

**World Board Meeting
Narcotics Anonymous World Services, Inc.
14-17 March 2002 Approved Minutes**



Thursday 14 March

Present: Tom McCall, Cary Seltzer, Bob Jordan, Bella Blake, Susan Chess, Tony Walters, Michael McDermott, Lib Edmonds, Jon Thompson, Larry Roche, Jane Nickels, Ron Hofius, Daniel Schuessler, and Claudio Lemionet

Not present: Craig Robertson and Saul Alvarado. Giovanna Ghisays and David James arrive on March 14

Staff: Anthony Edmondson, Becky Meyer, Travis Koplow, Nancy Schenck, Steve Sigman, Jeff Gershoff, Bob Stewart, Steve Lantos, Uschi Mueller, and Eileen Perez-Evans

The day was spent in a Strategic Framework Session with Jim DeLizia and closed evening sessions with Executive Management followed by another regarding the future of the board.

Friday 15 March

Present: David, James, Giovanna Ghisays, Tom McCall, Cary Seltzer, Bob Jordan, Bella Blake, Tony Walters, Michael McDermott, Lib Edmonds, Jon Thompson, Jane Nickels, Daniel Schuessler, David James, Larry Roche, Claudio Lemionet, Susan Chess and Ron Hofius.

Not present: Craig Robertson and Saul Alvarado.

WSC Cofacilitators: John Halverson and Steve Rusch.

Staff: Anthony Edmondson, Becky Meyer, Travis Koplow, Nancy Schenck, Steve Sigman, Jeff Gershoff, Bob Stewart, Steve Lantos, Uschi Mueller, and Eileen Perez-Evans

Facilitation Training Session with Jim DeLizia, staff luncheon and evening closed session.

Saturday 16 March

Present: Giovanna Ghisays, Tom McCall, Cary Seltzer, Bob Jordan, Bella Blake, Tony Walters, Michael McDermott, Lib Edmonds, Jon Thompson, Jane Nickels, Daniel Schuessler, David James, Larry Roche, Claudio Lemionet, Susan Chess and Ron Hofius.

Not Present: Craig Robertson and Saul Alvarado.

WSC Cofacilitators: John Halverson and Steve Rusch.

Staff: Anthony Edmondson, Becky Meyer, Eileen Perez-Evans, Stephan Lantos, Travis Koplow, Donna Smylie, Steve Sigman, Karen Chrapek, and Jeff Gershoff.

Jon opened the meeting with a moment of silence; followed by the Serenity Prayer, reading of the *Just for Today* meditation and the World board Meeting Guidelines. Jeff shared a story about a Tibetan group meeting in the Himalayan Mountains.

The 2002 World Service Conference

Physical layout

Ideas for changes to the WSC physical layout were presented. The proposal is to divide the room in half with one side being tiered seating for business, with a presenter in the center of the room and the other half of the room in tables for discussion sessions. The tiered setting helps to focus on the business at hand. There are 10 extra rooms available for break out whenever necessary. The Gallery may have to be in the front, and if this is done the noise will have to be kept down.

There are no objections to the Executive Committee recommendation for the World Service Conference physical layout.

Draft agenda

A display was presented on the wall of the week's proposed agenda. The Executive Committee will finalize the WSC agenda at the April EC meeting, and will have further discussions on seating set up for board in the large conference room, and open Board meeting. The board was asked to create an outline for their WSC presentations. Board preparedness stressed.

Ideas

- Award those coming in on time during business session, or have the Cofacilitator pull a regions names out of a basket after each break. This would the participants to come back on time because.
- There was some thought about having award sessions ("out of the box") or some type of closing ceremony that will acknowledge positive actions. There was no support for individual awards but there will be some kind of ceremony.

Layout of the Week

There will be recovery meetings every morning and night

Friday

Executive Committee Meeting—morning
Closed World Board Meeting—1:00 PM
CAR workshop—evening

- *Saturday*

1:00 PM—4:00 PM some activity at the hotel (panels, reels-voice, cherry picking)
5:00 PM—7:00 PM WSO open house and food
8:00 PM or 8:30 PM hotel activity—meeting/coffee house/store

Sunday

There will be more discussion on keynote speaker to tie the conference theme.

