

## **NAWS JULY WEBINAR**

### *New Ideas for Fellowship Development*

9 July 2022

#### **MEETING INTRODUCTION**

Our Board Chair, Tim S, hosted the meeting in English. Multi-stream translations were available in Farsi, French, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish.

Eduardo G read an introductory Step Twelve Reading from *It Works: How and Why*.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Public Relations Week 5-11<sup>th</sup> of June.
- Unity Day Virtual Recovery Speaker Meeting, 11 am-12.30 pm PDT. Details at: [www.na.org/nawsevents](http://www.na.org/nawsevents) and [www.na.org/webinar](http://www.na.org/webinar).
- *A Spiritual Principal A Day* has been approved by the WSC, with free email subscription options coming your way soon. [You can sign up here: [www.na.org/subscribe](http://www.na.org/subscribe)]
- Annual report is up in digital and PDF formats on [www.na.org/ar](http://www.na.org/ar).
- 60th Anniversary White Book is for sale—item #1501 at [www.na.org/webstore](http://www.na.org/webstore).
- A draft of *Virtual Meeting Basics* is up at [www.na.org/toolbox](http://www.na.org/toolbox) or [www.na.org/virtual](http://www.na.org/virtual) where you'll also find other resources regarding virtual meetings and a recording of this meeting.
- Two surveys are currently live on [www.na.org/survey](http://www.na.org/survey). One pertains to potential revisions in IP #21, a second deals with language for a potential IP on drug replacement therapy as it relates to NA.

#### **INTRODUCTION TO THE FELLOWSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS**

Tim S introduced our panelists by recapping a two-session discussion from the WSC in which new ideas regarding how to reach and assist NA members worldwide were discussed. One repeated response given in these sessions was that groups were having success utilizing meeting maps of their regions to assist underserved Narcotics Anonymous areas.

#### **QUEBEC – FIRST NATION OF MALIOTENAM FELLOWSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**

We first heard from Jean, Gérico, and Kanessa from the Northeast Quebec ASC regarding their efforts in Fellowship Development with First Nations Community of Maliotenam, of the Maliotenam Reserve in northern Quebec.

Jean opened by explaining how they used the word “Develop” as an inspiring and helpful theme keyword in their Fellowship Development work.

Jericho then shared about his experience with Service Immersion, in which he worked for several weeks with the Maliotenam. This immersion experience gave Jericho a chance to do deep dives in several areas with these new members. For example, they spent several days working on the Twelve Concepts, specifically leadership, authority, and group conscience. Jericho also discussed the specific importance of the Ninth Concept in this work.

Kanessa, a member of both the Malietenam and NA, with whom Jericho worked closely, discussed the importance of patience in this outreach. Kanessa also expressed gratitude for the ability to be of service to her community. She said she now has an immense amount of hope, and the mentorship provided by the Fellowship development project has been incredibly helpful in her community. Kanessa has already started mentoring new members in service.

Kanessa closed with an analogy between the values of Narcotics Anonymous and those of the Malietenam. Though there are differences between the two, the new perspective of the NA message combined with that of the Elders of the Malietenam people has created a synergy of helpful ideas.

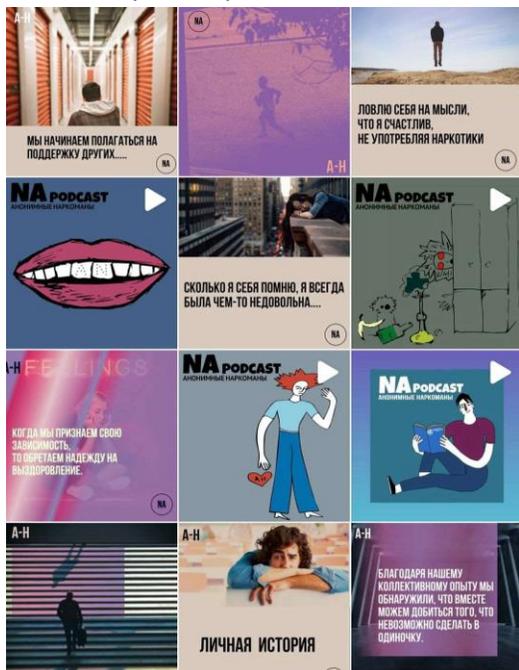
**PHILADELPHIA REGION – TWELVE AREA EDUCATION FELLOWSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**

Clarence discussed the evolution of the Philadelphia Region’s Complete Transparency Project, started in 2017, in which the regional service committee visited the twelve areas of the Philly Region to answer any questions area bodies or members might have and do presentations pertaining to World Service.

