# 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 e-subs to *The NA Way* and *NAWS News*.

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

- We approved the Traditions book, "Guiding Principles: The Spirit of Our Traditions," which will be ready for purchase in October 2016.
- PR News: Updated versions of the *Membership Survey* and *Information about NA* pamphlets will be available in July 2016. These items were updated to reflect the 2015 Membership Survey results. This Membership Survey received 22,803 responses.
- Interested in PR? H&I? Inmate Step Writing? Please write PR@na.org or Handl@na.org to sign up for these member-driven web meetings; these are held every three to four months.
- Doing service in a rural location? We recently started web meetings for those serving in rural locations. Please write to <a href="mailto:servicesystem@na.org">servicesystem@na.org</a> if you would like to be notified of the next web meeting.
- Interested in participating in a workgroup or helping with a project in some way this cycle? We will be coordinating several virtual focus and workgroups and possibly some face-to-face workgroups this cycle. If you are interested in the Future of the WSC; Service Tools for Groups, Areas, and Events; Delegate Sharing; WSC Seating; or any of our other projects or periodicals, please let us know at worldboard@na.org. If you have not completed a World Pool form, please complete one (www.na.org/HRP).
- We will not be putting together a workgroup for a literature project this cycle, but we do plan to collect input for potential future literature projects including an IP on mental illness and recovery and a daily meditation book. We will have more information later in this cycle.
- Issue discussion topics for this cycle are Applying Our Principles to Technology and Social Media, How to Use "Guiding Principles," and Atmosphere of Recovery in Service: Every member, inspired by the gift of recovery, experiences spiritual growth and fulfillment through service. We will send an eblast when we have workshop and discussion questions developed.
- Financials: We mentioned in the NAWS Report session at WSC 2016 that long-term financial viability is a priority for us this cycle; we are focused on ensuring NAWS' sustainability, including reevaluating our literature distribution system.
- WSC 2016 included a couple of sessions focused on the *Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust* (*FIPT*) to seek delegates' guidance. A statement will be released after the delegates review and approve it. We all, as members, need to protect the copyrights of NA's literature.



### HONESTY, TRUST, AND GOODWILL: WSC 2016

Our diverse global Fellowship came together 24–30 April in Woodland Hills, California, for a productive, ambitious, and at

times arduous World Service Conference (WSC). WSC 2016's theme, "Honesty, Trust, and Goodwill," aimed to inspire all toward the highest good in our service efforts worldwide, and to propel us toward fulfillment of our vision. Did we realize that aim? Depending upon whom you ask, there will most likely be varying responses. It may be fair to say we collectively tried, and the WSC continues to be a work in progress.

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. A summary of the decisions reached at the WSC is available at www.na.org/conference. A draft copy of the Conference minutes will be distributed to delegates and posted when it is available.

WSC 2016 was certainly a gathering of committed trusted servants, many with strong opinions and passion. The old business session early in the week was the longest we've had since WSC 2000. We used electronic polling for the first time, and we reached some fruitful outcomes including passing the Traditions book, "Guiding Principles: The Spirit of Our Traditions." However, we had to extend our schedule into the evening Wednesday night and do away with a couple of sessions. We canceled the strategic planning session and collapsed fellowship development and public relations into one session to make up for old business running until Tuesday evening.

Motion 2 in old business, which changed the World Board's external guidelines, was divided into three motions; each passed with an overwhelming majority. As a result, the size of the World Board is now up to 15 members, the obligation for staggered terms when more than eight members

are elected at a time has been removed, and a Board member can serve two terms in a lifetime.

Our discussion-based decision making still needs work. We spent more time than we planned in formal business, and a great deal of our time there was spent discussing the decision-making process rather than the issues at hand. We will be continuing our efforts to improve this process during the upcoming cycle. There were several proposals committed to the Board concerning how to conduct old and new business sessions.

In addition, we will continue to look holistically at WSC seating with a focus on sustainability. We had 112 regional delegates, 16 World Board members, and 88 alternate delegates present at WSC 2016. It's challenging to imagine an effective discussion-based decision-making process with numbers like these.

In addition to Future of the WSC, the Conference approved the five other project plans proposed in the 2016 Conference Approval Track material, including a project plan for Service Tools for Groups, Areas, and Events. The scope of the project is not fully defined yet, and we are not sure whether it will require an ongoing workgroup. We may try to get as much done as we can with a series of focus groups or web meetings. As the project takes shape, we will keep you informed.

The Conference also approved a Fellowship Development and Public Relations project plan. This project plan aims to collaborate with zones to further their PR/FD efforts through development of a PR strategy to help strengthen and grow NA. Additionally, our hope remains that we will be able to have a public relations roundtable, which we postponed in Conference cycle 2014–2016 due to a lack of resources.

