


BUILDING OUR NA COMMUNITY ONE TRIP AT A TIME!

As our fellowship grows in numbers around the globe, we cannot overlook the importance of our travels to not only developing NA communities outside of the US, but also to those communities that are struggling within the US. On the flip side of that, we need to visit and offer support to NA communities that are thriving as well. We want to make every effort to assist and provide services when and wherever possible. Just like the "addict who still suffers" does not automatically mean the "newcomer," we must stay cognizant of the fact that older and more developed areas and regions have problems, the same as the new ones. In our attempt to allocate equitable service to the NA Fellowship as a whole, we examine each travel request to assess its value to the fellowship.

In order to maintain the consistency of this report, these trips will be presented under the section of the Unified Budget they represent—Fellowship Development, Literature Production and Distribution, World Service Conference, and Conventions and Events—instead of being presented all in one section, as in previous reports. Fellowship Development trips are basically those trips that will help to foster the growth of NA communities and provide support and services to our members worldwide. The trips that are listed under Literature Production and Distribution deal with our marketing efforts in the professional arena. These also include events that we can further develop, as well as maintain the cooperative relationships we have established within these fields. The travel related to the WSC and Conventions and Events is clearly denoted.

We believe by highlighting the travel in this manner, you will be able to see how important these trips are not only to NA as a whole but to the NA communities we visit. It is here that we can see the relevance of the first point of the NAWS Vision Statement, envisioning a time when, "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." As we grow globally during this new century, we want to remember that NA is not a secret organization. We are being recognized as a positive, effective, and possible solution to the disease of addiction, not only here in the United States, but also in countries where, as recently as five years ago, NA was not known. We want to further our efforts and foster the impact we are having in these countries, as well as within the professional arenas. Our travels also offer a way to bridge the communications gap that can sometimes exist between world services and the members we serve.

Another component of our travel and fellowship development trips is to continue working on our relationship with society and the public in general. We can see, especially over the last several years, the fruits of our labors, particularly in the professional substance abuse treatment and criminal justice fields. The third point of our vision statement envisions a day when, "Narcotics Anonymous has universal recognition and respect as a viable program of recovery." After years of dedicated public relations efforts by many trusted servants and WSO staff, Narcotics Anonymous is receiving a higher level of recognition by the public and in the above-mentioned sectors as that "viable" means to finding recovery from the disease of addiction. This is no small task, and we certainly have not arrived yet! We, as a fellowship, should take great pride in the distance we have traveled over the years. What started as a dream of a few is now a reality for hundreds of thousands of members around the globe.

Lastly, some of the travel NAWS is involved with helps WSO staff to stay current on the many aspects of managing a nonprofit organization. With the dynamic environment of the business world today, it is important that we provide the best opportunities to grow as a business and as individuals. These trips and seminars not only offer the necessary information to enhance our organization's growth, but also provides a greater efficiency for the office and a more prudent use of our resources in order to continue to serve and support the growth of Narcotics Anonymous worldwide.

Fellowship Development Events/Trips

TWELVE STEP ADVISORY COMMITTEE

13 JULY 1999

Purpose: Continued interaction with a committee that was created by the California Department of Corrections to improve the interface between Twelve Step fellowships and California correctional facilities.

Location: San Diego, California

Travelers: Freddie Aquino, WSO Staff

Trips were taken to participate in the above committee to various locations in California on the following dates:

- ♦ 31 August 1999
- ♦ 2 November 1999
- ♦ 4 January 2000

NATIONAL ASIAN-AMERICAN FAMILIES AGAINST SUBSTANCE ABUSE CONFERENCE

21—24 JULY 1999

Purpose: First WS entry into the Asian Pacific community (we could exhibit our presentations in Singapore, Jakarta, etc.). Entry into other related events and the Asian Pacific professional community. Training opportunity for local trusted servants.

Location: Los Angeles, California

Travelers: Mary Hollahan, Steve Sigman, Elaine Adams-Heriman, WSO Staff

PUERTO RICO REGIONAL CONVENTION

13—15 AUGUST 1999

Purpose: Responded to their request for world services to conduct a workshop on local services.