Opening

Small group Orientation—walk through of the week

Introductions

Idea Tree

Special Report Segment

Adopt Procedure

Open World Board Meeting

Monday

'New' Conference Discussion

Old business (3-4 hours)

Issue Discussion Process

Tuesday

Strategic Plan

World Board Report

Fellowship Issue Challenges

HRP Report

Wednesday

Budget and Project Presentation

Zonal Meeting

Thursday

Zonal Reports

Budget and Project Approval

Elections
Open World Board Meeting

Friday

New Business
Food Event
02-04 Issue Topics

Saturday

Wrap Up of the Week
New Conference Discussion, Part II
Open World Board Meeting
Dance, alternate store, recovery meeting

Funded Travelers

Friday, March 14 was the deadline for regions eligible for funding to contact staff and in some way make WSC arrangements. 69 regions have completed their travel arrangements, 13 regions have some activity going on, and 23 regions have not responded. The 23 regions that are eligible for funding that have not responded have been given 11 extra days to make arrangements. Executive Management asking for the Board to withdraw the funding for those that have not contacted the WSO by March 26 to initiate travel arrangements. There was no objection from the board to withdraw funding to those that have not responded by March 26. IRF and Ireland will not attend the 2002 WSC.

March 2002 Conference Report

The proposal is to give a flavor of what will happen in the conference week, like the last report prior to the WSC. There was no objection to following the same direction of the last report before the conference.

Motions 6

There is some misunderstanding in the fellowship regarding the World Board's Motion 6 recommendation. It was suggested that the World Board clarify what the board has discussed, e.g. that as a board there is consensus on the recommendation as written in the CAR, but that if individual board members are in favor of the merits in the motion that's a different discussion which has not been had yet. There was no objection to putting a blurb in the Conference Report.

Question: "What should the response to questions regarding the boards straw poll be?"

- This motion could possibly remove the board's ability to provide services to the fellowship. It's imperative that the board discusses what this motion would mean should it pass and be prepared. It is the board's responsibility to inform the fellowship of factors that would affect them.
- At the CAR workshop it seemed that the participants understood that the board was unanimous in its recommendation. Seems that they are now making more out of the straw pool portion.
- Explain the board's decision-making process in the *March Conference Report*.
- Why doesn't the board just come to a consensus regarding the board not having an opinion on the motion because there hasn't been enough time to discuss?
- Let the Executive Committee discuss a direction. However does not want to walk into the conference without having had more discussion on the motion.

Motion 6 merits will be discussed further.

The board brought back to Motion 6 discussion.

- Propose that the board say 'concluded that we need to time to discuss, research and consider all the effects of what this would mean.
- Encourage conference participants to read the 40 pages of additional information.
- Thought that the issue was that this is a big deal, we worked on this for 4 yrs, couldn't make a decision, and we are not going to work on this right now. Don't think it's productive to say okay we're going to do this right now without more time and work.
- Emphasize that it's a big question and need more time to discuss it.

The decision was to clarify the decision making process by the board, address the fact that the board was unanimous in its motion 6 recommendation. The issue of a US assembly is a larger subject, and would take time and attention if required.

Issue Discussions

A proposal was presented to the board regarding the handling of issue discussions for the next conference cycle. The proposal is flexible and asks that all 3 options proposed in the report be kept and tried. Once topics are chosen, points could be generated for *News Flashes*.

Proposing an idea tree for topics, the conference participant would then be asked to rate. The World Board will also bring one topic. Topics could be discussed on Friday.

Discussion

- It does not seem appropriate for the World Board to select a topic for the fellowship to discuss. The conference should decide what to do with Issue Discussion Topics. Need a process on how to have non-adversarial discussions, not on how to select topics.
- Previously used the amount of input received as a barometer for what was going on in the fellowship and it seemed inadequate. However at CAR workshops gathered that the local members enjoy discussion on topics and they don't want to lose opportunity.
- The board would only be bringing a topic for rating to the conference and the conference will decide.
- It seems that there is no avenue for the fellowship to submit topics and select topics in what is being presented. Regions input should actively be sought for topics as is done with Worldwide Workshops.

