This session gives an introduction to NA World Services—who we are and what we do—and covers highlights of latest activity.
Overview of session. 90 minutes. We’ll try to save time for questions. You can always write to wb@na.org if you have a question you didn’t get a chance to ask today:

- Intro
- WSC 2023
- Resources / Invest in Our Vision
- Carrying the Message / Literature
- Serving and Communicating Online
- Questions and Answers

We are focused here on the past year. There is PR work, legal work, work responding to emails and calls, and more that are not covered in detail here.
NAWS stands for Narcotics Anonymous World Services.
“World services” = the World Service Conference and the World Board and Human Resource Panel, who are elected by the conference, plus the World Service Office, whose activities are overseen by the World Board.

This diagram illustrates that the office and workgroups are accountable to the WB. And the WB and HRP are accountable to the WSC. The WB, the HRP, and the WSC Cofacilitators are all elected by the conference.

You can find more information about World Services from *A Guide to World Services in NA*. That’s where this diagram comes from.
The conference is, in turn, accountable to groups. All of the entities in NA World Services are directly accountable to the Fellowship that created them.

This diagram is also from GWSNA. It shows the connection of the groups to the World Service Conference, including some of the diversity that NA communities use to organize their services. This is a great diagram to use as a handout or slide if you need an overview of the structure from group to WSC.
A Guide to World Services describes the basic purpose of NAWS as “communication, coordination, information, and guidance.” CCIG, for short.

If NAWS had a mission statement, this would pretty much be it. Like the Vision Statement, this informs all of our work—the projects that we work on that are approved by the WSC, as well as the work that continues week in and week out.

The five locations of NA World Services around the world spend over 90% of their time and resources on what we call essential services. That is primarily literature production and distribution; protecting the Fellowship’s intellectual property; and providing communication, coordination, information, and guidance to members and service bodies around the world.
These are pictures of the 5 World Service locations
NA World Services also helps administer the World Service Conference and the projects it approves.

The 36th World Service Conference was held 30 April – 6 May 2023.

It’s a big service meeting! But not just like a large RSC.
There were 139 voting members participating at WSC 2023:

- 126 delegates
  (120 RDs, 6 ZDs)
- 13 World Board members

There were also:
- 103 alternate delegates
- 4 HRP members
- 2 cofacilitators
- 5 in-person translators
- additional virtual translations

There were 139 voting members participating at this WSC—126 delegates and 13 World Board members. In addition, there were 103 alternate delegates, 4 HRP members, 2 cofacilitators, 5 in-person translators and additional virtual translations.

There are a total of 123 seated regions that could participate at WSC 2023. There were 120 RDs participating (3 seated regions did not attend this WSC). Of 6 seated zones, 6 ZDs were participating.

Of the 126 delegates from seated regions and zones participating, 66 were from the US, 5 from Canada, and 55 from outside the US and Canada.

There were 179 men and 63 women among delegates, alternates, and WB.
First truly hybrid WSC! The virtual participants who joined the conference were:

- 11 RDs
- 2 ZDs
- 1 World Board member
- 25 alternates

First truly hybrid WSC! The virtual participants that joined the conference were: 11 RDs, 2 ZDs, 1 World Board member, and 25 alternates.

At WSC 2018, a few participants joined remotely—one delegate and two alternates.
This year’s conference participants were from 45 countries and we spoke 28 languages (based on Serenity Prayer languages at the close of the First Things First session).
This conference made the decision to seat five regions: Brazil Central, Iran Region #1, Nordeste Brazil, Rio Grande do Sul, and Thailand.

For the first time in NA history, the majority of delegates to the World Service Conference are from outside the USA!

133 regions and zones are now seated at the WSC. The Brazil Zonal Forum no longer meets the criteria to be a seated zone.

66 of them are from the US, and 67 of them are from other places around the world.
Most of you have seen A Vision for NA Service before. This is the touchstone for all of the work of World Services.

WSC 2023 revised the Vision statement to change “his or her own” to “their own language and culture” as shown here.

NAWS is a corporation with a spiritual mission. We make many choices that a “normal” corporation wouldn’t make. Everything we do is driven, not by a desire for profit, but by a desire to reach our vision.
That said, it requires money to do most of what we do.
We update this map every WSC, based on the numbers delegates report. We expected the numbers to decrease after the pandemic, and they did. (The 2020 version of this map had more than 76,000 meetings.) 72,215 is nonetheless likely an undercount because we don’t yet have an accurate way to count virtual meetings that are not connected to the service system.
This slide shows meeting counts in different parts of the world over the past 15 years. It is posted in the Fellowship Development Resources section of the media page (na.org/media).

Even before the pandemic, NA growth had flattened in some parts of the world. We are eager to do what we can to support efforts to reverse that trend.
At WSC 2023 we rebooted the strategic planning process. The process is collaborative and relies on input and help from zonal forums. We will be framing questions for an inventory and putting together a new environmental scan to discuss at zones.
Participants at WSC selected Issue Discussion Topics for the cycle. CAR survey results helped inform those decisions.

The 2023-2026 IDTs are:

- Dealing with disruptive and predatory behavior
- Gender-neutral and inclusive language in NA literature
- Reimagining and revitalizing service committees
- Welcoming members on DRT/MAT

Work for the 2023-2026 Conference Cycle
Participants selected a number of focuses for the Service Material project for the upcoming cycle, also informed by the CAR survey results. These resources will be worked on as we are able:

- Virtual service basics
- A PR video explaining what NA is, how it works, and how to contact us
- Revise and update H&I Basics
- Revise and update the service pamphlet Group Business Meetings (with a section on using a CBDM process and the concept of delegation)
CAR survey results also helped shape participants’ decisions about the focus of the literature projects this cycle.

Work will continue on revising IP #21, *The Loner*, with a review draft due out in the CAR.

We will survey the Fellowship about a possible edit and/or simplification of the Step Working Guides. This would address several of the prioritized items in the CAR survey.
WSC 2023 accomplished a lot! This slide lists just some of the significant decisions. The June 2023 NAWS News gives a full report. You can find that at www.na.org/nawsnews

The FIPT was changed to reflect Conference decisions to create a zonal delegate position as a full conference participant. The definition of recovery literature was also clarified. And there were changes to the Operational Guidelines and the Use Policy. The 2023 CAR explains these changes in detail.

Virtual meetings were recognized as groups if they meet the 6 criteria described in The Group Booklet.

If a language community has local stories published in their Little White Book, up to six of those stories can be published in their Basic Text if they choose.

The conference decided to try a 3-year cycle for two cycles (6 years). There will be a partial virtual interim meeting mid-way through the cycle.

Some of the motions adopted at WSC 2023

- Changed the FIPT to recognize seated zonal delegates and clarify the definition of recovery literature
- Recognized virtual meetings as groups
- Added the ability for local stories to be added to translated Basic Texts with certain conditions
- Approved a 3-year conference cycle as a trial for two cycles
- And much more...
The biggest story for us in the past several years is about the impact of the pandemic on World Services’ resources and the ways in which we have attempted to be responsive.
The AR tells this story and more. AR is the best picture of our financials. We publish a
digital and PDF version.

It takes a long time to ready an AR—FY ends June 30. Need to inventory all 5
locations, do an on-site audit, do currency conversions, summarize all contributions,
and have a WB review. Normally takes 6-9 months.

With 5 locations operating in 5 currencies and operating under different legal
systems, it isn’t really possible to produce a short, simple financial report. The closest
we can get is the financial position provided by our auditors in the AR.

Present and past Annual Reports are posted to www.na.org/ar.
Crisis = Danger + Opportunity

2020 was a financial crisis. Chinese word for crisis is commonly (but not entirely accurately) understood to be composed of the characters for danger + opportunity.

Pre-pandemic 90% of our income came from literature sales. March 2020 global shut down orders were issued, and lit sales dried up over night. Literature income decreased about 86%

We had to cut what we could—we were committed to contracts and leases. Cutting staff was the quickest way to cut costs. We discontinued paper mailings and haven’t published the NA Way since the shut downs. We resumed publishing Reaching Out in January 2023. NAWS stopped travelling to events and holding in-person board meetings or workgroup meetings. All of these things helped us save money. In July 2022 Board met in-person for the first time in over two years. They had virtual meetings regularly during the pandemic and continue to do so. There will be some travel for the 2023-2026 conference cycle, but not nearly at pre-pandemic levels.
We had ample reserve funds prior to the pandemic that helped keep us going.

For years, we have been saying that member contributions are the most sustainable source of income, and the most in line with our spiritual principle of self-support. Relying on literature income primarily from the US to fund our global efforts is not sustainable, and the pandemic forced a shift toward an income model that is more reliant on member contributions (including groups, service bodies and events).

Our financial picture has changed and continues to change but the future looks bright. We continue to encourage member contributions.

Interesting note: Non-Fellowship literature sales represented an unprecedented percentage of our total sales during the pandemic, as correctional facilities and treatment facilities were locked down and H&I panels were not occurring.
Increases in Fellowship contributions are helping us recover from our financial crisis.

We are gradually building back our staff capacity. At WSC 2023 we relied on volunteers to complete some of the work. The convention is in 2024 and we know we will need all hands on deck.

Nonetheless, we still face challenges as our cost of goods keeps rising, as is the case for businesses around the world. We are trying to increase our stockpile of inventory to protect NA members from the unpredictability of the supply chain these days, and building those reserves costs money as well.

Contributions from members and service bodies continue to inspire us. During the 2021 fiscal year, contributions from groups, service bodies, and events all rose, but member contributions saw the most profound increase. The reopening of meetings and the increased involvement of service bodies accounts for the growth for 2021-2022.

This chart is one of the many included in the 2022 Annual Report.
What we know about NA is that if everyone does a little we can accomplish a lot. In that spirit, the World Board has focused on the benefits of increasing recurring member contributions.

We have set a long-term goal that at least 70% of the money World Services spends to deliver services will come from contributions. Those services are most of what happens at NA World Services except for literature distribution and cost of goods. It’s roughly two thirds of our budget.

Member contributions to World Services during the last fiscal year were the highest ever at approximately $2.2 million. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you!

We continue to make progress to our goal but we are not there yet!. If you’re a member, you can set up a one-time or recurring contribution at www.na.org/contribute

For more information about NAWS finances, see our annual report: www.na.org/ar.
Making literature available is a huge part of what we do, and we could fill this whole presentation simply with the efforts to draft, translate, produce, distribute, and protect NA literature.

NAWS makes many choices that are purely about carrying the message that no ordinary corporation would make. Two examples are explained in the next two slides: giving away and subsidizing literature and providing literature for inmate tablets.
This graph represents the cost of free and subsidized literature that NAWS distributes to communities around the world.

You can see that in the 2019 fiscal year, we distributed more than we ever have before—more than $832,000 dollars worth. In 2020, we continued to ship literature to places that couldn’t afford to purchase it even as we were cutting expenses in as many areas as we could. Despite the financial challenges of the 2021 fiscal year, sending literature to those in need continues to be a priority.

The total for FY 2020 was just under $580,000 and for FY 2021 was just over $368,000. The total for 2022 was just under $550,000. The need continued regardless of the pandemic or resources available.

None of these efforts would be possible without the support NA World Services has received from the Fellowship during the pandemic.

Note: We don’t report many of the details of where this literature partly not to embarrass or call attention to any communities. We never want to cause a community confusion or harm, even inadvertently.
Communities receiving free/subsidized literature.
We also make our message available for free reading, listening (audio BTs), and watching (ASL) online.
IPs and booklets in 57 languages are posted at na.org/ips. The audio Basic Text is posted in nine languages at na.org/audio. We post new versions as they are available.
We continue to get lots of inquiries from members about inmate tablets. The February 2022 *NAWS News* has more information about the subject. We will just touch on it briefly here.

Some correctional facilities offer inmates tablets pre-loaded with a variety of material, including, in some cases, NA recovery literature, at no cost to the inmate. One of the most important duties the Fellowship has assigned NA World Services is the protection of NA’s intellectual property and copyrights on behalf of the Fellowship. Inmate tablets are a new way to carry the message, and World Services must grant legal permission to load Narcotics Anonymous literature on tablets. At this point, these agreements are all within the US, with a handful of state corrections, mental health, and youth service agencies, as well as a local county correctional agency. Each of these agreements involves a lot of communication among corrections authorities, local NA members, and NA World Services.

The agreements we have made in these cases allow for the material that is currently posted on our website to be on tablets for inmates – audio Basic Texts, IPs, and booklets such as the White Booklet and the Intro Guide. This gives addicts ample exposure to NA and our message, and we continue to provide paper copies of the
Basic Text to inmates upon request.

There are over 3,000 counties in the US, and each agreement requires time and attention. We have also had inquiries from a couple of European communities, and we are in conversation about those possibilities as well.

The number of inmate tablets with NA literature in Arizona rose to almost 50,000 in 2022.

In Ohio, after seeing the success of inmate tablets, corrections officials have decided to purchase NA literature to give to inmates upon release. NA World Services devotes much of our time and energy to efforts such as these, not because it makes good business sense, but because we are driven by a spiritual mission, not a profit motive.
One of World Services’ most important responsibilities is protecting the Fellowship’s property—its name, logos, and literature for the current and future Fellowship.

The *Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust* (FIPT for short) is a legal document that contains the collective decisions the NA Fellowship has made to preserve the integrity of our published message and the accountability of our publishing services. The Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous, as given voice by its groups through their regional delegates at the World Service Conference, created and makes decisions about the trust. NA World Services, Inc. manages the trust on their behalf, and the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous as a whole is the beneficiary.

There is a lot of misinformation about the FIPT. Here is what the document itself says. The purpose of the trust is:

“To hold and administer all recovery literature and other intellectual properties of the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous in a manner that will help addicts find recovery from the disease of addiction and carry that message of recovery to the addict who still suffers, in keeping with the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of NA.”

If you want more information about what the FIPT is and why it is important, see the
video on the *FIPT* page: www.na.org/fipt. We have reported on our ongoing legal challenges in *NAWS News* as we are able to.

As we mentioned earlier, WSC 2023 made a decision to revise the Trust document as well as decisions to revise the Operational Rules and the Use Policy.
This map shows the 91 languages NA members speak.

Translations play a huge role in growing NA. Translations work is coordinated among a local translation committee, or LTC, made up of committed members who are native speakers; as well as contracted professionals; and NAWS staff.

It takes a great deal of resources to produce translated literature. It’s not just about money. The scarcest resource is human. If you want to learn more about translations, check out Translation Basics, which is posted at na.org.
Many of the languages in NA are reflected in our keytags. Keytags are sometimes created in indigenous languages to better welcome members in their own language and culture, even if that language isn’t spoken in the meeting they are attending. Examples are Hawaiian, Welsh, and others.
Having literature in your own language saves lives. It helps addicts hear our message understand the NA program and connect with the shared experience of members around the world.
This graph shows the number of translated items published at World Services as of the end of the 2022 fiscal year, which was June 2022. At that time, we had published 1,319 translated titles.

Local members do the heavy lifting in almost all translations. It takes dedicated members willing to devote countless hours to the work, even when a professional translator is used. We oversee translations to make sure conceptual fidelity is maintained, and we organize proofing, copyrights, layout, and production. For almost a year, we’ve had a translations staff of one and a production staff of one—now one and a half.
We have been posting free audio versions of the Basic Text as they become available.

So far, we have Arabic, English, French Canadian, Hebrew, Hungarian, Portuguese Brazilian, Russian, Spanish, and Thai posted.

You can find them at www.na.org/audio
On the subject of literature, the 2018 World Service Conference approved a plan for a Spiritual Principle a Day Book Project.

The partial virtual 2022 World Service Conference overwhelmingly approved the book, and it was available for purchase in September 2022.

There is also a special edition available for purchase. Both can be found at www.na.org/webstore.

You can subscribe for free to receive each daily reading via email: www.na.org/subscribe.
For the last 20 years, each literature project has the same basic process.
• We survey the Fellowship for input about the project itself.
• We collect source material from members.
• Form a workgroup of members who review all of the source material and the resulting drafts.
• Release drafts for Fellowship review
• Revise based on input.
• Publish an approval draft no later than with the CAR publication.
It’s a process that allows members all around the world, regardless of literacy level or language spoken to contribute.

In the case of SPAD we received more than 1,000 pieces of input on the first four principles we circulated. Much of it was handwritten in 55 workshops around the world. Even after participation waned—as happens in every literature project, there was a steady stream of source material.

The workgroup took great pains to read everything submitted, identify common themes and colorful phrases, and weave together the strands of input to develop cohesive entries. They found the wisdom in every submission, and the result is a text that represents the broad Fellowship of NA. It’s truly *by addicts, for addicts.*
The 60th Anniversary White Book is available in our webstore (www.na.org/webstore).

There were earlier versions (the little yellow booklet and the buff booklet), but in 1961 the Little White Book, as we know it, was first published when the Traditions were added to the booklet and it was published with a white cover.

Since then, the LWB has been translated into dozens of languages. Thirteen of those translations feature local personal stories: Afrikaans, Anglicized, Filipino, French, Italian, Lithuanian, Norwegian, Portuguese [Brazil], Russian, Spanish, Swedish, Ukrainian, and Zulu.

The 60th anniversary edition collects English translations of all 85 of those stories as well as the eight in the English LWB.

The electronic version of *Just for Today* is also available. Links to all of the ebooks are here: www.na.org/elit.
Most of NA had to learn to do things differently during the pandemic.

We have provided lots of online service and support for virtual meetings and service efforts.

We also have some new ways to communicate virtually.
One of the first things we did when so much of the world closed down was to post a page of resources to help addicts find virtual meetings and to help members who were serving meetings and service bodies virtually: www.na.org/virtual. It is a treasure trove.

This page has a table of contents at the top to make navigation easier. We post new materials here regularly.

The page includes: onscreen resources for virtual meetings, info on hybrid meetings, 7th tradition, reports and related resources from webinars, considerations about reopening meetings and more.

As meeting information continues to change, we hope that members will keep us updated. Toward the top of the Virtual Meetings Page, we posted a link to a new form to send information about new virtual meetings and updates to existing ones.
Virtual Meeting Basics is posted at the top of the Virtual NA Meeting Resources webpage. The English and Spanish version can be found at www.na.org/toolbox as well as www.na.org/virtual

This tool comes from the Local Service Toolbox project. We held many open webinars on the topic. We also collected a lot of resources from trusted servants around the world. We posted several surveys to collect information. We used all of that information to put together a tool that compiles best practices for virtual meetings.

We hope to take a similar approach for Virtual Service Basics
The tool covers a range of topics related to virtual NA recovery meetings, including:

- keeping meetings secure from disruption,
- welcoming newcomers and sponsorship,
- practicing the Seventh Tradition and signing attendance cards,
- making meetings accessible
- hybrid meetings
- and more

We are interested in hearing about how virtual meetings are connecting to the wider NA community and service system. Email toolbox@na.org to share your experience.
Another place on our website that you can find lots and lots of resources for groups and service bodies is the Local Service Resources page: na.org/localresources.

There is a section about addressing predatory, disruptive, and violent behavior. There have been many ongoing discussions about this topic, including at one of our open webinars, and some service bodies have forwarded resources for us to include here. This topic is one of this cycle’s IDTs. If you have a resource or tool that others might benefit from, please send it to worldboard@na.org.
We hold PR and H&I web meetings that are a great way to gather information and share experiences on service related topics.

These meetings are focused on members talking to each other and sharing successes and challenges. We’ve been holding them on a quarterly basis for years. You can find a complete list at na.org/webinar.

If you’re doing PR service work, and are interested, send an email to pr@na.org and we will keep you updated about dates and topics.
We also hold quarterly webinars open to any interested member on topics of general Fellowship interest. You can find the latest posted at www.na.org/webinar.
Our Instagram handle is @narcoticsanonymous.

Check it out if you haven’t already

We also have an Instagram account just for events @naglobalevents where we post flyers for area, regional, and zonal celebrations and service events. If you have an event flyer you’d like posted or an idea for Instagram let us know: socialmedia@na.org.
On the media page (www.na.org/media), you can find downloadable versions of many Instagram posts, resources related to Fellowship development, and videos about a range of topics including Fellowship development, What is NA World Services, and global PR efforts.

If you’re just interested in the videos, there is a short cut for that page: www.na.org/videos.
Most of our frequently accessed webpages have **URL short cuts**. Here are some of them. You can find a longer list of these shortcuts posted on the about us page: www.na.org/aboutus

There is so very much more that we do at World Services, much more than we can cover in one presentation. For more information, see our media page, NAWS News, and the Annual Report.
Questions and Answers