WHAT’S HAPPENING IN NA WORLD SERVICES
THAT YOU MAY WANT TO KNOW...

We hope you will continue to forward this page by email, or copy it for interested members, your ASCs, and your RSCs. We continue to encourage people to obtain e-subs to The NA Way and NAWS News. This helps us to communicate more effectively and control distribution costs.

Traditions Project: The Introduction and Tradition One have been released for review and input. We want to encourage all members to participate in this process: www.na.org/traditions. In the meantime, we still desire input on Traditions 2–12; we hope you will share your experience, strength, and hope with us.

Service System: We are hosting a series of webinars and will be creating three pamphlets for members focused on a brief overview of the core principles of the Service System, Group Support Basics, and Local Service Basics. Please continue to visit www.na.org/servicesystem or send your name, trusted servant position, and region and/or area to servicesystem@na.org to sign up for the webinars.

Issue Discussion Topics: We want to encourage members and service bodies to try these and encourage you to send us your feedback. The current topics are: Welcoming All Members, Planning, and Group Support. These are available at: www.na.org/idt.

NA Copyrights: We are asking for your help protecting NA’s property and keeping it safe for the future of our Fellowship. Please join us in taking a stand against illicit production and distribution of our literature. For more information see “NA Literature and Copyrights” posted online at www.na.org/FIPT.

Service Pamphlets: We are highlighting this valuable resource for groups and members—available online here: www.na.org/?ID=servicemat-svc-pamphlets.

Webinars: Participation in our webinars continues to increase. If you would like to join us and discuss issues and solutions please send your name, trusted servant position, and region and/or area to events@na.org for conventions, Handl@na.org for H&I and Inmate Step Writing committees, and PR@na.org for PR/PI trusted servants.

World Convention: After the success of WCNA 35 we are looking forward to WCNA 36 in Rio de Janeiro during June 2015.

Financials: We continue to encourage members to participate in the work of NA World Services by contributing financially through our portal at www.na.org/contribute.
Our board meeting was held 8–11 October 2014 in Chatsworth, California. We started on Wednesday with discussions centered on board development, which ties into Concept Four, being effective trusted servant leaders. We discussed accountability, building trust, strategies to achieve outcomes, evaluation of our efforts, and areas for improvement. Our day was productive as we moved forward with our development to better serve the fellowship.

Thursday we began with a review of the Introduction and Chapter One of the Traditions Book Project, which will set the tone for the book. Currently, the chapter has prose and questions; however, this format can change with input; we want you to participate in this process. These pieces are now out to the fellowship for review. Additionally, we held a mini traditions workshop for Tradition Four to gain practice with the fellowship piece and to participate in the input process of this book. We moved to a discussion about social media and our responsibility along with possible updates to the service pamphlet, Social Media and Our Guiding Principles, later in the cycle. We closed the day with a practical workshop experience with the proposed Issue Discussion Topics for this cycle.

Since we ended Thursday with experiential Issue Discussion Topics workshops, we offered input on Friday for refinement of the session profiles. We covered our corporate responsibilities including progress with WCNA 36 and visa applications for North Americans: WCNA 36 will be held in Brazil in June 2015. We moved into a discussion of the content of Service System Basics, which we anticipate will be a series of short pamphlets. Our aim is to initially produce a short general piece about the Service System with additional pamphlets on Group Support and Local Service.

We opened Saturday with a focus toward the Key Result Area: Sustainability of NAWS and Corporate Responsibility. Under this broad KRA, we discussed what would be the ideal size of the World Board and the number of board members needed to fulfill our missions, and the length of World Board meetings in this cycle and in the future. We had our continuing conversation about WSC seating in our effort to develop a seating recommendation, have time to engage participants with WSC seating, and be ready to publish in the 2016 CAT.

THE TIES THAT BIND US TOGETHER

FISCAL UPDATE

We were provided with a snapshot of this fiscal year, which represents three months, and recognized that it would be premature to offer a forecast at this point. In this early-bird view we noted that Living Clean sales are down, which may be tied to the summer season when traditionally literature sales decline as members tend to be into summer activities. We did note that keytag and chip sales increased; hopefully, this is indicative of a growing membership. Presently we have a reserve of 110 operating days; as you have read many times, our goal is one year, which seems prudent for a fellowship with more than 63,000 weekly meetings in 132 countries.

