

GREETINGS FROM YOUR WORLD BOARD

This report covers information from both our April and July 2001 meetings. The July meeting was a day longer than those we usually schedule. We're also just past the halfway point in the first two-year conference cycle! It's been three years since the conference created the board and this new system at WSC'98. Today, with WSC 2002 less than a year away, it really does look like we're halfway through a six-year process of transition that will take us through to WSC 2004, three years from now.

We had a lot of ground to cover at this particular meeting, so we did our best to stay focused and adhere to our agenda. As usual, we began our meeting with an action group process to unify the board.

The majority of our meeting was again devoted to our committees and the progress they've made so far on their assigned projects. The reality of our resource challenge is ongoing. We were scheduled to present this report to you after our April board meeting, but other priority projects (e.g., the worldwide workshops) delayed this until now. We planned for this issue of *NAWS News* to be longer than usual so that we can summarize and highlight for you some of the topics, questions, and concerns that are covered more in depth in the August *Conference Report*.

EXECUTIVE CODIRECTOR RESIGNS

After 15 years of tireless service as a special worker, George Hollahan, Executive Codirector of the World Service Office, has resigned. George's deep love, devotion, and commitment to our fellowship, along with his creative vision, have aided us in working through many difficult times.

George attended his first World Service Conference in 1981 as the regional service representative for Florida. As WSC Vice Chairperson in 1983, George produced a report that then became *A Temporary Working Guide to Our Service Structure*. George has always been devoted to improving communications and relations with the fellowship. During his tenure on the WSC Administrative Committee, the first *Fellowship Report* came into existence, which today has evolved into the *Conference Report*. After serving as vice chairperson and chairperson of the WSC (a total of four years), Bob Stone hired him in June 1986 to work at the World Service Office. George assumed responsibility for conference services, and his leadership helped build the foundation for world services, as we know them today. His work as WSO staff with the Select/Ad Hoc Committee on NA

Service was crucial to the creation of the *Twelve Concepts for NA Service* and *A Guide to Local Services in Narcotics Anonymous*. He became Executive Codirector in 1995.

George has remained a proactive advocate by suggesting changes to our service structure so that NAWS—both trusted servants and staff—could deliver more effective services. His continual fight to make world services function better, for the benefit of the fellowship, played a vital role in identifying the problems in the old world service system, and beginning an inventory process that resulted in the fellowship's adoption of the World Board and the new world service system in 1998.

George's heart was always, and continues to be, close to fellowship development. On his first trip to Latin America over ten years ago, he fell in love with the emerging NA community there. Ever a visionary, he saw right from the start, how the passion and energy of these new members of our NA family would begin to change the worldwide fellowship. The last world convention in Cartagena, Colombia, was the fulfillment of a dream come true that George labored long and hard to bring about. Today, more than 15 Latin American nations have become seated regions at the World Service Conference. Both the board and the conference now represent the ever-increasing diversity of the fellowship.

He has also passionately worked for the preservation of the NA Fellowship's history and its archives. We, and staff, will all miss George's enthusiastic and compelling approach to management and service work in general. The fact that he has been out on medical leave since February 2000 doesn't make it any easier for us, or staff, to accept George's decision to resign. We take some comfort in knowing that his caring spirit will always be with us in all that we do.

POSTING LITERATURE ON WWW.NA.ORG

After discussions at the last two board meetings, we are proposing to take a major step forward and post six NA information pamphlets (IPs) on the official NA website (www.na.org). The recovery literature we're planning to post is: IP #1 (*Who, What, How, and Why*); IP #7 (*Am I an Addict?*); IP #16 (*For the Newcomer*); IP #17 (*For Those In Treatment*); IP #22 (*Welcome to NA*); and the information booklet, *NA: A Resource in Your Community*. These IPs seem to be the best choice to serve our purpose: to provide information about who and what NA is to the addict seeking help and to the public and professional community who deal with addicts.

We have received a great many requests over the years to make various items available online, and we have taken an extremely cautious approach to moving forward. The legal advice we have received from our intellectual property attorneys (who have particular expertise in dealing with Internet copyright infringement matters) have provided us with advice up to now that has bolstered the conservative position we have taken. Our responsibilities as trustees of the Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust (FIPT) compel us to safeguard the fellowship's intellectual property assets for the fellowship's benefit.

As the law pertaining to copyrighted material on the Internet has matured, and we now believe we can protect the fellowship's property within that law, we will undertake, *as an experiment*, the posting of this limited number of items on www.na.org for the benefit of the fellowship. If we were to encounter infringement problems and/or significant new legal expenses or other problems because of this experiment, we would not hesitate to back away from this test.