Location: Dorado, Puerto Rico

Travelers: Rogan Allen, CJ Arroyo, World Pool

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON ALCOHOL AND ADDICTIONS (ICAA)

16—20 AUGUST 1999

Purpose: Continued our long-term participation in this professional event. We exhibited, but did not present.

Location: Vienna, Austria

Travelers: Peter Ocken, Euro Pl Chairperson; Garth Popple, trainer for travel team; Mary Hollahan, WSO Staff

CANADIAN ASSEMBLY/CANADIAN CONVENTION

4 —7 NOVEMBER 1999

Purpose: Responded to a request for world services to participate in their forum meeting.

Location: Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

Travelers: Susan Chess, WB; Anthony Edmondson, WSO Staff

NATIONAL CENTER ON ADDICTION AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE (COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY) CONFERENCE

29 FEBRUARY—3 MARCH 2000

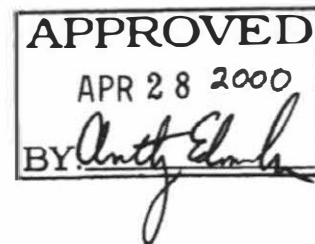
Purpose: Provided an opportunity to see where the future of substance abuse treatment lies and to prepare our public relations efforts using this information. Also, to further NA's visibility and to continue our personal contacts within these fields.

Location: Simi Valley, California

Travelers: Bob Stewart, Freddie Aquino, Steve Sigman, WSO Staff



Approved Minutes
Narcotics Anonymous World Services, Inc.
World Board Meeting – 27 – 29 January 2000



Thursday 27 January 2000

World Board: Michael McDermott, Jon Thompson, Claudio Lemionet, Susan Chess, Stephan Lantos, Larry Roche, Jane Nickels, Mary Kay Berger, David James, Tony Walters, Lib Edmonds, Bob Jordan, Bella Blake, Mario Tesoriero, and Daniel Schuessler.

Staff: Becky Meyer, Eileen Perez-Evans, Nancy Schenck, Michael Lee, George Hollahan, and Anthony Edmondson.

Not present: Craig Robertson

Action Group was on the board's vision for the next two years

George and Mario lead discussion and recapped Executive Committee January discussion.

Priorities

WSC 2002

WCNA 28

WCNA 29

WCNA 30

Motion 1 and 2 – Project plans to allow for response to motion 2

Motion 3 – Project plans for sponsorship evaluation and fellowship development

Motion 4 – Project plan for Bulletins – Internet and 11th Tradition, Surveillance and the LWB, Input on targeted literature, evaluations, and translations, updated plan

Motion 5 – Worldwide workshop system – develop tools for all committees, travel cycle and targets

Motion 8 – Seating of regions

Motion 9 – funding and travel arrangements for all conference participants

Issue Discussion Topics

Handbooks – Treasurers, Events, PI, and Training – develop basic ideas and use in the worldwide workshops. Then develop material further based on that response and input.

Publications

1 CAR, 2 Annual Reports, 4 Conference Reports, 8 quarterly reports, 8 NAWS news = 23 separate publications for an average of one per month in the two year cycle plus 8 NA Ways, 8 Reaching Out and 12 Meeting by Mail

FDP –

Proactive approach to increase in fellowship donations (1H)

Expansion of Marketing/Pr efforts

Training and orientation for new board members and possibly committee members by June 2000. At some point fellowship, current board, and WSO staff training (goal 4)

Information Management – system and annual fellowship information (goal 3)

their understanding. The body had no objection to the proposed Issue Discussion presentation. Daniel requested that Uschi be the small group recorder in his group.

CTF**

CTF members will facilitate the small groups. The board went into a discussion regarding facilitation of the small groups with no staff recording.

There was a suggestion to rephrase one of the questions to state "what's the problem that you've experienced explaining it to the group, or remove current format." CTF may possibly revise questions and discuss facilitators for small groups to reflect input.

Jane asked that the board find a way to be involved in small group discussions during conference.

5. The issue discussion list for prioritization by the conference for bulletin development

The board discussed that they want to ask conference participants input on what they want the board to do with bulletins, updating, deleting, or revising.