Wording will be added to indicate that the options could be used in combination. Include where and how the fellowship is involved. The Conference Report will state what option will be used and will mention sources of topics. No objection to the process as presented, including the above input. There were no objections to a synopsis's (give fellowship example) of what's going on in the future will be provided.

Miracles Happen

Members present at MARLCNA expressed concern due to their understanding that World Services stated that *Miracles Happen* was not going to be reprinted again and now World Services is breaking their word. Once it was explained that the World Board is only asking for permission to reprint there wasn't a problem.

It was suggested that the word "approval" not be used when speaking to the conference about reprinting *Miracles Happen* because the book is neither a conference approved nor fellowship-approved document. "Approval" has a special meaning in our vocabulary.

There was no objection on reporting-reiterating in the March Conference Report what was already written in the February 2002 NAWS News.

CAR & Conference Approval Track

There have been 4428 CAR's distributed with increased activity on the web. 15 Conference Approval Track packets have been sold.

Presently the board has decided to not post Conference Approval Track (CAT) material on the web and will possibly engage the conference in a discussion regarding this matter.

Orientation Packet

The Executive Committee will send out a warm and friendly cover memo, the proposed WSC Rules of Order, draft minutes and the Election Procedures.

Registration Packet

The orientation package will contain badges, restaurant information and candidate profiles. The board asked to approve the inclusion of a simple questionnaire in the Delegates registration packet. There was no objection to providing a questionnaire in the registration packet, along with the badges, restaurant information and candidate profile. Board member interested in providing input should to send input by April 11 to Eileen@na.org.

World Board Meetings

The dates indicated on the calendar distributed are potential dates for World Board and Executive Committee meetings, showing eight board meetings and three Executive Committee meetings in the next cycle. The three Executive Committee meetings are those already identifiable as needing to occur but more will be scheduled after the new EC is created.

Executive Director Report

Archives

Anthony reported that some of the purchased Jimmy K. archives were boxes and crates of very old reels of tape from the 50's, 60's and 70's. Because the reels were not properly stored prior to being purchased the material on the reels is starting to deteriorate. Anthony proposed that each month \$3,000 be spent to salvage reels; estimated cost to salvage all reels is a minimum of \$250,000. Staff will work on putting together a compilation of material to show the conference some of the material on the reels and the importance of why the material should be preserved. A portion of a NA 20th year Celebration, featuring Bob B. and Jimmy K. was played. The board supported the presented direction.

There was a brief discussion regarding items being sold on Ebay.

No questions came from the board regarding the January and February 2002 financials, the Canadian Legal Status, Staff Update, WCNA 28 financial report, or the Status of Spanish audio and service material.

Gift Edition It Works How and Why over & lay flat binding of the Basic Text

Lay flat binding for the large print Basic Text is also being researched. There was no objection to the proposed It Works How and Why Gift Edition cover—unanimous.

PSA's on the web

Staff will look into having PSA's available in a format that is convertible on the Internet.

Posting Literature on the Web

There was no objection to accepting the revised format suggestion (html) and copyright notice for posting Narcotics Anonymous literature online-unanimous.

Business Plan Update

Business Plan Group members are Bob McDonough, Bob Jordan, Mario Tesoriero, Tom Rush, Cary Seltzer, Anthony Edmondson, and Becky Meyer. A synopsis of the meeting with the Business Plan Group was provided.

There was no objection: To keep the group intact to complete the process of developing plans to accomplish the strategies and related work. To remove any dollar limit on individual donations and gifts left to NA by members in their wills. No donation or gift should be accepted with conditions. Idea is to remove the fixed dollar limit, how specifically will be re-written.

"In memoriam" gifts are made in the name of a member and should be considered that member's donation. If there is ever a question, NAWS should be given the discretion to decline any contribution. Cary's notes are different from what's written, check. This portion requires more discussion by the board.

