This is the third of five videos covering material in the 2020 Conference Agenda Report (or CAR for short).
This video covers the essay and World Board motions related to the Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust.
Please keep in mind, these videos only cover the main points of the CAR. We encourage all members to read the CAR itself. Please visit www.na.org/conference for the complete 2020 CAR, the other videos, and other Conference materials.
Motions 3, 4, and 5 of the Conference Agenda Report relate to the Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust or FIPT. Motion #3 proposes changes to the FIPT Operational Rules; Motion #4 proposes changes to Intellectual Property Bulletin #1, more commonly referred to as the Use Policy; and Motion #5 would initiate the process to revise the FIPT itself in the future.

We will try to explain the origin of these three motions and the changes they are recommending as straightforwardly as possible in this video.
Let me start by pointing out a few resources—included as addenda to the CAR—that may be helpful as you consider the proposed changes.

- A copy of the Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust, including the Operational Rules showing all of the changes we are proposing is included in Addendum B of this CAR.
- A clean copy of the proposed revision to Intellectual Property Bulletin #1 is in Addendum C, and
- a copy showing the proposed changes is in Addendum D.
- The current version of the bulletin is included in Addendum E. In addition, you can find current versions of these documents as well as other material related to the FIPT posted at www.na.org/fipt.
• The Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust is a legal document with a long history in NA. The FIPT describes in detail how NA’s intellectual property—our name, trademarks, and recovery literature—are protected and administered by Narcotics Anonymous World Services, Inc., so that NA can ensure our name and literature and trademarks are available to fulfill our primary purpose. The FIPT is first and foremost about the integrity of the NA message and the need to protect NA’s property so that the Fellowship of NA can continue to own its own materials.

• As it states in the FIPT and on the slide:

• The sole object and purpose of this 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.
During the 2016–2018 Conference cycle, a region made a request to inspect the property of the trust. The inspection took place shortly after WSC 2018, and you can find the report from that inspection on the FIPT web page www.na.org/fipt.

This was the first time since the FIPT was adopted in 1993 that such a request had been made, and it raised some questions for us about the inspection process as it is described in the Operational Rules. We believed that updates to the Operational Rules were needed, and at WSC 2018, we proposed a possible revision of the Inspection Clause that appears on this slide.

We did not ask the WSC to make a decision about these specific changes. Rather, we straw polled the Conference, and the Conference expressed “consensus support” that a change was needed to Article V, Section 3, the part of the Operational Rules that we refer to as the Inspection Clause. The results of the straw poll were 93 in favor, 15 against, 4 abstentions, and 2 Conference participants “present, not voting.” The Conference decided, with consensus support, to suspend the Inspection Clause until the close of WSC 2020, so that a decision could be made about how to handle inspections in the future. The vote count was 89 in favor, 22 against, 0 abstentions, and 2 present not voting.
The Conference agreed that a virtual workgroup should look at the Operational Rules and FIPT bulletins. The Board created a workgroup composed of three US regional delegates, three US alternate delegates, a Board member as point person, and a member from outside the US who has decades of World Service experience, including as a member of the Board of Trustees, Board of Directors, and World Board. The majority of workgroup members were at the 2018 WSC, had heard the discussions, and understood the concerns that led to the workgroup’s creation.

The workgroup met online throughout the Conference cycle. They offered a series of recommendations that the Board discussed at several meetings. After making some relatively minor edits to the documents, the Board accepted the workgroup’s recommendations and discussed them with Conference participants during a web meeting in August 2019. After that meeting we made some minor changes in wording as suggested by our intellectual property attorney; these were simply semantic changes, not changes to the substance of the recommendations. We then discussed our recommendations with Conference participants again during the October 2019 Conference participant web meeting. The three motions in this CAR result from all this effort.
The Operational Rules describe the way the Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust is to be administered. They describe the intellectual properties held by the Trust, the parties to the Trust, the rights and responsibilities of each of those parties, and the relationship between them. They also describe specific means by which the rights and responsibilities of the Trustee can be revoked and reassigned, and the procedure to be used in altering specific provisions of the Trust Instrument itself.