Jon asked the body if we wanted to give the conference the option of ranking the papers, if it will mean prioritizing the board's work. It was clarified that this is only for conference participants to let us know that they think. The two suggestions made were to 1) ask the conference participants what they think at worldwide workshops, 2) pull everything under item number 1 out. Updating the bulletins discussed. The board agreed to ask participants to only rank the importance, and to insert 18: how do we build trust in our trusted servants? Send the board the number of times each bulletin was downloaded.

Numbers 19 & 20 will be removed and presented by an individual board member.

6. WB Minutes approval

January 27-29, 2000

March 9-11, 2000

EC Reports provided

January 26, 2000 Call Record

February 18 Call Record

March 7-8, 2000 Meeting Record

March 17, 2000 Call Record

April 6-8, 2000 Meeting Record

Personnel

7. WB Meeting Schedule for the 2000-2002 Conference Cycle

Possible Issue Topics for development

WB Input noted in red

1. Updating existing Trustee bulletins:
 - a. Some thoughts regarding our relationship to Alcoholics Anonymous
 - b. The relationship of Narcotics Anonymous to NarAnon and Families Anonymous
 - c. Gender-specific language and use of the word "God" in NA literature
 - d. What is Addiction?
 - e. Special interest meetings
 - f. Direct contributions
 - g. Participation and decision making at the World Service Conference
Suggest deletion of
 - f) Direct contributions and g) participation and decision making at WSC. Rationale for "f" is the IP from the former Trustees and for "g" is going into our two-year conference cycle and current and ongoing changes.
 - h. The generation of funds (fundraising) and the Seventh Tradition in Narcotics Anonymous
 - i. Regarding Methadone and Other Drug Replacement Programs
 - j. Public relations and the traditions
 - k. Freedom from prejudice, Parts 1 and 2
 - l. HIV and AIDS in NA
 - m. Open and closed NA meetings
 - n. Theft of NA funds
2. What do we perceive is the groups' role in the world service structure?
What do we hope to accomplish - what is our desired outcome.
Somehow, how the question is worded, I do not think we will reach.
3. What does "consensus-based decision-making" mean to us *and* how would we utilize this process during the WSC?
Delete - we have thrashed this about for sometime and I believe we need to back burner, perhaps focus an article, or two in NA Way over next conference cycle, perhaps bring to worldwide w/s and consider raising again after WSC 2002.
4. How are unity and autonomy integrated and vital to our efforts to carry the message of recovery?
Needs a rewrite to accomplish intent.
5. What does "common needs" imply? How is the intent of "special interest" synonymous with common needs?
Suggest updating Trustee bulletin "e" and forego topic.
6. How is being of service to the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous a spiritual component of a program of recovery?
7. What are the benefits for NA, as a whole, to decentralize our service structure? How may the fulfillment of our primary purpose be actualized with a worldwide fellowship?



Premature, there are fears associated with 2-year cycle pertaining to unity and our ability to fulfill our primary purpose with a worldwide fellowship so I say wait until 2002 to introduce decentralization benefits.

8. What can the Twelve Traditions do to foster growth for groups and service structure? How do the Twelve Concepts complement the traditions and promote freedom for continued growth?
9. What is our experience with creating an atmosphere of recovery with disruptive members in our meetings?
10. Where is the line between cooperation and affiliation?

Update bulletins "a" & "b" and delete topic.

11. How can we effectively carry our message electronically?
12. How do we apply our principle of anonymity to the Internet?

Since I missed our last board meeting, I may be lost; yet, I thought we were going to write a 'bulletin' to address and clarify. I sense we all have a measure of uncertainty and misunderstanding with the net and electronically with our message. The benefit if we could truly engage members in a discussion would be to reach a common understanding and clarity yet I am skeptical about our ability and willingness to discuss as many members may not be interested in that topic, per se.

13. Is the statement in our literature 'that we are under no surveillance at any time' a problem? If so, should it be resolved by changing our recovery literature or better explaining the intent of this statement?

I am assuming that is a solution of sorts for the motion from Texas. Seems like a dumb sort of topic and if chosen, needs to be rewritten. I think more can be gained by educating about the intent before posing of the question of changing our literature.