Status of the shopping cart was discussed. Anthony stated that the focus right now is on the world convention. There are also a couple of philosophical issues that the board has to discuss before moving forward with the shopping cart, e.g. WSO inventory being available on the web.

2002 – 2004 Budget

There was no objection to the Executive Committee approving changes to this document before the conference.

Executive Committee Report

Approval of January minutes

M/S/C Susan Chess, Tony Walters "To approve the January 2002 minutes as amended."

The board accepted amendments: strike Ron comments on page 19 and Craig's changes regarding the PI Handbook development.

HRP and Mike Lilly's petition

A suggestion was made to look into having a consultant to assist with grievance procedures as well as look into how AA handles grievances. Is the board willing to accept the Executive Committee recommendations as written in the Mike Lilly packet? There was one objection noted, but not to block moving forward. It was the consensus of the board to accept the EC recommendations in the Mike Lilly packet.

Correspondence

Daniel would like the order of the emails to be changed to reflect the original communication first followed by NAWS' response. Look at revamping the system. Also feels that malevolent letters to NAWS should not always be responded to positively.

Closed Session (Future roles for World Board members and the board)

Sunday 17 March

Present: Jane Nickels, Bob Jordan, Susan Chess, Cary Seltzer, Bella Blake, Tony Walters, Michael McDermott, Lib Edmonds, , Daniel Schuessler, David James, Larry Roche, Claudio Lemionet, Giovanna Ghisays, and Ron Hofius

Not Present: Craig Robertson, Saul Alvarado, Tom McCall and Jon Thompson. Cary Seltzer, Larry Roche and Daniel Schuessler left the board meeting at 12:30 pm.

Staff: Anthony Edmondson, Becky Meyer, Eileen Perez-Evans, Anne Peters, Karen Chrapek, Travis Koplow, Steve Lantos, Donna Smylie, and Jeff Gershoff.

Closed Session

The board met in a closed session until 10:30 am.

Jane opened the meeting at 10:30am with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.

The World Board accepted the resignation of Jon Thompson as the chairperson of the World Board. The vice chair, Jane Nickels, was made acting chair until the regular elections following the conference. All other positions remain the same with the vice chair position remaining vacant.

Publications*Approve final survey*

Bella presented the Basic Text Evaluation survey. Board input was received and incorporated. The board was asked to accept the survey as presented.

Comments from board members

- The survey does not have enough information to be conclusive. The same questions have been asked at different times and the response has been the same—some members want changes to the Basic Text and some don't. Further concerned about a professional creating a survey and not really understanding our fellowship.

Bella noted that the Publications Committee decided to go with the current context of survey. Part of the information is being gathered so the World Board can make an informed decision about whether or not to recommend changes to the Basic Text at the World Service Conference. The survey is only to get a pulse of the fellowship.

- There is a conflict with questions #3, #4 and #5; however at the same time interesting, if individuals respond *don't change the Basic Text*, but later respond *add some personal stories*.
- The survey doesn't tell anything about how the NA Fellowship feels about making changes to the Basic Text. It is not reflective of the 25,000 groups vs. 1,000 individuals that will complete the survey. Question that the pulse of the fellowship will be provided. Suggest that the survey be sent to individuals that would not normally fill out surveys. Send to a more focused group even if its only 250 individuals.

Bella responded that it is about being inclusive, letting the fellowship be involved would be inclusive. The survey will be distributed via all available communications vehicles: *NA Way*, web, WCNA, World Service Conference, etc.

The board reminded that it has already been decided (by the board) that the survey is being done as well as how it will be done. Whether to administer the survey should not be a question at this point—the Publications Committee would not have moved forward with the development of the survey. If something has changed then the board needs to change its decision, otherwise the question before everyone is if the survey is acceptable.

- Concern expressed about including questions #3 and #4—questions are not necessary. Believes if the above-mentioned questions are removed better answers will be provided.

Anne explained that these two questions came as input from the Focus Groups.