Article I, Section 2 of the Operational Rules
The most substantial changes we are recommending to the FIPT Operational Rules are to the Inspection Clause, Article V, Section 3 of the Operational Rules. The workgroup talked for a long time about the Inspection Clause, building on the possible revision the Board had presented at the Conference. The Trust’s beneficiary is the NA Fellowship as a whole, and the FIPT is clear that the World Service Conference (or WSC) is the body authorized to make decisions on behalf of the Trust’s beneficiary. The revisions we are proposing would extend this logic to inspections.
Here is what the Operational Rules currently say about the parties of the Trust:

**ARTICLE I, SECTION 3: PARTIES OF THE TRUST**

- **Trustor:** The Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous as given voice by its groups through their regional delegates at the World Service Conference.
- **Equitable ownership of the recovery literature, trademarks, service marks, and all other intellectual properties of the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous resides with the Fellowship itself, the basic collective unit of which is the NA group. Decisions concerning NA’s intellectual properties directly affect each individual NA group as well as NA as a whole. For this reason, such decisions are made by the duly authorized representatives of the NA groups, their regional delegates, when those RDs gather at NA’s World Service Conference.**

By such means, the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous acts as the Trustor of the Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust and is responsible for the creation, approval, revision, and decommissioning of NA recovery literature, trademarks, service marks, and other intellectual properties. The Trustor’s specific rights and responsibilities are detailed in Article III of these rules and in the currently applicable service manuals.

We are proposing a change in the Inspection Clause so that only the WSC, on behalf of the beneficiary, the NA Fellowship, could make the decision to undertake an inspection. Only the WSC can speak for the NA Fellowship as a whole regarding the FIPT. This change seems consistent with the FIPT.
itself as well as with how we make decisions about any other aspect of service. We make decisions through a group conscience process. It seems appropriate to us that a decision to inspect the trust, which is a costly and time-consuming endeavor, would be a decision made by the trustor and not by a minority of Conference participants. There is no other aspect of World Services or Conference work where a small number of regions can direct activity rather than relying on the conscience of the WSC itself.
It may be helpful to note that most of the questions members raise about NAWS’ financial operations can easily be answered by referencing the financial statements we publish. We publish a two-year budget and explanatory cover sheet in the Conference Approval Track material before each WSC and the NAWS Annual Report each spring. We are audited annually, and the report from that independent audit is made available in each Annual Report.
The other major change we are recommending to the Inspection Clause is revisions to make it easier to understand. We are proposing adding more language to the Inspection Clause so that it better explains to members how an inspection would work. Much of the language we are suggesting to help clarify the Clause is excerpted from other sections of the Trust and Operational Rules.

This slide and the next two show the new language we’re recommending for the Inspection Clause, if you’d like to follow along as I read:

**SECTION 3: INSPECTION OF TRUSTEE ACTIVITIES**

The Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous, as given voice by its groups through their regional delegates at the World Service Conference, is the Settlor and the Trustor of the Trust. The Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous as a whole is the Beneficiary of the Trust. Only the Trustor can request and conduct an inspection of Trustee activities on behalf of the Trust Beneficiary. With the exception of any subject and items excluded by law, there are no limitations on what the Trustor can inspect.
Under Article IV, Section 12 of the Operational Rules, and consistent with California law, Narcotics Anonymous World Services, as Trustee, is required to, among other things: (1) give a year-end financial report of the previous fiscal year; (2) cause an audit to be performed by an independent certified public accountant of the Trust for the previous fiscal year; and (3) deliver a copy of both the financial reports and independent audit to all participants of the World Service Conference.
SECTION 3: INSPECTION OF TRUSTEE ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

If, after a review of the financial reports and independent audit, a member or service body has questions or concerns, they can contact the World Board. If questions or concerns still remain after contacting the World Board, they would then be discussed through the established Narcotics Anonymous service structure. This discussion would be initiated by any region, through its regional delegate, submitting a request by motion to the Trustor, at the World Service Conference, through the Conference Agenda Report.

- If, after a review of the financial reports and independent audit, a member or service body has questions or concerns, they can contact the World Board. If questions or concerns still remain after contacting the World Board, they would then be discussed through the established Narcotics Anonymous service structure. This discussion would be initiated by any region, through its regional delegate, submitting a request by motion to the Trustor, at the World Service Conference, through the Conference Agenda Report.
We are also proposing other, less substantive changes to the Operational Rules, including:

- Changing the description of WSC Board and Committees on page 11 of the Operational Rules to better reflect our current system.
- Making a couple of edits to Section 12 on page 15. One is to change calendar year to fiscal year and another is to add independent to the description of the annual audit.
- Changing representatives to delegates on page 24 of the Reader’s Notes.
- Correcting errors on pages 15 and 31.
- Updating the description of the Inspection Clause in the Reader’s Notes to match the proposed revisions, page 37.

