Regional Reports Data Overview

The information in this summary was taken directly from the regional reports submitted. Some of the numbers are delegates’ estimates. Because of these estimates, and because data were not submitted by every region, this summary is simply meant to provide a sketch of what’s occurring in many regions throughout the Fellowship. Each entry should be considered with the qualification that it is a result of the data provided by the participating regions. We hope you find this information helpful and of interest.

Summary of Regional Figures

- **118** number of regions submitting reports
- **113** number of seated regions submitting reports
- **104** two-year terms (many with the option to serve 2 terms)
- **2** three-year terms (one of these is temporary)
- **9** four-year terms
- **1** six-year term
- **28,268** number of groups according to reports
- **23,336** number of groups according to reports (not including Iran)
- **27,407** number of groups from the reporting regions (not including Iran) according to NAWS database
- **1,153** number of areas according to reports
- **408** average number of meetings per region (not including Iran)
- **6,509** Number of H & I panels per week
- **43,514** meetings per week according to reports (not including Iran)
- **44,196** meetings per week from the reporting regions (not including Iran) according to NAWS database

*The difference between the reported figures and the NAWS database figures from the same regions appears to indicate that our database contains groups and meetings that are no longer active or are duplicates, but that have not been updated by their areas/regions. The discrepancy in group figures is also due to a number of regions not providing the number of groups in their regional reports.*
Contributions and Expenses

We asked what percentage of the RSC’s annual budget came from group and area contributions, what percentage from conventions and events, and what percentage from literature sales. The responses demonstrate that there is a wide range of funding practices throughout NA regions. Some interesting figures are:

- 34% of the 110 regions that supplied figures receive 80–100% of their funds from group and area contributions.
- 26% of the 110 regions received 20% or less of their funds from groups and areas. The numbers supplied suggest that these regions’ reliance on events and literature sales to raise funds is fairly evenly divided between those two categories.
- 10% of the 110 regions rely on conventions to generate 80% or more of their income. This practice is more prevalent within the US, with 22 of the 30 regions that receive 50% or more of their funds in this way being from the US.
- Only 4 regions rely on literature sales to generate 80% or more of their income. Funding services through the sale of literature is very uncommon within the US, with only one region stating that they raise more than 10% of their funds in this way.

Annual contributions to zonal forums from 65 reporting regions are estimated at approximately $80,000.

Regional Services, Activities, and Growth

We asked a number of questions about regional meetings and services, and received the following responses.

![Number of face-to-face RSC meetings per year](image)

The majority of the 117 regions that replied to this question meet either four or six times per year, which is unchanged from what was reported to the last Conference. 61% rotate their locations with varying degrees of frequency, which is an increase from the 56% reported at WSC 2016. One region shared that
their RSC meetings are available electronically to all members, and that one area participates solely through this method.

For the first time we also asked about virtual meetings of the RSC and of the admin body, in addition to face-to-face meetings. We were prompted to do this by the five regions that mentioned holding virtual RSC meetings in their reports to the 2016 Conference.

Of the 116 regions that responded to the question, 46 have regional offices. This figure remains unchanged from the last two Conference cycles.

107 regions reported maintaining a regional website. Nine reported that they do not, although three of these regions are served by a zonal site. 102 of these regions reported that they keep their meeting information updated on their websites. Three reported that they did not, and two did not offer a response.

91 of the 116 regions that responded to the question said they have regional helplines, but a review of the comments reduced this number to 81. Of these regions, 18 specified that they have toll-free numbers, and 15 that they offer 24/7 coverage. Several regions mentioned using social media apps to partially deliver helpline services.
115 regions responded to the question asking if they have regional conventions: 102 hold them and 13 do not. Attendance at these conventions is shown in the following chart.