- Add a heading above question #5: "Your thoughts about Basic Text Chapters One through Ten." This will help separate Book 1 and Book 2.
- Add wording to clean time: Length of clean time in months and years.
- Add City and State versus region. Everyone may not be of the region they are from.
- Add "no opinion" or change wording to Question 2:
- Font is too big on boxes – takes importance away from questions. Mark only one box below. Question #8 – not following same style. More important, less important, etc.
- Code the surveys so you would know the origination of the survey (e.g., website, convention, etc.)
- Ron now agrees with leaving the questions (#5 and #6) in the survey. He also agrees with Anthony that the World Board has already made a decision to move forward with the survey.

There were no objections voiced to asking Pubs to consider all of the input received and moving forward with presenting the survey to the WSC. Final approval of the draft will be by the Publications Committee and the Executive Committee.

Sponsorship—Approve detailed outline

The outline and general direction of the sample page for the sponsorship book was accepted without objection.

The fellowship is scheduled to receive the draft material in December. The general feeling of board members was that they are comfortable with what has previously and currently been presented. Direction of the project is fantastic and seems to be going in the right direction. A strategic board doesn't have to discuss what sponsorship is or what NA literature needs to say about sponsorship, only needs to approve the direction.

The board's attention called to the philosophy and direction of the decision that has just been made. This indicates a shift of responsibility in our history for our fellowship and is a defining moment for the board.

Approve timeline

The timeline is tight but achievable. Jane noted that the first workgroup meeting would be scheduled in mid- to late June vs. June 6th. The original timeline had the first workgroup meeting in mid- to late June (2nd or 3rd weekend in June). Having resolved the first meeting objective, the timeline was accepted without objections.

World Board members were asked to submit potential names for the workgroup.

Translations Evaluation Workgroup

Personal story guidelines are open for input. The next step will be to compile the guidelines and bring the draft back to the board, and then the writing will actually take place. Board members are encouraged to submit input on the guidelines.

Nederlands Personal Stories

All stories have been received and Susan and a contract translator will work together to verify that the outlined changes have been made. There are however two changes that have not been made because the writer, who happens to be the Local Translation Committee chairperson, refused to make them, e.g. a reflection of AA and a specific drug reference.

The board asked for concurrence to authorize the production of Nederlands Book 1 and 2, including the story not reflecting the changes. There was an objection noted but not to block moving forward with production.

The board authorized the production of the Netherlands Basic Text pending verification that the changes as outlined have been made to the Nederland personal stories.

A reference regarding AA not endorsing nor opposing... will be included as a footnote for the story that references Alcoholics Anonymous.

Arabic Translations Evaluation

The board reviewed the Arabic translations of IP #1 and Glossary in Book 2, page 133.

The Arabic community has been using *Unknown Narcotics Addicts* for the *Narcotics Anonymous* name for years. This caused concern to be expressed by some board members. Standard policy for NAWS is that every piece of NA literature has the *Narcotics Anonymous* banner printed on the cover and no piece of literature is printed without it.

Daniel noted that he is in favor of giving some leeway to the LTCs. Some of the English phrases do not make sense in German, e.g. sponsorship in German means to give money.

Giovanna reminded the board about conceptual fidelity and that local communities are given the leeway to use substitutes that capture the spirit of what's being said if their translations is not appropriate. If the word "sponsorship" translates into "supervisor" in Arabic then they could change it to "guide" and it would be the same concept as sponsorship.

Ron noted that in the Arab-world there must be more cultural sensitivity than anywhere else and that perhaps we shouldn't force an American name on them.

The World Board agreed to provide the input to the TEG and the issue will come back to the board.

Fellowship Relations

WSC Seating Report

Michael reported that a fundamental shift is needed in the way the World Board deals with emerging communities. Suggesting that the workgroup take some time to review the wording in the future. Our current language basically states that regions contact NAWS after they have been in existence for three or more years. Feels that contact should be much sooner to better assist communities with emergence.

A concerted effort to reach every community has been made. Requests that have been received that met the deadlines are from Alaska, Arabian Gulf, Greece, North Carolina Region, Pakistan, Poland, and Turkey. Additional requests received but that did not meet the deadline were from Chile, Venezuela, and Le Nordet. Board reminded that the body agreed to not consider any request that did not meet the deadline.