The team created by the regional service committee studied the CAR and then brought that information to the twelve areas of the Philadelphia Region. In Philly, some of these areas meet the same day, but because the Complete Transparency Team has six members, they could spread out and give reports on the region, CAR, and anything else that came up pertaining to the service structure of the Region or World Services. The team was also able to erase any misconceptions regarding the service structure, including an erroneous idea that WB members received payment for their service.

**MOSCOW – SOCIAL MEDIA FELLOWSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**

Alexey and Natasha described the social media Fellowship development project in Moscow, which Alexey started three years ago. He began by laying out the principles involved in this project: clarification of which services NA can provide and which they cannot; creating a positive perception of the NA Fellowship as a reliable organization in the larger Moscow community; and maintaining good relationships with professionals.



Alexey stated that they began by revamping the Muscovite NA website (<https://na-msk.ru>) and utilizing various social media platforms to creatively spread the NA message. They also created content through their own NA Podcasts and a Muscovite NA YouTube Channel.

Alexey then described the main tenants of his digital ecosystem for outreach: consistency; systematic effort; accessibility; quality of content; and responsiveness to contacts from potential new members.

He also showed examples of Moscow NA’s Instagram page, the Moscow NA Website, and other social media sites, while showing how each of the sites puts forth the tenants described above.

In closing, Alexey described the importance of connectivity in the ecosystem, and the fact that all the efforts are both intertwined and geared toward the newcomer.

**PORTUGAL – FELLOWSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

Gil from the Portuguese Region (<https://na-pt.org>) presented an overview of their regional efforts in Fellowship development. The Portuguese Region has 171 groups. 104 are currently face-to-face; however, that in-person ration was much higher prior to the pandemic. The Portuguese Region also has a legal entity. They are a well-developed NA community with nine areas and 36 years of history.



Gil stressed that they only have one active official Fellowship development committee, in Porto, in the north of Portugal. Despite the lack of official status, various H & I service bodies have done Fellowship development throughout Portugal and its islands, including Madeira, and some contact with meetings in Azores, throughout the 36-year history of the Portuguese Region.

He then explained how the Regional PR and H & I Committees in Portugal practice Fellowship development committee by unifying communication throughout the area; providing communication tools and support; and meeting with area committees regularly.

The Regional PR and H & I Committee has recently begun the ALPHA PROJECT, a multi-level action intended to create awareness, incorporate local fellowship and addicts, and show the larger Portuguese community the types of resources that NA can provide.

One thing that the Porto Area’s Fellowship Development Committee has been working on is assisting rural NA communities with actions that may be taken for granted in larger cities, such as literature orders and relaying of area communications.

**BRAZIL – LOCAL ACTION FORUMS**



Cyro discussed the creation of Local Action Forums in Brazil. These local forums focus on the practical needs of the NA Fellowship, such as H & I, PR, FD, and Helpline, while also “promoting cultural diversity in service” and post-activity experience sharing.

He also stressed the huge amount of spiritual growth and fulfillment these local forums have given to the Brazilian NA service members who have assisted in the process. The process itself is broken up into three parts: Before; During; After.

Cyro broke down the elements included in each of the three sections, for other service bodies who might want to emulate the activity:

*BEFORE:* Cyro suggests ten months of planning to organize all aspects of the process for various participating groups, including panels, PR, publicity, organization, and more. The ability to navigate the “bureaucracy” of your area is what often takes the longest time, though the process has the side effect of creating strong relationships with various professional organizations.

*DURING:* One important aspect of this is diverse experience-sharing during the activity. For example, if one group or area does their H & I differently, these activities allow for idea sharing and collaboration. Though it’s important to be open to this type of collaboration, it’s also important for the hosting body to have volunteers available for logistics and support to ensure smooth operations.

*AFTER:* An event like this can incorporate dozens of activities, all of which will need great volunteer support. There are many aspects of this support that can be provided by newcomers, which can both educate them in the Fellowship while producing the secondary effect of getting them excited about service. The next initiative will take place from November 20-22 in Sao Paolo and will involve more than five service areas throughout Sao Paolo, over a hundred initiatives, many of which will also interface with the larger community.



## **CLOSING**

The announcement regarding Unity Day was reiterated, and the meeting was closed, with thanks in multiple languages passed around between members.