

# **Narcotics Anonymous World Services, Inc.**

## **Approved World Board Minutes**

**9-12 March 2016**

Present: Tana Agostini, Mary Banner, Ron Blake, Iñigo Calonje Unceta, Paul Craig, Irene Crawley, Paul Fitzgerald, Odilson Gomes Braz Junior, Sharon Harzenski, Arne Hassel Gren, Franney Jardine, Tali McCall, Ron Miller, Antonia Nikolinakou, MaryEllen Polin. Mark Hersh not present on Wednesday only.

Dickie Davis and Laura Brown; 2016 WSC Cofacilitators, were present for most board meeting sessions except for Thursday when they will met with staff and Don Cameron.

Staff: Becky Meyer, Eileen Perez, Anthony Edmondson, Travis Koplow, Jane Nickels, Steve Rusch, and Chris Corning.

Meeting was called to order at 9:00am with a moment of silence followed by the serenity prayer.

### **Wednesday 9 March**

#### **KRA: Trusted Servant Development**

The WB Operating Values workgroup topic was 'Evaluative self-reporting on workgroup and subgroup experiences for the 2014-2016 cycles.' This is a closed and not recorded session.

### **CAR and CAT 2016**

#### **Update from CAR/CAT Workshops and what we have heard so far**

The World provided updates on workshops in Bangladesh, South East Zonal Forum, Autonomy Zone, India, Ireland, Asia Pacific Forum, European Delegate Meeting, Greater New York, Midwestern Zone, Southern Zonal Forum, MARLCNA and Western States. .

#### **Overview of the conference week**

#### **Marriott Grand Ballroom**

Room layout changes reviewed. The reason for change is because we lost one of the previous breakout rooms – Pearls. The hotel is converting this room to a lounge. The section for rounds where all discussion sessions were held before is now eliminated and will be used for 2 small group break-outs. Other break-out rooms for use are Hidden Hills, Ventura 123, and Calabasas. . All conference participants will be assigned rooms for breakout sessions for the entire WSC. This should help everyone get accustomed to going to same room for each discussion session. There will be no assigned seating in the breakout rooms. The plan for the 2016 breakout sessions will be like 2014 WSC; after small groups the hope is that the feedback is progressive.

#### **Review of the current draft schedule for WSC**

The hope is to have more of an exchange of ideas at this conference, however how time is actually utilized is dependent on conference participants.

All World Board meetings are tentative; however desire is to schedule a meeting early enough on Friday to give everyone time to prepare for sessions and the week ahead. There will be another meeting on Saturday (Open Forum) and additional meeting to talk about the new business motions.

As stated earlier breakout rooms for this conference assigned so everyone gets used to going to the same areas all week. Sections in Ballroom will fit 2 groups of 60, with Hidden Hills; Ventura 123 also

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used for breakout sessions; and other rooms if needed. Regional Delegates (RD) and Alternates (AD) will be separated during those sessions.

Saturday NAWS Open House will be the typical layout with tours, food, with World Board assisting as servers and wherever needed. The seating will be in front of building with tables and umbrellas. Depending on how hot it gets canopies to be added to seating area. Saturday recovery meeting will be in the risers with additional seating in the center of the room. Delegate Sharing session time will be determined. Chris and Boyd will also be having a Narcotics Anonymous history presentation on Saturday.

Sunday's WSC Orientation will be more practical and will include Rules and Tools along with e-polling.

The 'Needs of a Global Fellowship' session will be about getting to know each other and help conference participants create a type of environmental scanning.

Midweek break on Wednesday will be at the park next to the hotel, 5 different types of food trucks will be available and it will be open to everyone.

Approximately 1 hour scheduled for the closing session, certificates that will include goodbyes for 6 World Board members, 2 HRP members and 1 Cofacilitator, followed by lunch outside.

### **WSC 2016**

#### **Framing the session for the Future of the WSC and Strategic Planning**

The World Board created small groups to come up with ideas on how to frame the Future of the WSC discussion for delegates. At 2014 WSC focus was: needs, why we gather, purpose, what are our options for seating. Goal is to seek a common understanding with a deadline. That whatever the outcome; we all have a commitment to working towards a transition as defined by the conference.

