

NA World Services Webinar Report “Service Day – Fellowship Development”

1 May 2021

Service Day, 2021, was celebrated with a two hour webinar featuring twelve members who were invited to share about Fellowship Development in their communities. The type of FD services ranged from getting literature to incarcerated addicts, PR training and service workshops, and efforts to start and nurture NA meetings in countries around the world.

Over 500 members attended the webinar, which was translated into Farsi, Greek, Hebrew, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish. The webinar was also live-streamed on YouTube.

Becky M, the NAWS Assistant Executive Director, began by reflecting that all the work of NA World Services is in some way related to FD, and that the purpose of the webinar is to serve as a call to action and hopefully inspire members to get or stay involved.

The twelve communities invited to share represented just a snapshot of the countless numbers of inspiring FD stories from our global Fellowship. More details about each community can be found in the PowerPoint, audio, and video of the webinar posted on www.na.org/virtual and the FD Resources section of the media page on na.org—www.na.org/media.

The first share was by Ramiro R from the 24-hour marathon meeting based in the Argentina Region. It began in March 2020 as a response to the closure of most of the meetings in that country due to the pandemic. It quickly became organized so that meetings were available 24 hours a day from a single link that is widely shared via social media and also in the national press. Each two-hour time slot is hosted daily by a separate group. Ramiro explained that currently the regional FD committee is the single point of accountability for the marathon meeting, but discussions are ongoing as to the role of the groups in the future. The marathon meeting can be accessed by typing this address – na.org.ar/maratonica – into an internet search bar.

Before moving onto the next panelist, some of the statistics related to translations of NA literature were reviewed. NAWS provides support and services to 143 countries speaking over 91 languages. Since March 2020, 114 pieces of translated literature have been published, which is more than double than previous years. Profound thanks and personal gratitude were offered by Becky to the trusted servants and NAWS staff who made that possible. The Basic Text is now available in 37 languages. Audio versions of the Basic Text are posted for free streaming or download on www.na.org/audio in seven of these languages, including the latest addition in Hebrew.

Nita from Indonesia was introduced to share about the success that effective collaboration can bring to FD services. She provided a brief overview of the history of NA in Indonesia, the process of becoming legally registered with the Indonesian Department of Justice, and the efforts to translate literature. Indonesia consists of over 17,000 islands, and Indonesians speak 35 languages, so it has required persistence for NA to thrive. Following the success of a regional PR event in 2019 held in conjunction with the Asia Pacific Forum, and with the assistance of NAWS, NA in Indonesia now has access to men’s and women’s prisons in Bali and Jakarta, including the biggest prison in the country. Post-pandemic, the region is offering 14 virtual meetings per week, including a women’s homegroup that has grown from

three women to 52, and virtual panels in prisons. More information about NA in Bali can be found here <https://na-bali.org/>.

A table detailing the growth trends in different parts of NA was shown before Saymon from Brazil was introduced to share about FD efforts in the Brazilian Amazon. FD services in this part of the world rely on travelling by boat as it is the only effective (and cost-effective) way to navigate such large distances. Despite poor internet connections in places, trusted servants in the Brazilian regions are working together in a spirit of goodwill and creativity to continue carrying the message to new parts of the Amazon. Information about NA throughout Brazil can be found on the national website here <https://www.na.org.br/>.

