

**Narcotics Anonymous World Services, Inc.**  
**Approved World Board Minutes**  
**7-10 December 2016**

**Wednesday 7 December**

World Board: Tonia Nikolinakou, Arne Hassel-Gren, Franney Jardine, Irene Crawley, Jacob Hovenier, Jose Luis Andreu, Khalil Johnson, Mark Hersh, MaryEllen Polin, Odilson Gomes Braz Junior, Paul Fitzgerald, Tali McCall, Tana Agostini, Tim Smith.

Staff: Anthony Edmondson, Becky Meyer, Eileen Perez, Steve R, Jane Nickels and Travis Koplow

Meeting called to order at 9:05 a.m. followed by a moment of silence, the Serenity prayer and few announcements from the chair.

**World Board Development**

The Operating Values Group facilitated a session on trust.

**History of WSC Seating**

An overview of past discussions was presented.

The discussion reviewed each cycle through the past two decades as it relates to seating. The discussion focused on what has been effective, sustainable and what sustainable options could be. The purpose of the discussion was to have all board members on the same page about the past.

**OBJECTIVE 4:** Continue work to make the WSC a more effective resource to help achieve the Vision for NA Service.

The World Board began discussing possible viable seating model options. Rather than make a recommendation for one way to proceed the board is attempting to frame a variety of effective options along with possible benefits and shortcomings.

The World Board meeting ended at 4:55pm with a non-recorded World Board sharing session.

**Thursday 8 December**

**Future of the WSC**

Meeting called to order at 9:02 a.m. with moment of silence, Serenity prayer and various announcements. World Board opened with discussions on Objective 4.

**Objective 4 strategies discussion:** Continue work to make the WSC a more effective resource to help achieve the Vision for NA Service.

- a. Based on WSC discussion results the World Board will continue to talk about WSC sustainability and effectiveness and frame viable options for WSC seating recommendations.
- b. Decision Making Group members reported on improving WSC meeting effectiveness by continuing to refine decision making processes, discussion protocols, consensus building strategies and use of time during the week.
- c. Improve the effectiveness of the time between meetings by working on processes to forward issues and have discussion on ideas between WSC meetings.

**Viable Options for Seating at the WSC:** Began a preliminary outline; future report should include conference participant funding and reducing the number of participants by having only one delegate per region at the WSC for consideration.

During the September meeting small groups were also asked to develop model ideas for a sustainable conference. Groups presented their ideas. Seating model ideas from WB Internal

**Narcotics Anonymous World Services, Inc.**  
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Workgroups discussed. The board was not trying to make a recommendation but simply to identify what seems as “viable options” as per objective 4 (a).

#### Decision Making Group Report and Recommendations

##### Overview

Four motions were committed to the World Board regarding WSC business sessions. There were 93 out of 115 participants in favor of eliminating the formal business session. The Decision-Making group is recommending that the final straw poll on CAR motions become the final decision. The remaining process for Old business decision making would remain the same.

New proposals are different and intended for ideas developed during the conference. New proposals would be organized by topic/category and offered for prioritization by the conference (possibly in breakouts or smaller sessions with a final debrief session) followed by the Moving Forward session. The CAT will still contain the ideas submitted through the existing CAT process. Example of considering new proposals submitted during WSC (except for seating): Proposals categorized and ranked, group comes back together. Possible limitation is that only a few topics will be discussed. Proposals with less than a certain percentage of support would be eliminated.

##### Decision-Making group questions for the WB

Old Business: WB agreed with Decision Making group proposed approaches.

No objection to pursuing a threshold adjustment in that all decisions will have the same requirement. Data will be developed on what our past practice has been for the last several conferences.

No objection for workgroup to continue pursuing ideas.

Discussion of ideas of how to use the time between conferences more effectively The World Board talked about past Conference Participant webinar platforms being useful but with limited functionality and not very engaging. Various time zones also a challenged. Next CP webinar will be on Zoom which has video and small group capabilities.

NAWS News and other fellowship reporting mechanisms must be used regularly, threading information throughout conference cycle to keep everyone up to date. The ways to connect people in between meeting with conference participants has to continue to improve and grow.

##### Ideas for Forwarding Issues

Participants to be asked to submit conference discussion ideas. The submissions would be collected (a deadline to be determined) to allow ideas to go into the CAR and Delegates could prioritize at WSC. This approach is a way to get ideas considered by participants and will synopsise in the CAR.

The World Board had no objection to proposed process. Delegates will be informed via NAWS News and an email will be created for discussion of changes to our current process.