By posting this material on our site, we can give areas and regions the ability to provide a direct link to these IP's from their sites. This would be a seamless link, one where the user is not aware that they have even left the area or region's site. This would resolve the current problem we have with pieces of this material being posted on many sites in order to describe Narcotics Anonymous.

Our challenge will be to determine the necessary details of making this a reality. This will involve finding out what challenges exist with posting this material in various languages. At this time, IP #1 exists in 21 languages! We will keep you advised as we proceed with this and welcome any input that you may have.

NEW PRODUCT UPDATE

Check out the flyer we've enclosed announcing the new and featured products.

We are happy to report that the Norwegian Basic Text (in hardcover, Book One *only*) was completed recently. There was a presentation of the finished book to the RD from Norway at the European Delegates Meeting in Quebec the last week of June. (See the enclosed new product flyer for ordering information.)

You may also want to keep your eyes open (or should we say your ears) for the arrival of an audio version of the Basic Text in Spanish. It is time to create and make available recovery material in Spanish for our growing Spanish-speaking fellowship. We made this decision to respond to requests from eighteen countries, as well as drug courts and correctional facilities in the US. It will take some time to research the details and implement this. We will update you as developments arise.

LINE-NUMBERED BASIC TEXT: A RECALL!

The Line-Numbered Basic Text was first published in September 1997 comprising Book One only, but priced as a complete book @ \$9.70. This new version now incorporates Book One and Book Two, with a revised numbering system, at the same price. (We responded to customer feedback about the original numbering system.) In order to do right with the customers who have already purchased the old version, we are asking them to send in the cover to WSO Customer Service for replacement with the new version at no cost. We published an announcement about this in the July *NA Way* issue, and a mailing is going to on-the-record purchasers of the old version.

LITERATURE DEVELOPMENT REPORT

After fellowship discussion of four literature-related motions and a lengthy report that appeared in the *Conference Agenda Report 2000*, the World Service Conference directed the World Board to begin certain literature work. The conference approved by an overwhelming margin the first phase of a project to create new recovery material about sponsorship. That first phase asked the board to encourage area and regional literature committees to develop source material about sponsorship in 2000, with the board starting a preliminary evaluation of the issues relating to the sponsorship material in 2001.

The conference said yes by a narrower margin to a comprehensive evaluation of revisions and additions to the entire Basic Text and the Little White Booklet, and directed that this evaluation would not begin any sooner than 2004, if WSC 2004 authorizes a proposed evaluation plan. The conference funded a project to begin planning that evaluation, specifying that the World Board make a preliminary status report at WSC 2002.

Finally, the conference affirmed the general direction of the proposed literature development plan. This involved implementing the board's Publications Committee, working on the foregoing two projects, and beginning fellowship discussions on a number of important outstanding literature development issues, culminating in the preparation of an updated five- to ten-year literature development plan for WSC 2002.

THE FUTURE OF NA LITERATURE DEVELOPMENT: With two literature projects of such major importance, the board and our new Publications Committee have been quite busy. We quickly realized that preparing a five- to ten-year plan for literature development at WSC 2002 was premature. We decided against putting any literature-related motions in the *CAR 2002*. Instead, we plan a major report to stimulate discussion and dialogue about the foregoing projects and other literature development issues.

As always, we welcome and invite any input you may have. The theme continues to be communication, communication, communication!

WHERE WE ARE NOW

Based on the motions passed at WSC 2000, we face two major tasks to be done simultaneously (sponsorship and planning the process for the Basic Text evaluation)

We, as a board, took over a day at our four-day July meeting to discuss some of the larger issues surrounding this entire topic. Some of the issues include:

How important is new recovery literature to the fellowship? What level of support (resources) are we willing to dedicate to it?

What is the relative importance of the revision of existing literature versus the development of new literature?

Concerning the Basic Text: What is to be evaluated? Why? How? And by whom?

Some of these questions are not yet fully answered, but this report tries to outline how far we have gotten in our discussions.

THE SPONSORSHIP PROJECT

At WSC 2000, Motion 3 was adopted by an overwhelming margin. To move forward on this mandate, we sent out a *News Flash* in December 2000 requesting ideas and concepts about sponsorship. (Still available at www.na.org or upon request.) The response from the fellowship was incredible—we received an enormous amount of input from the fellowship. The deadline for that input passed on 1 June 2001. We're grateful to all the members, groups, and service committees who took the time to submit written input. The Sponsorship Evaluation Workgroup has done a great job in keeping up with the input received. Our thanks to them also.