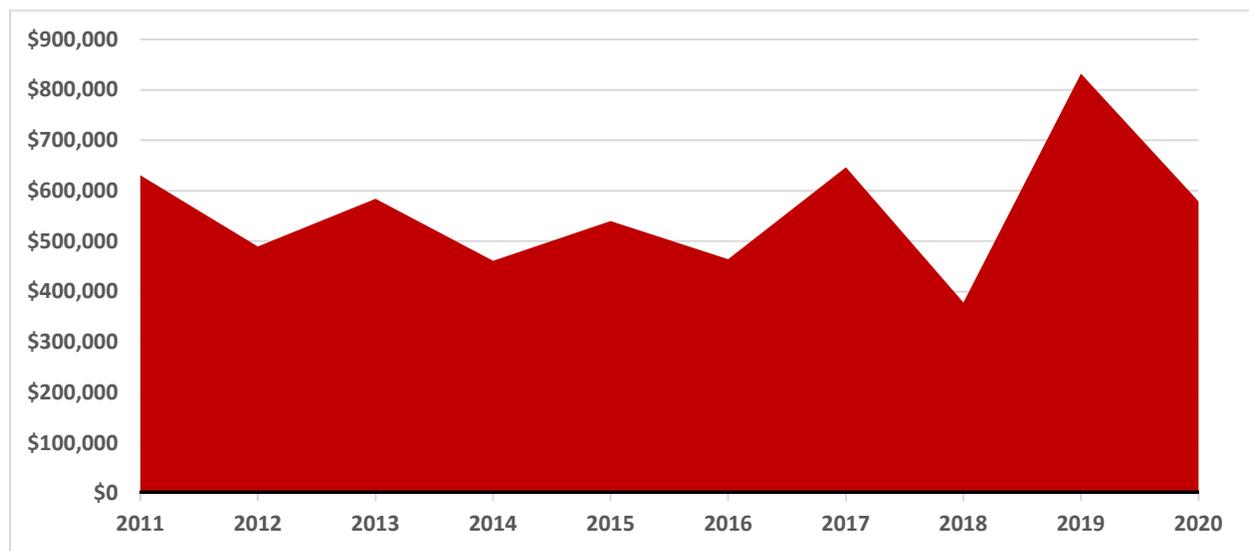
Twelve-Year Meeting Trends								
	2008	2010	2012	2014	2016	2018	2020	Average Growth
Western Europe	2,557	2,664	2,820	3,038	3,282	3,591	3,918	
		4%	6%	8%	8%	9%	9%	7%
Iran	11,256	16,793	18,195	18,200	20,598	21,974	26,075	
		49%	8%	0%	13%	7%	19%	16%
Middle-East	399	435	448	411	510	606	672	
		9%	3%	-8%	24%	19%	11%	10%
Africa	228	240	249	335	384	405	499	
		5%	4%	35%	15%	5%	23%	14%
USA	25,613	26,881	27,804	27,317	27,375	27,677	27,005	
		5%	3%	-2%	0%	1%	-2%	1%
Canada	1,166	1,243	1,369	1,360	1,263	1,323	1,369	
		7%	10%	-1%	-7%	5%	3%	3%
Central America	3,299	3,903	3,312	3,379	3,167	3,097	3,326	
		18%	-15%	2%	-6%	-2%	7%	1%
South America	1,272	1,251	1,524	2,250	1,932	2,189	2,857	
		-2%	22%	48%	-14%	13%	31%	16%
Brazil	1,998	1,995	3,153	3,581	4,427	4,374	4,633	
		0%	58%	14%	24%	-1%	6%	17%
Eastern Europe	256	308	345	440	564	646	734	
		20%	12%	28%	28%	15%	14%	19%
Russia	340	523	909	1,042	1,657	2,072	2,726	
		54%	74%	15%	59%	25%	32%	43%
Asia Pacific	1,458	1,533	1,639	1,649	1,747	2,061	2,261	
		5%	7%	1%	6%	18%	10%	8%
Total Meetings	49,842	57,769	61,767	63,002	66,906	70,015	76,075	
		16%	7%	2%	6%	5%	9%	7%

FD efforts in Russia date back to 1993 with the first NAWS workshops in the country. The Russian-speaking Fellowship has now taken on these efforts for itself. Polly, the Russian-Speaking Zonal Forum’s translations committee chair was introduced to share about some of this work. The zone provides services, including translation, local literature production and distribution, and several large-scale projects, to twelve countries. The large-scale projects include the My Home Pharmacy Project that places NA information in pharmacies, clinics, pawn shops, apartment buildings, and many other places where addicts would be liable to see them. The zone also hosts a 24-hour NA radio service, a recovery blog, and a YouTube channel, all of which are optimized for internet search engines. The Russian-speaking zone’s website address is <http://na-russia.org/>.

Saeed from Iran was then introduced to share information about NA in his country, with a focus on the response to the pandemic over the last year. The Iranian Fellowship represents almost 35% of NA globally, and has translated all the recovery literature and most of the service material. Approximately 25,000 trusted servants in hundreds of service bodies within Iran’s two regions go to great lengths to support Farsi-speaking members around the world, and to keep the Iranian Fellowship up to date on current issues. Iran currently has approximately 1,500 online meetings every week, and has hosted more than 100 workshops with topics ranging from sponsorship, to Traditions and Concepts, to FD and PR service, and many others. 10,000 welcome keytags have been sold to NA groups in the last year, demonstrating that new members are still finding their way to NA. The website addresses for the two regions in Iran are <https://na-iran.org> and <http://nairan1.org>.

Every week literature is mailed from the various branches of the WSO to members who would otherwise not be able to obtain literature. The free and subsidized literature chart shown on the screen at this point of the webinar demonstrated that ongoing commitment. Hundreds of books, starter kits, and other literature has been sent to individual members, groups, and service bodies in the last year, despite the massive reduction in income that NAWS has been dealing with. The belief at NA World Services is that one of the foundational purposes of NAWS as a service body is to get NA literature into the hands of addicts.

FREE AND SUBSIDIZED LITERATURE 2011–2020



Many other service efforts share this focus. One of them is Project Primary Purpose, also known as “P3,” which supports the distribution of Basic Texts to inmates across a wide swath of the middle part of the United States. Mark B shared some information about the creation and growth of P3. Basic Texts are mailed directly by the local regional service office to any incarcerated addict who requests one. Funds for this are raised by t-shirt sales and an annual steak dinner. In the 15 years since its inception, the project has sent out more than 6,500 Basic Texts. More information can be obtained by emailing ennapr@cox.net.