14. Does "child care" have a place in NA meetings?

Suggest rewording to be similar to #9 (yes and no questions tend to inhibit thought provoking discussions, in my opinion).

15. What action do we, as a fellowship, need to take to retain our experienced members with substantial clean time?

Don't think we should include the topic from this year

16. What is NA's definition of abstinence? How does this definition apply to our members who need medication in recovery?

Don't think we should include the topic from this year

17. WSC and DF issue discussion topics from previous years.

- a. Improving Fellowship Communications
- b. Fund flow
- c. Racial and Cultural Diversity and our First Tradition
- d. Group conscience in the service structure



- a. Forego until CTF is complete.
- b. Forego as we have IP and articles in NA way.
- c. OK.
- d. Seems to be the same as #2.

11

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18. What is meant by 'trusted servant'? Or 'How do we build trust in our trusted servants?'
19. Is nonalcoholic beer a drug?" or "Are we using when we drink nonalcoholic beer?" or "Does NA recognize any percentage of alcohol as acceptable?"
20. "When a member steals from us should we prosecute?" or "How can we p the thieves in NA from robbing us?"

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Open Forum

Pete (RD Alt So. Florida) what discussion has taken place within the board, as well as what action has been taken regarding the treatment center publishing NA as their number – insinuating affiliation.

Response: We became aware of the scope of the problem in November. George followed up with a phone call and asked that the entity to stop using the Narcotics Anonymous name. The entity stated that they would instruct their staff to stop using the NA name. Follow-up phone calls have been done and for the most part entity is complying. However another letter has been written in a more stern tone to entity, copied to our attorney informing the entity that there was an incident where staff answered the phone "Narcotics Anonymous." It is believed that this will be resolved without legal action, however we are prepared to take legal action if necessary. Pete was given a copy of what has been done with entity.

Erik: Respects the board for identifying their limits in the budget. Questions the relationship with the Drug Courts, and if an influx of people coming from drug courts should be expected?

Response: Drug Courts intend to refer clients to NA, as they have started to build NA into their system and have embraced Narcotics Anonymous.

John C: Loves the process, the way the board speaks with each other and believes the process is working. John expressed going through a lot of pain last year and apologizes for the distance during the first couple of days. Referred to the seating of regions and stated that a region being seated causes movement (growth) in the region. Also speaks on voting: and stated that the Composite Group recommended the board have 1 vote, further stated that he heard the board state that conference doesn't trust the board and wonders if the board trusts the conference. Further feels that the board will one day not have a vote at the conference and this is a good thing.

Response: Stephan stated that there is a board of 17 individuals that have unanimously supported the recommendation made regarding the board's vote. Personally feels it differentiates the board from the entire conference. Further feels we ALL have an equal responsibility to serve the fellowship as a whole.

Eddie: talked about his regions feeling on the recommendation on Motion 1, and felt that Motion could have been presented in a different manner. His region was split on how they felt. Also noted that the board's recommendations are a bit condescending and recommends that the board reviews the manner in which recommendations are worded.

Response: the board understands what's being shared, and in hindsight, the board has thought of a couple of other ways to present recommendations. The board did the best possible. Also noted was that the intent for Motion 1 was actually to really get some clarity of what the fellowship wants.

Stuart: asked what was the process to bring the History Workshop together, and wonders if some members were contacted that were not able to attend. If so, will something be done with those members?

Public Relations Committee

The Public Relations Committee will be responsible for activities associated with how our fellowship and service structure interface with society. The committee will also guide the way we inform the public about NA, covering all public relations with the medical profession, the criminal justice system, governmental and non-governmental organizations, and the media. The Public Relations Committee will also serve as the H&I and PI contact for our fellowship and its local service committees.

- **PR and Marketing Strategy**
- **Planning for professional events and marketing**

Identify pool members and necessary training to accomplish goals.

- **Training Materials and info for fellowship to forward overall PR goals**
- **Other fellowship issues that effect PI, H&I, and NA's interface with the public – researchers, non NA events, UN representation, Drug Courts, etc.**
- **Reaching Out**

The existing workgroup for this publication is Craig Robertson, David Jones, Jeff Gershoff and Freddie Aquino. A new workgroup should be created of two pool members and staff. PR should make recommendations to the board for this workgroup.

