In the 4-5 months since the WSC ended, we have been busy putting the conference’s decisions into action, staffing up, upgrading our technology, and preparing for WCNA 38. This issue of NAWS News highlights some of that activity. We’re trying to keep it concise for readability and translations. Don’t hesitate to email any questions: wb@na.org.

POST-CONFERENCE UPDATES POSTED

Before every conference, we update our statistics using the data from regional reports. As of May 2023, there are 72,215 weekly NA meetings in 143 countries. Check out the map.

We’ve come a long way! (Click for a video of NA’s growth over the decades.)

The Group Booklet has a fresh new look, and we’ve added the footnote approved at WSC 2023: “Virtual NA meetings that meet regularly can choose to be an NA group if they meet the criteria described in this booklet. Virtual Meeting Basics may be a useful resource for virtual meetings. It is posted on www.na.org/basics.” The same footnote will be added to A Guide to Local Services in NA, and the paragraph on the first page of Virtual Meeting Basics has been updated.

The revised Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust and FIPT-related documents have been posted and we are working on updating the FIPT video. You can find all of them at www.na.org/fipt.

A Vision for NA Service has been posted with the change made at WSC 2023: his or her own language and culture is now their own language and culture.

After WSC 2023 decided to try a three-year conference cycle for the next six years, we made all of the corresponding changes to A Guide to World Services in NA, which is posted on www.na.org/conference. To minimize confusion, we have also edited a line in IP #28: Funding NA Services as follows: Funding regional delegates from around the world to attend the World Service Conference every two years.

For more information on the revisions and other conference decisions, see the Summary of Decisions posted at www.na.org/conference.

WCNA

The 38th World Convention, The Power of Love, will be in Washington, DC, 29 August–1 September 2024. The convention will be centered at the Walter E Washington Convention Center in downtown DC. We plan to go on sale in the last quarter of 2023 and will have information about hotels at that time as well. We will email everyone who is subscribed to a World Services email list (NAWS News, Just for Today, and A Spiritual Principle a Day) before we go on sale.

The steps are our solution. They are our survival kit. They are our defense against addiction which is a deadly disease. Our steps are the principles that make our recovery possible.

Narcotics Anonymous, “How it Works”

120-DAY NOTICE

Information about the Twelve Steps is included in three different NA books. It’s common for NA sponsors to advise sponsees to read about the Step they are working in the Basic Text and It Works: How and Why before answering the questions in The Narcotics Anonymous Step Working Guides. In that spirit, we are proposing to bundle this material into one boxed set titled The NA Survival Kit. More information is available from the 120-day notice link on www.na.org/fipt.
MEETING LOCATOR CHANGES

The most important assistance NA service bodies can provide is helping addicts find meetings. As we have been reporting, we have plans to improve World Service’s role in that effort; rather than try to replicate the meeting information maintained at area, regional, and zonal levels, we will help people find local websites and phone numbers. (We will continue to maintain information for in-person or hybrid meetings that have no local service body to list them, and for virtual meetings.) To list or update virtual meeting information, just fill out this online form.

As a first step in this transition, we sent emails to the delegates of all seated and unseated regions and zones. We are asking delegates to confirm their member service bodies (regions, areas, etc.) and current helpline and phoneline information. We need the geographic center (city) for every service body and phone listing because when members search for meeting information, the results are returned based on that geographic information. Any updates for website addresses and phoneline information can be sent to Lori@na.org or Donnell@na.org.

We will discuss this at the upcoming conference participant web meeting, and we may have a separate web meeting focused solely on this topic if it seems like that would be helpful.

PLANNING

We launched a new collaborative planning process at WSC 2023, and we are in the inventory stage right now with an environmental scan survey posted at www.na.org/survey for delegates to fill out before December. The results of that survey will be discussed at the zonal level, and those discussions will help shape the strategic plan objectives and milestones. The inventory process will be the focus of the September conference participant web meeting.

IDTS POSTED

We have posted English and Spanish workshop material and online input forms for two of this cycle’s Issue Discussion Topics (IDTs): Gender-Neutral and Inclusive Language in NA Literature and Dealing with Disruptive and Predatory Behavior: www.na.org/idt. Check them out! And don’t forget the collection of resources on addressing predatory, disruptive, and violent behavior on our local service resource page (www.na.org/localresources).

H&I SURVEY

We are collecting ideas to revise H&I Basics to reflect current practices and cover the specifics of H&I service in more depth. Our current vision is to have three H&I Basics—one focused on corrections, drug courts, and sponsorship behind the walls; another focused on carrying the message into treatment facilities; and one more on H&I committees and their function. The survey is posted in Spanish and English with Farsi, French, German, Hebrew, and Portuguese coming soon: www.na.org/survey.

FUTURE OF THE WSC

The workgroup for the Future of the WSC will meet for the first time this month. The workgroup is large, with a member chosen by each zone, plus Iran, as well as three board members. The workgroup is charged with framing ideas, for World Board and conference participant discussion, about how to make a three-year conference cycle more valuable and productive. The topics they will address include the new planning process, how to add value to the interim WSC meeting, vetting CAR motions and the CAR survey, improving the in-person/hybrid WSC meeting, and more.

FOCUS GROUP VOLUNTEER FORM

Want to help with the work? We’ve posted a list of focus groups, web meetings, and opportunities to share experience for the 2023–2026 cycle. Use the form on www.na.org/survey to sign up, but bear in mind that there won’t be an opportunity for everyone to join a focus group. Sharing ideas about posted drafts, completing surveys, and participating in workshops are also very important ways to help the work.

TRAVEL

World Services is starting to travel again on a very limited basis, in response to requests. In August, we traveled to the Canadian Assembly and Convention (CANA/ACNA) and the European Delegates Meeting (EDM). In October, we will host and attend the Afri-Can Zonal Forum (AZF) and attend the Multi-Zonal Service Symposium (MZSS), and we will attend the Latin American Zonal Forum (LAZF) in October/November. We are still trying to participate virtually when possible to better steward our scarce resources.

BUT WAIT: THERE’S MORE

• More than 1,000 people attended the Unity Day Webinar. Thank you! We will provide an audio link for the next recovery webinar as well as zoom to increase our capacity.
• Our long-time staff at WSO Canada, Jacquie and Paul, have left their positions. We have operations covered for the short term and will announce changes as we progress. We apologize for any interruptions in operations recently. Our heartfelt thanks to both Jacquie and Paul for their decades of service.
• We’ve hired four new staff since the WSC: Daniel C and Andrea L on the communications team, Eugene K in shipping, and Sasha P in translations.
• The July issue of Reaching Out has been posted in English, Portuguese, and Spanish.
• Recent published translations include: Georgian, Finnish, and Tamil Basic Texts; the French Basic Text ebook; Arabic and Zulu Little White Books; Living Clean in French; and keytags in Chamorro, Cherokee, and Sardinian. We publish literature in 57 languages, and the Basic Text is available in 39 of them!
• Our Instagram @narcoticSANoNymous now has more than 21,000 followers, and @naglobalevents, our Insta devoted to events, has almost 3,000.

We welcome your ideas and input: worldboard@na.org