We asked what committees or workgroups regions had, and received responses from 117 regions. Conventions/events, H&I, PR/PI, and website committees proved the most common, with phoneline committees close behind. This pattern is unchanged from the last Conference. Eighteen regions told us about other committees or workgroups, with sponsorship behind the walls again being the most common response. 41 regions reported establishing new committees or workgroups in the last conference cycle.
56 regions stated there are some shared service efforts in their communities, and 57 stated that there were not. PR and phonelines were the most frequently mentioned, followed by H&I, meeting lists, and conventions and events.

We asked whether the number of members in regions seemed to be growing, shrinking, or staying the same. Of the 113 regions that responded, 54% report that they are growing, 41% report they are staying the same, and 5% report that they're shrinking. These figures suggest a continued decrease in growth based on the figures from 2014 and 2016. 33 of the 46 regions that reported static growth are within the US, which represents 50% of the US regions, and is an increase from 2014 and 2016.

The map below shows estimated membership growth as reported by each of the 113 regions that provided a response to this question.
Regional Reports Summary—WSC 2018

As in previous years, we have attempted to provide a brief overview of the wealth of material contained in the 117 regional reports submitted to WSC 2018. The bullet points have been extracted from the reports and have been edited in places for clarity.

Fellowship Development

We asked a number of questions related to Fellowship development. 81 communities provided FD or outreach efforts, and 31 stated that they did not. In addition, 82 communities have had discussion about where NA does not exist in their regions, and 30 have not.

38 communities specified that there are FD or outreach committees/workgroups within their regions, and 84 regions described some type of FD or outreach efforts. Highlights from some of these are offered below:

- The Arab fellowships agreed to discuss ways of cooperation between them, helping to increase unity among them...Four meetings have been held so far through the International Information Network, which includes members from the Sudan, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Bahrain and Qatar (although absent from the workshop), Saudi Arabia and the last meeting a member from Iraq and another from Palestine were included
- As a region, we need to think how we can reach out to members or potential members in parts of the state that lack a service delivering body. Technology can only go so far and building relationships with our neighboring Regions may be a place to start to begin rural fellowship development.
- Currently we are working to bring NA to American Samoa through a local member who is Samoan and has met government leaders there for this purpose. The FD Committee is working on how to get basic literature translated for this work.
- Member areas within our Region participate in limited Outreach and FD activities ranging from an occasional GSR workshop, to a standing Outreach subcommittee at the Area level. Outreach efforts include reaching out to our more isolated, rural groups and educating these groups on what the NA service structure is and identifying ways to involve those groups in the ASC or otherwise better serve those isolated communities.
- Our Outreach Subcommittee visits Areas in our Region and provides information and workshops to areas in need. They also provide Behind the Walls sponsorship
- Our Region has put into our budget a line item for outreach to our most Northern Areas (Northern Lights and Peace Area). So far we have sent RCMs, Delegates, and also the Chair from our Region, to both Areas over the past few years to their events and facilitated workshops.
- We have also budgeted for outreach to any Area requesting Regional presence.
- It's not uncommon for our PR, Outreach, & Indigenous Committees to be involved in FD collaboratively.
- The WSZF 2018 had a nice effort at a rural village off the road system called Nenana and since then a meeting has started up once a week.

Training, mentoring, and planning are also integral to Fellowship development efforts. 96 regions described some type of training and mentoring efforts, ranging from member-to-member and alternate positions, to more organized efforts such as workshops and training sessions:
• At the region three "Service Works" events take place mainly dealing with PI, Phonelines, and Web. At area level there are several learning days per year.
• Before each RSC we hold a newcomer/RCM orientation which includes an introduction to regional service, facts about the region, information on our current service structure, an introduction to our Fellowship Services Team, an overview of our current projects, and instructions on how to submit an online report. Many areas hold GSR orientations/training at their ASC, and we are currently in the early stages of planning a training day for all interested GSRs and RCMs. At the region, Project Managers also provide training to volunteers via conference calls, webinars, or in person.
• Workshops on how to maintain an atmosphere of recovery in our meetings.
• Region Assembly features the popular ‘How To Chair a Darn Meeting’ PowerPoint we developed that brings humor and fun into a topic some may not see the interest in studying.
• Our HRP has a database of trusted servants for different activities. The projects subcommittee is in charge of the logistics. We facilitate workshops about different topic in groups and in GSFs
• There is a Mentorship workgroup that meets regularly to design and provide mentorship tools to Areas and individuals as well as direct mentorship when it is appropriate.

