical and cost-effective way to broaden our reach. During the past cycle, we also saw an increase in NA communities sharing services and working collaboratively. For example, there is a statewide effort in Pennsylvania which will result in all correctional officers being informed about NA at a training event in June. This came about as a result of work that took place in conjunction with WCNA. The Plains States Zonal Forum hosted an event in Omaha, Nebraska, that brought together professionals from Nebraska and Iowa, which helped get literature racks into rural probation offices. The Florida and South Florida regions worked together because many events take place in Orlando, even though many of the professionals in attendance also come from all towns in Florida.

NAWS participated in several professional events during the past two-year cycle, including the National Association of Drug Court Professionals Conference, where NA is much appreciated. Many attendees commented that they would rather send members to NA than other twelve-step organizations. There is also a veteran's court track being developed, with 1,500 professionals providing support to veteran drug offenders.



In Macau, Republic of China, we attended the International Federation of NGOs. The organizer wasn't very enthusiastic about NA, but there were two delegates from the United Nations in attendance, one from Southeast Asia and one from Vienna, Austria. Both were familiar with NA from other events. They introduced the organizer to us and they talked with him about worldwide efforts for more humane treatment of addicts, and about how successful NA can be. As a result of this interaction, NA has been added to treatment aftercare programs in Macau, in cooperation with NA groups in Hong Kong.

There was also an opportunity to attend the World Federation of Therapeutic Communities in Bali, Indonesia, 2012. We met with the president of Indonesia and the director of rehabilitation to help clear up misconceptions, such as clarifying that NA is a free resource. NA is now in 108 therapeutic communities throughout Indonesia, with NA Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions posters up in the aftercare programs.

The doctors at the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) are always very pleased to have us at their conferences. A couple of hundred ASAM doctors have formed a subgroup they call "like-minded doctors" who seek to inform other doctors that pharmaceutical solutions don't offer the same effectiveness as a twelve-step recovery program like NA for long-term recovery.

At a treatment and criminal justice panel at WCNA, it was clear that NA is a very effective solution for incarcerated addicts. The professionals on the panels at WCNA gave freely of their time to join us because they believe in what NA is, a recovery program located in the community.

In other PR efforts, we have been doing PR, H&I, and step-working behind the walls webinars regularly to help members share their challenges, successes, and solutions. An H&I webinar will be held on 26 June and the next PR web meeting will be held in early September. Interested members can email PR@na.org or Handl@na.org for information.

We're also pleased to announce that we have more than 12,000 *Reaching Out* esubs and the newsletter has been downloaded some 25,000 times. This resource helps members who are or have been incarcerated and demonstrates to professionals who work with this population that these addicts can recover.

NAWS MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

The 2013 membership survey was distributed at the World Convention and was made available online. We had 16,750 members complete the survey. It will be even more important for our members to participate online when the convention takes place in Brazil next year, as that is likely to have fewer members present. We hope regional delegates will share this information and encourage members to participate online when the time comes.

Among other survey information, the demographic profile of our membership, as demonstrated by the latest survey, indicates declining numbers of female members and an increasing average age of NA members. Our average clean time continues to rise; this survey indicated 11.07 years.

Our survey showed that 52% of members heard of NA from a treatment professional; we need to continue to build co-operative relationships so addicts who are seeking recovery know we are a viable option for them. It's important that we continue to let professionals know who we are and how we function, including the fact that we are an abstinence-based approach to recovery. In the survey, members identified their drug of choice as opiates, which seems to mirror the drug trend in the US. These addicts may arrive to NA on medication that has been prescribed to treat their addiction, but we still and always welcome those who are not yet clean so that they, too, can hear our message and have a chance to experience a new way of life through NA.

Български
한국어
Bahasa Melayu
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Íslenska
中文
عربی
日本語^{日本語}
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Afrikaans
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Svenska
فارسی^{فارسی}
Português (Brasil)
Slovenčina
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Español / Italiano
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ગુજરાતી
ภาษาไทย
Swahili

A Vision for NA Service

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, 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.