We had a conversation about regional service offices—the extent of debt and repayment plans, areas within a certain geographic distance of local RSOs who are buying their literature elsewhere and the possible outcome for the RSOs’ finances, and whether it is possible to put all on a pay-as-you-go plan. We concluded this speculative conversation reminded that our fundamental principle remains that it is our responsibility to make literature available to the groups, and every community is different.

There seems to be some concern that we are planning a literature price increase. Since prices were just adjusted in January 2014, it will be a significant amount of time before we will even look at any potential increases.

EFFICIENCY, SUSTAINABILITY, AND FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF THE WORLD BOARD

We realized that there are many aspects associated with NAWS sustainability, and the World Board is but one aspect. We are cognizant of our financial impact, and we had two discussions pertaining to this broad topic. These deliberations may also be considered due diligence in our role as trusted servant leaders. One consideration entertained was the length of our board meetings, namely four days, and could we possibly accomplish our work in three. In all honesty, we didn't feel it was prudent to decrease our meetings by a day when our travel costs are so high. It seems more prudent to keep four-day meetings and to look at whether we can still be effective with three board meetings in the first year of the conference cycle and remain with four board meetings in the second year. We decided to cancel one board meeting as an experiment in 2015 and will only meet one more time before WCNA 36. Additionally, this cancellation of one board meeting will result in a cost savings. In lieu of that board meeting, and continuing throughout this cycle, we will be increasing our use of technology. Following this trial, we will make a recommendation regarding the number of actual face-to-face board meetings in a cycle.

Our second discussion centered on the number of board members needed to be productive, efficient and effective. In other words, do we truly need 18 to fulfill our mission? We have practical experience because we had a smaller board, and we had 18 members on the board. In our deliberations, we also considered source material about size and function.
of nonprofit boards. Following our thorough examination of this issue, we reached a near consensus. At this time, we believe that there can be no less than 12 board members, and we can fulfill our responsibilities with 15. We will be continuing this dialog at future meetings in anticipation of being able to offer a recommendation in the 2016 CAR.

**Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust**

In our corporate responsibility, which is tied to this fiscal update, we discussed and reviewed the status of FIPT issues. As of this writing, we have disseminated a memo that is aimed at outlining the history of this issue: [www.na.org/fipt](http://www.na.org/fipt). Our goal is to provide accurate information and encourage communication. As we have stated previously, we believe that members with information remain in the most advantageous position to curtail copyright infringements.

**Traditions Project**

In September, the Traditions Project Workgroup held their second meeting, which was focused on refining the material for the first review and input release, as well as starting discussion on the input and ideas for upcoming chapters. The workgroup continues to share the work of reading through the input we’ve gathered over the past two years, which has been as much as 400 pages of input for some Traditions. For later Traditions, particularly Six through Twelve, the page counts are still much lower. We urge all members to continue to hold workshops and to direct their energy toward Tradition Six through Twelve. The front-end input deadlines are 30 November 2014 for Traditions Two through Six and 31 March 2015 for Traditions Seven through Twelve.

We are very excited to announce that the first review and input packet for the Traditions Book is now available—which many know already from the eblasts we sent following the release. The Introduction and Tradition One of the review and input draft are now posted on the project page: [www.na.org/traditions](http://www.na.org/traditions). In the past, we have posted these to a password-protected space, but we are trying something new by posting a PDF that will exist for a limited length of time. We hope that by our not requiring a password, members will find it simpler and easier to access.

We hope you will pass on this information within your regions. The input we receive is always important, but particularly for this first piece it is important for us to hear from as many members as possible. The ideas we receive will help not only to revise this piece but also to frame the rest of the book. For this reason, we cannot stress enough that there is no such thing as sending in your input too early. Please encourage members to participate. The deadline for this review period is 31 January 2015.

**Issue Discussion Topics**

We mentioned earlier that we “test-drove” the topics and offered refinements, hopefully making these topics even more productive and inspiring to members. We have selected four Issue Discussion Topics for the start of the cycle; we may modify the topics as the cycle continues, as the input for the Traditions Book creation ends March 2015. Two topics are focused toward groups and members, and two are geared toward service committees.