And 81 reports described some kind of planning within their areas or regions. These range from informal “as needed” efforts to formalized planning cycles:

• As of 2017, we use the NAWS Environmental Scan as the basis for reporting and prioritizing exercise, similar to the methods used at the WSC. This results in Goals. The Fellowship Services Team (the RSC Admin body) then develops an Action Plan, addressing the prioritized goals by proposing Project Plans, similar to how the World Board proposes Project Plans for WSC Objectives. Finally, the RSC itself votes on and approves the yearly Action Plan.
• At our region, most of our planning takes place via conference call. Many areas still utilize traditional methods such as work-groups and ad-hoc committees for planning.
• Biannual planning session that starts with a workshop to gather ideas and develop a questionnaire/survey. The questionnaire/survey is distributed to the Areas for input. At the next Region, we review the results, prioritize the items, and review resources. Goals are established and workgroups are formed to address priorities.
• We do planning every two years, basically we look at the past experiences, the quality of service we have and we want to have, the amount of money we need to get there and try to spend less money, time and energy on administrative processes and focus every resource we have (money and members) to the message.

PR/PI
Public relations service is an integral part of successful Fellowship development. 101 reports provided details of PR efforts within regions, and the overall total for the number of statewide/national conferences attended per year by the 63 regions that responded was 207.

The PR services described include posters and signs on transit systems and other public places, distributing meeting lists and NA literature, PSAs in a variety of different types of media, attendance at numerous conferences and community events, and presentations to the public and to professionals.
Here are a few highlights:

- Attended criminal justice conference for the state and had a booth. We did a presentation to professionals that included CEUs [continued education credits] the day before our convention started the last two years.

- Current projects include a Basic Text and literature package mailing to every Drug Court Judge, Drug Court Coordinator & TASC Evaluator in the state of NJ.

- The regional PI/PR committee speak to government, law enforcement, treatment organizations, media, policy makers and much more.

- Our region is formed by 3 states, and each one has a state service committee structure, all the efforts of all the areas are discussed in these committees which are also responsible to exchange experiences and to do PR training. These are some the PR services that our areas provide: TV and radio PSAs, internet portal commercials, NA information on stadium teletrons, health department posters, PI panels in schools, companies, hospital and churches, billboards in freeways, we publish the NA helpline number in utility bills like water and electricity, distributing pamphlets in public areas and in public transportation.

- Public relations put on “here comes the judge” that allows legal professionals to tell us their ways of helping us and we get to demonstrate what we do to help the suffering addict.

- The Minnesota Region continues to resource public relations projects such as attendance at the annual LGBT Pride festival attracting more than 350,000 participants, the Minnesota Association of Resources for Recovery and Chemical Health attended by more than 3,000 Chemical Dependency professionals, Minnesota Department of Correction’s Transition Coalition providing inmates from 8 state prisons awaiting release with recovery literature and a "temporary contact" through our Bridging the Gap program, along with several other events both large and small. In response to projects brought to the Region by Areas.

- We conducted a huge PR event in Amritsar Punjab. Many top officials of the Punjab Government were present. We invited the senior most Punjab Police official to speak at the end and he recognized NA as the most effective resource in recovery from drug addiction in the state. The coverage in almost all state and National media was tremendous and the helpline received lots of calls.

- One of our larger Areas had not ever had NA Literature or books in the School system. After an exhaustive process that involved educating the School Board from the Commissioner down to the individual guidance counselors we were able to place Basic Texts in each of the more than 30 High Schools and Middle schools and provide literature and meeting schedule to each schools guidance department. This was a HUGE accomplishment and the PR committee is using the outline as a plan to develop stronger relationships with all the school systems throughout the Region.