Reaching Out



Português (Brasil) Norsk Русский Magyar Filipino
Slovenčina Ελληνικά إسپانیول Italiano
ਪੰਜਾਬੀ Bahasa Indonesia
ମନ୍ଦ୍ରିଳ
Español / Italiano
Magyar
اردو^{اردو}
Filipino
ગુજરાતી
ภาษาไทย
Swahili

FELLOWSHIP DEVELOPMENT

NA now speaks 77 languages in more than 63,000 weekly meetings in 132 countries all around the globe, and yet we have a long way to go to fulfill our vision. We continue to provide free and subsidized literature in our 45 published languages, and we now print materials in more countries so that, instead of being blocked by customs and duties, NA literature makes it into the hands of members where they live.

This session highlighted fellowship development of the past conference cycle in our efforts around the globe, including:

NORTH AMERICA:

Service System Project workshops helped us interact with members on a local level rather than just on a regional level. We appreciated local communities' willingness to help connect the SSP with their members and try new ideas in their service delivery.

Interaction with the Canadian Assembly of NA reinforced the effectiveness of PR efforts in Canada.

WCNA 35 was host to the largest NA meeting ever held: For the Unity Day meeting on Sunday morning, we had 18,000 in the room and nearly 10,000 through telephonic hookup. It took the work of many non-NA member friends to accomplish this. Because we had such positive press for the San Diego Unity Day call, many professionals were inspired to join the call in 2013.

LATIN AMERICA:

Brazil has experienced incredible growth, which inspired them to have national zonal forums, and their growing membership and service efforts are impressive.

MIDDLE EAST:

Communities here continue to work together to develop literature in their language and grow NA. NAWS committed to bring together those communities every two years in an effort to help them connect without starting a zone. Of the communities in the Middle East, several participate in the Asia Pacific Forum and two are part of the European Delegates Meeting.

Iran continues to be a strong, vibrant, and growing NA community. A presentation video from Iran was shown. NA Iran does PR and workshops more consistently and with more commitment than any other place in the world.

Mahmoud C from Iran provided a video and update on FD efforts in Afghanistan, which are being provided by the APF and NAWS. He reported that in 2011, five members who got clean in NA Iran traveled to Afghanistan to hold the first NA meeting there and to provide workshops to support NA's growth. By 2014, NA membership in Afghanistan has grown to some 1,000 members in meetings held in four cities.

The needs of women seeking recovery in the Middle East continue to be heartbreaking; yet progress is being made slowly but surely.



ASIA PACIFIC:

One of the most important developments in this part of the world is NAWS' establishment of a literature distribution site in Bangalore, India, which significantly increases the ease and availability of literature in the zone.

NAWS continues to support developing communities in their efforts to participate in the APF.

Translations in Bangladesh and Pakistan are supported by NAWS by sending them translation materials.

EASTERN EUROPE AND RUSSIA:

Translations and human resources in Eastern Europe are dedicated to help the area grow.

There are five regions now across the eleven time zones of Russia, with more than 1,300 meetings a week. These five regions are: Western Russia, North-West Russia, Ural and Western Siberia, Siberia, and Far East.

In 2013 NAWS traveled to the Siberia and Far East Regions. The distance between these regions requires a ten-hour train ride. Siberia assisted FD efforts with the Far East Region and helped members with project planning for PR and FD.

PR is a challenge in Russia, as being an addict is still viewed as criminal. PR efforts during the past cycle have included an event with governmental officials and bus posters in Vladivostok (granted by Director of Transport for this city).

The Siberian RSC was connected with the APF FD chair and they are discussing shared services.

The first Russian Zonal Meeting was held in the central part of the country with 150 in attendance for recovery and service workshops, which were facilitated by Moscow and EDM members.

The number of NA members in Kazakhstan is growing, and Kazakhstan may eventually become a region.

EUROPE:

NAWS coordinates the EDM's legal association through its branch office in Brussels.

The EDM is a remarkable example of consensus-based decision making and fellowship development in action.

NAWS was able to send Quebec members to France for service/translation workshops.

AFRICA:

A Swahili translations workshop was held and reported on at WSC 2012. Swahili is spoken throughout East Africa and is the most widely spoken language in Africa.

South Africa has a well-established NA community, and East Africa is growing.

NAWS facilitated workshops at the first East Africa convention (EACNA) held in Tanzania in 2013.