General reminder regarding all communications with fellowship should be sent or forwarded to [worldboard@na.org](mailto:worldboard@na.org) allowing communications to go through the process.

NAWS News is the official World Board meeting *report* to fellowship.

#### Friday 9 December

##### Corporate Responsibilities

Meeting called to order at 9:02am followed by a moment of silence, Serenity prayer and announcements.

**Narcotics Anonymous World Services, Inc.**  
**Approved World Board Minutes**  
**7-10 December 2016**

**Financial Update and Update on literature distribution**

Financial statement explained followed by questions. November 2016 is still being reconciled.

Brief discussion regarding ways to acknowledge contributors. Stewardship philosophy and thinking about trends for the long term will be discussed in the literature distribution discussion and continue through the next two meetings.

**Service Tools projects**

**An overview of plans for Events/Convention**

The Convention & Events workgroup presented a timeline, topics for an online survey, strategies for a webpage launch, web meetings, workshop formats and possible virtual focus groups. Convention and Events direction approved.

**Local Service Toolbox**

Project focus is local services only. Have lots of draft material that can be included and a survey will also be utilized on the group's first webinar. Strategies include a webpage, survey to help set priorities and collect data from experienced members, web meetings and workshop formats. Local Service Tools direction approved.

Members with service tools or convention experience encouraged to send information to Travis [travis@na.org](mailto:travis@na.org) for Local Service Toolbox and Steve [steve@na.org](mailto:steve@na.org) for Events and Conventions.

**PR Update**

**This covered recent PR activity**

**Recent PR activity**

In 2010 NAWS worked with a researcher and studies were published in several professional journals. Those results were presented at the International Society of Addiction, American Academy of Addiction Psychiatrists and to the American Society of Addiction Medicine. This particular researcher feels information is important as many physicians and psychiatrists remain unaware of Narcotics Anonymous and how NA supports an alternative to prescribed medications. No objection to pursuing future possibilities for cooperation.

**Update on the Social Media as a PR Tool project**

**Objective 8** raise awareness and understanding of Narcotics Anonymous among the general public and potential members through the use of social media.

The report information was synopsized and a discussion regarding area and regions with public Facebook (FB) pages was held. Only one 12-Step organization has a FB page; however, research will continue. Facebook tools and resources contain information designed to help nonprofits define their FB objectives. No objections.

**Strategy 6;** Help zones understand their part in the coordinated comprehensive public relations strategy.

CANA, EDM and Brazil zonal representative willing to participate and we are currently working on finding U.S. zone to participate. This is for discussion only and no commitment is necessary on the part of the zone. No objection with continued direction.

# Narcotics Anonymous World Services, Inc.

## Approved World Board Minutes

### 7-10 December 2016

#### H&I video (PowerPoint)

Staff working on material and if the approach approved the script will be sent to the World Board. No objection.

#### Trip Highlights

##### Asia Pacific Behavioral Conference

There were 250 participants present; physicians/researchers impressed by number of respondents in Membership Survey. Malaysia fellowship has many new younger members and growing in many ways. There is a NA Malaysia website.

##### ISAM, Quebec Canada

A senior Foreign Affairs Officer with US Department of State, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs is very interested in NA's global reach. Membership Survey and PowerPoint sent to her.

A physician who is the advisor to the Philippines Vice President talked with NAWS about looking into alternative options such as medication and 12 Step support to offer the Vice President; physician reminded NAWS that President is pro his execution plan.

##### Vietnam

After an initial visit to Vietnam a year ago, a follow up visit was promised. The *Institutional Group Guide* and various IPs were provided at that time; this visit we provided a draft of the *Little White Booklet* in Vietnamese. 110 medical professional from Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh were present for the Narcotics Anonymous presentation and we are committed to being available for further questions. The hope is to eventually integrate the APF as a resource for Vietnam. They have nearly 100% relapse rate.

Presently working on IP 6 translation and a group of Vietnamese doctors are assisting with reviewing the *Little White Booklet*.

An NA demonstration meeting was enacted and the atmosphere of recovery was created, even though briefly. Addicts can legitimately gather now and a couple of attendees in Ho Chi Minh have been clean and have worked the steps as we understand them.

##### Africa

Other than South Africa all the communities were struggling three years ago. Now there is such a difference and effort to include all the communities. The zonal forum maturity is noticeable, all members worked together respectfully. Members held a meeting outside formal sessions to discuss issues with respect. It's been a long road but planning with a consistent strategy has helped with maturity and education. Gifted books from NAWS brought members to tears. Each group has a 'librarian' where books are checked out for free; however, members have to meet a few requirements before being permitted. Illicit Basic Text topic in Africa was discussed.