- We held the national convention where PR is a vital tool for its success.

- Large PI activity during biggest music festival in Poland (Woodstock/Kostrzyń Music Festival)

- We enjoyed for the 11th time Inmates attending our Regional Convention. PR efforts with DOC [Department of Corrections] have perpetuated and sustained this powerful event.
Local Workshops

This section summarizes the questions asked about Issue Discussion Topic (IDT) workshops held locally. 76 regions told us about hundreds of service workshops with many different topics, and 37 regions stated that they did not hold IDT workshops. Along with the current IDTs, topics included: welcoming all members, building strong home groups, Tradition- and Concept-related topics, our service system, apathy and NA resources, strategic and budget planning, money matters, facilitation, CBDM Basics, technology in service, Planning Our Future, FD/outreach, H&I, PR/PI, women in recovery, GSR and RCM training, chairing meetings, and translations.

- ...this year we did the Welcoming All Members workshop. . . . For the first time we were having discussion about members who use Suboxone, methadone and medications and nobody argued. Members were able to discuss how to be more welcoming to addicts coming to NA from all the various avenues. It was a great feeling to be a part of this type of solution based discussion.
- Our RD/AD Team developed an IDT on Apathy and Using Our Resources. The WSC Participants Forum was helpful in gathering input on this. We had a very different direction based upon the input and suggestions from participants. We found these 2 different items have very close ties and solutions become visible when presented in a group setting.
- That is one of the delegate's duties. We translate those IDTs, put it all in a new PPT presentation in Russian, enlarge it with more detailed explanations and present it all on our face-to-face meetings/zoom meetings

Communication and Technology

Successful communications strategies include several different social media platforms to enable remote attendance at service meetings, and to share information between them. Several communities also shared about the importance of trusted servants having the willingness and passion to reach out to areas and groups with the offer of support. A few of the many highlights include:

- Yes, the use of virtual meetings has brought us closer and reduced costs.
- We continue to use the "RD Summary Report" which we borrowed from another region, and our RCMS love this report. It is a one pager with info about both the Canadian Assembly and NAWS that they can easily share with their GSRs.
- In the past two years, communication within the regional services (and also within the areas) has had a dramatic change with the use of WhatsApp. All branches of service have their own WhatsApp group and communication in that media is very intense.

Successful ways of utilizing technology include the use of the Basic Meeting List Toolbox (BMLT) technology, cloud-based technology to provide access to different communication tools and information storage, online surveys to gather Fellowship input on CAR and CAT topics, updated phoneline service providers, and online recovery meetings. Some of these successes include:

- With an ongoing collaboration between Outreach, PR & the Indigenous Committee's, a fortnightly H&I presentation is being held in an Indigenous Drug Rehab centre in Darwin, Northern Australia using the Skype platform. The technology is allowing members from other parts of the country to share their experience strength and hope into this isolated institution.
- We will be utilizing the "ZOOM" platform for the presentation of the region's CAR workshops for this CAR cycle.
• The Areas and the Region have been using internet technology for information sharing. To varying degrees the Areas use email and file storage services (Drop Box, Google Drive) for communication.
• Using the BMLT aggregator ("sandwich") to combine meeting results to return a unified schedule online with (Carolina Region and Tidewater Area)

**Consensus-Based Decision Making**
This section summarizes the responses to the questions about the use of consensus-based decision making (CBDM). We asked whether CBDM is used by the regions or any of the areas. The results are shown in the charts below.

![CBDM used by Regions](chart1)
![CBDM used by any Areas](chart2)

Most of the comments about how CBDM is working were positive, with only a few that focused on the challenge of learning how the process works. Several also described using CBDM for discussions, and a formal vote to ratify decisions when needed, or a hybrid of CBDM and parliamentary procedures.