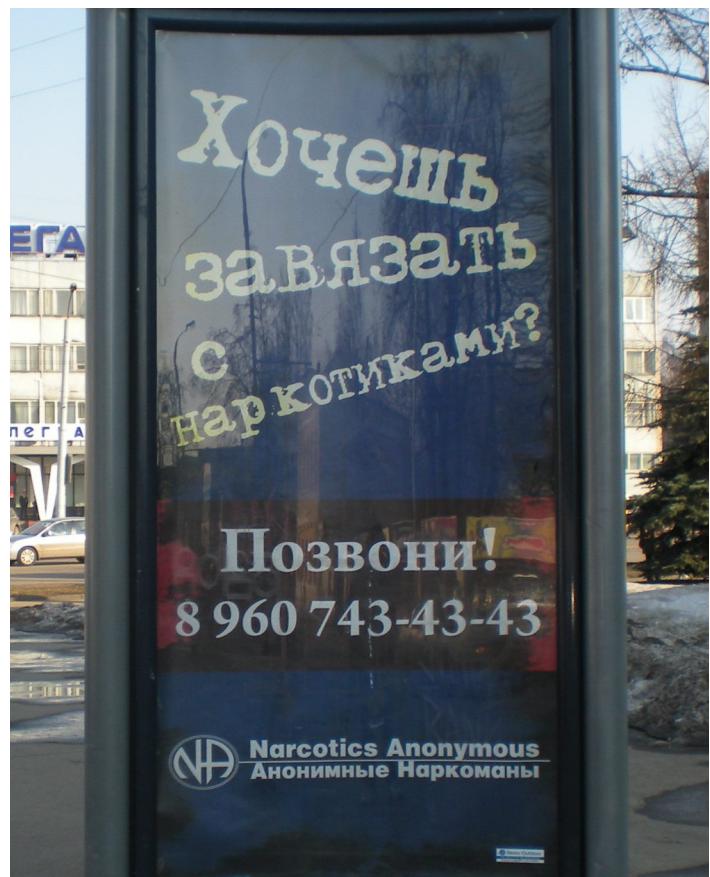
A video was shown from a workshop coordinated by NAWS prior to the first EACNA, which had delegates from eleven African countries. Members at the workshop had never met each other. They formed the Afri-Can Zonal Forum and are working together by monthly Skype calls. The AZF will most likely meet again in October 2014.

Ron M of the World Board shared his experience on two FD trips to Africa since the last conference. He reported that members there are young, energetic, and smart—and their desires are the same as ours in recovery.

NAWS also hosted workshops at the South African convention.

NAWS will participate in the Second EACNA in May 2014 and will be holding a Traditions Workshop in Zanzibar following the convention. Zanzibar has recovery houses which many confuse as being NA, so the aim of the workshop is, in part, to help members understand the difference between the two.

We all "know" NA is worldwide, but in the WSC fellowship development session, we see and feel the ties that bind us together—through photos, detailed reports, and the personal encounters of one addict touching and helping another. The World Board and NAWS staff spends a tremendous amount of time asking how we can help. What it takes for NAWS to be effective on your behalf is communication. Write us and we will respond. Today's harvest is often the result of FD seeds sown years ago.



ELECTION RESULTS

The conference elected one WSC Cofacilitator, one World Board member, and two Human Resource Panel members.

WSC Cofacilitator—Laura B	Rio Grande Region
World Board—Junior B	Grande São Paulo Region
HRP—Sherry V	Central Atlantic Region
HRP—Michael B	Volunteer Region

WORLD CONVENTION UPDATE

WCNA 36, 11 – 14 June 2015, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Brazil in June will be a fabulous locale to celebrate our recovery! We hope you are planning your attendance. We have not been able to finalize arrangements due to Rio's hosting of the World Cup. For soccer enthusiasts, this is quite the event. Facilities and hotel managers, as you can well imagine, are extremely busy at this time and this has contributed to a delay in our ability to release specific information.

For those members who are interested in attending or considering attendance at this celebration, please subscribe to WCNA updates at www.na.org/wcna. You will get the information as soon as it is posted.

We are looking forward to seeing you all in Rio in 2015.



TIES THAT BIND US TOGETHER

After a rewarding conference, we are moving forward, ever mindful of our common welfare and the ties that bind us together. Our initial meeting of this conference cycle is 23–26 July 2014 in Chatsworth, CA. We have a full schedule of work ahead with the Traditions Book that is scheduled to be up for approval at WSC 2016, our World Convention which is slated for June 2015 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and furthering our discussions and ideas from the "Planning Our Future" sessions at WSC 2014. Additionally, our focus will be on facilitating communication and developing more tools related to the Service System Project for communities implementing or thinking of implementing local service and group support components. That is not an exhaustive list of items for us in the upcoming cycle; we have proposals committed and submitted for input to consider and ongoing work with the WCNA Newcomer Policy and NAWS sustainability.