In evaluating the stacks of material we received from members, we realized that we had sufficient ideas and information for a book-length piece. We are now in the process of making a detailed project plan. Our proposal is to develop a book of about 100 pages in length and to create a new IP from the book's material to replace the existing IP. In order to be responsive to the needs of the fellowship, the proposed plan will have an accelerated schedule allowing for adoption at WSC 2004.

The fellowship's desire for sponsorship literature seems urgent. Therefore, our goal is to include an approval form in the 2004 *Conference Agenda Report* for consideration at WSC 2004. To accomplish this, our proposal includes continued solicitation of source material through 31 December (at specific venues such as the worldwide workshops) and a development process similar to that used for *Just for Today*.

Our precedent is the development process used for *Just for Today*. What we have received to date is an unprecedented amount of raw source material. This source material contains your ideas and input for what you want, rather than reacting to a draft already developed. We

believe this is the most effective way for a global fellowship to truly impact the direction, scope, and content of a new piece of recovery literature. With the approval of the conference at WSC 2002, we propose to use this source material and the standard development process: a workgroup with a staff-team for writing and support.

In addition, there will be a voluntary—you must sign-up to participate—review and input in two stages. Stage one will consist of review and input for a detailed outline and chapter one, to be returned to us in 30-45 days. In stage two, the balance of the book will be sent to those who completed stage one. This stage will have a short turnaround as well. The project plan concludes with the book being sent out for an approval period of, minimally, 150 days, which is longer than the 90-day period in the past. If we do not use the process the only alternative that we see is to have an approval-form at WSC 2006.

In order for the project plan to be successful, we must form a partnership. We are asking RD's to inform the area and regional literature review committees about our plan, encouraging them to register with the WSO to participate in the review-and-input process. Then, shortly after the conference, we will send out a letter to all who signed-up with the WSO, after which, drafts with specific instructions for the review and input will be mailed. More details will follow about this proposal in the 2002 *Conference Agenda Report*, following discussions at the World Service Meeting. We look forward to working together in a cohesive manner to create a piece about sponsorship that the fellowship will embrace.

BASIC TEXT EVALUATION PROJECT

Although the conference was not entirely clear about what changes, if any, the fellowship might want in the Basic Text, the WSC did favor a comprehensive evaluation process. Based on this, we plan on creating a workgroup to develop various instruments and strategies during the next conference cycle that we hope will lead to clearer direction from the fellowship about what, if anything, should be done.

If there is an evaluation, it will not start until after WSC 2004. This is what Motion 2 provides for. *We cannot overemphasize how much confusion there has been on this point.* No evaluation of the Basic Text can start unless and until the WSC in 2004 authorizes such a plan.

Let's say this another way—what we are doing now and next cycle is simply planning an evaluation. We are calling this project a "plan-to-plan" process. Everything between now and WSC 2004 is about planning how an evaluation might occur and outlining the scope of that possible evaluation, if WSC 2004 authorizes it to go forward.

What we are proposing is a survey that contains the questions and issues involved with the Basic Text and the Little White Booklet, as well as an attempt to gather other information about the fellowship's desires for future

recovery literature. We realize the Little White Booklet is part of this process, but to keep things clear and simple, we will keep the Little White Booklet and the fellowship's desires for future recovery literature separate from the Basic Text in the survey instruments.

We hope that we will be able to feed back useful information to the fellowship and a clear proposal about the Basic Text evaluation that will be presented to and decided by WSC 2004.

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

It is up to the fellowship to decide where we are going. Our report in the 2002 *Conference Agenda Report* provides more information and hopefully will setup a fellowshipwide dialogue. We look forward to face-to-face interaction with delegates at the World Service Meeting, and we would appreciate receiving written input on any aspect of this report, or the projects we have described, from those of you who are not attending the WSM in Virginia.

We have discussed the development of a vision statement for NA literature. This is now a low priority, given all of our other work. We see a discussion on the purpose and function of NA literature as a starting point for future literature development. If we can develop a common vision and philosophy, hopefully that can serve as a foundation for these two projects and future literature development policy and work.

As stated previously, we are planning to include a significant report in the 2002 *CAR* about literature issues. This report will not contain any motions. We believe that a portion of our report to the fellowship in the *CAR* should focus on the fact that we have an unparalleled opportunity to look at why and how we develop literature in NA. Our goal is to get members to begin to look at the bigger picture, and then talk about the specific tasks in front of us like the sponsorship project and the Basic Text evaluation issue.

