

## It's Conference Season!



January 2018  
newsletter

The Delegates Sharing Session is a time and place for delegates to build unity at the World Service Conference, to get to know more about each other and our service bodies, and to exchange experiences and ideas. This session was established by a 2014 WSC proposal, developed for WSC 2016 by a workgroup of Conference participants, and is being planned by a similar workgroup for the 2018 WSC.

The Delegates Sharing Workgroup invited you to complete an online survey. Along with your input for the session itself, you offered tips and experiences that will help fellow delegates before the WSC. Some of those experiences were distributed in a mailing accompanying the *Conference Agenda Report*, and more are collected here to be sent with the Conference Approval Track mailing. In the weeks leading up to the WSC, a third newsletter will be sent to you along with the *Conference Report*.

Conference season brings our RD teams together with other trusted servants and members throughout our NA communities. We read, discuss, ask questions, and seek informed and spiritually-based group conscience on issues that affect our home groups and the worldwide NA Fellowship. This is a time to learn and grow together and a natural opportunity for reflecting on how we provide services.

- “Some of our areas struggle with lack of trusted servants which makes it very hard to provide basic services for our NA community. We are primarily a rural state and each area struggles with keeping NA alive and healthy.”
- “Reinventing the wheel rather than constructing further on what is already done is, in my opinion, one of the greatest difficulties of all regions I know of, and the Fellowship in general.”
- “We used the environmental scan for our action planning this year.”

This is also a time when we experience some of our toughest challenges and greatest successes in service. After being elected, some delegates experience “local blowback in which members in our home areas are suddenly negative toward us in service and/or recovery.” One delegate acknowledged, “Although my experience can get the job done, if those I serve do not trust me, my service can create controversy or deter others from wanting to serve.”

And like all undertakings in NA, we encounter personal growth and change as well, fostered by spiritual principles from *belonging to humility*:

- I’ve experienced “a sense of belonging and that my region believes I’m capable of representing them.”
- “Representing my region...was a great honor, and an amazing learning experience for me on every level.”
- “Is it necessary that I share my experiences? I would like to learn from others.”

This is a time of our Conference cycle when we are called to spend time on the road, away from family, friends, jobs, and hobbies. Our families and those who support us are grateful to have us back in their lives; out of their gratitude, they generously lend us to NA service. And it is gratitude that makes us want to serve together for NA. We are inspired by our primary purpose, guided by a Higher Power and spiritual principles. It is on this common ground that we stand committed.



Upon this  
common ground  
we stand  
committed.

## early WSC prep

### now...

Some information about our regions is in our regional reports, but it can be helpful to arrive at the WSC ready to share highlights of how we carry the message and provide service in our NA communities.

- What are some ways groups and service bodies encourage and maintain a recovery atmosphere?
- What new ground is being broken—beginning or expanding programs, trying new methods?
- How are struggling or geographically isolated groups supported?

The official WSC language is English, so if you do not speak English or if English is not your first language, remember to take some time to be sure you understand the materials.

### ...and then

- Be sure to check into what documents you'll need for travelling to and from California. Ask others from your region who have attended the WSC in the past or contact Elaine at NA World Services ([elaine@na.org](mailto:elaine@na.org)).
- Get enough sleep and be ready for upcoming meetings! You need to participate mentally, spiritually, and physically; so be on time, take enough rest, and be ready!
- I have been told...I need to bring the 12 Steps, 12 Traditions, and 12 Concepts; my loving Higher Power; and an open mind—and remember why I am there and whose voice I am carrying!
- I have attended, but wish I had talked more with other delegates to get a larger perspective of views from around the country and world.

### ...and don't forget

We'll be away several days without our usual routines, so think about logistics and ways to care for personal needs and preferences while at the WSC (or ask fellow delegates or the local hospitality folks when you arrive).

- Which local WiFi services and mobile phone & electronics retailers are available in case of an equipment issue?
- What do other delegates take along or purchase on-site that helps them get through the week?
- Which local restaurants and markets can accommodate specific diets or food preferences?
- What walking/running routes and fitness facilities are in the area?
- Are there medical issues that need to be coordinated before travel?

**NA** service is never a solo effort. Even when we are physically alone we are not spiritually isolated. We are connected to something larger, and our fellow addicts are often willing to help us if we are willing to ask.

*Guiding Principles:  
The Spirit of Our Traditions,  
Tradition One*

## I wish I had known . . .

**Q** What do you wish you had known about the WSC before you went to your first, and what are your suggestions to those attending their first WSC?

**A** What might be relevant/important in one or even several regions does not necessarily equate to being relevant/important from a global perspective. Greater unity can be achieved when we are able to respect this reality as we approach communicating with each other.

Some people will argue with anything you say for the sake of arguing... some people will quietly go out of their way to help move a solution along.

Always remember the importance of the Traditions at the WSC.

The Conference is not a pleasure trip. It requires a lot of sacrifice, clear thinking, and—of course—a lot of humor.