### **Thursday 10 March**

#### **FIPT issues for discussion at WSC 2016**

Grey Book group registration requests, Posting of NA literature online by groups, areas, regions and members and Baby Blue discussed. After having a thorough discussion it was decided to bring each topic up for discussion with conference participants.

### **WSC 2016 Electronic Polling**

#### **Electronic voting**

This resource is intended to eliminate the standing count, voice vote and improve what we already do.

A polling demonstration is to show how remotes work as well as explain what and how information will be displayed at WSC 2016. Don Cameron, the current WSC Cofacs will also be present for the demonstration.

Key instructions will be included on a lanyard.

The Cofacilitators will announce when polling is beginning and when polling closing if all votes are not showing as voting. Cofacilitators will ask a final time about voting, followed by vote. Outcomes will be announced and shown on the screen.

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During the discussion portions of the conference, the desire is to select a meaningful and diverse selection for the queue in order to hear all of the different viewpoints. Once the discussion commences, one Cofacilitator will facilitate discussion and the other will manage the numbers. People will be selected in chunks.

### Discussion

Setup will include an explanation regarding not intending to display individual votes neither will information be provided or retained.

Setup will include being clear about the ability to be in the room and not voting and only the number of those that voted will be counted. Everyone agreed that when an individual chooses not to vote it will equate to present not voting.

Setup will include how individuals will be chosen to speak on a topic, example that the queue will be kept by the number of times a person has spoken because it's about sharing time and reminding everyone that this is a part of the Proposed Rules and Tools published in the CAT.

Different people will do orientation. We may need to read the Proposed Rules and Tools out loud and review in segments.

### **Corporate Responsibility**

**This is a closed session with, NAWS corporate attorney and NAWS trademark/copyright attorney**

Introductions followed by discussion.

#### **NAWS corporate attorney**

Our NAWS corporate attorney came to us in 1996/1997, during our consolidation of World Services; collapsing the three corporations into one. The current corporate standing and California nonprofit law was explained.

Both the Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation are in accordance with the state of California.

#### **NAWS trademark/copyright attorney**

Our trademark/copyright attorney helped develop the FIPT document and was originally hired by Bob Stone. Her firm has been a part of the entire lawsuit experience as well as our trademark and copyright filings. All of our copyright and trademarks are up to date. Some of the current activity explained.

Having nothing further to discuss with the NAWS corporate and trademark attorneys the World Board meeting ended in a closed sharing session that is not recorded.

### **Friday 11 March**

#### **Motions and Proposals for WSC 2016 from the WB**

#### **HRP**

HRP chair explained the Human Resource Panel process in detail, followed by a few questions from the World Board. David J.; HRP member also encouraging the World Board to be more proactive during reporting regarding about nominees and why particular candidates selected or are desired. As

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well as encouraging World Board to talk about the pool during workshops or when fellowshiping.

### Any additional framing for the WSC sessions

#### Old Business

##### Motion 1

Greater New York region sent an email to the World Board in February regarding a sentence on page 1; they are of the opinion that sentence is inaccurate and would like it changed or removed. It is not the intention of the region to derail book publication. There are various members that believe the sentence is accurate as written.

WB can report sentence was in no way meant to be directed at New York history and we can ask the WSC about removing a word or words. Staff added that the original review and input draft had a lengthier introduction and had more description but fellowship input requested this be condensed and that's where the context of this sentence was lost.

The WB agreed to report in the upcoming *Conference Report* explaining concerns received regarding sentence, it's an easy fix and let the conference decide.

Emails received will get a response from staff. Staff will see if the email from Lynne was received and if so will respond.

##### Motion 2 and question to body about dividing the question

A commitment has already been made to divide motion 2, if it is a desire of the body. WSC Cofacilitators will ask participants if they want to deal with this as one item or 3. The verbiage will be ready, if necessary. If passed would go into effect at the close of the conference and this will be made very clear to conference participants. HRP will make their normal presentation and be prepared for elections. No objection to proceeding as outlined.

##### Motion to accept the 2014 Minutes

We have had no corrections offered. No objections to changing title of WSC Draft Minutes to WSC Draft Summary.

##### Motion to accept the Rules and Tools for WSC Decision Making for trial at WSC 2016 (this includes what data is announced, shown, and kept in the record)

The Cofacs will ask for permission to adopt the Rules and Tools for WSC Decision Making for this conference.