- **Discussion of NA Update**
- **PI Handbook (only one currently in review and input stage) There also seems to be a component of this for the Guardians.**
- **H&I Handbook**
- **Materials to assist in efforts with drug courts and institutions – video, written material, etc.**

Public Relations and Marketing Plans

This committee focuses on planning to help world services achieve its overall public relations and marketing plans. This may involve activities that are directed at the professional community and/or the fellowship. This committee, like all WB committees, is involved with long term planning and identification of possible future needs in their area of responsibility. It is the hope of the board that we can begin to provide the planning and training that will allow world services and the fellowship to work towards a common effort in public relations and corrections. This committee is kept informed of current marketing plans and possible opportunities for WB interaction and/or involvement.

July 2000

Fellowship Relations Committee

The Fellowship Relations Committee will be responsible for activities associated within our fellowship and service structure, conference policy and procedures, proposed changes to our service structure.

This committee is involved in planning and identification of those areas where world services can assist the fellowship in its service efforts. This may be through the identification of needed article, bulletins, service materials, etc., or training efforts. They will assist the board in the planning and implementation of fellowship development activities, such as the worldwide workshop system.

- **Worldwide Workshops – Initiate discussions with communities to plan events. Identify needs of materials from WB committees.**

- **Development of the Service Delivery plan for world conventions**

- **Standards for World Service Communications with the fellowship**

- **Meeting by Mail**

WSO staff currently develops this publication. This publications purpose and current practice needs to be evaluated.

- **Training Workbooks**

- **Treasurers Handbook**

- **Committed motions from WSC 2000**

Motion #19: "To include in *A Guide to Local Services in Narcotics Anonymous* between the General Table of Contents, page iii, and the chart 'NA Service Structure,' page iv, the following description of the different units of our service structure in NA."

Motion #63: "To include in *TWGWSS* as WSC policy the WSC Rules of Order. Said proposal to be included in the 2002 CAR or presented at WSC 2002."

- **Request for Seating at WSC (added after meeting)**

Guardians

These members will serve as a resource to the fellowship, the World Board, and to the World Service Conference. Acting as a kind of "bellwether"¹ for our fellowship and for the World Board, the guardians shall address principle-related issues (e.g., NA's Traditions and Concepts) confronting our membership. A group whose responsibilities involve the very core principles of our program, the guardians are charged with the responsibility of moving proactively on such fellowship issues by developing position papers, though they also may provide guidance to our membership on issues as identified by the fellowship as problematic, controversial, and/or topical. This group will also guide the World Board in philosophical discussions that affect the continuation and growth of NA.

This committee identifies and plans for how world services can assist with the types of issues described above. Since all world service activities are guided by NA's core principles, this committee will be made up of experienced board members and may call upon some the fellowships long standing members for assistance. Due to its focus and experience, this committee will be called upon to assist other board committees in many of their activities.

- **Bulletin development – assess and make recommendations to WB**
- **Structure for WB to have philosophical discussions and assist committees needs**
- **Interface with Fellowship Relations re Worldwide Workshops**
- **NA Way**

The Editorial Board should consist of 1 WB member and 2 or 3 pool members. The planning for this magazine should complement the boards overall plan.

- **2000-2002 Issue Discussion Topics, process to be used for discussion and development of topics and material:**

How can we create a bridge that builds and maintains a connection to service for home group members?

How can we continue to provide services to our fellowship and at the same time decrease our reliance on funds from events and conventions?

¹ Bellwether: Refers to the practice of "belling" a member of a flock: indicates "one who takes the lead or initiative."

distribution. Financially, the office is showing a net gain YTD. This compares to a net loss at this point last year. This puts us on track to break even or even show a tiny net gain as we hoped for after a dozen years of investment in European fellowship development. Although it has not yet reached that point, we remain optimistic that income will continue to increase given the growth of the European fellowship and the ongoing progress in translating recovery literature for various European NA communities. (For example, the Turkish translation of the *IP Recovery and Relapse* has just recently become available!)

Operationally, there have been more service disruptions in recent months. We want to apologize to our European customers for any inconvenience they have experienced and express our appreciation for your patience while we are improving operations there. Part of the story here is the same effort to integrate the accounting and inventory systems of WSO-Europe with WSO headquarters, as described with WSO-Canada above. Ultimately, this will have the same customer service benefit. However, the computer upgrades for WSO-Europe are broader in scope. And, this has been a more complicated task to accomplish for WSO-Europe, in part because of Y2K computer glitches with the existing computer system at WSO-Europe. We are also working on integrating the European branch with the WSO's new, main database system.

To accomplish this goal, we brought the principal employee who staffs WSO-Europe, Paul Decock, to WSO headquarters for the first time for two weeks of training. He has also done a great job for us over the last year. This was exciting for Paul and those staff here who interact with Paul regularly by telephone to have the opportunity to work together face-to-face. However, this additional training necessitated the closure of the WSO-Europe branch for this period. Again, we are sorry for any difficulties this may have caused our members. If you will continue to bear with us, we believe you will soon see the results of our efforts to improve our service to our European customers and members.

Routine Services—Fellowship Development Activity

Drug Court Relations

In the 1999 *Annual Report*, we wrote: "the impact of drug courts on our fellowship has the potential to be greater than that of treatment centers in the 1980s." What does this mean?

It is increasingly probable that several hundred thousand newcomers will be coming to NA meetings, primarily in the US, over the next couple of years because of referrals from the booming drug court movement.

Drug courts represent a new formalized system of courts designed to deal with addicts who commit crimes. Drug diversion programs have long been a mechanism by which addicts have been court-ordered to NA meetings. The systematic creation of an entirely separate system of specialized courts is a relatively new phenomenon, however. State and national governments view the model as highly successful. As a result, there is explosive growth in the number of these courts. Initially, these courts have dealt with criminal offenders on the front-end of the criminal justice system (pre-trial, plea-bargaining alternatives to incarceration). Recently we have become aware of a new type of drug court known as a "re-entry drug court." These are operating on the back-end of this system (post-sentencing). There appears to be two emerging types of re-entry drug courts: jail-based (original sentence) and prison-based. The prison-based model seems to be the most innovative. The drug court may initially sentence the offender to state prison. Then at the back-end the offender is required to fulfill a probationary period in the re-entry drug court. In essence, these types of re-entry courts may represent almost a new, separate parole system for managing addict offenders. If state and national governments also find this model successful and copy it widely, this is another reason we see the potential for a significant increase in the number of addicts court-ordered to NA meetings, beyond that number of addicts who have historically first attended NA meetings as a condition of parole. During the 1990s, the number of prison-based treatment programs has also increased (again, primarily in the US), and this societal development appears to be related to the criminal justice system's overall adaptation to

addict offenders. The growing number of prison-based treatment units are introducing more and more addicts to NA, increasing the demand for NA H&I meetings behind the walls, and increasing the number of NA institutional groups in these facilities. The link between these prison-based treatment units and these new prison-based re-entry drug courts is a logical one that is likely to continue to increase as criminal justice systems continue to change how they deal with addict offenders.

The other factor that is driving this growth is the dramatically increased awareness and acceptance of Narcotics Anonymous as a program of recovery for drug addicts, both among professionals and the public. This is a result of our fellowship's phenomenal growth and maturation over the last two decades. Professional and public respect and knowledge of Narcotics Anonymous is substantially greater than what it was in the 1980s. This is a result of the tireless efforts of thousands of members, groups, and service committees to make our message more available to addicts everywhere. Increasingly, for professionals involved in all aspects of criminal justice systems, Narcotics Anonymous is the first choice for these professionals when they decide to refer or mandate addicts' participation in community-based programs.

The board is aware that in local areas where many drug courts have sprung up—and large numbers of addicts have been court-ordered to meetings—that some NA groups have faced challenges responding. The board has had very preliminary discussions about the need for a possible bulletin or issue paper to address this challenge. Concern about responding within the bounds of our Twelve Traditions is always the focus of our attention. Our attendance at professional conferences where we can interact with drug court professionals is particularly useful.