- Welcoming New Members—a base for the session profile will be IP#29, *An Introduction to NA Meetings*, and the Third Tradition. We aim to introduce the newly approved IP to members and we would like to further the discussion on our Third Tradition.
- The Traditions Mini Workshop Guides—hold these now as input for Traditions Two through Six is due by 30 November.
- Group Support—will focus on the importance of supporting our NA Groups regardless of structure and the role they are intended to fill.
- Planning—our aim is to introduce the concept of planning to members and hopefully inspire them to visit our resources associated with planning. Preparing and developing actions tends to be easy and can be fun as planning embraces ‘together we can’.

The profiles and PowerPoints for the Issue Discussion Topics are available at: [www.na.org/idt](http://www.na.org/idt), and the traditions workshop guides can be found at: [www.na.org/traditions](http://www.na.org/traditions).

**Deadline for Input 12 December 2014**

**A Guide to World Services in NA:** Every conference cycle we revise GWSNA to reflect new dates and other standard changes from cycle to cycle. This draft also reflects the changes made as a result of conference discussions and decisions that culminated in the passing of Proposal BC. The draft is out for a 90-day delegate review. Changes made as a result of Proposal BC are marked blue in the draft to make review easier. A final version will be distributed after all delegate input is incorporated.

**WSC 2014 Draft Record:** This is the complete draft conference record. If you notice any errors or have other input or corrections, please let us know within 90 days. A final version of the record will be distributed before WSC 2016 for approval at the conference.
There are two main focuses for the Service System Project this cycle: information sharing and new and revised tools. We talked about first steps for both at this board meeting.

**Information Sharing**

A Guide to World Services in NA explains that World Services’ role is “communication, coordination, information, and guidance” (CCIG). In other words, we are a sort of communication hub. One of the most important things we can do this cycle is create opportunities for communities to talk together and share information.

**Webinars**

We are planning a number of webinars focused on the service system. There are two types of webinars we have talked about. One to give a basic introduction to the ideas, and the other to provide a chance for communities to share their experiences with each other. Here are some of the populations we’ve talked about reaching with service system webinars:

- EDM delegates: When we visited the European Delegates Meeting, they asked for a webinar introduction to the service system ideas for their delegates. This is the first service system webinar we are planning to hold, and hopefully it will help us frame the Service System Basics tools we mention below.

- Rural service/recovery: We have heard from so many members that recovering and serving in a rural community has some unique challenges, and we would like to create an opportunity for those members to share their service experiences, challenges, and successes with each other. Ideally we’d like to develop tools to help meet their specific needs, and this seems like the best way to start a conversation to best understand those needs.

- Members interested in Service System: Again, we are planning two different types of webinars for interested members—a webinar that introduces the basic ideas, and one where members can share their experiences implementing those ideas.

The possibilities are limited only by our finite resources. If you are interested in participating in one of the service system webinars, please send your name, contact information (email address), trusted servant position, and region, as well as ideas about what you would like to see discussed, to: servicesystem@na.org.

**Locally Developed Tools**

We would like to create some kind of repository so that communities that have implemented parts of the service system ideas can more easily share the resources they’ve created and the experiences they’ve accumulated. We are still discussing what this might look like, but perhaps it may be something like the local resources web page on na.org but focused specifically on the service system.

**Gathering Information**

We communicate with communities on an ongoing basis about their experiences with the service system ideas—those who are just starting a planning process of some kind or are thinking about project-based services, those who are looking at ways to form forums devoted to supporting their groups, and so on. We provide whatever tools we have to help those communities, and in turn their experiences and ideas help shape the tools and reports related to the project.

**New and Revised Tools**

The first priority is a “Service System Basics” tool. We imagine this might be in three parts:

- Service System Basics: an overarching “What is the SSP?” pamphlet that focuses on the core principles.
- Group Support Basics: a pamphlet that focuses specifically on ideas related to better supporting groups.
- Local Service Basics: a pamphlet that focuses specifically on local services and planning.