INCOME UP SLIGHTLY

Now that we have reached the end of our financial year, we are pleased to see that income was higher when compared to last year, using Chatsworth as the basis of comparison. However, this is not really a result of higher literature sales. In fact, the majority of the \$197,803 of higher literature-related income seems to have more to do with the implementation of the 5% price increase in January. Actually, most of the unit sales figures for the Basic Text, *It Works, Just for Today*, and *The NA Step Working Guides* show only slight changes when compared to last year, with the exception of the *Step Working Guides*.

For example, last year (1 July 1999 – 30 June 2000) we sold approximately 166,961 copies of the hardcover Basic Text compared to 167,617 copies sold this year. We did see some rise in soft cover sales. For the same period, we sold 48,854 copies, compared to 60,571 this year. We sold approximately 5,000 more copies of *Just for Today* this year,

but sold 4,000 fewer copies of *It Works: How & Why*. The *Step Working Guides* are down approximately 12,000 copies versus last year.

Alarming, donations (which totaled \$612,967 this year) are only \$1,082.06 higher than last year. This is the first time that donations have not grown at least 5% in many years. If we had kept pace with our past trend in donations, they should have increased \$36,660. This is alarming because even when literature sales were down, in the past, donations continued to increase by about 6% to 8% per year. We realize this may just be the effect of implementing a two-year cycle for the first time. Also, we know that many regions that are primary contributors to world services did not enjoy the same level of financial success that they are accustomed to. We will provide a more complete table of comparison in the annual report.

RESERVE SETS NEW RECORD!

Prudent management of your world service center means a commitment to remain a reliable, dependable, and stable resource for our fellowship. We are again happy to report that we have succeeded in meeting our savings objectives and now have more money in the bank than ever before. Our total reserve funds amount to about \$982,270. This is equal to 59.6 operating days. This is 66% of our stated Fellowship Development Plan objective to achieve a 90-day operating reserve.

However, we again need to point out that we are expecting to expend approximately \$350,000 in the next ten months. This will reduce our reserve funds since we will spend funds on things that we will not show immediate income from in return. During this period, we will make necessary deposits for the Atlanta World Convention and facilities deposits for the 50th anniversary convention in San Diego. However, since we expect to receive some offsetting income from pre-registration, we should be able to restore some of the reserve funds utilized. Please note that income will not be recorded until next fiscal year.

NEW BULLETIN BOARD

We have completed testing on a new bulletin board for discussions by conference participants. The technology allows anybody to read and follow the discussions, but only WSC participants can post messages. What's new is that the system highlights new messages so you can see if anything new has been posted since your last visit. It also has a more user-friendly structure. We will provide additional information at the World Service Meeting. Afterwards, we'll send a mailing to all WSC participants with instructions.

CLICK ON THE FELLOWSHIP EVENTS CALENDAR AT WWW.NA.ORG

Another new feature that is working well is the fellowship events calendar (www.na.org/comingup-toc.htm). The only problem is that the fellowship isn't yet

using the calendar to its full potential. We hope that as awareness increases, fellowship use will also increase. This web-based calendar is the basis for the events calendar still published quarterly in *The NA Way Magazine*. The great advantage, however, is that the online calendar lists all known events for years into the future. *The NA Way* only lists the next few months in advance. More frequent use by more registered groups, areas, and regions of NA events would make it a more helpful planning tool. Listing events farther in advance could help minimize scheduling conflicts. We hope the calendar will further communication in NA.

REGISTER NA GROUPS AND SERVICE COMMITTEES ONLINE

We are still testing the web-enabled database feature that will allow your designated trusted servants to update the information directly in the new database. It is a constant struggle to keep the backlog manageable. The long-promised mass mailing to all NA groups and service committees is finally drawing closer.

One significant benefit of going to the trouble to ensure that all of the NA groups in your area and region are registered is intangible. This intangible benefit is fellowship unity. Accurate group registrations further our common welfare. Group registrations allow us to track the growth of the fellowship. As of May 2001, there are about 19,500+ registered NA groups holding over 29,000 regular weekly meetings in 108 countries and territorial possessions. We would have no way of knowing or reporting this statistic if NA groups did not take the time to notify us of their existence. Please help keep us up-to-date about your meetings.

Of course, there are also tangible benefits to registration. We hope every NA group receives *The NA Way Magazine*. It's free to every registered group or interested member! Accurate registrations also ensure that, if it was ever necessary, we could contact every group. For example, if our fellowship ever decided to change the steps, traditions, or concepts, that process would require a "group tally." If groups are not in the system, then they would potentially get excluded in that process. Another benefit is accurate listing(s) of the meeting(s) of your groups in the International Meeting Locator at www.na.org/locator-toc.htm. (See story below.)

ONLINE MEETING DIRECTORY

Accurate listings of NA meetings and groups are critical to the usefulness of the new International Meeting Locator. We hope every NA group will want to make sure its meeting(s) are listed properly. The benefit to the groups goes to the heart of NA's primary purpose. This is a tool to carry the message to the addict who still suffers. Help a newcomer or visitor find your NA home group!

We have heard reports that some are waiting to update group/meeting information until the web-based live update

features are in place. There are several ways *right now* that you can update group/meeting information or register new NA groups. Please don't wait!

If you have Internet access, you can download the forms in English, French, German, Portuguese, or Spanish, and mail or fax them back to the WSO. These forms are also available upon request. Another online feature available now (in English and Spanish only) is an online form that you can use to register new groups or update existing group information. However, these are not instantaneous updates. Staff still has to enter the information you send into the new database.

FIRST EVER WORLDWIDE WORKSHOP SUCCEEDS IN VANCOUVER, CANADA

By all reports the first Worldwide Workshop, held in Vancouver, British Columbia, from 29 June to 1 July, was a resounding success. It was definitely something new that we've never tried quite this way before. Through emails, letters, and telephone calls members from as far away as Saskatoon, Baltimore, and San Diego, expressed their enthusiasm for the event, and the wish that a worldwide workshop come to their hometown someday. No fewer than 20 RD's and RDA's attended the Vancouver event, with a total attendance of approximately 400 members.

Friday night had a very non-traditional opening meeting. There was a combined recovery and service focus. The purpose was to introduce the weekend, to introduce the travelers from NA World Services, and to introduce members to each other. An overview of world services focused on breathing life into the event theme: "Making the Connection—NA Members & NA World Services."

Over Saturday and Sunday, there were twelve topic workshops. (We planned two to three per time slot, so there were many opportunities to make choices!) Topics included: general history of NA, accountability, conduct, sponsorship, literature development, medication in NA, court cards/attendance verification, and one other H&I/PI-related workshop. A general session on Saturday morning focused on local grassroots issues. Saturday night included a recovery speaker meeting. A dance sponsored by the host committee followed.

Sunday included morning workshops followed by a general wrap-up session. The input we received about the weekend was overwhelmingly positive. The weekend closed Sunday afternoon with a final recovery meeting featuring a panel of speakers selected by the Support Committee.

The worldwide workshop project is one big experiment. The subsequent program for each future event will have unique elements. We included many of the topics in Vancouver because these issues were of interest locally. Local issues in other parts of the world will vary. Our goals as a board for the other workshops may vary. We just wanted to let you know how the first phase of the experiment in Vancouver has progressed so far.

We feel the success of the worldwide workshops does not depend solely on the amount of people who attend, but rather on the quality of the event itself and what we all learn from this experiment in dialogue. All of the NAWS participants were unanimous in their enthusiasm for this first workshop, and are convinced of the value these workshops offer for our fellowship now and in the future. The travel team included WSO Executive Director Anthony Edmondson, World Board members Craig R and Susan C, as well as the Board's Fellowship Relations Committee: Michael McD, David J, and Ron H. The staff support team onsite was Michael Lee, Eileen Perez-Evans, and Elaine Adams.

OTHER WORLDWIDE WORKSHOP NEWS

After Vancouver, we'll still have four other workshops on four continents to plan and execute. It's a huge task, but we're excited!

Since the March issue of *NAWS News*, we've made the following plans for the four remaining workshops.

In the European Zone, we are working with the UK Region. We're set for 14-16 September at Goldsmiths College in South London. Flyers are already out (and online).

In the Asia-Pacific Zone, we are now working with the New Zealand Region. We are set for 2-4 November at Victoria University in Wellington, New Zealand. Flyers are already out (and online).

In Latin America, we are now working with the Brazil Region. Our target location is São Paulo. The target window is December 2001/January 2002.

In Eastern North America, we are now working with the Midwest Zonal Forum. We're set for downtown Chicago, Illinois. The date is 1-3 February 2001. Flyers will be out soon.

You can find out the very latest information about each of these events at www.na.org/events-reg.htm. Flyers are or will soon be posted there for each event, and online registration is also available there. As always, you may contact the WSO directly for more information.

WHY WE CHOSE THESE WORKSHOP SITES

Two principles, readiness and rotation, together explain why we made the site choices we did for the worldwide workshops for this cycle.