We believe it is important that the Operational Rules mirror the FIPT, and any changes to the FIPT have to be initiated by a motion in the CAR. Therefore, we are only recommending changes that are consistent with the current text of the FIPT.
Motion 3: To approve the revisions to the FIPT Operational Rules contained in Addendum B.

**Intent:** To revise the Operational Rules to reflect discussions at WSC 2018 about the Inspection of Trustee Activities and to reflect current practices, terms, and language.

- The first of the three Motions related to the FIPT is Motion 3, which reads: “To approve the revisions to the FIPT Operational Rules contained in Addendum B.”
- To see exactly what language would be changed if this motion passes, see Addendum B.
- The intent is “To revise the Operational Rules to reflect discussions at WSC 2018 about the Inspection of Trustee Activities and to reflect current practices, terms, and language.”
**Policy Affected:** Would replace the existing policy that is struck through in Addendum B.

A summary of the proposed changes shown in Addendum B includes:

- A change to the Inspection Clause to reflect discussions at WSC 2018 and clarify that only the WSC can act for the beneficiary—the NA Fellowship as a whole.

- The policy affected is reflected in Addendum B. The changes we are recommending would replace the existing policy that is struck through in Addendum B.
- The most substantive change would be a change to the Inspection Clause to reflect discussions at WSC 2018 and clarify that only the WSC can act for the beneficiary—the NA Fellowship as a whole. These changes are shown on pages 16 and 17 of Addendum B.
We are also proposing a number of housekeeping edits that we have just described and that are listed on your screen and in the CAR itself.
**Motion 3:** To approve the revisions to the FIPT Operational Rules contained in Addendum B.

**Intent:** To revise the Operational Rules to reflect discussions at WSC 2018 about the Inspection of Trustee Activities and to reflect current practices, terms, and language.
In addition to the Operational Rules, we are recommending changes to the Use Policy, which is described in *Intellectual Property Bulletin #1*. The bulletin spells out the conditions under which groups and service bodies can use and reproduce NA’s recovery literature and registered trademarks. We are suggesting a substantial rewrite of the bulletin, making it difficult to read the version of the document that has the proposed changes tracked. Therefore, we are including the text that we are proposing in Addendum C. Addendum D contains a track-change version of the bulletin, and the current version is contained in Addendum E.
These bullet points summarize the major proposed changes to the bulletin. We will explain these points in more detail in the slides that follow.

- Permission would be required to reprint book-length pieces. This is the only significant policy change we are recommending to the Use Policy.
- Current policy that was not clearly expressed in the bulletin has been added to the text. Groups are only allowed to reproduce currently approved versions of recovery literature, as that is all that NAWS is authorized to publish and distribute, and this permission does not include electronic or online formats. These are not changes in policy; they are revisions to better reflect current policy.
- The introduction has been rewritten, and the section on copyright has been moved ahead of trademarks.
- We are suggesting some copyediting changes such as using the term policy throughout the document, rather than a mix of policy and guidelines.

There is a lot of misinformation circulating about these proposed changes, and we will do our best to explain these recommendations here.
The most significant change to the bulletin would be the proviso that groups must contact World Services for approval if they wish to reproduce book-length pieces of NA literature. The workgroup and the Board talked about this change for a long time. We believe that requiring approval for the reproduction of books will help protect the Fellowship’s materials, but this change to the Use Policy should not hinder a group’s ability to address its literature needs.

If a group is financially challenged and wants to reproduce NA Fellowship-approved book-length literature, we urge them to contact World Services to work out a solution. We supply literature for free or at a discount to many members and communities across the globe. We are committed to ensuring that the NA message is readily available at NA meetings.

NAWS has successfully developed and maintained a distribution network that is very good at getting NA literature into the hands of those who need it. If a case arises where the best way for a home group to have literature they need is to print it themselves, permission to do so would typically be granted.
The remainder of the suggested revisions to *Intellectual Property Bulletin #1* are not changes to policy. We are recommending some copyediting changes as well as revisions to *IP Bulletin #1* to reflect policies that are already in effect.