We are grateful that Junior B from Brazil was re-elected to serve our fellowship, and we thank you for the trust that you have placed in us.

Also, we want to express our gratitude to the trusted servants who completed their service at WSC 2014. Two members of the HRP, Mark W from NW Alabama/Florida Region and Pat P from Arkansas Region, fulfilled their terms at this conference. We also thanked Marc G, Wisconsin Region, for his competent facilitation over the last two conference cycles. No words can adequately convey our gratitude to Jim B, who served the board for twelve years, which included chair of the board. All departing trusted servants were given an opportunity to offer their good-byes at our final WSC luncheon. These members have spent countless hours over the years serving the fellowship, and we are confident that somehow, somewhere, they will continue to be involved in service. Thank you from the entire board and the staff at NA World Services.

The World Service Conference of today could not happen without the hard work and dedication of translators. We want to thank Jay M for his assistance with the Japanese, Mahmoud C for his time and commitment to Farsi translations, and José Luis A from Puerto Rico for his help with the Spanish.

We also have benefited over the years at many conferences now from the level-headed wisdom of our parliamentarian, Don Cameron. Thank you, Don, for helping us to stay on track.

Last, and certainly not least, we want to take a moment to thank NAWS staff for their dedication and hard work preparing for the conference and their tireless hours of work.

In addition to all of the thanks we have to offer, we want to take a moment to recognize the service of Giner L, the delegate from California Inland who was one of two delegates to be hospitalized during the conference. She passed away shortly after the WSC.



FROM THE HUMAN RESOURCE PANEL

Greetings from the Human Resource Panel. First we want to thank Mark W and Pat P for their four years of service. Their leadership and participation added great value to the panel. We will miss them as they move on to other service efforts. And we want to welcome Mike B and Sherry V to the HRP. We are looking forward to working with them.

Thanks to the WSC for your support to make the change to our external guidelines. As you may recall, this now allows the HRP to decide panel leadership based on what works best for the current group of trusted servants. As we move into the 2014 – 2016 cycle, Dave J will serve as our panel leader for approximately one year, and Lib E will serve as leader for the remainder of the cycle.

Looking forward, we intend to continue to look for ways to strengthen the nominations process. As always, we welcome your ideas and encourage you to stay current with our work by reading these NAWS News updates throughout the conference cycle.

CALENDAR

We will be establishing deadlines for the cycle at our July meeting.

Travel requests (considered by quarter)

