

# NA World Services Webinar Report

## “Sponsorship Day”

4 December 2021

Sponsorship Day 2021 was marked with a two-hour webinar. Ten members from NA communities around the world shared their experience on a range of different aspects of the topic.

The meeting was simultaneously translated into Farsi, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish, and live-streamed on YouTube. Once again, we are truly grateful to the members who continue to offer their translation skills to provide this service.

The meeting opened with a short reading from chapter five of the book, *Sponsorship*:

For many of us, our first truly spiritual connection to another human being occurs when we open up and share honestly with our sponsors. The support and love we receive when we walk together on our journey through the Twelve Steps helps to free us from the self-centered fear that lies at the core of our disease. Sponsorship offers us a pathway to change and a bridge to develop other relationships. Addiction robs us of the ability to relate. Recovery restores our connection to ourselves and the world. We now have the freedom to live a life of meaning. From the goodwill that forms the foundation both of the NA symbol and of sponsorship, we are able to grow in our relationships with self, society, service, and God.

### NAWS Updates

Before handing the meeting over to the panelists, Tim, the World Board Chair shared a few updates.

An interim World Service Conference will take place in April 2022 and will cover essential business and consideration of the Spiritual Principle a Day (SPAD) book for approval. It is hoped that the World Service Conference can meet in person in 2023.

The interim *Conference Agenda Report* and Conference Approval Track document, known as ICC for short, is posted on the WSC webpage at [www.na.org/conference](http://www.na.org/conference), and includes information about the decisions that will be made this coming April as well as the approval draft of the new book. Paper copies of the ICC will not be available from NAWS, but bound copies of the SPAD approval draft can be purchased at \$10.00 plus tax if applicable, shipping, and handling. The draft can be found on [www.na.org/webstore](http://www.na.org/webstore) by searching for SPAD or item #9146.

Along with the decisions for WSC 2022, the ICC contains some questions about the future of the World Service Conference after 2023. Those questions are posted in a survey on the survey page ([www.na.org/survey](http://www.na.org/survey)) and the conference page ([www.na.org/conference](http://www.na.org/conference)) through the end of January 2022. Responses will provide input for Conference participants as they consider these issues.

A survey to gather input on the draft of the new Best Practices for Virtual NA Meetings service tool is also posted on the survey page and the Local Service Toolbox Project webpage ([www.na.org/toolbox](http://www.na.org/toolbox).) The survey is available until the end of the year and is posted in English, Farsi, Polish, Portuguese, and Spanish.

There is a new way to contribute directly to NA World Services. Texting the word **VISION** to the number **801801** provides a link to the NAWs contribution page [www.na.org/give](http://www.na.org/give). This new method may be more convenient for members in meetings on mobile devices and it's easy to announce in meetings and events.

Information about new products was also provided:

2022 Just for Today desk calendar – item #9500 - \$15.00



Sponsorship medallion – item #9603 - \$5.00

# Gift Bundle

1 - 2022 Just For Today desk calendar  
1 - Sponsorship medallion  
1 - Keychain

**All 3 for \$25 (#9500B)**

**Medallion and keychain \$10 (#9603B)**

[www.na.org/webstore](http://www.na.org/webstore)

A promotional graphic for a gift bundle. It features a yellow background with a gift box icon. The text lists the items in the bundle: a 2022 Just For Today desk calendar, a sponsorship medallion, and a keychain. A price tag indicates that all three items are available for \$25 (item #9500B). Below this, a close-up of the medallion and keychain is shown, with a price tag of \$10 (item #9603B). The website address www.na.org/webstore is provided at the bottom.

Tim then introduced the panelists.

The first share was from Siamak K from Iran. Siamak manages the Tehran branch of the World Service Office and shared some of his personal journey as a sponsee and a sponsor in the largest NA community outside of the US. In the early days of NA in Iran when Siamak first got clean there were very few members with the experience to sponsor others, so working steps in sponsorship groups is the norm for many members even today.

Lynne V from New York was then invited to share some of her experience about what she described as “the most important relationship in my life.” Although Lynne was not able to attend the meeting in person, we were able to pre-record her share.

Ron M from Florida then shared about being a long-distance sponsee and sponsor, and the commitment and consistency this requires. Ron is a former chair of the World Board, and he sponsors a number of people, including some in African communities where NA is just taking hold.

Connection issues prevented us going to directly to Ayubu in Rwanda who is sponsored by Ron, so instead we invited Veronica to share about the sponsorship relationship between her home region, Sweden, and Poland. She shared movingly about the process of creating the Polish Basic Text and the importance of translation efforts.

Zeynep S from Turkey then spoke about being a sponsor and her realization that her role is to share her experience of the NA program as part of her Twelfth Step. As a sponsee, her journey has involved relapse and achieving total abstinence after a time on drug replacement therapy.

With his connection issue resolved, we were then able to invite Ayubu to share from his home in the heart of Africa. He spoke about finding NA and approaching Ron to ask him to be his sponsor when he met him at a meeting of the Afri-Can Zonal forum. After challenges with time zones and technology, Ayubu and Ron have established a working long-distance sponsorship relationship and seen each other through some profound losses and the joys of recovery.

Kyle N from Southern California was then asked to speak. Kyle recently lost his sponsor very unexpectedly and talked about his process of utilizing his foundation of recovery to move through the loss and find a new sponsor. He acknowledged that what he needs from a sponsor has changed since he got clean at 20 years old. The basic needs of early recovery have been replaced by a desire to explore the program on a deeper level with the help of a sponsor.

Teresa M from Brazil then shared her personal approach to sponsorship, first reminding everyone that we are celebrating sponsorship day, not sponsor day, and that the sponsee is an important part of the relationship. She recognized the role of NA World Services in helping the Fellowship to grow in many parts of the world and urged everyone to consider making regular contributions to support that service. She also shared about the loss of her son, and how the members she sponsored helped her through this tragedy.

Bruno B from Southern California was then asked to share, focusing on how a group of men in recovery create a bond by working the program together and building community. He called out love and understanding as key principles in these relationships. Building these with the men he sponsors has been a key part of finding a new perspective in all parts of his life.

Bella A was the final panelist of the meeting. During her term as a World Board member Bella served as the point person for the *Sponsorship* book project. Her share focused on recovery in NA in Australia in its early days and how the Fellowship's growth was tied to the need for NA members to be sponsored by other NA members. She closed with the reflection that recovery has brought her to a place of acceptance and deep satisfaction with her life today.

Tim then closed the meeting with a final "thank you" to the panelists and the translators.