One such policy is that the permission to quote or reproduce literature applies only to current versions of texts. We suggest adding the word *current* to clarify that the literature the bulletin refers to is currently approved recovery literature. The reason for this change is straightforward: While NAWS holds the copyrights for all previously published editions, the World Board simply does not have the right to authorize the printing of previous editions of literature. NAWS is only authorized to publish currently approved recovery literature, so these are the only versions we can give someone else permission to reproduce.

Of course, members can use whatever editions they wish to in their personal recovery. But the Conference decided in 1991 and reaffirmed in 2008 that only the most current edition of the Basic Text is approved for publication and sale by NA World Services.

In 1991, the WSC made the following statement and created it as policy:

*The Basic Text, Fifth Edition, is the only edition of the Basic Text that is currently approved by the World Service Conference of Narcotics Anonymous for publication and sale. The World Service Office Board of Directors is entrusted with the responsibility for protecting the fellowship's*
physical and intellectual properties, including the Basic Text, and at the board of directors’ discretion, shall take legal action to protect those rights against any and all persons who choose to infringe upon this literature trust.

- In 2008, after approving the Sixth Edition Basic Text, the WSC reaffirmed the decision that NAWS is only authorized to produce the current version of the Basic Text, adding this to the statement:

- WSC 2008 approved the Sixth Edition Basic Text. It is now the only edition approved for NAWS production with the exceptions called out in the Translations Policy.

- Although the discussion of publishing earlier versions of the Basic Text has come up at several Conferences, the Conference has never approved their publication by NAWS. And it doesn’t make sense that the WSC would prevent NA World Services from producing these earlier versions but authorize groups to do so. We don’t believe that adding “current” to IP Bulletin #1 is a change in policy; we are recommending this change in order to clarify a policy that we believe has already been set by the WSC.
We also are recommending adding language to *IP Bulletin #1* to make it clear that permission does not extend to online or electronic versions of literature. This is another change we are suggesting so that the bulletin would better reflect policies that are already in effect. This is not a new policy, but, like the policy about current versions of literature, it has not been clearly articulated previously in *IP Bulletin #1*.

In the interests of protecting NA’s intellectual property, we do not grant permission for anyone to post NA Fellowship-approved recovery literature online directly. NAWS posts IPs and booklets, in a variety of languages, on [www.na.org](http://www.na.org), so that NA websites can directly link to this material. We have discussed this issue a number of times at the Conference and reported about it repeatedly. We encourage anyone with questions about posting NA materials, including *Just for Today*, to contact webmaster@na.org.

The rest of the changes we are recommending to *Intellectual Property Bulletin #1* are about format and copyediting. We have revised the introduction and reorganized the document by moving the section on copyright so that it comes before the section on trademarks.

We have made a number of copyediting suggestions such as consistently using the term *policy* throughout the document rather than using the term *guidelines* interchangeably with the term *policy*. Finally, we are suggesting some of the same sorts of changes we recommended for the Operational Guidelines to update the text to reflect current language, for example, using
the term *service bodies* instead of *committees*. 
Motion 4: To approve the revisions to NA Intellectual Property Bulletin #1 contained in Addendum C.

**Intent:** To revise this bulletin so that it provides more direct and clear guidance, and so that it reflects current practices, terms, and language.

- Motion 4 reads: “To approve the revisions to NA Intellectual Property Bulletin #1 contained in Addendum C.”
- This bulletin has been largely rewritten making it difficult to read the version with the changes tracked. You’ll find a clean copy of the bulletin with proposed revisions in the CAR as Addendum C. A copy tracking the proposed changes is included in Addendum D.
- The intent of the motion is: “To revise this bulletin so that it provides more direct and clear guidance, and so that it reflects current practices, terms, and language.”
The revised bulletin would replace the existing policy in Addendum E. A summary of the proposed changes to Intellectual Property Bulletin #1 includes:

- Permission would be required to reprint book-length pieces.
- Current policy that was not clearly expressed in the bulletin has been added to the text. Groups are only allowed to reproduce currently approved versions of recovery literature, as that is all that NAWS is authorized to publish and distribute, and this permission does not include electronic or online formats.
- The introduction has been rewritten and the section on copyright has been moved ahead of the section on trademarks.
- Some copyediting changes are suggested, such as using the term *policy* throughout the document, rather than a mix of *policy* and *guidelines*. 