• CBDM is done in an intuitive manner, we tend to make decisions based in obtaining a conscience where all viewpoints are presented and we try to reach an agreement as a majority, also considering the process of those who think differently, but if we can't reach a decision we go to a vote
• CBDM has attracted some old members back to service as well as newer commitments to service.
• CBDM works great in a loving service body. Sometimes a show of hands is used to get consensus, but we have not had to actually vote in years.
• It works very well for us, we don't see how we could let a higher power govern our group conscience using majority votes. We have never seen a service body with an atmosphere of recovery not use some form of consensus. We discuss topics until we find no strong opposition from any member, and if this is not possible at that particular instance, the decision gets postponed.
**CAR Workshops and WSC Decision-making**

We heard about many CAR workshops in 92 regions, with 19 seated regions saying they didn’t hold them. Reported attendance varied from 4 to 150 members, with an average of around 20 to 30 members. We heard more this cycle about CAR webinars and other online tools to facilitate attendance at workshops and voting on CAR and CAT issues.

- This is our first effort, we held a workshop on RSC meet. All the RCMs from 8 areas, RSC admin body and subcommittee were present during the workshop
- We schedule workshops in the area’s that show an interest. It can be very difficult logistically and because of winter travel conditions in Montana. We value and appreciate our past delegates, they continue to help out and facilitate workshops when we can't.
- We are going to have 5 workshops, the attendance is about 12-45 addicts. The hard work for the RD and AD is to translate the CAR for the fellowship. we use google sheet to collect the fellowship answers for the CAR. We do smaller workshops for areas and collect the answers in a big regional service conference
- One big regional workshop and shared experience with RCMs, through WhatsApp group
- This cycle we added extra CAR Workshops. We normally hold one in each of our four Quadrants. This year, we added one at our Regional Convention and that one had a higher than average attendance of 50 people. We have also added 3 extra Zoom CAR Workshops to our schedule this year bringing out total for this year to 8. Our average attendance has been 35 people.

We asked about the three main methods that we aware of for reaching a conscience on motions in the CAR:

- A tally of votes on each motion
- At a community gathering where the motions are discussed and voted on
- It is left to the delegate’s discretion

We also asked if some other type of community gathering was held, or some other tally method was used.

Group tallies remain the most common method of reaching consensus on CAR decisions.

Under the “other community gathering” option, we heard about discussion, building consensus, and gathering a collective conscience at regional gatherings and assemblies in four different communities. Participation at these was open to any interested member.

Two regions selected the “other tally” option, with one of these citing a combination of member, group, and area input to tallies.

Three additional regions specified multiple sources for how they gathered a conscience.

Six regions selected one of the options offered, but also added that if a clear decision wasn’t reached then it would be left up to the delegate’s discretion.

When we asked whether delegates had some discretion to change how they vote when a motion is amended, 92 seated regions replied that they do, while: 20 seated regions replied that they do not.
We also asked whether regions discussed the parts of the CAR not related to motions, and whether they engaged in gathering a conscience for the CAT material, and we received these responses:

**Does your region discuss all parts of the CAR?**
- Yes 74
- No 40

**Does your region gather a conscience on CAT material?**
- Yes 58
- No 55
Challenges and Successes

We asked about challenges and successes that regions have experienced since WSC 2016.

Once again, the most common challenge is our human resources. Delegates shared about service apathy and a shortage of trusted servants, a lack of rotation, and service commitments that aren’t completed. The only other issue that approached this level of prominence is the lack of financial resources.