Because of the importance of the drug court movement, we have attended three conferences since June of 1999 sponsored by the (US) National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP). We told you in the last *Annual Report* about one of these: the NADCP's Adult Court Conference held in Miami Beach, Florida in 1999. During the first week of January 2000, we sent two staff to the NADCP's First Annual Family & Juvenile Drug Court Conference held in Phoenix, Arizona. (The Adult Court and the Family and Juvenile Court divisions of the NADCP have just recently formed. This reflects the tremendous growth and increasing sophistication and specialization of the drug court movement.) The January conference had expected about 600 or 700 attendees. They eventually hosted over 1,300 people. We had a booming attendance at our exhibit booth most of the time. We made numerous contacts, learned more about drug court developments, and were invited to attend another one of the NADCP's smaller but very important conferences.

We then attended that conference in San Diego, California (5-6 March 2000). The US Justice Department's "Community Orientation Policing Services" held this conference jointly with NADCP. This conference focused on better relations with law enforcement. WSO staff members were able to sit in on several of their topic specific focus groups to gain more insight into the inner workings of the drug courts and their law enforcement counterparts. Staff had an opportunity to sit in with a panel of judges and listen to their successes, as well as their daily woes. Drug court professionals are gaining an increasing awareness of NA's Twelve Traditions and how Narcotics Anonymous groups function. Our attendance at these events helps to further this understanding. These conferences are opportunities to foster dialogue about problems we face and they face—from different perspectives—when it comes to various courts interfacing with our fellowship's meetings at the local level. We are planning to attend another NADCP conference in San Francisco this June.

Finally, it's worth saying that although this movement has originated in the US, the movement is expanding worldwide and will have fellowshipwide impact. There are at least five nations with existing drug courts. A dozen more are in the planning stages. Last summer, growing out of the (US) NADCP, the organization formed an International Association of Drug Court Professionals (IADCP). The IADCP's board includes directors from Canada, Scotland, Ireland, Australia,

England, Brazil, Austria, and the United States. The IADCP will participate in the NADCP training conference we are planning to attend in June in San Francisco.

Routine Services—Fellowship Development—More Public Relations Activity

Here are a couple more examples of public relations activity during the past nine months. All of our public relations work takes place within the bounds of the Twelve Traditions. And, of course, as our Eleventh Tradition tells us: "Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion" The professional conferences we attend generally share a common purpose of informing the public as to what NA is, what NA is not, and how NA works. This is particularly applicable to professional associations in the treatment or correctional fields. At these events, guided by our traditions of non-affiliation with outside enterprises, and without expressing opinions on outside issues, we can provide information to key professional groups who have extensive contact with addicts—addicts who haven't yet found the new way of life we offer in NA. (Members who are new to public information service work can learn more about how it's done and how our traditions apply by reading the service handbook, *A Guide to Public Information*, and *It Works: How and Why*.)

ICAA in Vienna, Austria, September 1999

We attended another annual conference sponsored by the International Council on Alcohol and Addictions in September 1999 in Vienna, Austria. We have continued our follow-up efforts over the years with this important international organization that brings together professionals who work with addicts from countries all over the world. This venue offers particularly valuable opportunities to make contacts with professionals and governmental officials from countries where no Narcotics Anonymous meetings presently exist. One of the travelers was a representative of the Euro Public Information Committee (a function accountable to the European Delegates Meeting). This improved our relationship and accomplished training to expand future cooperative public relations efforts. Follow-up is all-important in public relations work, and increasing the pool of experienced members for these kinds of important international public information efforts is an important objective. We are considering attending the next ICAA conference in Bahrain, 3-8 September 2000.

Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University (CASA)

We sent three staff members on a relatively inexpensive trip in our own backyard to the Reagan Library in Simi Valley, California (less than 25 miles from the WSO). We attended a conference presented by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University (CASA). This public policy conference focused on "Substance Abuse in the 21st Century: Positioning the Nation for Progress." 275 people attended from 29 February–3 March 2000. CASA hosted a multitude of nationally prominent figures, including Nancy Reagan and a number of important past and present US government officials.