The other three project plans passed by the Conference include Recovery Literature, Collaboration in Service, and Social Media as a PR Tool. For more information on any of the projects, see the 2016 Conference Approval Track material posted at <a href="www.na.org/conference">www.na.org/conference</a>. More details about our current plans follow in this report.

The WSC also decided that we will again this cycle have a virtual workgroup to plan a Delegates Sharing session for WSC 2018. The Delegates Sharing workgroup hosted one of the Saturday workshops and one session at WSC 2016, both of which were strongly supported.

We are enthusiastic about the upcoming cycle and the possibilities with the projects, workgroups, and our new Board members, yet as always we need resources to implement all of this work. We appreciate the increase in contributions to World Services over the course of the last cycle. We are committed to doing the best we can with what we have, as we know all of you at your areas and regions are. Thank you for your trust.



### UNITY DAY AND THE OPENING OF WSC 2016

Before the World Service Conference officially begins, we bring together Conference participants and local NA members in a Unity Day filled with recovery and sharing. On Saturday, 23 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 service and history workshops, and an international recovery meeting in the evening, followed by a dance, NA Jeopardy, and a 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 33rd World Service Conference on Sunday, 24 April at 9:00 am. First, we heard that we had 115 seated regions represented by 112 RDs and 88 ADs. We invited our newest region, Quisqueyana Region from the Dominican Republic, to share the history of their region, and the RD included a personal share. Our Conference countdown followed, identifying WSC newcomers and longtime Conference veterans. As we circled up, our moment of silence was followed by the Serenity Prayer offered in each of the 26 languages spoken at the Conference. There aren't many WSC experiences that can rival the emotionally charged energy of this session's closing.

### **HOW WE DID BUSINESS AT WSC 2016**

With the work of the Decision Making at the WSC Workgroup and our own discussions and decisions at World Board meetings, we were hopeful that WSC 2016 would be smoother and more efficient than in recent years. Unfortunately, most conference participants seemed to be disappointed, and from the evaluations submitted it is very clear that many of us were disheartened. The 14 motions from the *Conference Agenda Report* took close to two solid days of the WSC's time. We began new business a half day earlier than we have in the past but we still worked all day Friday and into the early hours of Saturday morning and were unable to address all of the 62 submitted new business proposals.

There was some confusion at the end of the new business session. At 1:00 am on Saturday, the Conference passed a motion to adjourn, which in essence concluded the Conference's "business," the decision making about motions and proposals. Some participants thought that we would come back later on Saturday to complete new business, but others

understood that the new business session was adjourned. When presented with the option, Conference participants chose not to reopen new business on Saturday and instead opted to straw poll the remaining eight proposals. The results of all of the business sessions as well as those straw polls are included in the Draft Summary of Decisions which is posted at www.na.org/conference.

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Frankly, we are bit stumped about how to make business work smoothly for the Conference. Granted, many of us were most likely disappointed with the business sessions; we did come away with a few ideas on how to improve, yet we will all need to work together for sustained change. This past cycle we devoted a workgroup to the subject and had an unprecedented amount of training and support for the cofacilitators who were in the workgroup. We also implemented new processes and methods, and hands-on training during the orientation session yet business ran longer than it ever has before. We know many of you share our concern. In fact, four proposals related to eliminating or changing formal business were committed to the World Board, and when straw polled, the body had strong support for the idea of eliminating formal business, with 93 of 117 in favor of the idea.

For many Conference cycles the Board, regional delegates, cofacilitators, and staff have discussed how the WSC can be more effective. WSC 2016 demonstrated that despite our best combined efforts, our ability to significantly improve the existing system is negligible. For example, we discussed Motion 2 from the 2016 *CAR* about changes to the World Board for almost two and a half hours, plus a 30-minute break, when the initial straw poll was 99-11-1-1. In the end, the motion was divided into three separate items, and the final decision on all three was reached in a formal business process in seven minutes. In this day of online access and discussions, there has to be a better way to process ideas





before the Conference so that delegates can come to the WSC prepared to make decisions in old business.

In many ways the same is true for new business. The current process does not really work to frame and forward new ideas to be developed further. We spend the majority of our time in business focused on what we do not want to do, and on our decision-making processes themselves, rather than on what we want to have more discussion about. There were many proposals that were not adopted but that reflected a clear division in the WSC. Under the current processes, the World Board is left with no clear direction as to which of these ideas participants would like to keep discussing.

