TEXT ◇ FUTURE TARGETED LITERATURE ◇ OUR SERVICE SYSTEM ◇ BUILDING

THE APPROVAL DRAFT OF THE SIXTH EDITION BASIC

STRONG HOME GROUPS ◇ WHO'S MISSING...? ◇

PARENTS OR GUARDIANS OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN NA

THE APPROVAL DRAFT OF BY YOUNG ADDICTS, FOR

YOUNG ADDICTS ◇ SERVICE PAMPHLETS ◇ THE APPROVAL DRAFT OF FOR THE

CONFERENCE AGENDA REPORT

2008

OUR FREEDOM

OUR RESPONSIBILITY

WSC 2008

27 APRIL ◇ 3 MAY

World Service Conference Mission Statement

The World Service Conference brings all elements of NA world services together to further the common welfare of NA. The WSC's mission is to unify NA worldwide by providing an event at which:

- Participants propose and gain fellowship consensus on initiatives that further the NA World Services vision;
- The fellowship, through an exchange of experience, strength, and hope, collectively expresses itself on matters affecting Narcotics Anonymous as a whole;
- NA groups have a mechanism to guide and direct the activities of NA World Services;
- Participants ensure that the various elements of NA World Services are ultimately responsible to the groups they serve;
- Participants are inspired with the joy of selfless service, and the knowledge that our efforts make a difference.

"The more responsibility we assume,
the more freedom we'll gain."

Just for Today – March 22

WSC 2008

27 April – 3 May

Conference Agenda Report

2008 Conference Agenda Report
World Service Conference of Narcotics Anonymous

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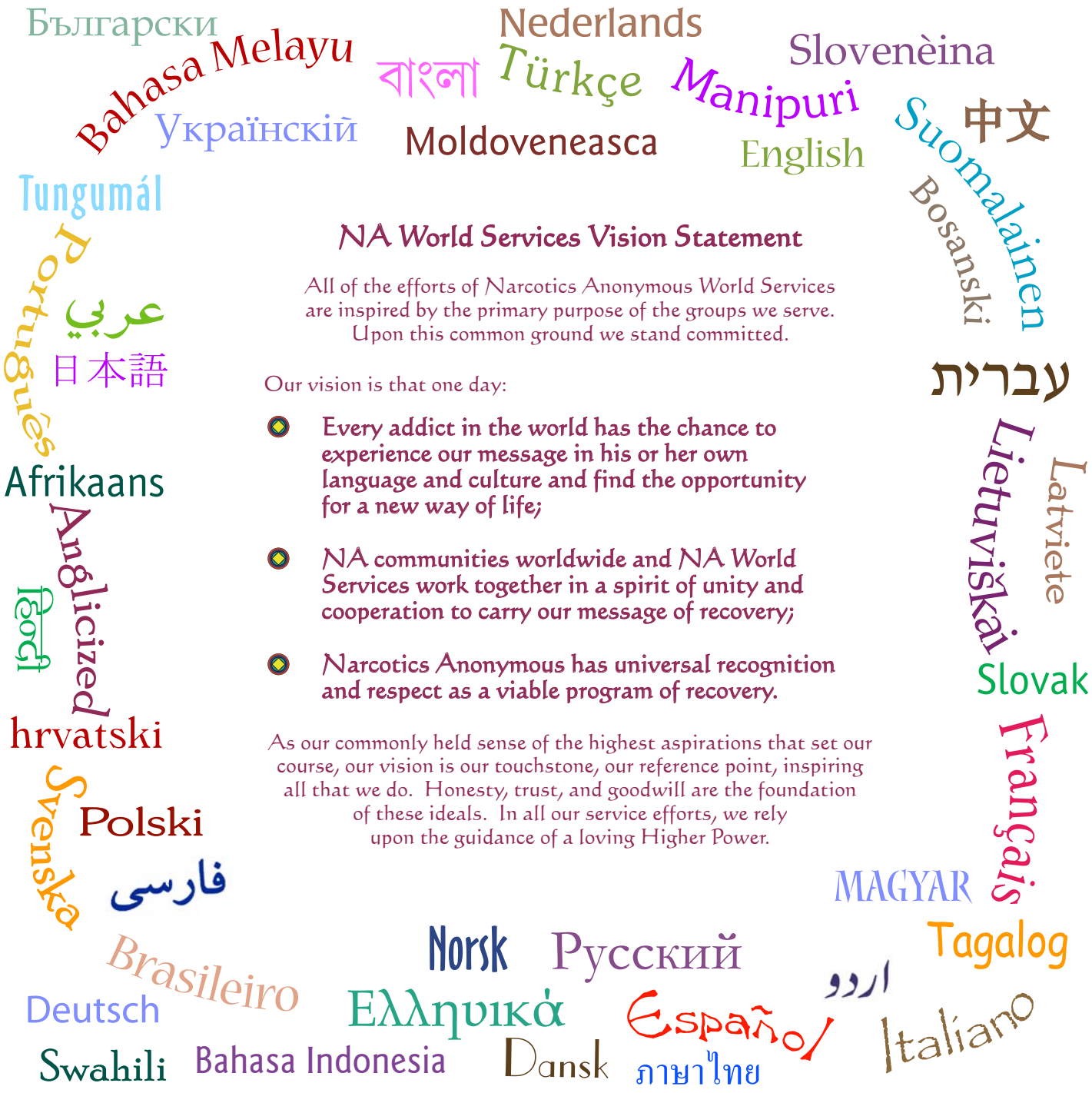


NA World Services Vision Statement

All of the efforts of Narcotics Anonymous World Services are inspired by the primary purpose of the groups we serve. 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;
- NA communities worldwide and NA World Services work together in a spirit of unity and cooperation to carry our message of recovery;
- Narcotics Anonymous has universal recognition and respect as a viable program of recovery.

As our commonly held sense of the highest aspirations that set our course, our vision is our touchstone, our reference point, inspiring all that we do. Honesty, trust, and goodwill are the foundation of these ideals. In all our service efforts, we rely upon the guidance of a loving Higher Power.

World Board Report

Greetings from your World Board. This report is written in anticipation of the 29th World Service Conference, to be held from 27 April through 3 May 2008, in Woodland Hills, California, USA. WSC 2008 will mark ten years since the World Board was created. In some ways it seems incredible that it has already been a decade. We have accomplished so much together, from implementing a strategic planning process for world services to developing a tool to strengthen home groups. We have developed and distributed new service materials, including a *Public Relations Handbook*, as well as recovery literature. We've created the worldwide workshops and held all sorts of workshops around the world, witnessing the fellowship's growth especially in Iran, where we now have a branch of the World Service Office. We've continued to examine and make changes to the world service structure, eliminating the mandate for standing committees within the board, for instance, and changing the size of the board. And we've witnessed many local service bodies begin to change their structure (perhaps by creating a PR coordinator or by consolidating their own standing committees) and develop planning processes, all in an effort to more effectively deliver services.

Despite so many accomplishments and so much positive change, there is still much work to be done. We need your help to frame the next steps. How do we reach Who Is Missing (see page 14)? What successes in Our Service System should we be building upon (see page 12)? How can make our literature projects more successful (see page 34)? The theme for this World Service Conference is **Our Freedom, Our Responsibility** and we feel an ongoing responsibility to move forward with these issues and others.

Our mission statement tells us that the conference is a time for us to come together to "further the common welfare of NA," and we are looking forward to that opportunity. Come help us celebrate our freedom and share our responsibility.

Preparing for WSC 2008

We distribute copies of the *Conference Agenda Report*, at our cost, to all conference participants and regional service committees. Any NA member, group, or committee can purchase copies of the *CAR* from the World Service Office for US $11.00 or download the document from our website, http://www.na.org. The *CAR* is published in English, French, German, Portuguese, Spanish, and Swedish. Translated versions will be published at the end of December 2007. We would like to see the *CAR* distributed as widely as possible, which is why we make it available for free as a download.

In one of our brainstorming sessions about this 2008 *Conference Agenda Report,* the Executive Director of NA World Services said, "There's no such thing as a goal too lofty." He was referring in particular to our next steps on the issue discussion topics, but that sentiment could apply to any section of this report and to any month of the conference cycle that is drawing to a close. These two years have been full of lofty goals and lots of hard work to turn them into reality. We have completed two literature projects, traveled to more than forty locations to put on sessions and workshops, taken an extra step in the Issue Discussion Topic process, and worked on

tools to help groups better achieve their primary purpose, to name just some of the work we have accomplished.

Using this *CAR*

This *CAR* contains some of the fruits of that labor. This first section of the *CAR,* "Preparing for WSC 2008," may be of most interest to the conference participants themselves. The remainder of this section is largely devoted to what to expect at the conference and what additional materials to prepare are forthcoming. The remaining sections of the *CAR* all contain motions, questions, and topics that will be discussed and, in some cases, voted upon at the conference. The "Issue Discussion Topic" section talks about each of the three topics for the 2006–2008 conference cycle—Building Strong Home Groups, Our Service System, and Who Is Missing from Our Meetings and Why?—and asks questions about each of them. The "Literature" section contains motions pertaining to the Basic Text and the two proposed IPs, *By Young Addicts, For Young Addicts* and *For the Parents or Guardians of Young People in NA,* as well as questions about targeted literature and the *Sponsorship* book. The next section, "Other Publications," talks briefly about the new service pamphlets and the discussion we hope to frame for the conference about their content and development process. Finally, our report ends with a very brief look at the cycle ahead. The "Regional Motions" section of the *CAR* contains four regional motions.

As is our practice, we have included a summary sheet that contains all of the motions and discussion questions, as well as a World Pool Information Form and a glossary. The addenda include three new pieces of literature that will come before the conference—a Sixth Edition Basic Text and two IPs, one targeted to younger members and the other geared toward their parents and guardians. The existing IP #13, which the proposed IP for younger members would replace, is also included as an addendum as is the Building Strong Home Groups worksheet, in the hopes that this conference can provide input to make that tool more useful and more widely used. (Note that the addenda are not generally translated, but the Building Strong Home Groups worksheet was translated prior to the publication of this report.)

The *CAR* also asks for your input on a number of other subjects, including who to target with our literature, how to carry the message to the addicts who are missing from our rooms, and what is working and not working in our service structure.

Workshopping the CAR

We have tried, over the course of the last several conferences, to make this document more approachable and easier to read. Sometimes we are more successful at that than others. Nonetheless, we know that members and committees are challenged to workshop a *CAR* that contains discussion questions and motions. While collecting the results of a motion is often as simple as checking a box ("yes," "no," or "abstain"), collecting the results of an open-ended question can be far more difficult. Not to mention the challenge of workshopping the issues themselves—things that may not be presented as specific motions or questions but that will clearly be discussed at the conference—for instance, the service pamphlet development process.

For the 2006 *CAR* we posted a session profile online to help in your efforts to hold workshops. We hope to have something similar for this *Conference Agenda Report.* We know that we need to continue to develop tools for delegates and members to

use when conducting workshops. You can be a huge help with this if you have some experience with *CAR* workshops. If you have successfully workshopped the discussion questions in the *CAR* in past years (2004 or 2006), let us know what worked for you. If you haven't been able to workshop the questions, share with us why. What kind of tool can we create that would help you when gathering a conscience at a local level?

This year, for the first time, you can give your answers to the *CAR* discussion questions online. You can find the link on our conference page: http://www.na.org/conference. We welcome responses not just from regional delegates, but from members, groups, areas, and regions. (The form will ask you to specify whether you are responding as an individual member or representing an area or region.) So log on and let us know what you think.

We Need You!

To use our online form to send us answers to the *CAR* discussion questions. We will use your responses to help frame discussions for the conference, so please give us your ideas as soon as you can.

http://www.na.org/conference

A Discussion-based Conference

How can we best build a *CAR* that will stimulate discussion and help delegates carry the results of those discussions to the conference? We are still working on the answer to that question. As effective as a discussion-based format has been at the WSC, we still have work to do to close the divide between local NA communities and the World Service Conference. We remain optimistic, though. After all, we have come such a long way in our transformation to discussion-based decision-making at a world service level. The 2006 *Conference Agenda Report* opened with the topic heading, "Moving Toward a Discussion-based Conference," and as we were writing this *CAR* we realized that we really have made that move; we have come a long way in a short period of time. The conference has embraced discussion sessions and consensus-building, and it is working very well for us.

Once upon a time, the World Service Conference meant long days (and nights) of motion-making, debating, amendment-offering, doughnut-eating, debating, cigarette-smoking (first or second-hand), and debating. Some of us at times get a little misty-eyed as we recall those marathon sessions, but most felt intimidated and somewhat alienated by the intense week dominated by wrangling over parliamentary procedure (and no recovery meetings). What's more, much of the time spent at the conference ended up focused on minor details rather than major issues of relevance to our groups (lots of trees, not much forest). That environment didn't function well to set direction for world services or the discussions and work needed throughout the fellowship.

Our transformation to a discussion-based conference has helped to cure many of those ills. Much of our work now takes place in small groups at round tables or in full

group discussions, and it's hard to imagine how we could tackle a broad topic like "infrastructure" (one of the issue discussion topics during the last cycle) or the NAWS Strategic Plan if we had to do so in debate form, driven by motions. Using different formats for different sessions has enabled the conference to be more flexible, hear more points of view, build consensus, and structure sessions that will help move our work forward more effectively. Even the "business" part of the week is addressed in discussion sessions before any motions are made or voting takes place. If conference participants are making motions at midnight, they are probably at the Saturday night dance. Most of us get to recovery meetings during the week, and we subsist on more than doughnuts and coffee. And most importantly, the conference week serves to bring closure to some of the issues discussed throughout the fellowship over the course of the two years preceding the WSC, and it helps us look forward and talk about what we want to accomplish together in the years ahead.

Conference Sessions

As of the writing of this *CAR* we haven't developed the sessions for the conference week. The March *Conference Report* will contain the details about the day-to-day schedule and some of the particular sessions. Nonetheless, many sessions are consistent from conference to conference, so we know what a good part of the week will look like.

The sessions we will have at this conference will most likely include the following:

- Orientation, giving an overview of what to expect for the week
- Welcome session with introductions
- NAWS report
- HRP report
- Issue discussion topics small group session
- Strategic plan small group session
- Fellowship development presentation
- Zonal forum reports (space will be provided for zonal forum meetings during the week)
- Old and new business, with each business session preceded by a discussion session
- Presentation of proposed budget and project plans for the cycle ahead (to be voted on in new business)
- Presentation of regions to be considered for conference seating at WSC 2010
- Elections for World Board, HRP, and WSC Cofacilitators

We always include time to talk about issues that face the fellowship. At this conference, for instance, we know we will talk with delegates about the service pamphlet development process (see page 37) as well as what is working and not working in the service structure (see page 12), to name just two topics upon which we expect to focus. We also hold a board meeting at the conference, so that we can discuss the business of the conference and so that participants can get a sense of what our meetings are like.

And don't let us give you the wrong impression. Unlike the conferences of yore, it's not all endless toil these days. Yes, we work hard and we have long, tiring days. But we also try to build in time for fellowship and recovery meetings. For the past two conferences, we've had an afternoon break at a nearby ranch, about which we've heard nothing but enthusiastic praise, and so we expect to continue what is becoming a tradition and take an afternoon to eat, play football and Frisbee, and have a meeting. We've found we play as hard as we work.