Their heart to heart language is relatable and everyone is merely seeking how to share recovery with one another in community. Leadership is pragmatic and includes women.

##### Middle East Convention IV - Oman

Members committed to meeting every two years as a convention. The last workshop was in Abu Dhabi. Translated literature includes: Arabic Basic Text, Introductory Guide. They have been complete partners in selling and paying for their literature. Omani fellowship is new, effective, and

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sweet. Arabic Local Translation Committee doing very well. The hope is for fellowship to continue moving forward with carrying the message to others. During trip, NAWS was invited to an open meeting and surprised to walk into a room with 700 inviting and respectful professionals, family members and members. We made a commitment to do a workshop late in 2017.

#### **Saturday 10 December**

Meeting called to order at 9:00am followed by a moment of silence, Serenity prayer and a few announcements. Discussion on Objective 4a continued.

#### **Future of the WSC**

**Objective 4A - Based on the results of the WSC discussions, continue to further the discussion about WSC sustainability and effectiveness, and frame viable options for WSC seating.**

#### **Communicating with the Fellowship**

Session focus is to review materials and determine that enough information has been captured to communicate to the fellowship. Initial report is merely a beginning point that will continue to evolve.

Report is based on the five identified areas from 'Why we come together', subjects related to conference and how we move issues between conferences and make decisions. Desire is to find ways to engage participants in a discussion about ideas.

#### **Models presented by internal WB groups**

PowerPoint of map showing existing zones – WSC zones both seated and not seated (color boxes), reasons we come together. Suggestions provided to PowerPoint. The World Board agreed with PowerPoint edits.

#### **Annual Report**

Annual Report will be ready for review sometime in January; however, this is predicated on Audit acceptance. Staff has also working on a one page Annual Report at a glance. No objection.

#### **Update on the 2018 World Convention**

Monday August 27 – Sunday Sept 2<sup>nd</sup> 2018 World Convention dates. Orlando is a city tailor made for a convention; diverse crowd, consumer friendliness, family destination.

Regions have until 31 December 2017 to provide theme ideas and sign up to be considered as workgroup members.

Events will be decided sometime in the first quarter 2017 and selection of workgroup members will occur 8-9 months before the event. Finalizing newcomer policy, registration cost and those types of details will occur in 2017.

The volunteer base population will be from the local community. Ideas on how to encourage members to volunteer and complete volunteer assignments proposed.

#### **2021 WCNA**

2021 consideration zones are Middle East, Africa and Turkey. The current situation in Turkey removes this location as a viable option. No objection to removing Turkey as a site consideration. Sydney, Australia eliminated because convention facility size too small and costs high; Japan costs also exorbitant. India has infrastructure issues; Hawaii eliminated as we were there a few cycles ago. A summary comparison will be provided for an upcoming meeting and decision to occur later in the year.

**Narcotics Anonymous World Services, Inc.**  
**Approved World Board Minutes**  
**7-10 December 2016**

**World Board Minutes**

The September 2016 World Board 3<sup>rd</sup> draft minutes approved.

**EC Items**

**Workgroup recommendations for Delegates Sharing and WSC 2018 Seating**

No objections to recommended individuals presented for Delegate Sharing and 2018 WSC Seating.

**Finalized NA Way and Reaching Out workgroups**

Paul F volunteered to continue being a part of Reaching Out group as group member.

**Audit Committee**

No objections to recommended individuals: Mary B, Craig R and Bob M.

**Review of the Action Item List and updating the "Future WB discussion" list**

World Board asked to submit items of interest. No other changes.

**Project Ideas Submissions**

Basic Text Step Study Questions – recently conducted a fellowship wide survey and this sort of tool did not rise to the top, we will not pursue at this time.

Audio app for Hindi Basic Text – a formal request from the Local Translation Committee required in order to pursue.

**Date and time for next Conference Participant webinar**

Propose January 28<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. Pacific. If everyone is not available we may opt to have two webinars to accommodate everyone's schedule.

**Date and time for next WB conference call**

Date and time will be determined. Board will provide staff with their next quarter unavailable travel dates.

**Future revisions to GWSNA**

All agree document needs a general revision; however, as we consider possible system changes right now may not be the time for this work to occur. No further action at this time.

**Production**

Production update provided on medallion and gift edition Guiding Principles book. The sponsorship medallion can be added to WCNA product ideas.

**Conference Participant Discussion Board**

Current moderator thanked individuals helping with adjustment to the bulletin board assignment.

Meeting ended at 4:20 pm Saturday December 10<sup>th</sup> 2016

**APPROVED**

April 7, 2017