On a more positive note, we tried an electronic polling system for the first time ever. After some expected startup delay, primarily involving getting familiar with the equipment and changing batteries, the system seemed to work well and provided participants and the facilitators with precise and accurate results of each poll and vote. We now have a count for every vote taken, whereas in the past, many votes were voice votes and we didn't have that precision. Using a new method of queueing also provided the opportunity for our cofacilitators to approach the list of those who wished to speak strategically to allow for the broadest perspective of voices. The Conference also agreed to a new process to limit discussion when an initial straw poll on an item shows that the Conference has consensus. Simply put, if the initial straw poll yields 80 percent support (or 80 percent lack of support), two members of the minority are invited to speak, and then a second straw poll is taken. If consensus remains, the second poll is considered a vote, and the Conference moves on to the next piece of business. This new process seemed to help the body deal efficiently with issues that 80 percent or more of the body were in agreement on, allowing more time for other issues to benefit from discussion.

### "GUIDING PRINCIPLES: THE SPIRIT OF OUR TRADITIONS"

One of the addenda items included in the 2016 Conference Agenda Report was an approval version of the book-length piece of literature developed by the Traditions Project Workgroup that worked diligently on behalf of the NA fellowship. The World Board put forward a motion to approve this new piece of literature, "Guiding Principles: The Spirit of Our Traditions," in order to satisfy the Fellowship's desire for a workbook

that can help to improve understanding and application of the Twelve Traditions throughout our Fellowship.

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The Traditions Project was initiated by a regional motion at the 2010 WSC, directing the World Board to create a timeline and project plan for a Traditions workbook. Around the same time, the World Board conducted a Fellowship literature survey, which showed the Traditions workbook as the most highly desired idea for book-length literature. We spent the 2012–2014 Conference cycle gathering input about what the book should consist of, and then a workgroup was formed after the 2014 WSC to begin the process of shaping that input into NA literature.

The chapters for this book were released for review and input in stages over the 2014–2016 Conference cycle so that we could gather the Fellowship's ideas about the structure of the chapters as well as the content. With each R&I period, we refined the structure based on the input we received from members all around the world. We also conducted targeted web meetings to ask specific questions, including web meetings with members with 30- and 40-plus years clean, members in isolated geographical locations, and members in places where NA is newly developing, to name a few.

The input we received for the project was impressive, with hundreds of pages of front-end input received for each Tradition during the first Conference cycle, and a range of 50 to 200 pages of input on the drafts of each chapter once they were out for Fellowship review. The workgroup gave a great deal of time and attention to the ideas sent in from the Fellowship, and the book was greatly improved as a result.

As discussed in the WSC 2016 Conference Report, once the approval form was released in the CAR, we were informed of a challenge with some of the language in the Introduction. In an attempt to streamline that chapter and minimize historical references to AA, as was asked for in Fellowship input, a line was condensed from previous material in a way that some members considered to be historically inaccurate or dismissive of early attempts to start NA in New York. The World Board was open to the idea of a change to the phrasing in that sentence, but after some discussion on the Conference floor, a proposal to make that language change was not supported by the body. The language in that sentence was not meant to be dismissive, and we hope that all who read it will see it as it was intended: as a celebration of the fact that the Twelve Traditions have made it possible for NA to become what it is today.

The motion to approve the work of the Traditions Project—"Guiding Principles: The Spirit of Our Traditions"—was carried by an overwhelming majority. We expect that it should be available for purchase late in 2016.

Our hope is that this new piece of literature will aid all members of our Fellowship—new and old—in understanding and applying the Traditions in our personal lives, in our groups, and at all levels of NA service. We look forward to hearing your experiences!

### **PLANNING OUR FUTURE**

Our Basic Text talks about our resistance to change being built in, but this Conference, as much as any, has illustrated that change is needed. The growth of NA is an unqualified good thing, but the corresponding growth of the Conference makes it difficult to get our work done and expensive to implement. At this Conference, a series of sessions was devoted to discussing ideas related to the future of the WSC. These sessions are part of an ongoing conversation about the size, cost, and composition of the Conference and how to ensure an effective and sustainable Conference moving forward. Building on the ideas discussed at WSC 2014, the work of the Planning Our Future Virtual Workgroup, and the information contained in the Future of the WSC packet released prior to this Conference, the first session in this series consisted of a reporting back of the information we have gathered to date, and taking the pulse of the Conference.

In the two years since our discussions at WSC 2014, members have had an opportunity to talk about the issues related to the Conference. While the idea of moving toward zonal seating was discussed at WSC 2014, we heard some resistance to that idea following that Conference. In this first session, we polled the body on four options that seem to cover all possible paths forward from here. The results of the polls in this session were as follows:

Who has had these conversations with their region?