Our mission statement tells us that the WSC is an event at which "the fellowship, through an exchange of experience, strength, and hope, collectively expresses itself on matters affecting Narcotics Anonymous as a whole." The conference presents a unique opportunity, every two years, for us to come together in this way. We are looking forward to it. We welcome suggestions if there is anything in particular you think we should be sure to cover. Send us your input by 5 January 2008 if you have ideas about potential WSC sessions or ways in which we can improve the conference.

Conference Approval Track and Other Material

One of the changes we made years ago to improve conference preparations was to create a new mailing of Conference Approval Track material, so that the information that didn't directly pertain to the groups wouldn't be included in the *CAR.* Many groups had a hard time getting through all of the items in the *CAR* and motivating their members to care about its contents. Much of the *CAR,* we were told, seemed beyond their purpose and interest.

In response to these repeated requests to focus the material in the *CAR* more clearly on issues of interest to the groups, the Conference Approval Track material mailing was created to contain service materials, the NAWS budget, project plans, and other similar things. At the same time, moving these service-related items to the CAT allowed us to mail the *CAR* earlier than ever before (150 days prior to the conference, for the English-language version, rather than 90 days, as it used to be). If we still had to include all of the material now in the CAT, we would not be able to get it ready in that amount of time.

If groups want to delegate decisions about those items in the CAT, they can. Nonetheless, we are including a brief list of what to expect in the Conference Approval Track material so that those who are interested can get a sense of what they will find. Like the *CAR*, we have made the CAT accessible online so that it is easier for those who are interested to get a copy (see http://www.na.org/conference). The material is password protected so that only NA members will have access to our proposed budget and the other materials included. Clicking on the link on the conference page will take you through the process to get a password. Alternatively, you can purchase the Conference Approval Track material just as you can purchase the *CAR.*

This year, in addition to budget and project plans, the CAT will contain a number of revisions to *A Guide to World Services in Narcotics Anonymous*. Along with the Conference Approval Track mailing, conference participants can expect to see pricing recommendations and medallion design ideas. Although this material is not conference-approval material, it will be sent out to participants and literature customers prior to the conference. We give a very brief overview of these items below.

GWSNA *Revisions*

There are more than a half dozen different proposed revisions to *A Guide to World Services in NA* included in the Conference Approval Track material. The changes, which cover a range of material, will be explained more in depth in the CAT itself. We just touch on them here so that those who are interested are kept abreast of the changes that are being proposed. Members who want more information can either make sure they get a copy of the Conference Approval Track material, or they can talk with their delegate.

- HRP and World Pool sections of *GWSNA*: As the HRP has been reporting, we will offer a rewrite of these sections of *A Guide to World Services in NA* to best reflect the actual practices of the HRP and the use of the World Pool.
- CBDM and revised rules: We have worked throughout this cycle to draft a section on consensus-based decision-making for *GWSNA* We sent this out to conference participants in August and have encouraged feedback about the draft, but we have received very little response thus far. The Conference Approval Track material will include a revised draft of the CBDM section as well as revised WSC Rules of Order.
- *Annual Report* publication date: Currently *GWSNA* calls for a September publication date, but that doesn't give us enough time to include the annual audit figures that come out at the end of the year. We have asked conference participants about the date, and they have preferred that the report be delayed so that it could include the audit figures. They have expressed this preference twice, but never in a motion, so we have had no way to capture that preference in a policy. We would like to change the date formally to the end of the calendar year to allow the inclusion of those audit figures as well as the audit report as a regular practice.
- Moratorium on WSC seating (recommendations for seating will be included in CAT material, as usual, along with all requests that we received): In addition to recommendations for seating, which are included in the CAT material as a matter of course, we will be including a recommendation for a moratorium on the seating of regions that have formed from a split as well as a moratorium on the use of a workgroup to make seating recommendations to the board until 2012. We have reported on our challenges with WSC seating at length for more than a conference cycle, and the actions at WSC 2006 reflect the limitations of our seating policy. To put it briefly, the conference made a number of decisions about seating that were contrary to the "letter of the law" as written in our policy.

  The seating criteria do not address the desire to stem the growth of US regions seated at the conference or regions formed from an already existing location (these regions form to better meet local service needs, but could have their voice represented at the conference in a different way, perhaps by an existing seated region). In addition, the criteria do not allow the workgroup to evaluate the applications in any way other than by applying the criteria like a template to each case.

We know we need to have more discussions on this subject, and we anticipate having a proposal for the conference to discuss in 2012. In the meantime, were the moratorium to be adopted, new regions forming in developing communities (those not forming from a split) could still be seated at the conference. For more information, see future conference reporting. The Conference Approval Track material will contain more specifics, and the March *Conference Report* may also include more on the subject of WSC seating.

- Translations policy: If the Sixth Edition Basic Text is approved at this conference, we will be suggesting changes to the translations policy for personal stories. See page 30 for more information.
- NAWS production of only current versions of literature: This bullet point refers to revisions we will recommend to *GWSNA* to capture and clarify our current policy and practice, not to change it. The *Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust* explains that NAWS is the only authorized publisher of fellowship-approved recovery literature and that NAWS only publishes the currently approved version or edition of each piece. We will be recommending language for *GWSNA* to reflect these facts. See page 29 for more information.
- Service material approval process: As with the NAWS production bullet point above, this bullet point refers to language that will be offered not to change policy but to reflect policy already in place. In this case, we are in the strange position of offering language for a policy that was created de facto by action at WSC 2006 when, at the same time, there will be a motion in old business to rescind this development process. The 2006 World Service Conference passed a motion to "allow the world board to develop and approve service-related information pamphlets and tools for distribution to the fellowship." We will offer a revision to *GWSNA* to reflect that motion. See page 37 for more information.
- WCNA zones: We have discussed the convention rotation plan, and we have no recommendations for changes at this time (though we plan to continue our discussions on the topic). We are, however, recommending a change to one of the zones in the rotation plan. The zone that now includes Asia, India, and Australia would also, in this new formation, include Africa and the Middle East. Changing the zones in this way would put Africa and the Middle East in a zone where they are more likely to get consideration as home to a potential site. (Currently, Africa and the Middle East are part of the zone that includes Europe.) The Conference Approval Track material will include a diagram of the proposed new zone boundaries.
- Travel reimbursement policy and budget changes: Each conference cycle we offer changes to the budget and reimbursement policy.

The specifics of these changes will be spelled out in the Conference Approval Track material. We mention them here in the interests of keeping everyone as informed as possible. Many groups find these sorts of policy concerns beyond the scope of their interest or focus, but of course, some groups or members may be interested or even passionate about some of these subjects. If you have input on any of these proposed

changes, you can of course, include it along with the rest of the results of your *CAR* discussions and workshops.

Pricing Recommendations

Many of you are already aware that we will be offering a series of pricing recommendations. We have kept price increases in abeyance for what will be ten years as of this conference, despite a business plan that has recommended two increases during that time. While these sorts of decisions are not determined by the conference, we want to keep everyone informed and have any discussions that are needed at the conference. We began a discussion about these increases at the NAWS Literature Distribution and Convention Workshop held at the beginning of November. Our pricing recommendations will be distributed to conference participants before the conference.

Medallion Designs

As we discussed at the last conference, we changed our medallion design from Roman to Arabic numerals to make it easier to fit large numbers on the face of the medallion. (The lie is dead! We do recover.) We know, however, that some members are disappointed that the Roman numeral design is no longer available—in fact, there are two regional motions in this *CAR* related to medallion design—and so once again, we will discuss medallion design at the conference, as we did at the Literature Distribution and Convention Workshop in November. We will distribute samples of two possible designs and two different finishes to delegates and to literature customers. We also will have online images of the proposed designs with a form of some kind in order to get a sense of what the fellowship prefers.

Other Conference Preparations

That is a lot of material to cover, we know, but the *Conference Agenda Report* and Conference Approval Track are not the only preparations for WSC 2008. Before too long, we should have session profiles posted for holding *CAR* workshops, and if you give us ideas on other tools that can help you workshop the *CAR* and collect a conscience, we may be able to come out with some new innovations as well. This year, as we mention throughout this *CAR*, we will be posting an online form for the discussion questions in the *CAR.* We hope this will help members, areas, and regions send us responses more easily and quickly. All of the items related to WSC 2008 will be accessible from the conference webpage, which will be updated as materials are made available: http://www.na.org/conference.

We also will be posting an online form that delegates can use when submitting regional reports. We tried this for the first time for the 2004 World Service Conference, and it was a big success. Having an online form and some tips helped delegates put their reports together more easily, and it helped us collect and collate information. Generally, regional reports include information such as the number of meetings and areas in your region, the things that are working well for your region and the things that remain challenges, and similar items. The deadline for those reports will be 15 February 2008. Of course, you need not use the online form if you'd prefer not to. You can send us a report in your own format, or you can download the form and mail it in, whatever is easiest for your region.

Those regional reports will be included in the March *Conference Report,* which will also include a summary of Issue Discussion Topic input as well as an outline of the conference week.

In addition to our publications, our bulletin boards are a good source of conference news and preparation: http://www.na.org/IDT/IDT.htm. The Fellowship Issue Discussion Boards are host to a lively and ongoing discussion about the IDTs. If you haven't participated on this board, have a look. Our other board, the WSC Participants' Discussion Forum, is less active. We have not had as much success encouraging activity on this board, but we continue to be optimistic that it could serve as a valuable resource, particularly during "conference season." Have you had particularly helpful *CAR* workshops? Share what you did here. Are you on the opposite end of that spectrum, needing help with your workshops? You could ask for it here. This is the spot to talk about motions and discussion questions, share tips on surviving the conference week, and generally mentor each other and help each other be as successful as possible.

We continue to try to improve our conference preparations, increase communication, and develop tools that help delegates be more effective. It all comes down to the same basic tenets: How can we be more responsive to the needs of *all* addicts? It's our responsibility.

Issue Discussion Topics

Over the course of the past several conference cycles, the issue discussion topics have, in many ways, really evolved. While we used to just issue a *News Flash* on the topics for a given cycle with suggested discussion questions, we now create "session profiles," tools to help members have workshops and discussions on a local level. This is the second conference cycle during which we have distributed profiles for each of the topics and posted them online. As we did in 2004–2006, we also created space for online discussions on our issue discussion topics bulletin boards http://www.na.org/IDT/IDT.htm. And it almost goes without saying at this point, that we held sessions on the issue discussion topics all over the world—at zonal forums we attended, workshops we put on, various multiregional functions to which we were invited, and a host of other events.

The three issue discussion topics for this cycle—Building Strong Home Groups, Our Service Structure, and Who's Missing from Our Meetings and Why—have each evolved from topics in previous cycles. Infrastructure (a 2004–2006 IDT) and Atmosphere of Recovery (a 2002–2004 and 2004–2006 IDT) gave rise to discussions about how to strengthen our service system and our home groups and how to make all addicts feel welcome in our rooms. The current topics were approved at WSC 2006, where we also reviewed possible discussion questions with the participants. In July we released the first batch of IDT material for this cycle—a brief explanation of each topic along with suggested questions for discussion.

These topics have been more than just fodder for discussion, however. We continue to ask ourselves how we can make the IDT process as productive as possible, not simply reporting discussion results back to the fellowship, but when appropriate, using those results in creative and productive ways. The Area Planning Tool, for instance developed, to some degree, from the results of our discussions about Infrastructure over the course of the 2004–2006 conference cycle. This cycle we tried to use that same approach to take the "next steps" in the discussion process; we took the input we were hearing on the topics to create new questions and tools during the conference cycle. But we're not sure if these next steps have helped or, if so, *how* they have helped. We hope to go further in making these discussions productive of concrete solutions, helpful tools, and positive changes.

The issues we have been discussing this conference cycle are also the issues that have guided a great deal of our work in 2006–2008, and that drive much of what we hope to accomplish in the next two years. In some respects, almost everything we mention in this *CAR* could fall under one of the three IDTs for 2006–2008. Our recovery literature efforts this cycle, for instance, have focused on reaching "who's missing." The service pamphlets that we are developing (and will discuss further at WSC 2008) should help in efforts to strengthen our home groups and fix "what's not working" in our service structure. And our discussions about consensus-based decision-making, conference seating, and writing a better *CAR* all build on "what's working" and try to improve "what's not working" in our service structure.

In the end, we feel we have had mixed success with the issue discussion topics this cycle. On the one hand, this is the first time we have been able to move to the next level with the topics. Rather than asking the same questions for two years and then compiling sheets of bullet points (and dots!) for the *CAR*, we were able to take what

we were hearing part way through this conference cycle and think about how to keep moving forward with the topic, whether through asking new questions, putting together a tool, or underscoring our thoughts about the work we need to take on in the years ahead.

On the other hand, in trying to take that next step, it hasn't always been obvious how we can move forward. We have been feeling a bit stuck with some of the discussions we've been having as a fellowship. For instance, what kinds of concrete things can we do to attract "who's missing" into our meetings? How can we improve our service structure so that we can more effectively carry the message to the addict who still suffers? We need your help in formulating the next steps with some of these issues.

Building Strong Home Groups

This was probably the most popular of the issue discussion topics. Wherever we facilitated workshops, we had enthusiastic discussion and we were able to use the results of that discussion to help move us from talk to action.

The Building Strong Home Groups topic grew out of one of the previous topics, Atmosphere of Recovery, which was an IDT for two conference cycles, 2002–2004 and 2004–2006. Having this sort of sustained focus over a number of years has obviously been helpful. Discussions on Atmosphere of Recovery over those years took a variety of tacks, but regardless of the focus, the solution to all of the challenges members discussed seemed to be a focus on strengthening our groups. We've seen some cultural changes begin to take shape in our fellowship. Many members' awareness has risen, and we seem more willing to have discussions in our groups about the recovery atmosphere and how welcoming our groups do or don't feel.

When we did workshops on the topic, we heard the same responses over and over, no matter where we were. We all seemed to share an understanding of what a strong home group feels like and how it functions, but we don't know how to get there. World services compiled responses from workshops we facilitated and input sent in by members and put together a Building Strong Home Groups Worksheet that we hoped would help (See Addendum A). We were really pleased to be able to use the IDT input to put together a tool that addresses such a vital need in NA. There is nothing more important that we can do as trusted servants than strengthening our groups.

Building strong home groups is an ongoing effort for all recovering addicts, and that fact will never change. It is without question the most important thing we can do to better carry our message to the addict who still suffers. The worksheet, in fact, is meant to be used regularly, not just once. Ideally, groups will revisit it annually or however often makes sense for them as part of a cyclical inventory and planning process.

There was initial interest in this worksheet—it was published in *The NA Way Magazine,* and we used it in workshops we facilitated around the world—but we haven't heard much at all about the use of the worksheet on a group level. How can we improve the worksheet? For instance, our experience workshopping the Building Strong Home Groups Worksheet is that the last segment of the sheet—the "Making Decisions" section—seems to be tricky for many people. We wonder if we need to add

something more to this part of the sheet to make it easier to turn the "Solutions" section of the sheet into action. Perhaps there needs to be more explanation or another step here. That's just our sense of how the worksheet has been received in a workshop setting. If you've used the worksheet or tried to use it on a group level, we hope you'll share your experience with us.

Or if you're not using it (and we suspect this is the case for many of you), why not? We are hoping to get feedback from this *CAR* to help us revise this tool. We have talked about including the worksheet with other service material (perhaps *The Group Booklet*) so that it can be an ongoing resource for groups. Let us know how it is working for you and, at least as importantly, what we can do to encourage people to use this worksheet more.

Questions for Discussion

Our questions on this topic are focused on how to make the tool we have developed as effective as possible.

1. If you have used the Building Strong Home Groups worksheet (See Addendum A), how has it helped, and how can it be improved?
2. If you have not, what would convince you to use the worksheet?

The Building Strong Home Groups worksheet was a first for us—the first time we took input from issue discussion topics and built a tool so directly from what we were hearing. We like this approach—using our discussions together to come up with concrete solutions for challenges we all seem to face. Your answers to these questions will help us improve this worksheet and perhaps help us build more effective tools in the future.

As we note throughout this *Conference Agenda Report*, we have posted an online form with all of the discussion questions in the *CAR.* We encourage you to try it out. You can access the form from the link on our conference page: http://www.na.org/conference. We welcome responses not only from regions but also from areas, groups, and members.

Our Service System

In one way or another, we have devoted an issue discussion topic to our service structure and how to improve it for four years. During the 2004–2006 conference cycle, one of the four IDTs was Infrastructure. In workshops around the world, members talked about issues that affect their communities' ability to carry the message and how they can creatively solve some of the problems they've experienced in their infrastructure. The results of those discussions were reported in the March 2006 *Conference Report* and helped to inform the IDTs and projects for this cycle.

During this conference cycle, we took up some very similar questions with the issue discussion topic, Our Service System. At first we issued a series of seven questions under this broad heading, including "How can our current service system better allow for new ideas and creative approaches?" and "What aspects of the system may need changing?" As we mentioned above, part way through the conference cycle, we used the input we were hearing to reframe the questions on all three IDTs. In the case of Our Service System, we released a new set of questions that were more focused;

some addressed bringing an atmosphere of recovery to service; others concentrated on issues related to leadership; the third pair asked members to talk about planning and self-support.

Repeatedly over the course of these four years, we have heard that we need better communication, less duplication of efforts, more training, and more effective delegation, among many other responses. We need to find a way to make service more attractive, more accessible, and more supportive. Interestingly enough, these are all observations that were repeatedly made about world services in the 1980s and early 1990s. Many of you will remember that we ceased all but essential services to devote our attention to an inventory, and the results of that inventory led to a restructuring of world services, including the adoption of our vision statement in 1996 and the creation of the World Board in 1998. Almost immediately, we began to see improvements, and we continued to suggest smaller improvements to the structure (e.g., reducing the size of the board). While, of course, things aren't perfect in world services today, they are greatly improved on every front.

But while we made huge structural changes to world services, little has changed on the local level. We're not suggesting that local service bodies should cease all but essential services for a years-long inventory process, but we are thinking that we need to reexamine our service structure in a broad sense. Perhaps some of our chronic problems mentioned above can be alleviated through restructuring local services in some way.

We have begun to make some changes on a local level. Most notably, of course, we have a new *Public Relations Handbook*, approved at the 2006 World Service Conference. The handbook is being implemented in different ways in regions and areas around the world. Some committees have developed a position for PR coordinator and are consolidating what used to be three separate committees (PI, H&I, and Phonelines) under that one PR umbrella, for instance. It may be, however, that developing a new handbook for one focused area of service is like building a new room onto an old house. We want to hear from you how well this addition improves the house as a whole and whether we need to continue "renovating."

As part of the *PR Handbook* endeavor, we also put together an Area Planning Tool that was approved at the 2006 World Service Conference as well. We have heard back from a number of areas (and regions) who are using the APT and finding it helpful. If you haven't sent any feedback to world services about the planning tool, please do.

More broadly, we want to know what is and isn't working well in your local service efforts. The *PR Handbook* and the Area Planning Tool were both created in response to local needs, and we know in many cases that the implementation of these two new tools would fall into the "what's working" category. But we are also hearing that the APT and the *PR Handbook* may be stop-gap measures—that areas and regions are looking for new, more creative ways to imagine their structures, increase communication, and simplify service delivery.

Another thing that we're beginning to hear at workshops is that we need a stronger sense of shared vision and purpose. This is where we would like to begin moving forward with the topic of Our Service System. In the course of the next several

months, between now and the conference, we hope that you will share with us your ideas about what works well and what needs to change in your local service bodies.

We know from our own experience at world services that having a common vision is crucial in our efforts. The NAWS Vision Statement explains that "our vision is our touchstone, our reference point, inspiring all that we do," and that is the truth. Yet there is no corresponding touchstone for local services. Let's work together on trying to establish that shared vision in the cycle ahead.

From that vision we can move forward to discuss our service delivery and whether or not we need to consider any changes in our system so that our groups can better carry the message. We are not sure how it will all unfold, but we see this discussion as potentially leading to changes in our service system and eventually a corresponding revision of *A Guide to Local Services in NA*. This is one reason we are encouraging as wide a response as possible to the questions below. The input and ideas we hear may become building blocks for a revision of *GLS* or for new tools to help local service bodies.

Questions for Discussion

3. If you are using the Area Planning Tool, how has it helped, and how can it be improved?
4. If you are not, is there a reason why? What would convince you to use the APT?
5. What do you think is working well in your local service structure?
6. What do you think is not working in your local service structure?

We are interested in hearing not just from delegates and RSCs, but also from areas, groups, and subcommittees. In fact, delegates might want to consider collecting input area-by-area or encouraging areas to submit information directly online rather than trying to come up with one response for the whole region. We have posted an online form for all of the discussion questions in this *Conference Agenda Report*, and we hope to get plenty of responses before the conference. You can access the form from the link on our conference page: http://www.na.org/conference. The more input we get before the conference, the better able we will be to frame an effective session on this topic. Our time at the conference is best used discussing what we have found rather than simply collecting the data.

Who Is Missing from Our Meetings and Why?

Like Building Strong Home Groups, this topic grew out of the 2002–2004 and 2004–2006 discussions on Atmosphere of Recovery. During those discussions, it became increasingly clear that not every addict feels equally welcome or at home in NA meetings. This fact came up during our discussions of Our Public Image as well as when, among other things, we talked about the public perceptions that NA may not be for everyone, that some professionals refer certain clients—for example young people—to other recovery programs where they might feel more comfortable.

One of the many beautiful aspects of NA is that our program works for any addict, regardless of his or her age, ethnicity, economic status, belief system, and so on. We are the "big tent" fellowship. Our challenge is to communicate that to others. How can we better demonstrate to *all* of the people in our communities that we are an

open and diverse fellowship? And what can we do to help all addicts feel equally comfortable in our rooms?

For one thing, we know that we need to continue discussions within the fellowship about issues. There is still a perception on the part of some members that reaching out to addicts on the basis of their feelings of being different is contrary to our fundamental principles. When we hold workshops on this topic we sometimes hear, "But personal recovery depends on NA unity." And we explain that we see reaching out to specific populations as another way to carry the message and to communicate our inclusiveness as a fellowship. In truth, the majority of members at the workshops we've facilitated understand Who Is Missing … and Why as focused on finding ways for more members to experience that unity.

We are making some progress, as a fellowship, in this area. In addition to the workshops we've held on this IDT throughout the conference cycle, we have taken a few other tangible steps to reach out to "who's missing." First, we have two IPs developed as part of the targeted literature project up for approval in this *Conference Agenda Report*, one targeted to youth and another aimed at the parents or guardians of young members (see page 31 for more information). The other tangible progress made during this conference cycle was that we were able to hold common-needs workshops at the world convention.

Reaching Out to Who's Missing at WCNA

A great deal of time and energy at WSC 2006 was devoted to discussing an idea we reported in that year's *Conference Agenda Report*: to hold common needs workshops at WCNA-32. While the conference discussions on this topic were rather lengthy, participants had the opportunity to consider and discuss the merits and drawbacks to holding such workshops. Ultimately, the conference decided to move forward with this idea and passed a motion to hold common-needs workshops at WCNA-32.

We got a lot of positive feedback about those workshops (and the convention as a whole). We held daily gay/lesbian and youth workshops as well as dances for each of these populations. We also had women's and men's workshops and workshops on subjects such as illness and aging. The overall response was very positive, and we got many thank-you letters and emails from members who attended the convention. Together, as a fellowship, we took a big step, and we are pleased with the results.

We all know that addiction is the bottom line for identification in NA. Many of us have spent a long time in recovery reminding ourselves to "focus on the similarities rather than the differences." Emphasizing "common needs" can feel like the exact opposite, like we are focusing on differences. Others believe that such an emphasis is just another way to reach out to addicts and help members and potential members feel "a part of." After much discussion on the issue, the conference supported the idea that "common needs" means giving members a chance to see that there are others in Narcotics Anonymous who share their similarities.

Members who attended WCNA-32 were able to find support in common-needs workshops, where they could hear how other NA members in similar circumstances live our program of recovery. These workshops didn't function to isolate or separate members who attended. We heard over and over that people who attended these workshops really felt like they were being reached out to and being included on a level they hadn't experienced at past world conventions.

We also held two PR workshops at WCNA-32. One focused on criminal justice and the other on the medical and treatment professions. These are two of the avenues we can use to reach out to those who are missing. Having conversations directly with those who work in these fields about their perceptions of NA and how we can better build cooperative relationships was a big step for us. We thank those who gave so generously of their time to make these workshops a success. These, and the common-needs workshops, were recorded and are available from our audio vendor. Follow the link on our convention page for more information: http://www.na.org/WCNA32.

Finding Local Solutions

Beyond the targeted literature project and the common-needs workshops at WCNA, progress in the area of "Who Is Missing from Our Meetings and Why" has varied from place to place. It's clear that, in most places, there are types of addicts who aren't finding or staying in NA. Members all over the world who participated in sessions on this topic expressed a great deal of enthusiasm for reaching those addicts with our message.

How to turn that energy into meaningful action seems to be the more difficult question. In most cases, we need to focus both on outreach and on creating an environment in our meetings that is more welcoming to members of various backgrounds. Some NA communities have begun to implement solutions, such as forming outreach committees to connect with native tribal leaders, or having literature in multiple languages available at meetings.

Ideas such as these are simple and effective ways to start, but we haven't received a very large volume of these types of solutions. This leads us to wonder what specific challenges groups and service bodies are facing in this area. Perhaps little is known about the groups of people who aren't finding NA, such as which groups are missing, or what misconceptions they might have about NA that prevent them from seeking help from us. Maybe our service bodies don't have the resources or planning skills to carry out effective outreach efforts.

Finally, it's also possible that some communities are able to find and attract the addicts who have been missing out on our message, but don't have the resources to accommodate them once they show up. A successful PR effort, for example, might result in a surge in meeting attendance that the NA groups aren't prepared for. Healthy internal cooperation between our service bodies and groups can help ensure that our efforts are more successful on all fronts.

Questions for Discussion

7. What challenges stand in the way of determining who is missing and attracting them to NA?
8. Have you discussed this issue in your group, area, or region? Please share your experience with workshopping the topic—or even better, your successes reaching those who are missing.

As we note throughout this *Conference Agenda Report*, we have posted an online form with all of the discussion questions in the *CAR*. We encourage you to try it out. You can access the form from the link on our conference page:

http://www.na.org/conference. We welcome responses not only from regions but also areas, groups, and members.

Our Message, Our Responsibility

The more successful we are in being inclusive, the stronger our fellowship will become. Discussing how to reach out to people who may be different from us in some way can be intimidating, and figuring out how to take concrete steps to carry our message to specific populations can seem overwhelming. But, of course, we have a responsibility to share our experience, strength, and hope, and most of us are willing to go to any lengths to do so. The point of freedom we experience as a result makes all our efforts worthwhile.

Literature

This is a literature-laden *Conference Agenda Report*. Not only is there an approval draft of the Sixth Edition Basic Text to consider, but this *CAR* also contains two IPs that are the first results of what will be an ongoing targeted literature project: *By Young Addicts, For Young Addicts* and *For the Parents or Guardians of Young People in NA.*

In addition to these three pieces that are up for approval, there are two questions about literature that we are posing here. We are always trying to produce literature that is helpful, and the more input we have from the fellowship, the more likely we are to be successful in that effort. So please, let us know what you think about how we can best carry the message in print.

Basic Text

After years of surveying, discussing, and planning, and two conference cycles of active work putting together a draft, we are beyond excited to be able to offer a draft of the Sixth Edition Basic Text for consideration at this conference (see Addendum B). The draft was first made available at the end of August 2007. Our scheduled date to publish the approval form was 1 September, but we put it out a week earlier so that we could bring copies to the world convention in San Antonio. The approval draft was first published with a cover essay explaining some of the background of the project and what would be discussed at the conference when the Sixth Edition would be offered for approval. Much of the background information about the project that follows in this section of the *CAR* is reproduced word-for-word from that essay.

WSC 2004 and the Beginning of the Project

We could fill a dozen pages trying to answer the question, "How did we get here?" A lengthy "prehistory" leads up to this project, including conference motions, fellowship discussions, and other world service projects. You may be relieved to read, however, that we will not try to review all the events of those years here. (You can find a very brief summary of that history on our website: http://www.na.org/conference/bt.) Instead, we will summarize the work on the project itself, beginning with the motion that passed at WSC 2004.

> Motion 4: To approve work on revisions to the Basic Text, Narcotics Anonymous, that includes:
>
> - no changes made to Chapters One through Ten,
> - the addition of a new preface to the Sixth Edition preceding the current preface (the current preface will remain the same and be titled "Preface to the First Edition"),
> - the replacement of some or all of the current personal stories, in order to better reflect the broad diversity of our fellowship, and
> - a brief introduction to the revised personal stories section.
>
> The timeframe for this work will be two conference cycles, from 2004 to 2008, including a six-month review and input period. The approval form of the Sixth Edition Basic Text will be distributed as an appendix to the 2008 *Conference Agenda Report* for a minimum of 150 days.

This motion was the means by which the fellowship authorized work to begin on the project. Ordinarily, project plans and literature ideas are not initiated through motions in the *CAR*, but because the Basic Text is unique among our literature and is so important to us as a fellowship, we have tried to encourage a conversation about the project from its outset. In the same spirit, the *CAR* also reported the board's initial ideas about the revision: that we hoped, through this revision, to better reflect the diversity of the fellowship today and the breadth of our experience living clean. In order to accomplish that, the essay explained, we would have to combine traditional methods of soliciting stories with other strategies, such as using contacts in local communities to help us or conducting interviews.

The *CAR* essay also outlined some of our initial thoughts about the preface and introduction, and the idea that we might organize the experience in sections and use abstracts to summarize each piece. We asked members to let us know what they thought about dropping the labels "Book One" and "Book Two" in a possible Sixth Edition of the text. In short, we tried to share as many of our thoughts as we could because we didn't want this project to feel like a surprise to anyone. Most of the ideas in the 2004 *CAR* continue to inform the draft you see today.

After the conference, the board formed a workgroup of ten members from six countries (and four continents), that met for the first time in September 2004. In addition to the obvious geographic diversity, the workgroup members were purposely chosen to span a wide range of experience and demographics. Over the course of the next several meetings, the workgroup framed a plan for the project and drafted a piece to solicit writing from members of the fellowship.

Soliciting Material

In February 2005, the solicitation was mailed to conference participants, regions, and areas. World services translated it into six languages (German, Spanish, French, Portuguese, Russian, and Swedish) and three other translations were undertaken on a local level (Greek, Hebrew, and Turkish). All of these were posted on the web. The solicitation was also published in *The NA Way*, taken on world service trips, and distributed locally by many NA communities around the world. We set up a webpage for the project, http://www.na.org/conference/bt, where we could post updates and relevant documents, including session profiles that we created to help members facilitate local workshops, and an announcement piece that members could use at conventions. World services held sessions at many events, including the world convention, workshops, and zonal forums.

We were committed to getting the word out to as many members of the fellowship as possible and making it as easy as possible for them to contribute to the project. The effort paid off. The solicitation period ran for almost a year (from February through December 2005), and in the end, we received an extraordinary number of submissions—more than 700—from all over the world. More than 20 percent (161) came from outside the United States. We received submissions from the following countries:

Argentina	Germany	Mexico	Puerto Rico	Switzerland
Australia	Greece	Nepal	Russia	Trinidad
Belgium	India	Netherlands	Saudi Arabia	Turkey
Brazil	Ireland	New Zealand	Singapore	United Kingdom
Canada	Israel	Nicaragua	South Africa	United States
Colombia	Italy	Norway	Spain	Venezuela
France	Japan	Portugal	Sweden	West Indies

The range of cleantime was also striking:

More than 30 years clean: 6

More than 20 years clean: 79

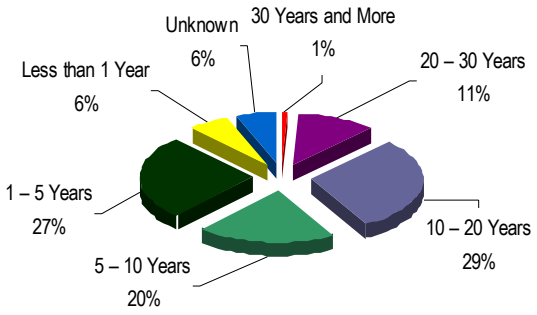
Between 10 and 20 years clean: 204

Between 5 and 10 years clean: 137

Between 1 and 5 years clean: 185

Less than 1 year clean: 39

Unknown cleantime: 41



Evaluating Material

With more than 700 submissions to read, the workgroup was kept very busy during the evaluation phase of the project. The submissions were all evaluated in a blind process, where the submissions were anonymous, that consisted of several stages. First, each piece was read by three or four workgroup members. If any one of them felt the story should be considered further, that story was then read by half of the workgroup members, who ranked the stories using the same criteria, including recovery content, quality, style, structure, and how it fits into the work as a whole. All of the previously published stories (from the Fifth Edition and the other-language versions of the Basic Text and White Booklet) were also numerically ranked alongside the new submissions, using the same set of criteria. In the case of the Fifth Edition stories, the board also read and evaluated those pieces. When a majority of members reading a story felt that it should remain in the mix, it was subjected to a third round of evaluation. This time the workgroup as a whole read the piece aloud and ranked it alongside the others. We also knew we wanted to preserve some of the original stories for their historical value, and those are the pieces that comprise the "Beginnings" section of the draft. It was a tough task, but after evaluating every story with due diligence, the workgroup was able to begin assembling the draft.

One of the things we learned when evaluating the material, which was reinforced when we sent the draft out for review, is that we are truly a diverse bunch. While we were as objective as we could be when evaluating the stories, in the end, if we each had made a list of our favorite stories (which in fact we did at one point), those lists would be radically different. In that way, we realized, the collection is sort of like a

meeting: Not everything will speak to each of us, but when you put it all together, it feels like NA recovery.

Review and Input

On 1 September 2006, the review draft was released to the fellowship. The review period ran through February 2007. In that time, we distributed more than 7,500 copies of the draft. (We mailed 4,493 paper copies, and members downloaded 3,009 electronic copies.) Given those numbers, we were expecting more input than we received. In total, we had approximately 350 pieces of input, with 60 percent coming from individuals, 17 percent from groups, and 23 percent from committees.

We aren't certain where every piece of input came from. When we initially posted the input forms online, we tried to make them as anonymous as possible to encourage members to submit their thoughts. Only after the pages were up for a while did we realize it would be helpful to know where the input was coming from, and so we know locations for a little more than half of the input. About 90 percent of that input came from inside the United States, and about 10 percent from a dozen other countries, which is a fairly accurate reflection of the US/non-US ratio of our membership as a whole.

Countries from which we received input:

Brazil	Greece	New Zealand	Turkey	United Kingdom
Canada	Ireland	Norway	Uganda	
Gibraltar	Kuwait	Russia	United States	

Most of the input was positive. There were some isolated pieces that criticized the collection as a whole, but the overwhelming numbers of members wrote to say they appreciated the diversity of experience in the collection, and especially its international character. Most said that they had found the abstracts and the division into sections to be helpful.

A number of members, however, seemed confused by the "reflections," those brief pieces of experience collected at the beginning of each section. Many members found them distracting. At the same time, some of the input praised the reflections, pointing out that they will be helpful for addicts who don't read well or who have difficulty concentrating. The reflections, they noted, are like the sharing at a topic meeting, while the longer stories are like a speaker meeting. And this is one of the challenges when dealing with review and input. What do we do when people have strong but opposing opinions? This is usually the case with input. Very rarely does it give clear direction. Usually, it points to issues that need to be discussed and considered. In the case of the reflections, we decided to keep them in the draft, but we have noted them in the table of contents and also included a short explanation each time they appear.

This is just one example of the way that input shaped changes to the draft. We moved stories, revised abstracts, clarified language, and consulted the input when deciding what pieces to cut from the review draft.

Filling Gaps

While the review period was taking place, as we reported on the cover for the draft itself, we were still busy hunting for material. The draft wasn't yet everything we'd hoped. We didn't have any stories from Eastern Europe, for example, or even more strikingly, from the country responsible for a quarter of our Basic Text sales last year, Iran, to name just two of the more obvious gaps. We felt it would be irresponsible not to continue looking for stories that rounded out the collection. In addition, your input pointed to some experiences that were missing—such as members who find NA when still on drug replacement, or members who are diagnosed with mental illness and must remain on medication. And so we worked to try to collect additional experience to fill some of these gaps. While that means that we are releasing an approval draft with stories that haven't been through the fellowship review process, doing so seems better than the alternatives—either extending the project for two more years, or not including any additional material, even when prompted to do so by fellowship input.

The Approval Draft

We knew that our attempts to collect "gap-filler" stories, together with the impact of fellowship input, would result in a much-changed text. We didn't want to surprise anyone when we released an approval draft that differs substantially from the review draft, so we communicated the fact that this would happen in as many places as we could—on the cover memo to the review draft, in *NAWS News*, in *The NA Way*, on trips, and in conference reports. Now, we are finally presenting you with the approval draft itself. As expected, there are a number of changes from the review draft.

The most substantial difference is the addition of ten stories:

- "The Only Requirement," from a member who was on drug replacement
- "Sowing the Seed," from an Israeli member
- "The Spirit of Service," from an Iranian member (a man)
- "Another Chance to Live," from an Australian member
- "A Serene Heart," from a member with a mental illness who takes medication
- "Just Say Yes," from an Indian member now recovering in the Middle East
- "Mosaic," from a Russian member
- "It Is Worth It," from a Colombian member
- "Sacred Places Inside," from an Iranian member (a woman)
- "NA Is a Roadmap," from a Portuguese member

In order to make room for these new pieces, we had to cut ten other stories. This was one of the most difficult sets of decisions we had to make when revising the text. After considering fellowship input, our own sense of the individual stories, and the overall mixture of demographics and experience, we cut the following ten stories:

- "Now It Is Possible"
- "Part of the Solution"
- "A New Beginning"
- "Sick and Tired at Eighteen"
- "How Do You Spell Relief?"
- "Finding a God that Worked through People"
- "The Same Path" (Part of this story has been used as a reflection.)
- "God-shaped Hole"
- "Picture not Perfect"
- "Free at Last"

In addition, we moved the unedited version of "Jails, Institutions, and Recovery" to the "Beginnings" section of the draft. We had received input that it was confusing to have some of the Fifth Edition stories in other sections, and now all of the stories from the Fifth Edition are in the same section, except "I Was Unique," which was revised by its author for this project. We also added a set of reflections to the "Beginnings" section, again prompted by your input on the draft. These reflections all come from stories published in the Fifth Edition.

Along with the stories that were added and cut and the changes to the "Beginnings" section, we made countless smaller changes. We revised both the preface and introduction in response to fellowship input, and we made a number of changes within the stories. In many cases, we worked with the authors of the stories themselves, some of whom contacted us and asked for changes, others of whom we contacted and asked for clarification. We have all worked together on improving the draft: the authors of the stories, other members of the fellowship, and the board and workgroup have each contributed to this revision. The result is a much better text and one that reflects the amazing range of addicts recovering in NA worldwide. The fifty-one stories in the draft come from members recovering in twenty countries:

Australia	Iran	Mexico	Russia
Brazil	Ireland	Netherlands	Saudi Arabia
Canada	Israel	New Zealand	United States
Colombia	Japan	Norway	US/Italy*
India/Bahrain*	Kenya	Portugal	United Kingdom

*got clean/now resides

We are grateful to everyone who contributed to making this draft a reality.

Changes to the Approval Draft

As many of you know, we first published the approval draft as a free-standing document at the end of August 2007. Two months later, at the end of October, we made some minor changes to the draft.

For clarity's sake, we changed the title "Introduction" to read "Introduction to Our Members Share" since there already is an introduction to the Basic Text, and the piece that we are proposing to add to the book does just introduce the personal experience, the "Our Members Share" part of the book.

The other changes are a result of a miscommunication in one of the translated stories, "Sacred Places Inside." When the approval draft was published in August, the story gave the impression that the author was the only woman in recovery in her city and one of only three women in NA in the country. Several sentences within the story as well as the first line of the abstract have been revised to indicate that the author was "one of the first women" who found NA. These changes have been made in communication with the story's author, and while we are hesitant to make a change of any kind after the approval draft is first issued, these changes come at the request of the author, and do not alter the basic content of the story.

The version of the approval draft in Addendum B reflects the changes to the title of the "Introduction to Our Members Share" as well as the changes to "Sacred Places Inside."

Motion to Replace the Stories in the Fifth Edition Basic Text

Rather than solely offering a motion to approve the Sixth Edition draft, we are offering a separate motion to replace the existing stories with those contained in the approval draft first (Motion #1). We feel this better separates the issues and should make it easier for members to workshop the material.

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Motion 1: To replace the existing stories in the Fifth Edition Basic Text *Narcotics Anonymous* with those contained in Addendum B.

Intent: To create a Sixth Edition Basic Text with stories that are more current and that better represents our global fellowship.

Financial Impact: The cost of creating this material has already been incurred. The only additional costs to NAWS that will be incurred by adopting this motion are initial production costs for the book, which would be minimal.

Note that only if this motion is adopted, would the following motions related to creating a Sixth Edition Basic Text be offered.

Motion to Approve the Remainder of the Revisions

In addition to a new collection of experience or stories, the proposed Sixth Edition draft contains a number of other changes. There is a new preface, which will precede the current preface (which would be retitled "Preface to the First Edition"), as well as an introduction to what is now called the personal stories section. The stories themselves are divided into sections, and each story is summarized with an abstract. In addition to the longer stories, each section begins with a collection of "reflections," shorter pieces of experience that are a bit like the sharing at a topic meeting.

In addition to all of these changes, which consist of adding new things to the text, the motion below calls for replacing the titles "Book One" and "Book Two" with "Our Program" and "Our Members Share," respectively. Since before this project even began, we have been raising the question of whether to retain the titles "Book One" and "Book Two" in the Basic Text. The Basic Text is one book, and these titles give a misleading impression. We've reported on this issue since the 2004 *Conference Agenda Report*, and we have heard nothing but positive feedback, so we have incorporated that change into the draft as well.

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Motion 2: To approve the remaining revisions to the Fifth Edition Basic Text, *Narcotics Anonymous*, as represented in Addendum B. This includes

- **the Preface to the Sixth Edition,**
- **the titles "Our Program" and "Our Members Share," which would replace the titles "Book One" and "Book Two" respectively,**
- **the Introduction to Our Members Share,**
- **the abstracts,**
- **the reflections, and**
- **the titles and descriptions for the sections "Beginnings," "Coming Home," "Regardless of … ," and "Life on Life's Terms."**

Intent: To include the remainder of the material contained in Addendum B in the Sixth Edition Basic Text; this includes the removal of the titles "Book One" and "Book Two."

Financial Impact: The cost of creating this material has already been incurred. The only additional costs to NAWS that will be incurred by adopting this motion are initial production costs for the book, which would be minimal.

Statistical Information in Preface

The Preface to the Sixth Edition Basic Text reflects briefly on the growth of the fellowship and the role of the Basic Text in that development. To that end, it contains statistical information, such as the number of NA meetings, the number of countries that have NA meetings, the number of languages we speak, and so on. In order to keep that information current, the board is asking for the ability to update those numbers on a regular basis.

The paragraph in question is the first paragraph in the preface, which ends with these remarks:

> There are more than 43,900 weekly NA meetings today; in 1982, the year the World Service Conference approved the Basic Text, there were about 2,700. Most places in the world did not offer an NA meeting every night of the week. In fact, most places didn't offer a meeting *any* night of the week. Now NA is in 127 countries and we speak 65 languages. The Basic Text itself is translated into sixteen languages.

The footnote to this paragraph at present reads, "The numbers in this paragraph are updated regularly. These figures are as of February 2007." In this way, the footnote indicates when the numbers in the paragraph were last updated. When those numbers are revised, the footnote will be revised as well to reflect the new date.

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Motion 3: To allow the World Board to approve updates to the statistical information (the numbers of meetings, countries, and so on) in the Preface to the Sixth Edition Basic Text *Narcotics Anonymous* regularly with an "as of" date in the footnote.

Intent: To allow statistical representation of the fellowship in the Basic Text to be kept current.

Financial Impact: The statistical information in the Preface will be changed only when we are ready for a new printing of the Basic Text (and it may not be changed with every new printing, depending on how often these occur). These figures are already routinely updated for each *NAWS Annual Report*, so revising them is a simple matter that will cost us nothing extra except the labor to revise this paragraph.

Policy Affected: None.

Just for Today

The *Just for Today* meditation book contains thirteen quotations from personal stories in the Fifth Edition Basic Text that are not included in the Sixth Edition, as well as a quote from the current *Youth and Recovery* IP, which WSC 2008 will also be considering replacing (see page 31). This is not the first time we have dealt with the issue of quotations in *JFT* that will no longer be mirrored in our literature because of revisions. And we expect it may not be the last time we confront this issue. We would like to propose a simple solution that does not require a new "version" of the *Just for Today* book and that would work for any future instances where we revise literature that is quoted in *Just for Today*.

We believe that simply removing the citation (the reference that includes the page number and source) from these quotes is the simplest approach. A short note at the beginning of the book would explain that the *JFT* quotes without a citation are from previous versions of NA literature that are no longer in print. This motion would put in place a standard approach for dealing with this issue in the future. This is similar to what we do for translated versions of the *JFT*, which may refer to pieces of literature not yet available in that language.

If the Sixth Edition Basic Text is approved, one other small correction would need to be made to *Just for Today*. The foreword to *JFT* notes that the page numbers of the opening quotations refer to the Fifth Edition of the Basic Text. To update this, the following motion also calls for a footnote explaining that the page numbers now reference the Sixth Edition. [We favor using a footnote rather than a change in the body of the foreword because the foreword is "signed" at the end by the "WSC Literature Committee, November 21, 1991."]

As an aside, the page numbers in the remaining citations for the Basic Text quotations will be changed to reflect the pagination for the new format of the Sixth Edition. This sort of production matter does not require a motion.

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Motion 4: To approve the removal of the specific source citations in *Just for Today* for versions of literature no longer in print and to include, at the beginning of the book, an explanation that quotes without a citation are from previous versions of NA literature. Also to approve the use of a footnote in the foreword to *Just for Today* to update the reference to the Fifth Edition of the Basic Text.