First, on the readiness issue, we believe that local communities must be of a sufficient size and stage of development to take advantage of the commitment of scarce resources that a worldwide workshop represents. This principle alone accounts for our view that only two communities in Asia will benefit from a worldwide workshop now. Even in our chosen site in New Zealand, the fellowship is so small that it's unlikely we'll attract more than 150 members to the event.

Second, in Latin America, the rotation principle ruled out communities who benefited from proximity to Cartagena most directly, or the LAZF last May in Costa Rica. Taken together, this led us to focus on the southern most parts of South America. Chile, Bolivia, Paraguay are not "ready." The last LAZF was in Uruguay. This left our "two serious choices:" Brazil and Argentina. We went through a similar process in looking at the Asia Pacific Zone this cycle. Similarly, we took into account the sites for this year's World Unity Day and the next world convention in Atlanta, Georgia (USA) in selecting the North American sites.

Assuming the project continues next cycle, geographic rotation would again be part of the consideration, opening up countries not seriously considered this time, and growth could change our view of the readiness level of various communities in either zone.

NAWS EVENT REGISTRATION NOW ONLINE!

One of the terrific features of the new NAWS database is the ability for members to register online for specific NAWS events. We're using this new capability now for the upcoming worldwide workshops and the World Unity Day celebration in September. We also used it for the Literature Distribution and Convention Workshops that took place 3-4 August. For certain events (e.g., World Unity Day), hotel reservations, with a credit card, are also possible. This is actually a live test using these events. We plan to use this feature for the World Convention in Atlanta, Georgia (4-7 July 2002). Check out www.na.org/event-reg.htm.

LITERATURE DISTRIBUTION AND CONVENTION WORKSHOP

By popular demand, the Literature Distribution and Convention Workshops were held again at the Warner Center Marriott in Woodland Hills, California (near the WSO). The dates were 3-4 August 2001. We will provide a report on these workshops in the future.

PROFESSIONAL EVENTS UPDATE

Our participation in professional events furthers the fellowship's efforts to carry the message so that no addict anywhere need ever die from the horrors of addiction without having heard about the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous and our program of recovery. We conduct all of our public relations efforts within the bounds of the Twelve Traditions of Narcotics Anonymous.

An essential link to establishing a more effective long-range public relations plan is to ensure that we continue to develop a proactive approach to planning attendance at professional events. We have made great strides in this particular area over the last six years or so. What we refer to as marketing goes hand-in-hand with our public relations efforts to increase awareness and understanding of Narcotics Anonymous. Often there is a double opportunity (furthering our marketing and public relations

goals) at events we attend. Our presence gives us the chance to explain NA, who we are and what we offer, including how to get our literature to people who deal directly with addicts. Different events provide different opportunities to accomplish these closely related goals. Today we have the means by which the public and/or professionals can find out about us. Over the past six years, we have been increasing our presence within the corrections and treatment fields. These efforts are starting to pay off in very exciting ways. By ensuring that these professionals hear and learn about NA, addicts who would otherwise have no contact with our program, are beginning to find the hope that so many of us have experienced.

We've attended a number of events since July 2000. Because of space constraints within this report, we would like to highlight only a few of these events. Look for a more comprehensive report presented in the upcoming *NAWS, Inc. Annual Report 2001*.

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ADDICTION MEDICINE (ASAM)

This past April we had our first exhibit at ASAM (American Society of Addiction Medicine). This event, like so many others that are titled "American", had members in attendance from around the world. ASAM held its conference in Los Angeles, California. The response to our program at this event was overwhelming! ASAM members literally swamped our booth requesting more information on Narcotics Anonymous. We had to replenish the books and pamphlets we use during these professional events, not once but twice! We had a couple of members from our fellowship in attendance who also belong to ASAM. Staff and these members operated the booth during the event. We were invited to return next year and also received several invitations to other related conferences.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF CORRECTIONS (NIC)

On 8-9 May 2001, a member of our Public Relations Committee and a WSO staff member attended a meeting with personnel from the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) held in Washington, DC. The purpose of the meeting was to participate in a planning session for an August videoconference that NIC has asked NAWS to participate in.

NIC is a federal agency established to assist correctional agencies at the federal, state, and local levels. They provide forums for the exchange of ideas and discussions. They also provide training, technical assistance, and program formulation to improve the correctional system at all levels. One of the technologies they incorporate into their training is the use of videoconferencing. NAWS has been invited to be a participant in this year's videoconference.

This is another excellent opportunity to heighten awareness about the NA program, specifically with members of the public in the criminal justice system. It can

also serve to strengthen the relationship between the corrections community and our local H&I committees.