After some remarks about the relationship between NA World Services and the 15 zonal forums in NA, Ayman, the vice-chair of the European Delegate’s Meeting FD committee, was introduced to share about some of the activities in the European zone. The main focus of his share was the European Service Learning Days event that has been hosted by the zone every two years since 2015. ESLD is a service-oriented event aimed at local trusted servants. The EDM website offers a wide range of information about the zone - <http://edmna.org/>.

Ramon from the Southeast Zonal Forum then reviewed some of the results of the collaborative efforts between the SEZF, the Northeast Zone and the Autonomy Zone in the eastern part of the US. Several training videos have been created and posted on the SEZF website at <https://sezf.org/> under the “Workshop Materials” heading under the “Resources” tab. Topics include the WSC, consensus-based decision making, the YAP phone system, and communication.

Becky then moved on to talk about the formation of the *Afri-can* zone, which is funded by NA World Services in an effort to nurture the emerging NA communities across Africa. Despite the shutdown caused by the pandemic, communication with those communities has continued; a Zoom account for use by groups in Africa is being funded by NAWS; and literature continues to be shipped. One result of this ongoing effort is the Swahili Basic Text that has been approved and sent to groups in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, and Rwanda.

Becky then introduced Joseph from Nigeria, who serves as the chair of the *Afri-can* Zone, to share about service efforts in his country. Joseph provided information about the creative solutions his community is taking to manage the scarce resources for the Nigerian Fellowship. These include working in partnership with NAWS to centralize the supply of literature to groups. The region receives the literature at no cost from NAWS, and then sends it on to the groups for a minimal fee that covers shipping costs. Online meetings have made it possible for members in Nigeria to connect with others from around the world, and for newcomers to attend 90 meetings in 90 days for the first time.

After talking a little about the integral role of effective public relations in FD, and the upcoming PR week at the beginning of June, Becky introduced Charly from the PR workgroup of the Latin-American Zonal Forum to speak about some of the many FD efforts in his zone. Charly focused on the multinational virtual H&I panels (MVP) that the zone began organizing when in-person panels became impossible. These panels allow members from many countries to share their experience in 23 prisons in several countries. NAWS is grateful to support these efforts with free literature that the LAZF is helping get into the hands of incarcerated addicts in Mexico and Ecuador. Contact emails for the MVP are gtrppfzla@gmail.com and panelvirtualna@gmail.com.

Becky then spoke about the challenges and achievements in Arabic-speaking NA communities, and the commitment that NAWS has made to bringing these communities together since 2005. The Arabic Basic Text that is accepted by all the Arabic-speaking NA communities is one result of those meetings, but it

remains a challenge to provide services across multiple countries when there is no single service body that is accountable to all of them. NAWS has been able to bridge this gap by supporting local FD and translation efforts, but it is also clear that sustained growth requires the support of members with the same language and culture. Ayed from the NA Support Team for Arabic Communities was then introduced to talk about the services it is providing.

The support team was formed after a survey conducted at the NAWS-hosted Middle East workshop in 2005 revealed that cooperation among NA communities should be based on language rather than geography. NASTAC consists of members from several countries organized into four task teams. The goals of these teams are to help start new meetings in countries where NA does not currently exist, to support growing NA communities, to revitalize long established local NA communities, and to explore possibilities for an Arabic-speaking forum.

Several exciting initiatives in the last year have helped to carry the message to incarcerated addicts. During the December 2020 webinar NAWS hosted, we heard from two communities, one that is bringing virtual panels into institutions, and another that is hosting meetings aimed at introducing parolees to NA. Resources from that webinar can be found online here: www.na.org/virtual.

The PR team at the WSO (currently just one person!) has worked tirelessly with local H&I committees to achieve a major breakthrough in this area of service. Paul from the Central Ohio Area concluded the presentations by sharing about the efforts to get NA literature placed on the tablets provided to inmates in Ohio.

By working with other NA communities and developing existing relationships with correctional officials in Ohio, the COASCNA PR committee was able to get five pieces of NA literature placed onto the tablets issued to 45,000 inmates in the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections. Following this breakthrough, the area then went on to work with the Arizona Region to get literature placed on tablets for 40,000 inmates in Arizona. There is no cost to the inmates or to NA to access the literature. A more detailed account of how this was achieved can be found in the PowerPoint and video posted with this report on www.na.org/virtual, and questions can be sent to coascna@gmail.com.

The webinar closed by restating the World Board's desire to shift from a dependence on literature income to supporting our efforts through member contributions. Contributions can be made at www.na.org/contribute. Some reminders about upcoming deadlines and opportunities to get involved were also offered, along with thanks for all the panelists and the many NA members that serve every day to keep NA growing around the world.

As it becomes available, Information about all NAWS-hosted web meetings is posted on the NAWS web meeting page at www.na.org/webinar.

Thank you for participating!

The World Board

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