Intent: To not require a new edition of *Just for Today* each time existing literature is updated, changed, or replaced.

Financial Impact: We are keeping our inventory of *Just for Today* low pending conference decision about the Sixth Edition Basic Text. The financial impact of any changes to the book would therefore be minimal.

Revised Index

Another issue we have raised over the course of this project is that of the Basic Text index. Some of you even brought it up during the review and input period for the project, asking us if we could *please* also revise the index to the book as well as making the other changes laid out in the draft. Of course, any book's index needs to be updated when a new edition is released, but we thought that the creation of a Sixth Edition offered a good opportunity not just to update, but to *revise* the index. The current index is not always as helpful as it could be. In some cases, it gives a long list of every time a given word occurs. "Addiction," for instance, has more than 100 pages listed in the entry, with no way to distinguish among them. In other cases, a word such as "inventory," for instance, is only listed once. In short, the index could be made more useful, and we have heard nothing but positive feedback from the fellowship about the idea. We would have liked to include a copy of the revised index with the approval draft, but time did not permit. We do, however, plan to have a copy for conference participants to see before WSC 2008.

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Motion 5: To approve the inclusion of an updated and revised index in the Sixth Edition of the Basic Text, *Narcotics Anonymous*.

Intent: To create a more useable index for the text.

Financial Impact: By the time this motion is decided, our expense associated with creating the proposed index for the Sixth Edition Basic Text will already have been incurred. The price for indexing, as well as creating the electronic file for use with future translated versions, is less than $3,000.00.

Policy Affected: None.

Copyedits to Chapters 1–10

This revision to the Basic Text has not involved any changes to Chapters One through Ten. However, we are including a motion here to make two specific copyedits to the text as a whole: First, to replace the name "N.A." with periods after the two capital letters with "NA" with no periods to reflect our use of "NA" as a

name and not just an abbreviation. Second, to remove the footnote in Tradition Eleven that mentions *A Guide to Public Information Newly Revised*, which is no longer in print. Like the idea to revise the index, this was not part of the original plan for this project, but we have been reporting on this idea since the January *NAWS News*, and we haven't heard any negative feedback. We perform these kinds of housekeeping copyedits as needed with other pieces of literature and service material, but because revising the Basic Text is a more sensitive undertaking, we are addressing these changes through a motion.

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Motion 6: To approve two specific copyedits to the Basic Text *Narcotics Anonymous*: First, to replace the name "N.A." (with periods after the two capital letters) with "NA" (with no periods). Second, to remove the footnote in Tradition Eleven that mentions *A Guide to Public Information Newly Revised.*

Intent: To make our Basic Text more consistent with other NA fellowship-approved recovery literature.

Production and Pricing Issues

In addition to all the changes brought about by the above motions, a Sixth Edition Basic Text will have some changes in production and pricing. The conference has been very clear that they don't want to consider production or pricing issues, and the *Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust* designates these sorts of decisions as NAWS' responsibility, but we are including information about the changes here because we want to keep everyone as informed as possible.

First, the text itself will be longer. We weren't purposely trying to make a longer text, but in order to adequately reflect our diversity, we found we had to. The page count will increase from the current 286 pages to an estimated 416 pages. To help keep shipping costs down, we will be changing the paper stock to Sebago, the paper we use in *It Works: How and Why*. We will also increase the trim size to 6 x 9 from the current 5 ½ x 8 ½. This extra half inch of height and width will help distinguish the Sixth Edition from the Fifth when the books are next to each other on a shelf. It also allows us to use fewer pages. We are also looking into making a minor change on the dust jacket, such as continuing the white stripe onto the spine of the jacket, to more easily distinguish the new edition. If we plan to make any such changes, we will have samples for delegates to see at the conference.

In addition to these production changes, the price will also change from the current US $9.70 to US $11.00. Certainly a larger book is a factor in raising the price, but at some point we would have to increase the price regardless of whether we were issuing a Sixth Edition. We have held price increases in abeyance for a decade as of this conference. We plan to release a set of recommendations about price increases on some of our literature and the keytags and medallions before the conference, so conference participants can have the opportunity to discuss the changes with us at WSC if they wish.

One of the issues that have come up in our review of literature production costs and pricing is the price of the translated versions of the Basic Text that only contain Chapters One through Ten. We sell these books at an artificially low price that was

set in the 1980s at US $5.00 and intended to be a temporary price. Instead the price has had one 10 percent increase and become institutionalized at US $5.50, a price that does not reflect the relative cost of producing these books. We are currently evaluating these prices along with the others. We should have more to report at the conference, if not beforehand.

Any increases would not be scheduled to take effect until some time after WSC 2008.

Currently Approved Version of the Basic Text

If the Sixth Edition is approved at WSC 2008, we expect it will be available from the World Service Office in October 2008. Until then, NAWS will continue to produce and sell the Fifth Edition. Once the Sixth Edition is available, it will be the only English-language edition produced by NAWS. There is nothing, however, that prohibits others who sell our literature—service offices, committees, and non-fellowship customers—from selling the Fifth Edition even after the Sixth is available, as long as they make it clear that a new edition is available. For some non-English-speaking NA communities that have already translated the Basic Text, it may be some time before a new edition is available. NAWS will continue to produce translated versions of the Fifth Edition until language communities are able to produce a translated version of the Sixth Edition (more on this in the next section below). This is standard practice for us with revised literature. For instance, when the new *Sponsorship* IP was approved in 2004, this is how production and sales were handled.

Publication, of course, is a different matter. NAWS is the only authorized publisher of fellowship-approved recovery material, and NAWS only produces the current English-language version approved by the fellowship at the WSC. The *Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust* spells this out clearly, and at this conference, we will present language to add clarification to *A Guide to World Services in NA* as well, just because we know many people consult *GWSNA* for answers to questions they wouldn't think to look in the *FIPT* about.

GWSNA does contain some clarification about the currently approved edition of the Basic Text in the form of a motion passed at the 1991 World Service Conference:

Date Carried 25 April 1991

> ***The voting participants of the 1991 World Service Conference, after much discussion and consideration of several motions, voted to issue the following statement to the fellowship:*** *"The Basic Text, Fifth Edition, is the only edition of the Basic Text that is currently approved by the World Service Conference of Narcotics Anonymous for publication and sale. The World Service Office Board of Directors is entrusted with the responsibility for protecting the fellowship's physical and intellectual properties, including the Basic Text, and at the board of directors' discretion, shall take legal action to protect those rights against any and all persons who choose to infringe upon this literature trust."*

If a Sixth Edition Basic Text is approved, a footnote will be added to this explaining that the Sixth Edition replaced the Fifth Edition in 2008. All of these additions to *GWSNA* will be among the Conference Approval Track material.

Translation Policy

The revisions to *GWSNA* discussed in the preceding section all concern clarifying policy and practices already in place. Our translations policy, however, is another matter. With the adoption of the Sixth Edition Basic Text, we have a collection of personal experience in our book that more accurately reflects our population, and as a result, our current translations policy no longer seems the best approach. We are recommending changes to the current policy regarding the translation of personal stories in the text. As with the other changes to *GWSNA,* the exact language of the policy changes we are recommending will be included in the Conference Approval Track material (see page 5), but we wanted to touch on the subject here to keep as many members as possible informed.

Current translation policy gives language communities four different options when translating the Basic Text. They can just translate Chapters One through Ten; they can translate the entire Fifth Edition, including all of the personal stories; they can write their own local stories for the text; or they can translate some of the English-language personal stories and add some of their own stories.

When we began work on revising the personal experience in the Basic Text, we hoped that the result would be a collection so international in scope and so reflective of the depth of our membership that communities around the world would embrace and want to translate it. That interest is, indeed, already being sparked in some communities.

The current translations policy was originally intended to give language communities a place for local members' stories if they feel there is a need for that literature. Many communities, however, have interpreted the policy as encouraging or obligating them to create a collection of local stories, even when to do so takes their energy away from more crucial projects. Some small, emerging communities have collected stories marked by conceptual troubles, such as drug specificity or differentiation between alcohol and other drugs. But even in cases where all of the writing reflects a clear understanding of NA principles, the Basic Text may not be the best place for a collection of local recovery stories. As the foundational piece that explains Narcotics Anonymous, the Basic Text seems best reserved for a collection of experience that seeks to reflect worldwide NA as a whole, as this one does. The White Booklet seems a better alternative for a local collection of stories.

We will recommend revising the personal story section of the translation policy so that language communities would have the option of translating some or all of the stories in the Sixth Edition. In order to publish an incomplete Basic Text consisting solely of Chapters One through Ten, a community would need to have a discussion with NAWS. Language communities who wish to collect local stories for publication could consider doing so for the White Booklet, but they would be asked to talk to the World Board before embarking on the project. That way, we could have a conversation with a given community about what is included in NA literature and any potential challenges they may face before the work begins.

Communities that already have a translated version of the Basic Text, as well as communities who are currently in the middle of a translation project, would not be affected by the revised policy. A grandfather clause would be in effect for existing translations.

Youth IPs

We took on our first targeted literature project this cycle, which resulted in an IP geared for young members (see Addendum C) and another piece for their parents or guardians (see Addendum E). NAWS has experienced a rising demand for targeted literature in recent years—literature that more directly addresses populations that may be under-represented in our meeting rooms.

Those of us who have been around the program for a while know that we need to look no further than our disease to identify with any other addict in the world. As our Basic Text says, "addiction makes us one of a kind," but newer members or still-suffering addicts may not stay long enough to hear our message of recovery if their first impression of NA is that they don't fit in. To newcomers who are "different," it can feel like they must ignore some important element of their identity if they want to get clean here.

Our literature often serves to carry our message where members cannot. A Basic Text in a prison library, or an IP in a hospital detox, can mean a world of difference to a still-suffering addict. Targeted literature can help newcomers who don't see a place for themselves in NA stay long enough to realize that they belong. The literature can serve to send the message that addiction is our lowest common denominator. Even after a member has been clean for a while, targeted literature can be helpful, because it can address any additional needs that members of a particular population might have. That is why it is with some amount of excitement that we present these two pieces to the conference for approval. This project arises directly from our vision of a future where "every addict has an opportunity to experience our message in his or her own language and culture."

Youth literature is a good example of this. In addition to the fact that young addicts may not always recognize that they "fit" in NA simply because they're addicts, younger NA members often face additional challenges that are not relevant to the mainstream population of recovering addicts. Conference participants at WSC 2006 overwhelmingly selected youth as a priority group for the targeted literature project plan. Shortly after the conference, workgroup members for this project were selected, including eight members between eighteen and thirty years old with cleantime ranging from eighteen months to ten years. Over the course of two meetings, the youth literature workgroup developed two draft pieces, *By Young Addicts, For Young Addicts* and *For the Parents or Guardians of Young People in NA*. Over 2,200 copies of those drafts were distributed to regional service committees, conference participants, and members who signed up for the review and input period between 1 March and 31 May 2007. The workgroup reconvened in July 2007 to consider nearly 200 pieces of input received from seven countries, including New Zealand, Canada, Ireland, Netherlands, Turkey, and thirty states in the United States. The drafts were then substantially revised according to the workgroup's recommendations, based on the input received.

Motions to Approve the Youth IP and the IP for Parents and Guardians

The first piece, *By Young Addicts, For Young Addicts,* serves to address those two needs identified above: to assure younger addicts that they are welcome in NA, even if they don't see other young people in the meetings they attend; and to address some of the common issues that young members face while staying clean and

working a program. The information in this piece isn't meant to speak to every NA member. During the review and input process for this piece, we explained that members who don't relate to the specifics of this piece might want to focus on the question of whether or not this piece would be helpful to younger members, and whether or not it remains in line with NA philosophy. The same approach can apply in the approval process.

The second piece, *For the Parents or Guardians of Young People in NA*, is a pamphlet that explains NA to parents or guardians of young members, with an emphasis on information that is particularly relevant to their situations. While some of us have been reserved about the idea of creating literature that speaks to non-addicts, workgroup members felt that it would be important to give parents and guardians relevant information about who and what we are. This is not unlike what we have done in other pieces, such as *Information about NA*, and it could make the difference between whether or not a young addict is permitted to attend NA meetings.

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Motion 7: To replace the existing IP #13, *Youth and Recovery*, with the revised draft contained in Addendum C and change the title of this IP to *By Young Addicts, For Young Addicts.*

Intent: To replace the existing informational pamphlet with a more current reflection of our experience.

Financial Impact: The cost of creating this material has already been incurred. The only additional costs that will be incurred by adopting this motion are initial production costs, which would be minimal.

Policy Affected: This motion would replace the existing IP #13. (See Addendum D.)

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Motion 8: To approve the draft of *For the Parents or Guardians of Young People in NA* contained in Addendum E as IP#27.

Intent: To have an informational pamphlet that helps explain Narcotics Anonymous to the parents and guardians of young recovering addicts.

Financial Impact: The cost of creating this material has already been incurred. The only additional costs that will be incurred by adopting this motion are initial production costs, which would be minimal.

More Targeted Literature: What Should We Target Next?

We plan to continue working on targeted literature projects, and we want your help prioritizing what to take on next. We presented a list of priorities for targeted literature to the 2004 and 2006 World Service Conference (including publishing it in the 2006 *CAR*), and we know that those items continue to be requested by the fellowship. Youth and recovery was one of the top two priority items on that list; medication and recovery was the second.

The targeted literature list from the 2006 CAR and 2004 Conference Approval Track material

Priority (not necessarily in order)
- youth and recovery
- medication and recovery

Second ranking (not necessarily in order)
- the benefit of service to personal recovery
- the spiritual development of members with longer clean time, and how to continue to engage them in the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous

Third ranking (not necessarily in order)
- older members and recovery
- issues regarding gender

The new service pamphlet developed during this cycle, *NA Groups and Medication*, is meant to help groups respond to situations involving members' use of medication and find ways to maintain an atmosphere of recovery when medication issues arise. But that service pamphlet is intended for the group, not for individual members who may be facing challenges surrounding medication. Regarding the second concern, *In Times of Illness* is a booklet that many members have found helpful over the years, but it needs an update to include more contemporary issues surrounding medication. We believe that updating or revising *In Times of Illness*, a project we have talked about for some time, would better address the issues than creating new literature.

Some of the other items we included on the list reprinted above—the benefits of service as well as long-term spiritual development, in particular—may be better addressed in a book-length piece. In a longer piece of literature that takes on topics related to living the program, we could go into greater depth than an IP and discuss these topics in a larger context. We have also talked about developing a service pamphlet on the benefits of service. Regardless, we are not sure these are the logical next steps to take in a targeted literature project.

The final two items, older members and gender-related issues, continue to come up whenever we brainstorm lists about targeted literature or "who is missing from our meeting rooms." Of course, there are countless other people included on those lists: professionals, women, members with long-term cleantime, addicts with a mental illness, immigrants, former inmates, indigenous peoples, and more. We know there is a strong need for literature targeted to specific populations, but we would like your input on what to take on during the upcoming cycle. Now that your communities have had an opportunity to see the first pieces to result from the targeted literature project—the youth literature approval drafts—we want your thoughts on where our targeted literature efforts need to go next. Are there addicts in your communities who would benefit from literature that more directly addresses their needs? We hope that you'll pass your ideas along to us for consideration at WSC 2008. Either workshop this question along with the other questions and motions in the *CAR* so that your delegate can collect a conscience to carry to the conference, or you can give input online: http://www.na.org/conference. Be sure to note where the input comes from—the service body (or individual) as well as region or state/country.

Question for the Fellowship

9. The 2008 World Service Conference will vote on an IP for young people and another for their parents or guardians. What do you think the next targeted literature project should focus on; what population should we target?

As we note throughout this *Conference Agenda Report*, we have posted an online form with all of the discussion questions in the *CAR.* We encourage you to try it out. You can access the form from the link on our conference page: http://www.na.org/conference. We welcome responses not only from regions but also areas, groups, and members.

Sponsorship

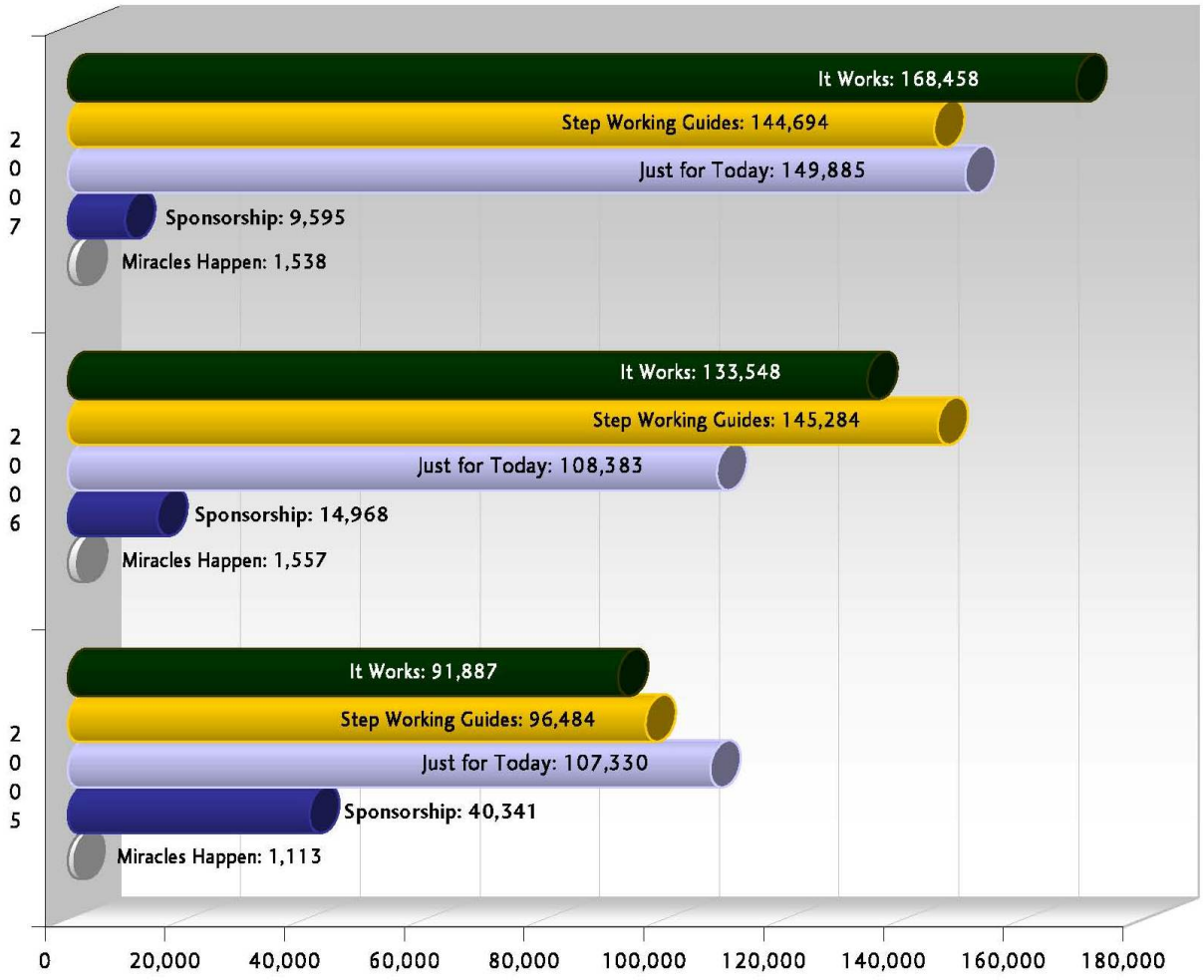
Don't let this topic heading worry you; we have no motions to offer about sponsorship—the book, the IP, or the practice. But we do have questions. *Sponsorship* was the first book-length project the World Board took on because we knew there was such a demand for literature on the topic. The topic scored the highest in a literature needs survey the board distributed in 1999, and we received repeated requests for some kind of material on the topic.

Before drafting the book itself (and revising the IP) we set out to learn what the fellowship wanted in new literature on sponsorship. In 2000, we put a motion in the *Conference Agenda Report*: "That the World Board encourage area and regional literature committees to develop source material about sponsorship in 2000, with the board starting a preliminary evaluation of the issues relating to the sponsorship material in 2001." To help in that endeavor, we distributed a *News Flash* (a brief and widely distributed announcement or notice) asking for input on the subject. The *News Flash* asked the broad question: "What should NA literature say about sponsorship?" To help generate ideas, there were a dozen other questions (e.g., Is sponsorship a significant part of recovery? What is important about sponsoring others? How, or can, recovery occur without a sponsor?). We collected a vast amount of input in response to our *News Flash*, though most of the input focused on answering the twelve questions with single words or phrases. Nonetheless, we used the responses as a foundation for the outline of the book, which in turn gave rise to the IP revision. Most of the feedback we received during the development period was positive, and the approval draft passed easily at WSC 2004.

And yet, we find ourselves now wondering why there seems to be little fellowship interest in the book itself. The demand for this piece was so high, but now that it is available, it doesn't seem to be utilized as widely as we had anticipated. The only real measure we have of a book's usefulness to the fellowship is sales figures. We watch the number of books we distribute so that we can see what is getting in the hands of our members, and the sales of the *Sponsorship* book are flat. Let's be clear: this isn't about profit, but about how to best meet the fellowship's needs. If we've missed the mark here, we want to know so that we can be more successful in the future.

We have speculated about why *Sponsorship* hasn't been more popular. Are our members aware of this new book? Has it received enough exposure in the fellowship? Is it because there aren't "rules" outlined here? Since some people wanted a "right and wrong" handbook, would members be more inclined to read a prescriptive book about sponsorship? Is it because some of the experience is offensive to people? Does the tone feel wrong, or does the book seem daunting in

some way? Would it have been better to try to convey the information contained in the book in smaller, "bite-sized" pieces? Is it too advanced for newer members, but too elementary for members with more time? In the end, we can only guess without your input.



We know that the fellowship wants more literature, and we plan to continue to meet that need. But given the length of time a book-length literature project takes (at least two conference cycles, it seems) we would like to put that time and energy into a piece that more members will utilize.

Future Literature Projects

One of the book-length projects we are most excited to undertake is a piece that focuses on our experiences in living daily life as recovering addicts. This kind of project could enable us to address many of the topics members have asked for literature about: relationships, grief, parenting, working, and so on. We hope to be able to begin work on a book like this one in the cycle ahead.

And there are many other projects we are thinking about taking on in the years ahead, including revisions to *The NA Step Working Guides* and *In Times of Illness,* possibly revising the IPs on self-support and the Seventh Tradition, and more targeted IPs. In short, there are many possible literature projects coming up in the

years ahead, and we want them to be as successful as possible, so we hope you'll help us understand what could have made the *Sponsorship* book more successful.

Question for the Fellowship

10. What is it about the *Sponsorship* book that members are finding useful or not useful? If you didn't find it helpful, why didn't you find it helpful?

As we note throughout this *Conference Agenda Report*, we have posted an online form with all of the discussion questions in the *CAR.* We encourage you to try it out. You can access the form from the link on our conference page: http://www.na.org/conference. We welcome responses not only from regions but also areas, groups, and members. Your input can help us be more successful in future literature projects.

Other Publications

Service Pamphlets

One of the issues discussed at WSC 2006 was the time it takes to develop, approve, and distribute literature for the general NA public. In particular, the point was raised that the time required from start to finish is the same, whether it's a book-length piece of recovery literature or a two-page IP on service. Conference participants also discussed what it would take to create and approve addenda materials for the *Public Relations Handbook* that could be made available to the NA service community in a reasonable timeframe.

Motions at WSC 2006

The conference discussions about challenges with literature development timeframes had a significant effect on motions adopted in the conference business sessions. New business motions were passed to allow the World Board to adapt and revise the Area Planning Tool and Chapters Ten through Thirteen of the *PR Handbook*, and to develop and approve addenda material for the *PR Handbook*. These motions give the World Board the flexibility necessary to respond in a timely manner to changes in the realities that affect how NA service bodies interact with their communities.

In addition to these motions, which referred to specific pieces of service material, delegates made another motion to ***"allow the world board to develop and approve service-related information pamphlets and tools for distribution to the fellowship,"*** which passed by the necessary two-thirds majority. This motion established a new "track" for development of service material and marked a courageous step forward for the conference in their effort to provide groups and service bodies with meaningful assistance in a reasonable period of time. Shortly after the conference, NAWS set forth in developing new pieces.

The First Round of Service Pamphlets

We decided which subjects to address first in these service pamphlets based largely on the types of requests we receive most often from the fellowship, as well as the issues that come up repeatedly in workshops. World services regularly provides certain types of information to members who call, email, or write for assistance. In addition, we have heard some common challenges and successes in our discussions about Our Service System (and earlier Infrastructure). Our hope was to package this information to make it more widely available to members who could use it in their service efforts.

After our July 2007 meeting, we put the following five service pamphlets into production:

- *An Introduction to NA Meetings*
- *Disruptive and Violent Behavior*
- *Group Trusted Servants: Roles and Responsibilities*
- *Group Business Meetings*
- *NA Groups and Medication*

We sent copies of all five pieces to conference participants, and we also distributed copies to interested members at WCNA-32. The overall response was very positive.

Process Questions

In spite of a great deal of positive reaction to the five pieces published, we also received a considerable amount of concerned response to the description of "clean" in *An Introduction to NA Meetings*. The description, "abstinent from all drugs, not including prescription medication," unfortunately, did not adequately express what we intended to express. As members, we all have an understanding of what NA means by total abstinence from all drugs. We also know that the question of whether to take prescription medication is a delicate and personal one. *In Times of Illness* reminds us, "The ultimate responsibility for making medical decisions rests with each individual." We often get questions from professionals about this issue, and we'd hoped to clarify here that a member can be clean while taking prescribed medication. Of course, at the same time we know that many people abuse prescribed medication, and that is probably part of what led to such a strong reaction to this "definition" of clean. It may be that this is an issue too complicated to describe in a bullet point. We need to have further discussion before undertaking any revision to this piece, and we would like to hear your ideas and input.

In the meantime, we are no longer producing that pamphlet. We stopped distribution of the piece immediately. The situation illustrates one of the advantages of this new process: the ability for the board to respond immediately to fellowship concerns—in this case, by ceasing distribution of the piece in question. We are also able to revise a piece quickly rather than having to make a motion at the conference and then wait the corresponding two years to have the revised piece approved.

While this passage in *An Introduction to NA Meetings* may have been the "hot button" issue, it's not the only issue that we feel we need to discuss further. Most broadly, we wonder exactly what material fits in the category of service pamphlets. We had a conversation in our meeting about intended use and intended audience, and we are anxious to hear what others think. *An Introduction to NA Meetings*, for instance, was intended for potential members or addicts who are very new to NA and are not yet familiar with meetings. We have had countless requests for this kind of pamphlet from professionals referring people to NA, and the need for it has come up during this last conference cycle in our discussions about groups. We know it is a piece we need, but is this the method to create and approve a piece like this?

In other cases, there are potential pieces like the two we are working on now, *Leadership* and *The Benefits of Service*, that are focused on service-related topics but are addressed to the individual member, not to groups or service committees. In the past, we might have issued bulletins on these subjects, but we know that most members aren't even aware that the bulletins exist. We hoped that a service pamphlet would lead to wider distribution. But when a piece is written for a member rather than a group or committee, it raises the question of whether it is service material or actually recovery material. These are some of the issues related to the service pamphlets that we hope to discuss with delegates at WSC 2008.

We also look forward to discussing the development process itself and whether we should incorporate some limited review process with delegates or something similar into the process. In short, the process for creating service pamphlets is brand new,

and we look forward to hearing your thoughts and discussing this further at the conference. Ideally, service pamphlets can give us a way to capture what we have heard during a conference cycle about the issue discussion topics, for instance. The current recovery literature process is far more costly and time-consuming. What we want is a process that can capture our collective experience on a variety of issues in a way that serves the fellowship's needs.

All things said, we are very pleased with the trust placed in us for this process. With the help of conference participants at WSC 2008, we look forward to refining this process.

Looking Ahead

We have so much exciting work proposed for the 2008–2010 conference cycle it's hard to know what to touch on here.

Service Material

As we mentioned above in the section on service pamphlets, if we continue producing material through this new development process, we plan to work on one piece focused on leadership in NA, and we have also talked about another piece exploring the benefits of service.

In addition to potential service pamphlets, we see a possible need to revise the Building Strong Home Groups worksheet. Fellowship responses to the Strong Home Groups question in this *CAR* will guide us in that effort (or let us know that it is not necessary). Once we have your ideas, we would like to eventually add this piece to *The Group Booklet* and to other existing service material.

The "Our Service System" section of this *CAR* (see page 12) talks about another place we anticipate putting our efforts. We know we need to move forward in developing solutions to some of the challenges that hold us back when delivering local services. We want to continue having this conversation with you in the hope that we can begin to develop a shared vision for all of NA service and move from there to build on our successes and overcome some of our stumbling blocks. We expect this project, if supported, to be a major focus for us in the upcoming conference cycle.

Recovery Literature

We also look forward to undertaking another major literature project during this upcoming cycle. We have talked about offering a project plan for a book-length piece devoted to day-to-day life as a recovering addict—working, playing, grieving, and celebrating. What does practicing the principles in all our affairs really look like from an on-the-ground perspective?

At the same time, we hope to continue our work producing targeted literature. Fellowship responses to the question on targeted literature will help us prioritize what to take on next. Also, we would like to undertake a revision to update *In Times of Illness.*

Other Items

In addition to those pieces of service and recovery literature, we expect to keep up our ongoing focus on leadership and contributions. We will continue our work in public relations and our efforts to improve communication within the fellowship. We look forward to new issue discussion topics and a whole new set of workshops where we may get a chance to meet face-to-face. What an amazing opportunity we have. Yes, the responsibility of service is considerable, but it's a small price to pay for the freedom we experience.

Regional Motions

In the last *Conference Agenda Report*, we introduced the Regional Motions section with a page talking about the need for us to learn to communicate better. If our communication skills were as good as they could be, we would never see a region put a motion in the *CAR* about an issue they haven't attempted to raise in any other way, we explained. We encourage regions to discuss their ideas or concerns with other delegates and world services throughout the conference cycle to hear different viewpoints and stimulate dialogue, key elements in consensus building. When regions were sending in motions for this *CAR,* we were able to come to a solution about one of the issues without needing to use a motion. And so, once again, we urge regions to try to talk through things with us before resorting to a motion. Sometimes it's relatively easy to come to a joint solution without needing to ask groups around the world to discuss the issue in the form of a motion. In the case of legal matters or details of production, we wish that there were another way that felt acceptable and fruitful to work through issues rather than by including a motion in the *CAR.* The *CAR* is perhaps our primary vehicle for building a fellowship-wide conscience. Shouldn't it ideally be focused on how to carry the message more effectively? How can we get closer to that ideal? We don't pretend to have all of the answers, but let's keep talking about it and see if we can make some more progress together.

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Motion 9: To add English Roman Numeral Medallions in Bronze to NAWS inventory as a specialty item and direct the World Board to price them accordingly.

Intent: To add this item back to NAWS inventory in English only for those who prefer them over the standard Arabic numeral medallions and sell them as a specialty item.

Maker: Tri-State Region

Financial Impact: The direct cost to create another set of dies would be approximately $13,000. We are not able to estimate other associated costs of keeping these items in our inventory at this time.

Policy Affected: None.

Rationale by Region: While this motion does not attempt to cease production or planned production of any other type of medallion available through NAWS, it does direct NAWS to bring back the "Roman Numeral" medallions. We believe it is an item that was primarily sold in the United States and was replaced with the new style of medallions for simplistic and universal reasons. The intent is not to try and create a new medallion, but to provide a historical novelty for special occasions and allow more choices in our celebration of recovery.

World Board: *Our recommendation is not to adopt.* We are open to the sentiment expressed here. Of course, we want to produce what members want. But this motion addresses a production decision, and we always prefer this type of

item not be handled with a motion. On numerous occasions the conference has made the decision to totally delegate these types of production decisions to NAWS.

We are willing to stock Roman numeral medallions, but were we to do so, it would be instead of, not in addition to, the Arabic numeral medallions. We do not feel it is prudent to carry medallions with two different types of numeral formats. The issue is not one of price; it is a question of sensible inventory management. We currently carry medallions in numbers up to fifty, and for each of those numbers, we have three alloys (bronze, biplate, and silver), and several different languages. We plan to stop distributing the gold medallions due to low fellowship request. That amounts to 156 different inventory items just for the English-language medallions. Managing inventory in over thirty-five published languages and four branch offices is always a challenge for us. Adding another numeral format would double the amount of inventory for medallions so that we would be stocking 312 different inventory items for the English-speaking NA communities.

We are planning to send samples of both Arabic and Roman numeral medallion design in two different finishes each to RDs and RDAs as well as to other literature customers. We also plan to have online images of the proposed medallion designs with an online form or check box of some kind so that members can voice their preference. In this way, we should be able to get a sense of what the fellowship would like. Any changes would not take place until some time after WSC 2008.

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Motion 10: To direct the World Board to add to NAWS inventory Roman numeral medallions in all current finishes and languages produced by NAWS. Whether these medallions are an addition to inventory or a replacement for the current Arabic numbered medallions is left to NAWS discretion.

Intent: To reinstate Roman numeral medallions in NAWS inventory.

Maker: Region of the Virginians

Financial Impact: The direct cost to create the dies for all languages would be approximately $42,000. With the proposed changes to our medallion design and finishes pending, it is not possible to estimate the cost of turnover of our inventory or of keeping these items in inventory on an ongoing basis.

Policy Affected: None.

Rationale by Region: Our groups want the return of the old design medallion. This voice was heard at our GSR assembly. Our groups and individuals in our Region feel our Roman numeral medallion is a symbol of continued recovery in Narcotics Anonymous for us. It is understood that with the long-term recovery and the number increases the numerals will be smaller to accommodate the space and it will be somewhat more difficult to read. Whether they are the only number style available or in conjunction with Arabic would be left up to the discretion of NAWS, Inc.

World Board: *Our recommendation is not to adopt.* We are open to the sentiment expressed here. Of course, we want to produce what members want. But this motion addresses a production decision, and we always prefer this type of item not be handled with a motion. On numerous occasions the conference has made the decision to totally delegate these types of production decisions to NAWS.

We are willing to stock Roman numeral medallions, but were we to do so, it would be instead of, not in addition to, the Arabic numeral medallions. While we appreciate that the motion leaves it to the board's discretion whether or not these medallions would replace the Arabic numeral medallions, we do not feel it is prudent to carry medallions with two different types of numeral formats. We currently carry medallions in numbers up to fifty, and for each of those numbers, we have three alloys (bronze, biplate, and silver), and several different languages. We plan to stop distributing the gold medallions due to low fellowship request. That amounts to 156 different inventory items for only the English medallions. Including the medallions in other languages brings the total up to 271 inventory items. Managing inventory in over thirty-five published languages and four branch offices is always a challenge for us. Adding another numeral format would double the amount of inventory for medallions so that we would be stocking 542 different inventory items.

We are planning to send samples of both Arabic and Roman numeral medallion design in two different finishes each to RDs and RDAs as well as to other literature customers. We also plan to have online images of the proposed medallion designs with an online form or check box of some kind so that members can voice their preference. In this way, we should be able to get a sense of what the fellowship would like. Any changes would not take place until some time after WSC 2008.

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Motion 11: To direct the World Board to provide financial support to the Northern New Jersey Region in the amount of $36,000.

Intent: To have NAWS assist with a portion of legal expenses incurred by the Northern New Jersey Region.

Maker: Northern New Jersey Region

Financial Impact: The immediate financial impact would be $36,000, but it is impossible to estimate the potential costs over time as the case would potentially set a precedent for any future such lawsuits.

Policy Affected: None

Rationale by Region: The Northern New Jersey Region has been involved in a lawsuit for more than 4 years. This lawsuit is stemming from one addict not being able to close a NA meeting with a prayer of their choice. The Groups' autonomy is that this meeting be closed with a specific prayer. A lawsuit was filed against Narcotics Anonymous. In defending our Fourth and our Sixth Traditions, the legal fees totaled in excess of $91,000.00. Our Traditions were upheld in a court of law.

The Northern New Jersey Region is in need of financial help from the fellowship as a whole to meet the balance of the legal debt

World Board: *Our recommendation is not to adopt*. Legal issues are often extremely complex and require a great deal of explanation, but we find ourselves in a position where are unable to provide very much information. We would like to, but we cannot explain the details of this case because it is an ongoing piece of litigation and NA World Services is also an active defendant in this case. However, we felt it was important to try to begin to explain our recommendation not to adopt, because the implications of this motion are potentially far reaching and raise concerns above and beyond this particular lawsuit. Without discussing the specific details of the active litigation, we can say we do not believe it is about defending our traditions. The lawsuit in question is about an individual and his grievance against a local NA meeting and area. Were this motion to pass, the issue is the relationship such an action could establish, legally speaking, and the precedent it could set. It could easily establish the legal expectation that NAWS has centralized responsibility for and/or control over the activities of every NA meeting, group, or service committee. We have long asserted that, while we do provide service to NA, we have no control or oversight—and, indeed, should not have. Were this motion to pass, NAWS actions could be seen as asserting centralized control, responsibility, and financial authority. We don't want to set that legal precedent, and we expect that most local service bodies would not want to either.

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Motion 12: To require that all NA Service pamphlets intended for group and individual use be included in the *Conference Agenda Report* for approval.

Intent: To give the approval of service related pamphlets intended for group and individual use to the World Service Conference.

Maker: New Jersey Region

Financial Impact: We are not able to calculate the financial impact of this motion because there are too many variables. The direct cost would be the loss of whatever inventory we have on hand. To change the process of approval could affect the cost of future projects, but we cannot estimate that at this time.

Policy Affected: The policy affected would amend the portion of the WB Guidelines that calls out service related information pamphlets as well as the new notation in the Approval Process for Service Material.

Rationale by Region: This will allow all new, or changes to existing, NA service pamphlets to be placed into the *Conference Agenda Report*, reviewed by the fellowship, and approved at the World Service Conference. This motion would keep the Approval Process for Service Material as described on Page 34 of *A Guide to World Services in NA* in its current form without the changes made at WSC 2006. Giving the World Board the ability to develop and approve service-related pamphlets that are used at a group level has effectively bypassed fellowship approval of an important class of literature. The difference between

"service-related" versus "recovery" literature is not clearly defined. Service Pamphlets have been developed and called "service-related" which our members are seeing as being "recovery" literature. This is a clear example of how violation of Concept #2 hurts NA as a whole.

World Board: *Our recommendation is not to adopt*. After discussion at WSC 2006 about the extended period of time it takes to produce a short piece of service material, delegates made a motion to ***"allow the world board to develop and approve service-related information pamphlets and tools for distribution to the fellowship,"*** which passed by the necessary two-thirds vote. The "board-approved" service pamphlet idea developed as a way to be more responsive to fellowship needs. We all seem to desire a more timely, efficient, and flexible process to develop and revise service materials. When the motion first passed, we talked about trying the new process for a conference cycle and then talking about it again at WSC 2008, and we'd still like to have that opportunity. We hope to talk with the conference about how to improve the process. (For more information on that discussion, see page 37)

We had hoped that a development track for board-approved pamphlets would allow us to be more nimble. If we became aware of a widespread need in the fellowship, we could produce something more quickly to fill that need. In our conversations with members and service bodies, through our travels and correspondence, we are able to get a good sense of what NA communities are struggling with and what is working for communities around the world. We would like the opportunity to share that information more quickly and to revise it based on the feedback we hear. Rather than a route to "bypass" the will of the fellowship, we hope this process will provide a more direct and less cumbersome way to meet the fellowship's needs and take the fellowship's input.

If this motion passes, the development process for a pamphlet will again take up to four years. Any given pamphlet about service would need to be generated by a project plan voted on at the World Service Conference. Two years later, the pamphlet would be published in the *Conference Agenda Report* to be voted on at the World Service Conference. If there was a need to revise the pamphlet, that would also take more than two years, because such a revision would require a motion in the *Conference Agenda Report.*

WSC 2008 Summary Sheet: Discussion Questions and Motions

Discussion Questions

Following are discussion questions related to each of the issue discussion topics for the 2006–2008 conference cycle as well as two questions related to recovery literature. This is the third *Conference Agenda Report* that includes discussion questions. We are still working to make these questions easier for you to workshop. We have tried to make these questions simple and direct in the hopes that that will help. We hope to have some tools posted online soon to help you structure workshop sessions, and we welcome your input on how we can make the process easier.

One thing we have done for this conference is develop a web-form so that you can enter your answers to these questions online. You can access that form from the conference page of our website: http://www.na.org/conference. We are encouraging not only regions but also areas, groups, and members to share your thoughts on these topics with us. You can answer any or all of the questions, as you like. You will be asked for your contact information in case we need to get in touch with you to clarify anything and whether you are representing a group or service body (and if so, which one). We hope having this online form will help you pass along your ideas more easily. It should assist us in planning for WSC 2008 and the cycle ahead.

Building Strong Home Groups

1. If you have used the Building Strong Home Groups worksheet (see Addendum A), how has it helped and how can it be improved?
2. If you have not, what would convince you to use the worksheet?

Our Service System

3. If you are using the Area Planning Tool, how has it helped, and how can it be improved?
4. If you are not, is there a reason why? What would convince you to use the APT?
5. What do you think is working well in your local service structure?
6. What do you think is not working in your local service structure?

Who Is Missing from Our Meetings and Why?

7. What challenges stand in the way of determining who is missing and attracting them to NA?
8. Have you discussed this issue in your group, area, or region? Please share your experience with workshopping the topic—or even better, your successes reaching those who are missing.

Targeted Literature

9. The 2008 World Service Conference will vote on an IP for young people and another for their parents or guardians. What do you think the next targeted literature project should focus on; what population should we target?

Sponsorship

10. What is it about the *Sponsorship* book that members are finding useful or not useful? If you didn't find it helpful, why didn't you find it helpful?

World Board Motions

Motion 1: To replace the existing stories in the Fifth Edition Basic Text *Narcotics Anonymous* with those contained in Addendum B.

Maker: World Board, page 24

Motion 2: To approve the remaining revisions to the Fifth Edition Basic Text *Narcotics Anonymous* as represented in Addendum B. This includes

- the Preface to the Sixth Edition,
- the titles "Our Program" and "Our Members Share," which would replace the titles "Book One" and "Book Two" respectively,
- the Introduction to Our Members Share,
- the abstracts,
- the reflections, and
- the titles and descriptions for the sections "Beginnings," "Coming Home," "Regardless of…," and "Life on Life's Terms."

Maker: World Board, page 25

Motion 3: To allow the World Board to approve updates to the statistical information (the numbers of meetings, countries, and so on) in the Preface to the Sixth Edition Basic Text *Narcotics Anonymous* regularly with an "as of" date in the footnote.

Maker: World Board, page 26

Motion 4: To approve the removal of the specific source citations in *Just for Today* for versions of literature no longer in print and to include, at the beginning of the book, an explanation that quotes without a citation are from previous versions of NA literature. Also to approve the use of a footnote in the foreword to *Just for Today* to update the reference to the Fifth Edition of the Basic Text.

Maker: World Board, page 27

Motion 5: To approve the inclusion of an updated and revised index in the Sixth Edition of the Basic Text, *Narcotics Anonymous*.

Maker: World Board, page 27

Motion 6: To approve two specific copyedits to the Basic Text *Narcotics Anonymous*: First, to replace the name "N.A." (with periods after the two capital letters) with "NA" (with no periods). Second, to remove the footnote in Tradition Eleven that mentions *A Guide to Public Information Newly Revised.*

Maker: World Board, page 28

Motion 7: To replace the existing IP #13, *Youth and Recovery*, with the revised draft contained in Addendum C and change the title of this IP to *By Young Addicts, For Young Addicts*.

Maker: World Board, page 32

Motion 8: To approve the draft of *For the Parents or Guardians of Young People in NA* contained in Addendum E as IP#27.

Maker: World Board, page 32

Regional Motions

Motion 9: To add English Roman Numeral Medallions in Bronze to NAWS inventory as a specialty item and direct the World Board to price them accordingly.

Maker: Tri-State Region, page 41

Motion 10: To direct the World Board to add to NAWS inventory Roman numeral medallions in all current finishes and languages produced by NAWS. Whether these medallions are an addition to inventory or a replacement for the current Arabic numbered medallions is left to NAWS discretion.

Maker: Region of the Virginians, page 42

Motion 11: To direct the World Board to provide financial support to the Northern New Jersey Region in the amount of $36,000.

Maker: Northern New Jersey Region, page 43

Motion 12: To require that all NA Service pamphlets intended for group and individual use be included in the *Conference Agenda Report* for approval.

Maker: New Jersey Region, page 44

World Pool Information Form

Thank you for your interest in entering the World Pool. Please provide us with the following information. If at some point you are considered for service, you may be asked for additional information.

Please type or print legibly and return to:
Human Resource Panel, NA World Services, Inc., PO Box 9999, Van Nuys, CA 91409 USA,
or Fax to: (818) 700-0700.

Today's Date:

Month _____ Day _____ Year _____ Is this your: ❑ First Submission or ❑ Update

General Service Interest - Mark your preference based on your interest, skills, and background. You may choose one or both options. Those selecting only NA World Service Projects will not be considered for HRP nominations to the World Service Conference (WSC).

❑ World Board, Human Resource Panel, or WSC Cofacilitator ❑ NA World Service Projects

Contact Information

Name: _____ Clean Date: _____/_____/_____
Month *Day* *Year*

Address: _____

City:_____State/Province: _____

Postal/Zip Code: _____Country: _____

Home Phone: _____Fax: _____

Email Address: _____

Your Region: _____

Relevant Education, Occupation, and Life Experiences - Please provide information regarding any relevant educational background, occupational skills, or life experiences.

Education:
Occupation:
Life Experience:

This form can also be completed or updated online at www.na.org *(June 2007)*

Language - For each language, please indicate your skill level as FLUENT, AVERAGE, or MINIMUM by marking the appropriate boxes. Include all languages that apply.

Language	This is my 1st Language	Can Write	Can Read	Can Speak
	❑ Yes ❑ No	❑ Fluent ❑ Average ❑ Minimum	❑ Fluent ❑ Average ❑ Minimum	❑ Fluent ❑ Average ❑ Minimum
	❑ Yes ❑ No	❑ Fluent ❑ Average ❑ Minimum	❑ Fluent ❑ Average ❑ Minimum	❑ Fluent ❑ Average ❑ Minimum
	❑ Yes ❑ No	❑ Fluent ❑ Average ❑ Minimum	❑ Fluent ❑ Average ❑ Minimum	❑ Fluent ❑ Average ❑ Minimum

Service History - Please write the total number of years of service at each level of service in the "Total Years Served" box below. Please check mark the boxes next to the positions served.

World Service	
	Total Years Served
Experience at that level: (Check all boxes of that apply)	
	Ad Hoc/Focus Group/Workgroup
	Human Resource Panel
	NAWS Development Travel
	NAWS Public Relations Resource
	Pre-1998 WSC Committees or Boards
	Regional Delegate/ Alternate Delegate
	Special Worker
	World Board
	WSC Cofacilitator

Zonal Service	
	Total Years Served
Experience at that level: (Check all boxes of that apply)	
	Fellowship Development
	Other Zonal Service
	Translations
	Website
	Zonal Forum Admin

Convention / Corporation / Service Office	
	Total Years Served
Experience at that level: (Check all boxes of that apply)	
	Board of Directors (BOD)
	Committee Member
	Executive Committee
	Special Worker
	Volunteer

Area/Regional Service	
	Total Years Served
Experience at that level: (Check all boxes of that apply)	
	ASC/RSC Admin
	Events/Activities
	Fellowship Development
	Group Service Representative
	Hospitals & Institutions
	Literature
	Outreach
	Phone/Helpline
	Public Information
	Public Relations
	Policy
	Regional Committee Member
	Translations
	Website

Service Preferences - Please list the top two most fulfilling service positions/responsibilities from above.

Service Position / Responsibility:
Why was it fulfilling?
Service Position / Responsibility:
Why was it fulfilling?

This form can also be completed or updated online at www.na.org *(June 2007)*

Glossary

Biennial
Occurring every two years.

CAR
Acronym for *Conference Agenda Report*.

***Conference Agenda Report* (*CAR*)**
A publication that consists of business and issues that will be considered during the biennial WSC meeting. The *CAR* is released a minimum of 150 days prior to the opening of the conference, with translated versions released a minimum of 120 days prior. The front portion of the *CAR,* in all the languages in which it is published, is available at no charge on the web at http://www.na.org.conference.

Conference Approval Track (CAT)
A term used to describe items sent to conference participants ninety (90) days prior to the World Service Conference. Included are any proposals for seating of regions, the draft budget and project plans for the upcoming conference cycle, and any material being presented for consideration under the service-material approval process.

Conference Cycle
The two years between conferences. For the current conference cycle, that refers to the two fiscal years running from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2008.

Conference Participants
For the purposes of decision-making, conference participants are defined as regional delegates and World Board members. Only delegates vote on old business items that have appeared in the *Conference Agenda Report*.

Conference Report
The full report of all world service activities sent to WSC participants; Delegates and regions may also have reports published. Mailed to conference participants and subscribers and also posted at www.na.org. March issue customarily contains board, HRP, and regional reports.

Candidate Profile Reports (CPRs)
A packet containing information (individual reports) on each candidate nominated by the Human Resource Panel for consideration for election by the WSC. These reports are intended to assist conference participants in their evaluations of candidates.

***Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust* (*FIPT*)**
A legal trust that serves as custodian for NA's recovery literature and logos (trademarks). The document creating the FIPT is called a *trust instrument;* it explains how NA's literature and trademarks are managed and protected for the benefit of the fellowship as a whole. Approved by the fellowship in April 1993.

***Guide to Local Services in Narcotics Anonymous, A* (*GLS*)**
A service handbook, approved in 1997, intended to serve as a resource for NA groups, areas, regions and their subcommittees in establishing and providing local services.

***Guide to World Services in NA, A* (*GWSNA*)**

A compilation of policy decisions that have been approved by the World Service Conference, including WSC guidelines. The name was changed from *A Temporary Working Guide to Our World Service Structure* (*TWGWSS*) in 2002. *TWGSS*, its precursor, was first published in 1983 as the temporary successor to the *NA Service Manual* (a.k.a. *The NA Tree),* which in turn was first published in 1976.

Human Resource Panel (HRP)

Provides the World Service Conference with a list of qualified candidates for election to the World Board, the Human Resource Panel, and the WSC Cofacilitator positions. Is also responsible to administer the World Pool. Consists of four individuals elected by the WSC.

Infrastructure

The dictionary defines this as the base or foundation of an organization. For our purposes in NA this means the service structure and that which supports the service structure. Three of the main components of NA's infrastructure that we have discussed quite a bit recently are resources, communication, and leadership.

IP

Acronym for informational pamphlet.

Issue Discussion Topics

Specific topics selected by the WSC that concern the fellowship as a whole, to be discussed by the fellowship during the next conference cycle.

NA Way Magazine, The

Published quarterly, *The NA Way Magazine* currently offers articles about service, recovery-oriented stories, and entertainment as well as a calendar of international NA events. Available by request in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, and German, and posted at www.na.org.

NAWS

Refers to Narcotics Anonymous World Services, the legal name for world services.

NAWS News

A newsletter sent out by the World Board after each board meeting reporting on their current activities. Published in English, French, German, Portuguese, and Spanish. Sent to all conference participants, registered areas and regions and posted at www.na.org.

Project Plan

Developed by the World Board for all prospective, non-routine world service projects. Includes the proposed scope of the project, budget, and timeline. Included in the Conference Approval Track material as part of the budget.

Public Relations

Creating and maintaining relationships with members, professionals, families, and loved ones in an effort to more effectively carry the message of recovery.

RBZs

Candidates for world service positions who have been put forward to the Human Resource Panel for their consideration by regions, the World Board, or zones. These potential candidates are interviewed by the HRP separate from and after any initial blind screening process.

Regional Assembly
A gathering of group service representatives (GSRs) and regional committee members (RCMs), conducted by the RSC, to discuss issues affecting NA worldwide, usually in preparation for the biennial WSC meeting. The regional delegate is sometimes elected at the assembly.

Regional Delegate (RD)
Attends the WSC as a voting delegate from an NA region (or equivalent service body). Is responsible to help communicate between the region and world services throughout the conference cycle.

Regional Service Committee (RSC)
A body that draws together the combined service experience of a number of adjoining areas for the mutual support of those areas. Composed of RCMs, the regional delegate, alternate delegate, and others as needed.

Service Pamphlets
A pamphlet intended for use as a resource for groups and service bodies covering some topic related to service in NA. These pamphlets are developed and approved by the World Board, who can also revise them at any time. They are the board's best attempt at collecting some of the more successful practices in our fellowship in dealing with sensitive or difficult topics.

Strategic Plan
A long-term strategy for world services to provide new or improved services and support that facilitates the continuation and growth of Narcotics Anonymous worldwide. The project plans stem from the objectives in the strategic plan.

Twelve Concepts for NA Service
Fundamental NA principles guiding our groups, boards, and committees in service affairs. WSC-approved in 1992; published with essays and study questions as a self-titled booklet.

Workgroups
Small working bodies of the World Board created for a specific purpose.

World Board
The World Board is the service board of the World Service Conference. The board provides support to the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous in the fellowship's effort to carry the message of NA. Oversees the activities of NA World Services, including our primary service center, the World Service Office. The board also holds in trust for the NA Fellowship the rights for all its physical and intellectual properties (which includes literature, logos, trademarks, and copyrights) in accordance with the will of the fellowship as expressed through the WSC.

World Pool
A pool of members' service resumes (World Pool Information Forms) demonstrating a variety of recovery- and service-related experience as well as any skills necessary for the successful completion of world-level assignments. All NA members with over five years clean are eligible and encouraged to complete the information form.

World Service Conference (WSC)
Unlike all other service bodies of NA service, the conference is not an entity; it is an event—the coming together of the NA Fellowship from around the globe. Every two years

regional delegates, the members of the World Board, and the executive director of the World Service Office meet to discuss questions of significance to the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous. The World Service Conference is the one point in our structure where the voice of NA as a whole can be heard regarding issues and concerns affecting our worldwide fellowship. The conference is a vehicle for fellowship communication and unity: a forum where our common welfare is itself the business of the meeting.

World Service Office (WSO)

The name of the physical location of the primary worldwide service center for NA World Services. The headquarters is located in Chatsworth (Los Angeles), California, USA, with branch facilities in Mississauga, Ontario, Canada; Brussels, Belgium; and Tehran, Iran. The WSO prints, stocks, and sells NA Fellowship- and conference-approved literature, service handbooks, and other materials. Provides support for new NA groups and developing NA communities. Serves as a clearinghouse for information about NA.

WSC Cofacilitator(s)

Two individuals who preside over the business meeting of the World Service Conference. Elected by the World Service Conference.

Zonal Forums

Locally organized, service-oriented sharing sessions that provide means by which NA communities can communicate, cooperate, and grow with one another. Involves participants from neighboring regions.

Addendum A

Building Strong Home Groups Worksheet

Building Strong Home Groups Worksheet

This worksheet is meant to help NA members strengthen their home groups. Use it in your group business meetings to find ways to grow and improve. The idea of longer business meetings isn't always appealing. If needed, the group can schedule an extra business meeting or have a get-together on a separate day. In a spirit of giving, a little extra time goes a long way to strengthen the group so it can better carry the message. To make the process quick and smooth, hand out copies of this sheet in advance and try to get as many group members as possible involved. The worksheet includes a list of home group qualities in three categories on the back of this page.

❶ Identify Areas for Group Improvement

For each category *(see list on the back of this page)*, members can choose one or two items the group can improve, before or during the business meeting. Compare lists or vote. Address the top issues, one at a time.

❷ State the Issues

The group should briefly discuss what needs to be improved in each area they chose, one at a time. Remember, keep it simple! Don't get too wrapped in the problem; move into the solution.

❸ Brainstorm Solutions

As a group, discuss solution ideas. Remember, there are no bad ideas and there is no need to debate. One idea that won't work might lead to another that will. Focus on ways to make progress; don't worry about being perfect. Small improvements are better than no improvements.

❹ Choose the Solutions

Choose the ideas that most members agree on. If needed, this can be done by a simple vote.

❺ Make Decision(s)

From the brainstorming, look for simple, practical actions the group can take to implement the solutions. Be specific about *who* will carry out the action, and *how* it should be done.

Example

Area for improvement: Practices – Public Relations

The issue: meeting facility complains about noise and mess after our meetings, and they never know who to talk to about the problem.

Brainstorming/choosing the solutions (votes):

- let people know about noise (2)
- announce in meeting format (5)
- also mention trash/cig butts (3)
- have someone stay to clean up (5)
- give the facility phone numbers (4)
- have someone check in monthly (5)

Decisions:

- Add statement to meeting format about keeping noise and mess down.
- Group secretary will give facility our contact info and check in monthly.
- Get a "clean-up" person each month to make sure we don't leave a mess.

Ideals

Principles demonstrated by the group and its members

- ☐ **Consistency and Commitment** – People can count on our meeting and trusted servants.
- ☐ **Spirit of Service** – Members serve willingly with gratitude for NA.
- ☐ **Benefits of Service** – Trusted servants demonstrate growth that comes with service.
- ☐ **Principles in Action** – Members live NA principles and share about them in our meetings.
- ☐ **Positive Perspective** – The group and members dream big and share our successes.
- ☐ **Intimacy and a Sense of Home** – We help all members feel like a part of the fellowship.
- ☐ **Other** _____

Practices

How strong home groups operate

- ☐ **Safe and Positive Environment** – Our format keeps us focused on recovery.
- ☐ **Teaching Principles** – The group discusses the steps, traditions, and literature.
- ☐ **Self-Support** – Members give time and resources freely to support the message.
- ☐ **Good Public Relations** – Our group reflects well on NA as a whole.
- ☐ **Encourage Diversity** – The meeting reaches all newcomers and welcomes them home.
- ☐ **Nurture All Members** – Group members are supportive and challenge each other to grow.
- ☐ **Other** _____

Roles

How a group interacts with NA and the community

- ☐ **Evolves with Members** – Members' personal growth strengthens the group.
- ☐ **Establishes a Network** – Our group puts newcomers in touch with experienced members.
- ☐ **Gateway to Service** – Members introduce newcomers into group service, then beyond.
- ☐ **Model of Service** – Our group prepares trusted servants to work well at other levels.
- ☐ **Unity and Credibility** – We work with other groups and ASC in a spirit of cooperation.
- ☐ **Positive Message** – Group members are an example of NA changing lives for the better.
- ☐ **Other** _____

Group Notes (use extra paper if necessary)

❶ **Area for improvement** _____

❷ **The issue** _____

_____

❸ **Brainstorming** _____

_____

_____

❹ **Choosing the solutions** _____

_____

❺ **Decisions** _____

_____

_____

Worksheet can be copied or downloaded from **http://www.na.org/discussion_boards.htm**

The Twelve Steps of Narcotics Anonymous

1. We admitted that we were powerless over our addiction, that our lives had become unmanageable.
2. We came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
3. We made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God *as we understood Him*.
4. We made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.
5. We admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.
6. We were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.
7. We humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.
8. We made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.
9. We made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.
10. We continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.
11. We sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God *as we understood Him*, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.
12. Having had a spiritual awakening as a result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to addicts, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

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The Twelve Traditions of Narcotics Anonymous

1. Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends on NA unity.
2. For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.
3. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using.
4. Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or NA as a whole.
5. Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry the message to the addict who still suffers.
6. An NA group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the NA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, or prestige divert us from our primary purpose.
7. Every NA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.
8. Narcotics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.
9. NA, as such, ought never be organized, but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.
10. Narcotics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the NA name ought never be drawn into public controversy.
11. Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films.
12. Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

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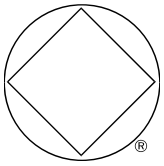

Twelve Concepts for NA Service

1. To fulfill our fellowship's primary purpose, the NA groups have joined together to create a structure which develops, coordinates, and maintains services on behalf of NA as a whole.

2. The final responsibility and authority for NA services rests with the NA groups.

3. The NA groups delegate to the service structure the authority necessary to fulfill the responsibilities assigned to it.

4. Effective leadership is highly valued in Narcotics Anonymous. Leadership qualities should be carefully considered when selecting trusted servants.

5. For each responsibility assigned to the service structure, a single point of decision and accountability should be clearly defined.

6. Group conscience is the spiritual means by which we invite a loving God to influence our decisions.

7. All members of a service body bear substantial responsibility for that body's decisions and should be allowed to fully participate in its decision-making processes.

8. Our service structure depends on the integrity and effectiveness of our communications.

9. All elements of our service structure have the responsibility to carefully consider all viewpoints in their decision-making processes.

10. Any member of a service body can petition that body for the redress of a personal grievance, without fear of reprisal.

11. NA funds are to be used to further our primary purpose, and must be managed responsibly.

12. In keeping with the spiritual nature of Narcotics Anonymous, our structure should always be one of service, never of government.

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The Twelve Concepts for NA Service were modeled on AA's Twelve Concepts for World Service,
published by Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc.,
and have evolved specific to the needs of Narcotics Anonymous.