15 August for October – December

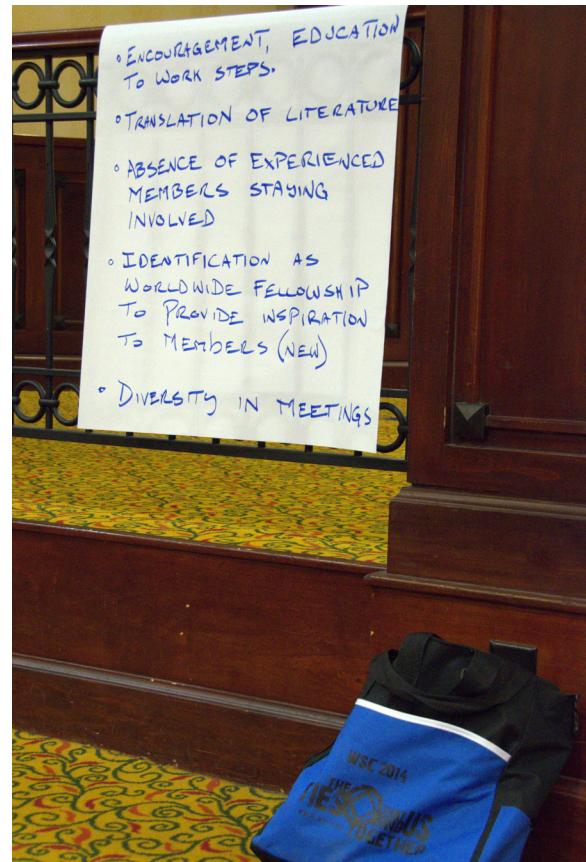
15 November for January – March

World Unity Day

31 August 2014

WCNA 36

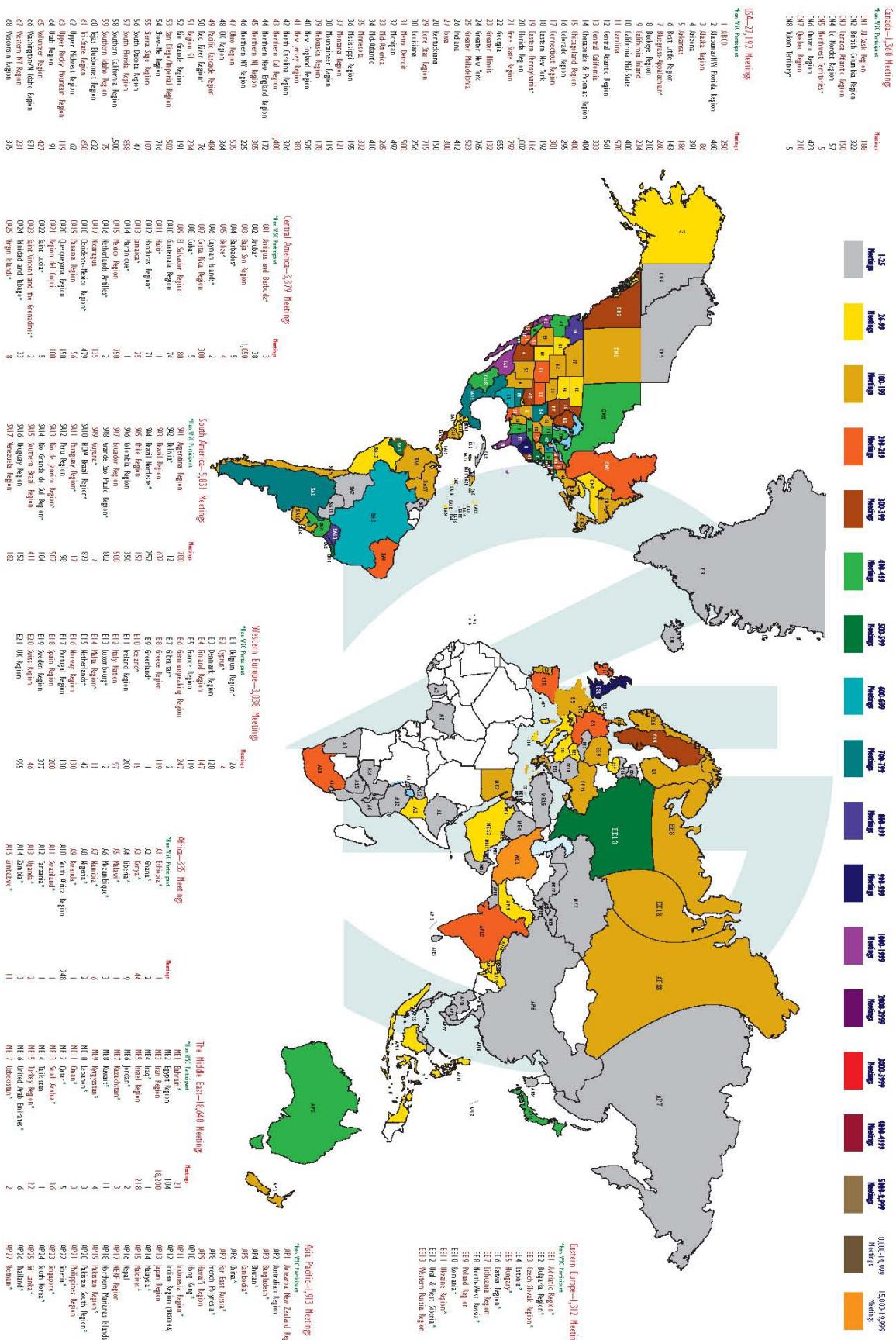
11 – 14 June 2015, Rio de Janeiro Brazil



Regions Around the World

**Over 63,000 Weekly Me
(May 2014)**

(May 2014)



Data is based on regional/zonal reports to WSC 2014 and NWIS database when available. Map not intended to be geographically accurate.