

# 2016 CAR Video Script

## World Board Motions 1-2 and Survey

### Slide 1

This is the first of four videos covering material in the 2016 *Conference Agenda Report*, or CAR for short.

### Slide 2

This video covers the two World Board Motions in the CAR and a CAR survey that seeks Fellowship input on priorities for literature, service material, and Issue Discussion Topics.

We try to make the *Conference Agenda Report* as accessible and available to members as possible. This series of videos is provided as an alternative way to provide summarized information from the CAR. The videos can be used by individuals or home groups, or in workshops and service meetings—anywhere NA members are discussing and deciding on the information in the CAR. But, remember, these videos only cover the main points of the CAR. We encourage all members to read the CAR itself for more information, including the full essays, as well as the financial impact and policy affected for each motion.

Please visit [www.na.org/conference](http://www.na.org/conference) to download the CAR, all four videos, and other World Service Conference material.

### Slide 3

**Motion 1** seeks Fellowship approval for our new Traditions workbook titled “Guiding Principles: The Spirit of our Traditions.”

### Slide 4

This project was prompted by a regional motion at the 2010 World Service Conference that directed the World Board to develop a project plan to create a Traditions workbook. We put forward a project plan in 2012 that devoted the first cycle of the project to gathering Fellowship input about two things: what the book could (and should) be; and members’ experience with learning about and applying the Traditions.

The first Conference cycle yielded a wealth of input from members, groups, and workshops all over the world about their hopes and ideas regarding what the book could be. We also received over 2,500 pages of shared experience on the Traditions.

### Slide 5

The 2014–2016 project plan included a rough outline for the Traditions workbook reflecting Fellowship input that the book needs to be something that can be used by members, groups, and NA service bodies to study, learn about, and improve our application of the Twelve Traditions.

At the beginning of this past Conference cycle, a workgroup began drafting the chapters. Knowing there would be input on the structure of each chapter, we released the Introduction and Tradition One together in November 2014. During this first 90-day review and input period, we received well over 200 pages of input, which helped us improve the structure of each chapter. We then released

drafts of Traditions Two through Six in March 2015, followed by Traditions Seven through Ten in June, and Traditions Eleven, Twelve, and the conclusion in July. Each chapter was available for Fellowship review for at least three months.

### **Slide 6**

We received between 60 and 100 pages of input per chapter from members, groups, and committees in regions around the world, including at least 15 US states and 12 other countries. We are deeply grateful for the dedication and thoughtful participation and input provided by so many members.

### **Slide 7**

The approval form of the workbook is included in Addendum A in the CAR, and consists of an introduction chapter, a chapter for each of the Twelve Traditions, and a brief closing section. The introduction sets out the purpose of the book and explains its structure. Each chapter includes introductory material, followed by sections for members, for groups, and for service bodies.

The initial drafts included extensive lists of questions drawn from Fellowship input, sponsorship family worksheets, and archival materials. In later drafts, we opted for fewer, more pointed questions. Fellowship input ultimately led us to seek something in between with a moderate number of questions that speak to both principle and practice. The questions for members—which members are likely to work with their sponsors—are a bit more extensive, while there are fewer group and service body questions because they're most likely to be used for discussions as part of a group inventory or a service workshop.

*It Works: How and Why* introduces the Twelve Traditions section with a note reminding members to engage with the spirit, not the law, of these guiding principles. We hope this workbook, too, will help engage members in meaningful discussions to further the understanding of the value and importance of the principles embodied in our Twelve Traditions. The readings, exercises, text, and questions are all meant to help members do with the Traditions what we do best in NA: share our own experience, strength, and hope with the principles we practice, and achieve greater freedom and growth as a result.

### **Slide 8**

**Motion 1: To approve the book contained in Addendum A, “Guiding Principles: The Spirit of our Traditions,” as Fellowship-approved recovery literature.**

**Intent:** To have an additional piece of Fellowship-approved material available about our Traditions for use by NA members, groups, and service committees.

*PAUSE FOR DISCUSSION*

### **Slide 9**

**Motion 2** offers several changes to policies related to World Board membership and terms—one to reduce the size of the board from up to 18 to up to 15 members, another to eliminate the policy related to staggered terms, and a third to clarify the term-limits policy. Changes like these to *A Guide to World Services in NA* could be part of the Conference Approval Track material, but we believe the make-up of the World Board is something many members care about, so we included it in the CAR.

Every cycle, we talk about how to improve our performance and effectiveness as a Board. The World Board is entrusted to manage the affairs of NA World Services, and our primary responsibility is strategic in nature, including overseeing workgroup activity. The first issue here is about the size of the World Board.

### Slide 10

We began this cycle with 17 World Board members; we had 18 during the 2012–2014 cycle, and 15 during the 2010–2012 cycle. We believe a larger number of Board members has not necessarily increased our effectiveness. Conversations take longer, and meeting virtually is more cumbersome. A smaller board will allow more productive discussions and help to free up funds for workgroups that do much of the development work. It costs somewhere between 50,000 and 70,000 dollars a cycle to send three Board members to eight Board meetings and the WSC.

### Slide 11

Second, a Board member's term is six years, but in an effort to create staggered terms, *A Guide to World Services in NA* currently calls for a random drawing of term lengths when more than eight Board members are elected at once. Staggered terms have only been used twice—in 1998, when the World Board was created and the whole Board was elected at once, and in 2012 when eleven people were elected to the Board.

There is a steep “learning curve” and an investment in time and training for each new Board member. Dismissing a member before the completion of their six-year term undermines that time and investment.