82 (74%) Have

29 (26%) Have not

Which option seems most appealing to your region or you?

20 (18.3%) No change

22 (20.2%) No change in representation, but other changes

45 (41.3%) Zonal seating

22 (20.2%) Some other basis for change in representation

The body was polled with the understanding that each option receiving 20 percent or more support would be discussed in the breakout sessions.

The second Planning Our Future session was a breakout session to discuss the details of the three options that received at last 20 percent support. We asked small groups to consider the following questions:

- Option One: No change in representation, but other changes
  - What can we do to make the WSC more effective and more able to accommodate growth? How can we sustain our current model?
  - What specific ideas do you have for other changes?

• Option Two: Zonal seating

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- What specific ideas do you have for zonal seating?
   Existing zones? Something else? Number of delegates per zone? Ideas for/criteria for future seating of zones that request it?
- Option Three: Some other basis for change in representation
  - What ideas do you have for other models of representation? What are the specifics of those ideas?

The results from the breakout rooms were compiled and distributed in preparation for the third (and final) Planning Our Future session. (You can see the results in the Draft Summary of Decisions which is posted at www.na.org/conference.)

This third session was also a breakout, and its purpose was to discuss possibilities for where we will go from here with these ideas.

We have a project devoted to furthering this discussion in the cycle ahead, the Future of the WSC Project. We made a commitment at the Conference to frame questions for delegates so as to engage their regions in this issue during the cycle, and the input from these sessions will be essential in that work.

Two related proposals were also adopted at the WSC regarding this issue:

- To allow a delegate from any currently existing zonal forum who requests it to be seated at WSC 2018 as a nonvoting participant for one Conference only. The expense of attendance will be the responsibility of the zonal forum and not the WSC.
- To ask the delegates to go back to their regions with the question/workshop below: "What is that your region thinks and feels about zonal representation?" Intent: To bridge the gap of lacking information about what zones/WSC/seated/unseated regions are and could work better.

For members who may want to workshop Role of Zones from Conference cycle 14–16, here is the link: www.na.org/future. We will be developing new materials to carry this discussion further in this Conference cycle. Once these are ready, they will be posted at www.na.org. In our discussions over the coming Conference cycle, our hope is that unity will be at the forefront of the conversations and we can begin to develop some consensus as a Fellowship.

### **NAWS REPORT**

In this Conference session, which in essence combined two NAWS sessions, Anthony Edmondson, NAWS executive director, and Franney J, WB chairperson, shared the responsibility of reporting. Anthony focused on the activities of offices and Franney reported on activities of the Board. The World Board is responsible for the oversight and management of all NAWS activities and the staff does much of the implementation of those decisions. Following are some of the details from the NAWS Report.

#### GETTING LITERATURE TO A WORLDWIDE FELLOWSHIP

NA World Services, Inc, functions in essence as two companies in one: we are a publisher of recovery literature and a service organization. Around the world, roughly 35 percent of our recovery materials are distributed through regional service offices or distribution centers. Our bottom line is to make literature available to the global Fellowship at the most reasonable price possible. Our pricing policy is based on what makes sense for each community. We are in the process of reevaluating our literature distribution system. We are taking a look at all of our contracts and agreements; our decisions will be based on what we need to do in order to get literature into the hands of addicts.

There sometimes seems to be a misunderstanding about service offices. To clarify, regional and area service offices are accountable to the trusted servants who created them. A legal piece of paper stating that you are a corporation does not relieve you of a spiritual responsibility to those who elected you. We are all accountable to someone in this Fellowship. If members have encountered this service office situation, please let us know your experience with it and how it was resolved. We would like to be able to create a service resource to help those with these types of challenges in our Fellowship.

#### **PUBLICATIONS**

We do our best to push members to electronic formats of our publications because the costs are controllable. We are going through the process of cleaning up our database; thus, members who want to receive paper copies will need to resubscribe. If you are challenged with this process, please let us know and we will assist you.

### **T**ECHNOLOGY

Some members may think that we should be on the cutting edge with technology; however, we deliberately remain conservative in our approaches. That said, we are finally halfway through a complete change to our accounting software that is more current and flexible than the system that we currently use, which is no longer supported. We anticipate that this new system, particularly the shopping cart, will be much more user friendly.

During this last Conference cycle we have utilized webinars, web meeting technology, and virtual workgroups. On an ongoing basis, every three to four months we host PR, H&l, and Inmate Step Writing web meetings. To those who participated in the Conference webinar, we would like to thank you and we want you to send us your ideas about how those tools can be better utilized. We appreciate your support.

### **T**RANSLATIONS

NA's need for translated literature is greater than our resources. Resources to take into consideration are human, financial, and abilities of LTCs. Some may consider that a negative; however, what it illustrates is our continued growth as we have more members reaching out to more communities. The Cree and Zulu IP #1 efforts are very excit-

ing. Millions of people speak Zulu in Africa, so these translations will help us reach more members and professionals, which is also true of the Cree translations for First Nations and Native Americans. The Thai Basic Text was presented to Thai members at their regional convention this past February. Additionally, we translated the *Institutional Group Guide*, sections one and two, into Vietnamese so that addicts in prisons and clinics may have an opportunity to hear the NA message of recovery. We have many language groups that still have needs, and even those language groups that have translated materials do not have every piece of recovery literature today.

### **WCNA**

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For WCNA 36 in Brazil we had a plan, but sometimes things do not work out as planned. We had three companies that couldn't deliver the services they described. The economic realities of Brazil changed drastically over the course of 19 months. However, the seriously hardworking members of the support committee in Brazil were determined to accomplish a wonderful convention in spite of challenging circumstances. Thank you to all!

The financial reserves we keep at NA World Services are meant to help us fulfill our duty of care, which means that we have to be prepared for contingencies such as the loss of income in Brazil. As we plan for our next World Convention (2021), we know we have very limited ability to predict stability in countries accessible for Iranians. As some of you may recall, WSC 2014 gave us permission to stretch the WCNA zone in an effort to find a country that may welcome Iranians and be affordable to everyone. Iran is NA's second largest community in the world. We will have a contingency plan in place as we plan for 2021. We aim to make a decision in the next 18 months.



#### LITERATURE DISTRIBUTION

The Business Plan Group will be reconstituted in this cycle as we begin to reevaluate the literature distribution system.

Anthony cautioned participants about independent efforts to distribute literature: Many members of our Fellowship are well intended and have a desire to help; some of these members have sent literature to developing communities. Sometimes these communities have contacted NAWS and asked for this practice to stop. We need to be mindful of this and give respect to these communities around the world. Additionally, some communities that have received literature worldwide have been the recipients of illicit literature; these communities have also contacted us.

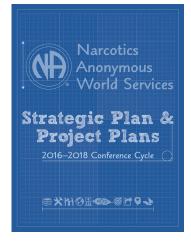
For members who may be unaware, every approved piece of literature that is purchased, every contribution that is made to NA World Services, helps to support and carry the message of recovery to NA communities worldwide.

### **W**ORKGROUPS

Franney followed Anthony with updates about the virtual workgroups of Conference cycle 2014–2016 that showed promise, yet tasks for virtual workgroups need to be narrowly defined. What may serve us better is a hybrid that combines virtual meetings with face-to-face meetings. We also had internal workgroups of the Board that included the WCNA Workgroup and WB Values Workgroup.

### STRATEGIC PLANNING

Because old business ran long, we had to cancel the strategic planning session. Our aim with this session was to discuss some ways to build a collaborative approach to planning so that regions and zones can be more actively involved with the creation of the NAWS Strategic Plan. We will be seeking your ideas later in 2016 to give input to the environmental scan that we use to create the



Strategic Plan, and to try to find a way to feed this information back to you before the next plan is finalized.

### FELLOWSHIP INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY TRUST (FIPT)

One of our goals as we approached WSC 2016 was to engage regional delegates in a discussion that would provide us with guidance on how to move forward on some very important issues related to NA's intellectual property. Specifically, we asked for input on how to deal with the distribution of illicit literature, registering NA groups that use non-NA-approved literature, and service committees that post NA literature on their websites.



As some background, we continue to see challenges with the production of illicit Basic Texts, typically a version composed of the Third Edition, Revised, with the addition of language from the Second Edition that wrongly places the NA service structure outside of NA. The production and/or use of these illicit texts in or out of NA meetings is in conflict with the Fellowship's conscience and a violation of the Fellowship's copyright.

In addition, some NA groups that clearly intend to use the "Gray Form" in their meetings (one of the early drafts of the Basic Text that was never approved) are seeking to be registered with NAWS. The Group Booklet, a Fellowshipapproved booklet, stipulates that NA groups use only NAapproved literature in NA meetings. We believe groups that openly disregard the Fellowship's expectations of what an NA group is, as expressed in *The Group Booklet*, require our attention.

Last, some area and regional service committees post NA recovery literature locally on their websites. Posting NA literature is a form of duplication, and the FIPT does not permit service committees to duplicate NA recovery literature. When these types of local postings are brought to our attention, we ask the responsible service committees to remove any recovery literature from their website and servers, and most do. Some don't, and that leaves us in the unwelcome positon of taking action that could result in the website being shut down.

With this information as a foundation, we were able to gain some perspective from a series of straw polls. As a start, we posed this question:

• Do we believe that the Fellowship still affirms the rules we have agreed on in the FIPT? The result was 96 (95%) yes, and 5 (5%) no.

This was a solid foundation for the work ahead. We asked two more auestions:

 Should we register and list on the meeting locator NA groups that clearly intend to use material that is not NA Fellowship-approved? The result was 28 (26%) yes, and 78 (74%) no.

 Should we take action to remove NA recovery literature from ASC/RSC sites, even if it means shutting down the site? (This may require ongoing action if a new site is created.) The result was 75 (71%) yes, and 31 (29%) no.

We then held a breakout session in which Conference participants could further discuss these issues. Both the straw poll results and the results of these small-group discussions are included in the Draft Summary of Decisions posted at www.na.org/conference

These are hard discussions, and we applaud participants for their work not just at the WSC but also locally as they deal with these challenges that have been with some of us for many years now. Some good ideas came forward from Conference discussions, including the need to provide more opportunities for members to gain information on these issues. In the end, as a result of the votes taken during the Moving Forward session, Conference participants agreed that they want an additional statement from WSC 2016 addressing the issues associated with the *FIPT*. The World Board will be sending a draft for Conference participant review.

### **PROJECTS FOR 2016-2018**

All of the projects proposed at WSC 2016 were supported by the Conference. A description of each project is included in the 2016 Conference Approval Track material, which is posted at www.na.org/conference We have approximately \$200,000 for all projects this cycle, which is less than we typically allocate to one project, so we are hopeful that we can use a meaningful combination of virtual and face-to-face meetings to get as much done as possible.

In order to help us gauge a sense of what projects may be a priority to participants, we conducted a non-binding straw poll which indicates what is important to participants.

Project	Low	Medium	High	Med-High
				combined
RecoveryLiterature	34	37	45	82
Service Tools	23	44	49	93
Collaboration in Service	31	41	44	85
Future of the WSC	21	13	82	95
Fellowship Development and PR	15	32	69	101
Social Media as a PR Tool	40	35	39	74

## SERVICE TOOLS FOR GROUPS, AREAS, AND EVENTS

The scope of the project is not fully defined yet, and we are not sure whether it will require an ongoing workgroup. We may try to get as much done as we can with

a series of focus groups or web meetings. As the project takes shape, we will keep you informed.

### FUTURE OF THE WSC

This project received the highest priority ranking in the Moving Forward session. We aim to continue the discussion about WSC sustainability and effectiveness. We hope to frame questions for regional discussion using the input from the WSC 2016 breakout sessions as a foundation. Ideally, we would like to frame viable options for seating to present to WSC 2018, but much will depend upon the results of the regional input. Additionally, we would like to improve the effectiveness of the WSC meeting by continuing to refine decision making, processes, discussion protocols, consensus-building strategies, and use of the time during Conference week.

### FELLOWSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLIC RELATIONS PROJECT PLAN

This project plan received the second-highest priority ranking. Its focus is collaboration with zones to create a PR strategy to help strengthen and grow NA in an effort to reach potential members. Additionally, this project plan aims to have a PR roundtable that would bring professionals in related fields together to better engage them in a discussion about Narcotics Anonymous. Much of what we call public relations and fellowship development is already captured under essential services in the NAWS budget.

### **ADDITIONAL PROJECT PLANS**

The other three project plans passed by the Conference include Collaboration in Service, Social Media as a PR Tool, and Recovery Literature. As with the FD and PR project plan, we do not plan to form workgroups for any of these projects. The Collaboration in Service plan will offer the ability for delegates to engage more directly in the NAWS strategic planning process. Social media will be asking delegates and others to share their experiences using social media to reach the public. Another project that is focused on gathering input this cycle is the Recovery Literature Project. We have no plans to draft any recovery material this cycle, but we will be asking for input to help frame two project plans for consideration at WSC 2018, one for an IP focused on mental illness/mental health and recovery and the other for a meditation book.

Our first Board meeting this cycle is in September, and we look forward to having more information about projects after that time.

We aren't yet sure which projects may require workgroups and which may use focus groups or web meetings, but it's not too soon to let us know whether you are interested in participating or you know someone who may have a desire to help. If you think someone might be a good candidate for a project, let us know why. We also plan to assign new members to the ongoing editorial workgroups for *Reaching Out* and *The NA Way*.

### **CAR 2016 SURVEY**

Thank you to the many people who participated in this survey, whether individually online or in your regions. The survey results helped us frame the focus for project plans and select the IDTs for this cycle:

- 1. Atmosphere of Recovery in Service: Every member, inspired by the gift of recovery, experiences spiritual growth and fulfilment through service.
- 2. Applying Our Principles to Technology and Social Media
- 3. How to Use "Guiding Principles"

When we develop materials for IDT workshops, we will post them at www.na.org/idt and announce them in NAWS News or via eblast. We welcome any ideas on the IDTs.

Complete survey responses are included in the Draft Summary of Decisions that is posted at www.na.org/conference. In looking at the responses, it's important to keep in mind that the more choices that are offered for a particular category, the lower the number of responses tends to be.

### WSC SEATING—NEW BUSINESS

We seated three regions at this Conference: Grande São Paulo, HOW, and Rio de Janeiro, all within the Brazilian Zone. The proposals to seat these regions came from the WB and the WSC Seating Workgroup and were reported in the 2016 CAT. In an unrelated seating issue, the proposal to remove the Le Nordet Region from the list of seated regions at the WSC passed. This proposal was made to have the WSC records reflect the fact that this region no longer exists and has become a part of the Quebec Region.

### **PUBLIC RELATIONS**

As It Works: How and Why explains, "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" (Tradition Eleven). Because of time constraints at the WSC, PR and FD—originally planned as separate sessions—were



combined into one 90-minute session. A summary of all of our travel for the cycle is included in the 2016 *Conference Report* which can be found at www.na.org/conference. We'd like to do a better job communicating the impact of these trips. One of the goals in our strategic plan this cycle is to try using multimedia to report the highlights of these activities—FD and PR—in more meaningful ways.

It's unfortunate we weren't able to present many of the PR efforts we'd planned to at this Conference. Consistent PR efforts help grow NA, which was seen in the FD/PR session. These two efforts are inextricably linked. The 2015 Membership Survey indicates that 46 percent of respondents were influenced to attend NA by a treatment/counseling agency; the professionals at these facilities most likely learned about NA from PR efforts.

The Conference session included reports and materials from NA communities around the world, including public service announcement (PSA) videos from Chile, the Latin America Zonal Forum, and Russia. Collaborative PR efforts were highlighted, including a presentation to Chilean drug courts and the presentation of information to the regional commissioner of Tanga, Tanzania. The first Multi-Zonal Service Symposium in St. Louis featured a professional day. The C&P and Free State Regions collaborated to hold a multiregional PR learning day. The session also highlighted successful regional PR efforts around the world from Oklahoma to Ukraine.

### **REACHING OUT**

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We're pleased to announce that we have 13,379 *Reaching Out* e-subs and 12,807 paper subscriptions. This resource helps members who are or have been incarcerated and demonstrates to professionals who work with this population that these addicts can recover. You can e-subscribe to this newsletter by signing up at www.na.org/reachingout.

### NAWS Membership Survey

The Membership Survey was distributed at the World Convention and was made available online. The survey was completed by 22,803 members—the largest number of participants to date. The majority of members who completed the survey did so online. We collaborated with the European delegates to encourage participation in the NAWS

survey, and we were able to create a separate pamphlet that includes just the European Membership Survey results. Their last survey was in 2009. The EDM planned to utilize these survey results in their first European Parliament presentation in June 2016.

One demographic trend our survey seems to indicate is declining numbers of female members, which was true in the 2013 survey as well. The average age of members is 48, and the average cleantime is 8.32 years.

Slightly less than half of the survey respondents are taking medication; of that half who responded 'yes' to taking medication, medication for health maintenance (55 percent) and mental health issues (49 percent) represent the largest number of reasons cited for this. Multiple answers were allowed for reasons taking medication.

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, the majority of members identified their drug of choice as opiates, which seems to mirror the drug trend in the US. These addicts may arrive in NA on medication that has been prescribed to treat their addiction, but we 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.

### FELLOWSHIP DEVELOPMENT

NA now speaks 80 languages in nearly 67,000 weekly meetings in 139 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 around the world. We publish in 49 languages, and we now print materials in more countries rather than having to negotiate customs and duties. Our aim is to have NA literature make it into the hands of addicts wherever they live.

We produce the Basic Text in 29 languages, with Thai being our most recent edition. The Danish Sixth Edition Basic Text will be published summer 2016 and the Swahili Fifth Edition Basic Text is currently published as a draft.

In collaboration with the local translation committees, the Danish, Russian, and Swedish Basic Texts were produced in an audio version this past cycle, and we should have Arabic soon.

IP #1 is translated into 49 languages. Newly added languages include Amharic, Estonian, Kannada, and Ukrainian.