One goal of the trip was to contribute to a positive image of Narcotics Anonymous as a concerned and valuable source of help for drug addicts. Our objectives also were to contribute to NA's public relations efforts and to educate ourselves about the role of other key segments of society in national policy about drug abuse. It was an excellent opportunity to meet and make contacts with individuals from local and national government agencies, as well as the entertainment industry.

This conference gave us the opportunity to see where the future of substance abuse lies and what we may need to do to prepare our public relations efforts by using the information we garnered at this event. We were also able to further NA's visibility and gain valuable personal contacts from representatives of a broad range of substance abuse treatment and information gathering fields, which attended this event. We learned a lot about the CASA, their research, and their efforts toward an informed policy-making approach for the United States. General Barry McCaffrey, head of the US National Drug Control Policy Office, and several other prominent

panel members acknowledged NA's role and presence on the recovery scene—something we can all be proud of.

Routine Services—World Convention Update (Events)

WCNA-28 promises to be a unique event as we prepare for our first bilingual world convention. Dealing with the cultural and economic issues in order to make this fellowshipwide gathering a success has challenged our ability to plan an event that all can enjoy and afford. As we continue our planning, excitement seems to be building around the fellowship. Members are beginning to register and purchase travel packages for the convention. We were able to negotiate special travel packages from the US, several major European cities, many locations in Latin America, and for members traveling from cities throughout Colombia. While we were not able to get large discounts from all locations, our work on these packages reaches 14 countries—more locations around the world than ever before in world convention history. Registration flyers have been mailed to the fellowship in English, Spanish, and Portuguese. Flyers are available through the WSO or on our website, www.na.org.

Despite our previous reports in *NAWS News*, the *WCNA-28 Newsletter*, and in the November 1999 *Conference Report* about our work regarding the issue of safety and civil unrest in Colombia and the lack of these problems in Cartagena, we continue to get questions and inquiries, primarily from our US members. We understand the anxiety that some members feel based upon press coverage of the civil war in Colombia and the perceptions about that country's drug-trafficking history. We still hear well-intended criticism from members who ask, "How could they ever have been so *stupid* to pick that location?" As we have reported before, we believe we chose the best overall location in Latin America. Concerns about violence and the safety of members were an issue we had to consider with each of the locations we evaluated for WCNA-28. The quality of the convention facilities in Cartagena, the isolation of Cartagena from the political and civil unrest in other parts of Colombia, and the size and stability of the NA community in Colombia (the second largest in Latin America) were among the deciding factors.

Now, all we can do is again offer the assurance that we are continuing to monitor the atmosphere of the country and activities in and around the convention site. No civil unrest commonly reported in some parts of Colombia has occurred in Cartagena. While we are committed to this event, we will not expose members to unnecessary risks. We will continue to monitor events in and around Cartagena right up to the event and notify the fellowship if anything changes. Traveling anywhere in the world always involves some element of risk, and each member everywhere must make a personal decision about such matters. We can share with you that the fellowship in Latin America in particular, and throughout Colombia especially, is tremendously excited and hopeful about hosting the worldwide fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous. For NA in Colombia, it is a dream come true! On their behalf, we can only pass on their gratitude in advance to all those who journey to Cartagena to celebrate "Nuestra Esperanza de Vida" (Our Hope for Life).

We are working hard to create a memorable and special program of convention speakers and workshops. In achieving our goal for the convention program, minimally we must identify speakers in both English and Spanish. (This is what makes this world convention truly the first bilingual convention. While we have often provided translation of English-language speakers in past conventions, we have never had an entire block of non-English speakers and workshops.) To be successful in this effort we are working with a program group within the host committee and have identified two other sources for assistance with this effort. We have selected a group of five trusted servants from names chosen out of the World Pool by the Human Resource Panel (based on criteria supplied by us) to serve on one program work group. This group will assist us in developing the English-speaking portion of the program for the convention by listening to tapes and narrowing the choices for speakers. The members of this group are: Greg S (Show-Me Region), Clark L (Northern California), CJ (Florida), Rhonda R (Free State), and Eduardo M (Brazil). We are also working with an identified group of regional delegates who participate in the