Another weakness of the current policy is that it makes no distinction between newly elected Board members and Board members elected to a second term. In 2012, only six of the eleven Board members seated were *newly* elected; five of the eleven were seated for a second term. The possibility of reelecting Board members was never considered when this policy was created.

### Slide 12

The third change clarifies Board members' term limits. The current policy states that members “are eligible for election for two consecutive terms.” There has been confusion about the word “consecutive” and whether it was meant to allow for reelection to more terms after a hiatus of at least two years. We believe that two terms is enough for any one member to serve, whether the terms are consecutive or not. Serving on the World Board is an opportunity that only a few will ever have. In the spirit of rotation, we believe two terms in a lifetime is sufficient.

### Slide 13

**Motion 2: To approve the following changes to the World Board External Guidelines contained in *A Guide to World Services in NA* (GWSNA):**

- **To change the size of the Board from up to 18 members to up to 15 members.**
- **To remove the obligation for staggered terms if more than eight (8) members are elected at one time.**
- **To change the limitation from two consecutive terms to two terms in a lifetime.**

**Intent: There are actually three intents: one to reduce the maximum size of the World Board for effectiveness and financial sustainability; second, to eliminate the requirement for terms of less than six years for some members; and third, to limit the number of terms for which any member is eligible for election to the World Board.**

*PAUSE FOR DISCUSSION*

### **Slide 14**

**A survey** is also included in this CAR for the first time in many years. We've done literature surveys before, but technology has improved, and this is a way the Fellowship and regions can be more involved in setting priorities and giving input on World Services' work. We sent a draft of the survey to Conference participants for input, and we made several changes as a result of the feedback from delegates and alternate delegates. This teamwork resulted in a much-improved survey, and we appreciate everyone's suggestions.

The survey items come from a variety of sources: project requests from members, holdover items from former surveys, suggestions from delegates and alternates, and items the Fellowship has repeatedly asked for.

### **Slide 15**

We are asking delegates to collect the top two priorities in each of four categories in the same way they would gather a conscience on motions. Delegates will be able to complete the survey on behalf of their regions online, and we'll compile results to discuss at the Conference. The URL for delegates to post regional results will be sent out later.

Individual members can also complete the survey online any time before March 15, but we encourage individuals to participate in the regional conscience process, too. Offering the survey to individuals is not meant to supplant that process; it simply gives us more data. The online survey can be found from the link off the Conference webpage: [www.na.org/conference](http://www.na.org/conference).

### **Slide 16**

The four survey categories are:

- Book-length recovery literature,
- Booklet- or pamphlet-length recovery literature,
- Service tools, and
- Issue Discussion Topics.

In this video, we'll briefly review each section, but we encourage everyone to see the complete CAR for more information. A comprehensive list of books, booklets, IPs, and service material with copyright and revision dates is included in Addendum B of the CAR.

### **Slide 17**

#### **Recovery Literature**

Literature project plans are created in one cycle, and then the work to create a book-length piece takes four to six years, while smaller pieces like booklets or pamphlets may be completed in a two-

year Conference cycle. We don't have plans for a book-length piece in the next cycle, so the survey should reflect the needs of the Fellowship four to ten years from now.

### **Slide 18**

There are two recovery literature lists to prioritize separately. The first is focused on book-length pieces. Please select the top two items you consider most important.

*PAUSE FOR DISCUSSION*

### **Slide 19**

The second recovery literature list contains ideas for both pamphlets (IPs) and booklets. Sometimes we have more to say than will fit in a pamphlet, but not enough for a full-length book, so a booklet seems like the ideal length. However, many meetings don't carry booklets except the Little White Book, so you may want to consider this when making your choices.

Another thing to keep in mind is that it can be difficult for a piece of targeted literature to receive a high ranking even if the need for the piece is relatively great. People tend to prioritize their personal interests, yet sometimes the need for a piece of literature reflects "who's missing" as much as who has already found us.

### **Slide 20**

*PAUSE FOR DISCUSSION*

### **Slide 21**

**Service material** can be developed more quickly than recovery material and doesn't always require the same length of time or expense. What pieces do you believe will meet the needs of NA service in the next two to six years?

### **Slide 22**

*PAUSE FOR DISCUSSION*

### **Slide 23**

**Fellowship Issue Discussions** have become a standard for Fellowship-wide discussions over the past ten years. The topics are generally a set of issues identified at the WSC for Fellowship discussion during the next Conference cycle. Issues arising during the cycle have also been added as IDTs. The results of those discussions can contain some of NA's best practices and have been the foundation for several service pamphlets and other tools and literature like the Building Strong Home Groups worksheet, service pamphlets such as *Principles and Leadership in NA Service* and *Disruptive and Violent Behavior*, the *Money Matters* IP, and more.

We see the best response when we have a mix of group- and service-focused topics each cycle. This past cycle's topics were: [Group Support](#), [Planning](#), [Welcoming All Members](#), and [Role of Zones](#). Some topics from previous cycles were [Collaboration](#), Group Conscience, Leadership, and Supporting Our Vision. (A more complete list is included in the CAR.) Many topics seem to bear repeating, and most

are broad enough to draft slightly different approaches if they were chosen for discussion for a second cycle.

#### **Slide 24**

*PAUSE FOR DISCUSSION*

#### **Slide 25**

We hope this video has helped in your discussion of this material. Please note that there are three other videos that summarize the other contents of the *Conference Agenda Report*.

You can download a copy of the Conference Agenda Report online at [www.na.org/conference](http://www.na.org/conference) or order a hard copy from NA World Services.

We look forward to gathering your input and we welcome your feedback on this video or other issues at [worldboard@na.org](mailto:worldboard@na.org).