We have heard from many of you that the now-outdated “Service System Proposals” were too dense and hard to read, even “user-hostile.” You’ve asked for something concise, easy to read, and not intimidating. That’s our goal for these first new tools.

In our ever-changing world, trusted servants also change. For newer trusted servants, we want to make you aware of service pamphlets, and we will showcase one and provide you with a link to more resources for groups. Although service pamphlets are not intended to be read in meetings, they are focused on topics that members and groups may be interested in. We encourage you to keep these on your group literature table.

In this NAWS News, we are highlighting the service pamphlet, Group Trusted Servants: Roles and Responsibilities. Many of us are willing to serve our groups yet may be timid as we are not sure what the duty entails. This pamphlet highlights the group trusted servants’ roles and offers experienced suggestions on how to accomplish the responsibilities associated with the trusted servant position. Please feel free to check out these resources at: www.na.org/?ID=servicemat-svc-pamphlets.
WEBINARS

Webinars offer the opportunity for exchanging information and discussing solutions for common issues. Our next Public Relations Webinar is January 2015, and the next H&I Webinar is scheduled for February 2015. We are asking those who have not signed up yet to please join us. PR has a great number signed up (170), and H&I has fewer (130). We would love for you to share this resource with H&I and PR/PI trusted servants so they may join us.

The Inmate Step Writing Webinar will again be held January 2015. We believe that more Inmate Step Writing Committees are being formed, and would like to invite you into the process. Please sign up via the HandI@na.org address and identify as wanting to join the Inmate Step Writing Webinar. Please send your name, contact information (email address), trusted servant position, and region, as well as ideas about what you would like to see discussed, to:

- Events@na.org for conventions
- HandI@na.org for hospitals and institutions
- PR@na.org for public relations/public information

The agenda for the above webinars is created by the participants; they present challenges in their service efforts and topics members want to learn about, which is why when you sign up your ideas are important. Join us.

WORLD CONVENTION UPDATE

WCNA 36, June 2015—The Gift is Freedom
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Planning continues for Brazil, and hopefully members are making their plans to attend. We anticipate registration and hotels will be on sale soon but have struggled to get details finalized for this event. We are using our third convention planning company with an aim of offering reasonable rates for accommodations for our members. Rio tends to be one of the more expensive cities, and our goal is to offer a range of rates for hotels. We are securing small room blocks at several hotels and anticipate they will be sold out quickly. We are learning with this convention that business is not conducted as we are accustomed to in the US.

North Americans who want to attend WCNA 36 are encouraged to begin their visa application process. The usual fee for this process is $160, and working with a visa processor may be helpful. At one time there was a law that one needed to travel within ninety days of receiving a visa; however, that law has been rescinded; hence, our suggestion to begin your process now.

One thing to take note of, particularly if you are planning a vacation in Rio immediately before or after the convention, is that the site of the convention (an area called Barra) is 30 kilometers outside of central Rio. Be aware that downtown Rio is not a commutable distance from the convention locale due to traffic rather than distance. There are beautiful beaches adjacent to the majority of the hotels in Barra, just as there are in other portions of Rio. We will also be arranging for pre- and post-convention trips in Rio and around Brazil for those who want to explore more of this extraordinary country with other members.

As soon as we have more definitive information, we will send an eblast. Additionally, all current information about WCNA 36 is available at www.na.org.

HUMAN RESOURCE PANEL

Hello from the HRP. We have not met since the last NAWS News, but we continue to move forward in our work. In September we initiated the RBZ process for this conference cycle. Details of the process can be found in the September 2014 NAWS News. NA regions and zones should have received a packet of information via email. Please let us know if your region or zone did not receive that information.

As we last reported, we are also working on posting information about serving at the world level at www.na.org. We hope to have that available online soon. Keep an eye out for that. We will be interested in any feedback you might have.

Currently there are 908 members in the World Pool. The World Pool Information Forms are available on our website at www.na.org/?ID=HRP-wpif-default, or by calling or writing NA World Services. As always, your input and comments are welcomed, and we encourage you to contact us at hrp@na.org.

CALENDAR FOR 2014

Travel requests (considered by quarter)

- 15 October for December–February
- 15 January for March–May

WCNA 36 11–14 June 2015, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil