

NAWS Report Part 1

Because we never get through all of the information we need to share and the questions you need to ask in one session, for this Conference we have divided the NAWS Report into two sessions. And we suspect that we'll be pushed to get through all of the information even in that amount of time.

This first NAWS Report session will focus more on corporate, financial, and legal issues, while the evening session will focus more on Board- and Conference-related material, including projects. We will also be addressing financial questions in the Budget session on Thursday.

Due to the nature of the Conference, there is simply never enough time to cover everything during our NAWS Report sessions. These sessions are meant to give both a recap of NAWS' activity during the past cycle and a look ahead for the coming cycle. Much of this information is also available in the NAWS *Annual Report*, and we encourage everyone to review that resource to supplement the items we have time to discuss in person at the Conference. Please do not leave the Conference without getting your questions asked—we encourage you to approach the WB and NAWS staff at any point during the week.

NAWS Strategic Plan

The NAWS Strategic Plan, which is included with the Conference Approval Track material each cycle, contains a great deal of information about the work of NA World Services. As the foundation for the work we do at World Services, it is an important item to talk about during the NAWS Report session. The material can be difficult to grasp for those who encounter it for the first time, but we strive to provide an overview that helps to make the plan easier to understand. The NAWS Strategic Plan outlines our long-term goals and objectives and gives rise to the project plans that we vote on at each Conference.

Those who have made use of *Planning Basics* in your local service efforts are likely to find the NAWS Strategic Plan somewhat easier to understand. Similar to the process outlined in *Planning Basics*, the strategic planning process focuses on making deliberate, informed decisions about how to prioritize our goals and objectives in a way that makes best use of available resources. The process includes a biennial "environmental scan" to identify the internal and external factors that affect our work at NA World Services and NA as a whole.

During the NAWS Report at the Conference we will talk further about the Strategic Plan and how it shapes the work of NA World Services for the cycle ahead. Most of what we do, however, falls under the category of "essential services" and that will be another focus of the NAWS Report.

FIPT issues

There have been some recent reports of the proliferation of illicit versions of NA literature. Only the NA Fellowship can protect its own property by saying this is okay or not okay. We do have a legal agreement—the *Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust*—that outlines the fact that NAWS has a fiduciary relationship and is responsible to protect NA's intellectual property. Groups are able to print literature for their own use when there is a clear need to do so, but service committees and individuals have no permission to do so. Groups also cannot use this ability to raise funds or to distribute outside of their group. And no one other than NAWS has permission to post NA recovery literature to the internet. We intend to address this issue in this session.

There are frequent occurrences of well-meaning members and committees posting or distributing material. When we ask them to stop, and explain why, they do. What concerns us now is the purposeful actions of some of our members who seem motivated to do this for political reasons or

Everything that occurs in the course of NA service must be motivated by the desire to more successfully carry the message of recovery to the addict who still suffers. It was for this reason that we began this work. We must always remember that as individual service committees, we are not and should never be in competition with each other. We work separately and together to help the newcomer and for our common good. We have learned, painfully, that internal strife cripples our Fellowship; it prevents us from providing the services necessary for growth.

Basic Text, Introduction

out of simple resentment. They seem to ignore the many Fellowship decisions about this as well as our requests to stop.

The term “baby blue” typically refers to a copy of the Basic Text Third Edition, Revised that also includes the Fourth and Ninth Tradition essays from the Second Edition. It is not in itself a version of the text the Fellowship ever approved. While the *FIPT* does offer groups the limited ability to print NA recovery literature, this sort of editing and combining of different editions of the Basic Text described above is in direct conflict with the guidance offered in the *FIPT* and the clear conscience of the Fellowship.

Sometimes members use the term “baby blue” to identify locally printed copies of chapters 1-10 of the text, without any changes as described above. The *FIPT* does allow for NA groups (and only NA groups) to print copies for use in their meetings. Here are the criteria offered in *FIPT Bulletin #1*:

1. An NA group should only reproduce NA Fellowship-approved recovery literature when it has a clear need to do so.
2. NA Fellowship-approved recovery literature reproduced by an NA group should be distributed only within that group. Such materials should always be given away free of charge; they should never be sold to generate income.
3. The text of NA Fellowship-approved books and pamphlets reproduced by an NA group should not be altered or modified in any way.
4. The copyright for the item being reproduced should be shown prominently as follows: “Copyright © [year of first publication], Narcotics Anonymous World Services, Inc. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved.”

But as you can see, from #2 above, the Fellowship has not provided for the use of locally printed recovery literature beyond the group. Service committees do not have authorization to copy NA recovery literature for distribution in jails or other institutions, regardless of the edition. As a result of the discussions that brought about the *FIPT*, NAWS began to produce the booklet *An Introductory Guide to NA*, which includes Chapters Four (How It Works) and Ten (More Will Be Revealed) from the Basic Text, along with the text of ten IPs. The *Intro Guide* is designed and intended for use in jails and prisons. It is a low-cost option, and we encourage committees to use these when providing free literature to inmates. Incarcerated addicts are also able to write to NA World Services for support.

RSOs

We are trying to do what we can to help, but we have heard from some RSOs that have closed their doors that in some cases we have done too much. Since we operate from the premise that helping to get literature to members is always our priority, this has meant mounting debt for many offices; in a number of cases, the service committees they are accountable to were unaware of that debt. Right now we have a completely varied landscape—some places have RSOs, some don’t; some RSOs are financially solvent, others are struggling; some have shut their doors. We continue to look