Nothing further added and no objection.

#### New Business

##### Motions for the 2016-2018 NAWS Budget and Project Plans

Survey results will be used for the recovery literature and service tools plans as well as the Issue Discussion Topics. We will also straw poll all approved projects asking for high, medium and low priority. Nothing further added and no objection.

##### Proposal to clean up all references to the Vision Statement as in the WSC Mission Statement

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The inconsistencies have been reported along with changes. It is time to look at the GWSNA and clean it up. No other comments and no objection.

### Proposals to seat the recommended regions

We've reported and have had discussion regarding seating regions. The Executive Committee had a dialog about this on Tuesday and is recommending that the World Board support workgroup recommendations. Separate proposals will be written for regions seeking seating. No objection.

### Proposal to remove Le Nordet from the list of seated regions

There was no objection to include this proposal in new business.

### Proposal to include the Rules and Tools in GWSNA

This is the trial in the *Guide to World Services* and will be added to new business if it appears helpful. It could or could not be adopted. No objection.

### Virtual Seating Workgroup

The board shared their thoughts on having virtual seating workgroup for 2016-2018 cycles. Ron M shared workgroup did have value and something internal needed to have in place keeping momentum on sustainability. It was also suggested this be removed from the *Guide to World Services* but continue with a virtual seating workgroup aspect. We can report agreeing not having found a way to get people to change thinking on seating and because the WB charged with seating suggesting to continue with virtual seating workgroup.

### Tenth Concept request

EC discussion and recommendation summarized. It is believed that individual is asking for a redress and if there is a claim of harm it should be with the World Board. Then, if there is further request for redress, it goes to WSC.

World Board believed the conduct policy concerning acceptable behavior was violated and why bulletin board posts removed. However since there really is no complaint from individuals to whom the posts were directed, EC recommending reposting his posts, along with expressing that we weren't trying to be a censor and will continue to support statement of proper behavior.

As monitors have to show direction as well as being a consistent example for group. Various board members don't believe posts should be put back on the board because behavior was inappropriate and others have been driven away from using the conference participant bulletin board.

The WSC will also be asked thoughts regarding the bulletin board's future use.

No objection to WB chair having a conversation with this individual that his request did not qualify as a Tenth Concept redress. There will be an opportunity on Saturday at the WV Open Forum if this individual would like to have a dialog with the full World Board. The board will develop a protocol for bulletin board that addresses procedures, expectations etc., No objection to reposting the removed posts to bulletin board.

Additionally a type of moderator job description will be developed that addresses expectations, protocol that includes the WB chair being included in decisions. If the bulletin board continues per WSC decision, this will be an ongoing item on agenda.

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Lunch at Maggiano's for staff, WB, HRP, and CoFacilitators.

### Saturday 12 March

#### KRA: Sustainability of NAWS and Corporate Responsibility

##### Financial Update

The World Board referred to the Balance Sheet. There is 4.6 months of operating days and our ratio is 9:7. Our plan to continue building operating assets is succeeding.

Added was that February 2016 financials will look dismal and this due to being down for inventory and it being a short month. In March it will look better. Contributions continue to arrive steadily.

##### Building Upgrades, repairs, replacements

AX accounting system getting ready to go active August 1 and for a while will have to run parallel systems until we've completely crossed over.

##### Russia

The World Board talked about Russia's literature distribution and basically having a non-interrupted and nonpolitical distribution point for members to receive their NA material.

Recently a letter from Russia posted on Facebook to NAWS which resulted with ED having a conference call to answer questions regarding the theft of funds and the future of literature distribution.

As of two weeks ago, temporary Russia NAWS literature distribution reestablished and four current trusted servants responsible for this. Another trip to Russia in the near future will be necessary; however, as of right now, the distribution of literature is solidified. Expect we will have a discussion with regional delegate during the WSC.

The response will be sent to the World Board for input and it will be from ED and WB chair. As a temporary measure there was no objection to NAWS holding lease agreement for distribution center in Russia

During the CP/WB webinar there was a misstatement regarding referencing the location in Russia as a NAWS warehouse and this will be corrected.

##### Selection of chair and vice chair for 16-17

The Board entered into a discussion regarding the future of World Board leadership.