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**Motion 4**

Policy Affected: Would replace the existing policy in Addendum E.

A summary of the proposed changes to *Intellectual Property Bulletin #1* includes:

- Permission would be required to reprint book-length pieces.
- Current policy that was not clearly expressed in the bulletin has been added to the text. Groups are only allowed to reproduce currently approved versions of recovery literature, as that is all that NAWS is authorized to publish and distribute, and this permission does not include electronic or online formats.
- The introduction has been rewritten and the section on copyright has been moved ahead of the section on trademarks.
- Some copyediting changes are suggested, such as using the term *policy* throughout the document, rather than a mix of *policy* and *guidelines*. 

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Motion 4: To approve the revisions to NA Intellectual Property Bulletin #1 contained in Addendum C.

Intent: To revise this bulletin so that it provides more direct and clear guidance, and so that it reflects current practices, terms, and language.
Motions #3 and #4 suggest changes to the Operational Rules and to *Intellectual Property Bulletin #1*. These types of changes require notice in the *Conference Agenda Report* and a decision by regional delegates present at the WSC.

Motion #5, the third and final motion related to the *FIPT*, is asking for permission to initiate the process to make changes to the Trust itself. The process to revise the *FIPT* itself must begin at the World Service Conference. Here’s what the *FIPT* Operational Rules say about the process of revising the Trust:

**ARTICLE VII, SECTION 2: REVISION OF TRUST INSTRUMENT**

Provisions of the Trust Instrument may be changed only under the following conditions:

1. Any motion to review proposed revisions to the Trust Instrument must receive the approval of a majority of regional delegates at the World Service Conference.
2. After such review is approved, proposed revisions will be open for a six-month review and input period, after which the proposed revisions will be presented in the *Conference Agenda Report* for adoption.
3. A motion to adopt any proposed revisions to the Trust Instrument will require a vote of “yes” from two-thirds of those regional delegates recorded as present in the World Service Conference roll call immediately prior to the vote.
recorded as present in the World Service Conference roll call immediately prior to the vote.
The reason we need to update the Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust is to reflect the recent Conference decisions to make zonal delegates voting Conference participants. The FIPT refers only to regional delegates as the decision-makers, not to zonal delegates.

Since we need to initiate the process of revising the Trust to make this change, we will look carefully at any other possible changes to the FIPT itself, and then offer the proposed revisions for review and input for at least six months. The proposed changes would then be included in the 2022 Conference Agenda Report for decision at the 2022 WSC at the earliest.

In the meantime, decisions to approve literature or change the Operational Rules will require a record of the vote count for regional delegates only.

It is worth noting that, although the FIPT says that a motion to initiate the process must be supported by a majority of regional delegates, Conference policy now stipulates a two-thirds majority for a motion to pass, so by those standards, a motion to begin the process of revising the Trust would only pass if it were approved by two-thirds of regional delegates.
Motion 5: To approve the initiation of the established process to revise the Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust in the 2020–2022 Conference cycle.

Intent: To initiate a process to update the Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust to include zonal delegates who are seated at the WSC.

Motion 5 reads: “To approve the initiation of the established process to revise the Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust in the 2020–2022 Conference cycle.” Its intent is to initiate a process to update the Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust to include zonal delegates who are seated at the WSC.
This does not affect any policy at this time but seeks to start the process already specified in the *FIPT Operational Rules, Article VII: Revision of Trust Rules.*

**SECTION 2: REVISION OF TRUST INSTRUMENT**

Provisions of the Trust Instrument may be changed only under the following conditions:

1. Any motion to review proposed revisions to the Trust Instrument must receive the approval of a majority of regional delegates at the World Service Conference.

2. After such review is approved, proposed revisions will be open for a six-month review and input period, after which the proposed revisions will be presented in the *Conference Agenda Report* for adoption.

3. A motion to adopt any proposed revisions to the Trust Instrument will require a vote of “yes” from two-thirds of those regional delegates recorded as present in the World Service Conference roll call immediately prior to the vote.
We hope this PowerPoint has helped in your discussion of this material. Please note that there are four other PowerPoints that focus on other CAR contents. These PowerPoints, video versions of the PowerPoints, the Conference Agenda Report, and the CAR survey are available online at www.na.org/conference. Hard copies of the CAR may be purchased from NA World Services.

We welcome your questions and your feedback on these videos, the CAR, and all other issues at worldboard@na.org.