The objectives of the planned videoconference are numerous. These include providing criminal justice professionals with information about how to contact NA and how to enhance the level of cooperation between them and the local fellowship. We would also hope to highlight the benefits of NA's twelve-step program to the professional and the offender. On some issues, we would attempt to gain insights as well as sharing our insights. These include issues surrounding the problems inherent in holding NA meetings in correctional facilities without the participation of outside NA volunteers.

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON ALCOHOL AND ADDICTIONS CONFERENCE (ICAA)

We are also registered for the ICAA to be held in Germany this September. The ICAA (International Council on Alcohol and Addictions) Conference will take place in Heidelberg, Germany. The exact dates are 1-7 September 2001. Bob Stewart from the WSO, Simon J, current Euro PI Chair, and Vivianne R from Sweden will represent world services. Our history of exhibiting or presenting at ICAA annual events stretches back more than ten years.

We are exhibiting this year, but will go with the thought in mind that we might be asked to do some sort of impromptu presentation at the last minute similar to what occurred in Bahrain at last year's ICAA.

We need to continue developing appropriate and effective methods of establishing new relationships, as well as maintaining our current ones, with the organizations and individuals that are in a position to direct newcomers into NA.

MARKETING NEWS: TWO NEW SPECIAL MAILERS

To improve our current marketing strategy and to continue to increase our presence in the corrections and treatment fields, we have designed two mailers (circulars for distribution to specific customers) that target these particular audiences. One is for treatment facilities. Another is for the correctional market. The product flyers contain recovery literature relevant to these markets.

We believe this will help cut down any confusion with these separate markets as they try to determine which of our literature products would best serve their clients. We let them know how we can meet their literature needs. Our marketing efforts help support public relations and foster goodwill by helping to place our literature into the hands of the still-suffering addict and helping to increase awareness of Narcotics Anonymous.

FELLOWSHIP DEVELOPMENT AT ZONAL FORUMS

Since the last *Conference Report*, world services has attended many zonal forum meetings. These include: the Latin American Zonal Forum (LAZF) in Costa Rica; the European Delegates Meeting (EDM) in Montreal, Quebec, Canada; the Rocky Mountain Zonal Forum meeting in Boulder Hot Springs, Montana; and the Asia-Pacific Forum in Jakarta, Indonesia. We will have a report about our participation in these exciting events in the upcoming *Annual Report*. (The *Annual Report* is due around the end of September.)

MORE FELLOWSHIP DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Sometimes, when the daily grind of "life on life's terms," lulls us into that hypnotic state of putting one foot in front of the other and just making it to the end of the day—we can forget how really fortunate many of us are to have easy access to recovery through NA meetings and NA literature. So, it is not surprising that we get excited when we receive literature orders or requests for group starter kits from countries that do not have any Narcotics Anonymous meetings (as far as we know).

We are happy to announce that WSO-Europe has filled a literature order for the Hungarian fellowship. It was the first one they ever placed! Currently, there is only one registered group, located in Budapest, Hungary. But a member there said there are now two meetings being held.

Some other exciting "firsts" include sending group starter kits to Cuba and Kosovo. At the moment, we are unsure of any meeting activity, and we do not yet have any groups from these countries registered in our database.

The efforts and strides our translations staff has made over the past several years through working with local translations committees around the world has helped to facilitate the spread of Narcotics Anonymous. They are currently working on literature translation projects in Arabic and Farsi. These projects offer hope for other isolated countries and communities!

Here are a few excerpts from some of the letters world services receives:

From Valley State Prison for Women:

"We are writing to thank you for assisting us with our need for NA supplies. We are very grateful for all that you have done for us.... May your year be as special as you are to us."

A member from Barcelona writes:

"I wanted to tell you at the WSO, how thrilled I am with the Basic Text on tape. It has been a huge help these past few days. ...it reminded me a few times what I needed to do...it was such a relief."

From State Correctional Institution at Mahanoy (Pennsylvania):

"Once again, I wish to thank you for the package of NA materials that was sent to SCI-Mahanoy. I am confident that the

Hispanic members of Narcotics Anonymous will be grateful and that the material will be put to good use. Also, the copy of Reaching Out that was enclosed is great reading material, and I'm almost certain that the inmates who truly want recovery will be writing to request copies."

HOW OUR MESSAGE GOES GLOBAL!

More exciting news from around the world! We've received a hand-written note from a group in Russia thanking us for the Russian Basic Text. Along with the note, the group members sent us a flyer of their group's second anniversary celebration held on 21 July 2001. The name of the group is "Kalitka," but we did not receive an English translation for the meaning of that word. The group has five meetings during the week.