Highlights and successes were more diverse, and included several related to Fellowship growth, public relations, and improved services:

- We are taking action & moving in the direction of being a service region not just a "business" region holding business meetings
- Opening new groups in 2016–2018, almost 15 new groups, some of the groups are located in isolated areas of the country
- I would have to say we are now a better working committee, most seats are filled and there is more participation than there was. I am also glad to report that we have recently had RCMs from all member areas attending the RSC. We cover a lot of squares miles and sometimes it is hard for the more physically distant members to attend so I see this as great progress.
- We have elected a new PR/H&I workgroup leader who is very enthusiastic. He has elevated our PR/H&I initiatives.
- Meeting attendance and participation is up and more meetings are being started to accommodate all addicts.
- Public acknowledgment from São Paulo State Government of NA as a "viable recovery program" - The State Bill 943/2016 declaring NA as "public utility service" was presented through a work committee at the State Legislative House.
- PR is open to the fellowship and continues to average between 30-50 members in attendance.
- We have had great success with our unity efforts from Region to Areas to groups. We have made a concerted effort to turn around some of myths, perceptions, and suspicions of Region. We have done this thru Area presentations on a rotating basis.

Conventions, helplines, and H&I also continue to be areas of success:

- NA Helpline received 4,522 calls
- We have recently managed to have an important communication with the state's correctional administration and this will open doors up for new H&I panels at correctional facilities.
- We just held our regional convention (IRCNA 9) with over 1045 addicts in attendance!! This was the largest ever gathering of addicts in NA India's history.

Discussions

We asked what subject generated the most discussion in regions over the past Conference cycle. The Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust (FIPT) inspection request, illicit literature, and general FIPT issues were most frequently mentioned. The future of the WSC and discussions about zonal seating were the other dominant topics. The IDTs were also widely discussed, as were various aspects of regional conventions and Fellowship development. Unsurprisingly, the lack of financial resources and trusted servants were also mentioned more than once.
Additional Information and Conference Discussions

The final two questions on the regional report form asked delegates if there was any additional information they wanted to share with other Conference participants, and if there was anything in particular they wanted to discuss at the WSC. Additional information included:

- We had the WSZF 2018 which was a success. The fellowship development, outreach, and PI/PR efforts were well received and heard reports from Regional participants that they felt a lot was accomplished during the forum.
- We have information about a restructuring of our Brazilian Zonal Forum (BZF), which was already sent through a report from the BZF to the NAWS.
- We have good experience with the creation of group support forums (GSFs)
- This is the same as last cycle, in that we regularly use Power point visuals to help with many of our discussions, and we make use of a projector for most all things during our regional meetings. Having a visual of the items being discussed, whether
- World Services is focused on developing NA worldwide and that is a good focus. Meanwhile, we have a record number of addicts dying in the US every day. PR services here in the US need to be a focus soon.
- We are looking forward to welcoming you in August to a small party in Orlando. We would appreciate all those interested in volunteering for WCNA going to the na.org website and signing up. SEE YOU IN AUGUST!!!!
- We are mapping our region, with logistic information, defining priorities at specific meetings as to direct our efforts accordingly.
- We have enjoyed discussion about rural communities as that is truly the challenge we face. There is a commonality we share with other areas with the same challenge's.
- We are very excited about the apparent development of a lot more communication between cycles thanks to new technologies as well as the efforts of trusted servants and WSO. We see it in our zoom video conferences, in the communication which is starting to develop between zones, and even in useful regional, zonal, and conference-related info shared on Facebook (responsibly and respectfully). To us all this seems very significant, it gives us the sense that we are somehow organically moving toward a more effective conference and work cycle.
- Distance Sponsorship has proved to be very effective linking sponsors and sponsees from both inside and outside of the UK.

Topics for discussion that have not already been mentioned included:

- I would like to discuss using video/virtual technology such as Zoom to video in Regions such as Iran and other Regional/ Zones who cannot be present at the WSC.
- Mentorship, overcoming apathy in service
- Unity and how we can all work together
- How can we best stay focused on the traditions and Concepts throughout the conference?
- Focused literature including but not limited to dealing with our sponsors aging. Common needs meetings and their importance
- What is being done and how big the effort, to carry the message to those countries and communities where NA is not present. Any experience that could be shared about it and help us with the same purpose.