Future; create a workgroup that gathers all the selection process leadership ideas, what's been tried and hasn't been tried, etc.

#### KRA: Public Relations

##### Membership Survey Results

The survey had 22,000+ responses – the previous number was 17,000+.

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The World Board provided input regarding color usage and possible additional categories.

PR Pamphlet –only received 9 pieces of input and deadline for R&I is April 22.

WB members will reiterate this is not a service pamphlet but a PR tool when out in fellowship. No other input provided.

### Approve January 2016 Minutes

Thursday - Strategic Plan; the word 'and' removed. No objections to approving the WB January Minutes as amended.

### Action Item List (affirm recommendations on project idea)

There are two entries for resume; under WB item and EC and being corrected as input being given.

WB Resumes workgroup will be Junior, MaryEllen and Tali. Deadline by WSC 2016 added to the action item list.

EC recommendation on the project submission for a service network is to encourage communicating with other communities to exchange ideas that have created similar types of technologies.

All project idea submissions have been responded to except for the last one received.

### WSC 2016

#### Remaining discussions needed for WSC 2016

#### Ideas submitted for Conference Report

All project ideas will be included in the *Conference Report*.

S. Idaho for the proposal for audio of book length pieces. Initially the issue was incurring the cost. However, now we have things on cd and mp3 and those would just need to be converted. Will have to look into this further because it's not unreasonable and it's well-intended, but there are other additional issues that need to be looked into first.

Index for Living Clean would make the translation process extremely difficult and this is cost prohibitive. The index for the Basic Text was very expensive as well as the abbreviated version for translation. Developing embedded codes in text is incredibly expensive. Aren't selling enough books to warrant spending what it cost to create an index.

A disclaimer will note where all project ideas came from e.g. service committees, individual, etc.

#### Remaining Issues?

E-blast will be sent Monday about the deadline for delegate survey on literature extending to March 20<sup>th</sup>. No objection.

**The calendar for 16-18 will be developed between now and the WSC and sent to you for review.**

World Board had nothing further to discuss at this time.

**The 2015 Annual Report will also be sent to you for review.**

Annual Report emailed last week, only looking for conceptual issues.



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### **Misc.**

- A Podcast facilitated by Ron H and Dave F asked Franney to participate. Podcast was thought to be a great vehicle for possible use in the future. If anyone else is interested, just let Ron H know.
- Seated regions that are unable to attend the WSC will be invited to send in a 5 minute video that will be shown during the conference.

### **Review of the current draft schedule for WSC**

Need to know what you want us to talk about, e.g. planning our future (zonal or not), the strategic plan, conclusion as a whole.

CAR paragraph and closing on the cover memo basically outlines what the board is asking from conference participants.

### **Conversations at the Upcoming WSC**

#### **Set Up of past and recent discussions and actions**

We need to continue this discussion at WSC 2016. The Planning Our Future packet is intended to help you be more prepared to do that. Are we heading toward zonal seating? That's what we think we heard at WSC 2014. Is that what you heard? Is that what you support?

- What did your regions say? (or did you regions discuss this? Did they have agreement? )
- Do you want to move to zonal seating or something else? (outline options you know of)

As a Board, we do not need to support or not support whatever seating process the Conference decides to adopt. Each of us as trusted servants has a responsibility to envision a new possibility for global decision making regardless of our personal preferences. There have been decades of discussions, with any progress made usually undone by the turn over in trusted servants and resistance to change, but the time has come. Our main concern is that the Conference can come to agreement about some vision for itself that serves our collective needs as a fellowship, uses its fair share of Fellowship resources, allows for effective discussions and decision making, and actually has the ability to change and adapt. To date the Conference has been unable or unwilling to make any changes in its makeup, despite countless discussions. We need workable criteria for whoever is seated at the WSC—whether that is regions or, at some point, zones or some other proposal not yet on the table. More will be revealed. What is clear is that as a conference we need to negotiate a workable solution.

The Board is still committed to a downsized, discussion-based, global WSC that can best serve the future of the NA fellowship. As a Board, we are committed to supporting whatever solutions the Fellowship can agree to.

Meeting adjourned on Saturday, March 12, 2016

**APPROVED**

September 30, 2016