Based upon the seating criteria the Fellowship Relations Committee is recommending Greece for seating at 2002 World Service Conference. No objection.

There was no objection to the workgroups proposal to use a balance between rotation and continuity in the composition of the workgroup for the next conference cycle. There were no objections to the EC and FRC finalizing the report.

It is recommended that the report to conference participant not include the sentence *Additionally need to clarify that the interpretation of the criteria would indicate that this ...* from North Carolina Region.

Worldwide Workshops

Brazil

Workshop occurs this weekend; all travelers will be on site by Thursday. Translations and communications have been a significant challenge and everything is very expensive. Fellowship is excited and do expect everything to go well.

Chicago

Workshop was difficult. Have learned that the fellowship does not have a clear perception of what a Worldwide Workshop is and FRC is rethinking how to market event. David thinks that the name needs to be changed, feels the name inhibits part of the process.

UK

Peter H has been asked to be the liaison for the Worldwide Workshop that is being proposed in the UK for the next conference cycle. Possible hotel site is a facility that has been used by the UK Area before for previous events. Hotel offers a package that includes food, pool, etc although the location is somewhat isolated. When the time comes more information will be provided to the board.

Service Delivery Plan for WCNA 29

FRC has received all the workshop meetings information. FRC is looking to incorporate some of the way the Worldwide Workshop functions into the convention. There were no objections to the direction for WCNA 29 service delivery plan.

Events

WCNA 29

The estimated size of the Atlanta convention will be like the convention in Baltimore, figuring a total attendance of about 15,000. All events are about 50% sold and everything else is ahead of budget. Cost reductions presented. The changes to the WCNA 29 budget were unanimously approved.

There was a support committee meeting last weekend in Atlanta. Volunteer sheets were made available via the Internet. The Events Committee asked the Support Committee to keep notes of it processes and procedures since this is the first time that this group has functioned under the premise of support.

The Support Committee asked permission to display historical items about NA or related to NA. After some discussion it was agreed to not approve display of these items.

The board was shown a Power Point presentation of the convention center and hotels. The Marriott is the head quarter's hotel and the Hilton is the co-head quarter's hotel.

Merchandise Timetable handout provided. Yellow means design and development, green means production time and red is transit/shipping time.

The board was provided with an informal grid that gave the opportunity to provide input to workshop topic.

Recommended names for WCNA 29 Main Speaker read. There were no objections to the list of names read. The board reminded that the list is confidential, as no one has been contacted yet.

There were no objections to conducting a demographic survey in Atlanta.

Guardians

NA Way Editorial Board Update

Steve S will document the Workgroup selection process used.

Susan reported that February 16 was the first meeting had with the 3 NA Way Editorial Board members and that the meeting was successful.

There was no objection to the themes as presented for October 2002, January 2003, and April 2003.

Board encouraged submitting any additional input to themes.

Susan presented the idea of adding a new column in the NA Way called *The Homegroup*. Intent is to give any homegroup member the ability to write in about their home group and/or ask questions. There was no objection to add a new column *The Homegroup*. The incorporation of an additional column in the NA Way will be reported to conference because it affects one of the CAR motions.

There was no objection to the colored diamonds being changed for every NA Way issue and to the group exploring a cartoonist. Staff will research the cost for a four-color (rainbow) process.

50th Anniversary Issue

Depending on Executive Managements findings there was no objection to the general idea of making the NA Way Magazine 50th Anniversary issue larger and nicer.

The board asked to start thinking about ideas for themes so that a master list can be compiled and given back to the board for review. April 11 is deadline to send in theme ideas for the 50th Anniversary issue.

Solicit Articles

More material will be gathered for the board and provided at the next meeting.

Court Card Bulletin

Lib thought the Court Card Bulletin draft would be very helpful for communities. There was no objection to approving this bulletin for production. Jeff G. was thanked for his work on the bulletin.

Online CAR workshop

The board is declining the WS Participation offer, as it is not prepared at this time.