Everything we do at NA World Services is considered a part of fellowship development. NAWS is committed to ongoing relationships with developing NA communities including communities in Africa, Russia, India, Southeast Asia, and the Middle East. We also devote much of our FD attention to more established NA communities when we attend events such as zonal forums and CAR workshops.

This session at WSC 2016 highlighted fellowship development of the past Conference cycle in our efforts around the globe.

After the WSC we were able to take the draft Swahili Fifth Edition Basic Text to NA communities from five Swahili-speaking countries at the East African Convention. We helped the Tanzanian Region hold their second regional assembly, which was an inspiring service meeting. We brought together the delegates from Kenya, Tanzania, Zanzibar, and Uganda. Rwanda was also included in this meeting, but the delegate had challenges with his passport. These delegates have created a social media group to keep in contact with each other and to help encourage each other as they serve their regions and try to build healthy NA communities.

It was evident to all who had the privilege of attending the first East African Convention as well as the recent convention that so, so much has changed in these past few years. This was no longer an event focused on visitors from outside East Africa because of the members from Zanzibar, Tanzania, and Kenya who have stayed clean and have created NA communities. It was celebrated and enjoyed by all.

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 encounter of one addict touching and helping another. The World Board and NAWS staff spend 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.

Social Media

Hosted By: Dhaka Area Service Committee of NA



### **ELECTION RESULTS**

The Conference elected one WSC cofacilitator, six World Board members, and two Human Resource Panel members.

### **WSC Cofacilitators**

Mark B Florida Region

**World Board** 

Maryellen P Southern CA Region

Tali M Hawaii Region
Khalil J Georgia Region
Jose Luis A Región de Coquí

Jack H Washington/No. Idaho Region

Tim S Australian Region

**Human Resource Panel** 

Veronica B Sweden Region
Jim B Chicagoland Region

### HONESTY, TRUST, AND GOODWILL— THE FOUNDATION OF OUR SERVICE EFFORTS

Our first Board meeting of this Conference cycle will be 28 September–1 October 2016. We have a full schedule of work ahead in addressing the approved project plans; gathering input for the upcoming literature projects; planning for WCNA in 2018 in Orlando, Florida; reinitiating the Business Plan Group; evaluating the literature distribution system; and all of our "routine" services. We thank you for the trust that you have placed in us.

We are grateful that MaryEllen and Tali were reelected to serve our Fellowship, and we enthusiastically welcome our four new Board members.

Also, we want to express our gratitude to the trusted servants who completed their service at WSC 2016. Two members of the Human Resource Panel, Lib E and David J, fulfilled their terms at this Conference. We also thank Dickie D for his gallant efforts in facilitating the WSC over the last two Conference cycles. No words can adequately convey our gratitude to the Board members whose terms ended at this Conference; these Board members are Mary B, Ron B, Inigo C, Paul C, Mukam H-D, and Ron M. All departing trusted servants were given an opportunity to offer their outgoing thoughts at the close of the Conference. 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, Oscar P for his help with the Spanish, Paola C for her assistance with Italian, and Gilbert C for his help with Portuguese.

We also have benefited over the years at many Conferences from the level wisdom of our parliamentarian, Don Cameron. Thank you, Don, for helping us to stay on track and bringing clarity.

In addition to all of the thanks we have to offer, we want to take a moment to recognize the service of Bob Gray of the World Board, who passed away during the last cycle.

### FROM THE HUMAN RESOURCE PANEL

Greetings from the Human Resource Panel. First we want to thank Lib E and David J 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 Veronica B and Jim B to the HRP. We are looking forward to working with them. Thanks also to the Conference participants from WSC 2016, and all of those members who had a role in our nominations process. We truly appreciate your comments, participation, and support.

As we move into the 2016–2018 cycle, Sherry V will serve as our panel leader for approximately one year, and Mike B will serve as leader for the remainder of the cycle. Looking forward, we intend to continue to look for ways to strengthen the HRP nominations process. Specifically, as reported, we believe it is time to look back at the experience collected over recent years to determine whether the World Pool is accomplishing its intended goal, and whether there are ways to improve our leadership identification efforts. 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. Please send any input or comments to hrp@na.org.

#### **CALENDAR**

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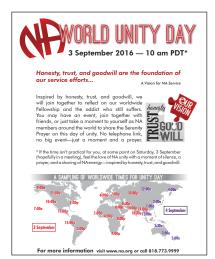
We will be establishing deadlines for the cycle at our September meeting.

**Travel requests** (considered by quarter):

15 August for October-December

15 November for January–March

World Unity Day 3 September 2016, 10 am PDT



Download flyer at www.na.org/nawsevents