The city where the group is located is called Ekaterinburg, a historical mining city in Russia. Known as the "Window to Asia," it has a population of about two million people and is located in the Ural Mountains. The Ural Mountains, alongside the Ural River, form the traditional division between Europe and Asia.

Welcome aboard!

SUMMARY OF CAR 2002 PLANS

We are at the point in this first two-year conference cycle where the plans for the *Conference Agenda Report* for WSC 2002 are becoming clear.

We are planning to include a significant report about literature issues in the *Conference Report*. This report will not contain any motions, however. We believe that a portion of our report to the fellowship in the *CAR* should focus on the fact that we have an unparalleled opportunity to look at why and how we develop literature in NA, get people to begin to look at the bigger picture, and then talk about the specific tasks in front of us—the sponsorship project and the Basic Text evaluation.

We are planning to place a motion in the *Conference Agenda Report* to discontinue the process of selecting issue discussion topics through the *CAR*, but continue with the issue discussions themselves. We do not believe this process has worked well over the years. While the issue topic discussions themselves are clearly enjoyed and wanted by conference participants and many members of the fellowship, the process for selecting topics is not embraced by everyone. Very few topics have been submitted since the process began in the mid-1990s, and conference participants haven't been happy with all of the choices. In addition, many groups don't feel they should be asked to discuss the selection of topics in their home groups. The worldwide workshops, regional workshop settings, world service meetings, and convention workshops all offer excellent opportunities for these discussions to occur, in addition to being presented at the WSC meeting.

We have not settled on a replacement process, but hope to receive input and discuss this at the upcoming World Service Meeting.

SUMMARY OF CONFERENCE-APPROVAL TRACK PLANS

Other works-in-progress are headed down the conference-approval track for consideration at WSC 2002. As you may recall, this means all conference participants will receive materials in a mailing prior to the conference, but it won't be in the CAR. This is part of the new Process for Approval of Service Material (adopted at WSC 2000), which provides for this conference-approval track.

As is normal and customary every conference cycle, you can expect a series of changes to *A Temporary Working Guide to Our World Service Structure (2002 Edition)*. There are a great many individual changes that we are proposing in this service material, including changing the title to *A Guide to World Services in Narcotics Anonymous*. In past years, changes to TWGWSS have been made through the CAR-process. We have heard an outcry from the fellowship to not burden the groups with the details of world service policy and procedure matters. We will propose all of the proposed changes to TWGWSS (described below) using the new conference-approval track.

WORLD CONVENTION CHANGES IN TWGWSS

We are recommending two changes in the event rotation for the world convention. First, we think it would be more prudent to split North America into two zones from the current three zones. We are making this recommendation because as the size of WCNA has grown, whenever it is held in North America, fewer cities are able to meet our baseline criteria for consideration. Creating two zones will increase the potential sites in each zone.

The second recommendation is to change the current rotation by holding the convention in Europe scheduled for 2011 in 2009 instead. In reviewing the current WCNA rotation schedule, the frequency that upcoming conventions will be held in North America was discussed. While Hawaii is part of the Asia Pacific zone, it is in the United States. The WSC agreed in 1995 to allow Hawaii to be included in the Asia Pacific zone at their request. Nonetheless, the choice of Hawaii as the site for WCNA-31 (to be held in 2005) means that the convention will not be held outside North America again until 2011, unless this change is made.

Current Zone Rotation Remains

- 2002:** Zone 3 Atlanta, Georgia.
- 2003:** Southern California (San Diego) Special 50th Anniversary.
- 2005:** Zone 4 (Honolulu, Hawaii).
- 2007:** Zone 5 (Central North America).

We have now narrowed the sites in Zone 5 under consideration for 2007 to New Orleans, Louisiana or San Antonio, Texas.

Proposed Zone Rotation Changes:

- 2009:** Zone 6 (Europe, Africa & Middle East). (Currently, Zone 1 (Western North America) is set for 2009.)
- 2011:** Zone 1 (Western North America). (Currently, Zone 6 (Europe, Africa, & Middle East) is set for 2011.)
- 2013:** Zone 2 (Eastern N. America). (No change recommended.)
- 2015:** To be determined at a later date. (Currently, Zone 5 (Central North America) is set for 2015.)

We have not made any recommendation for the site of the 2015 world convention because we believe that the changing and growing nature of the convention will require us to revisit this rotation plan well before 2011. We can make decisions about 2015 at that time.

There will be some other recommended changes in TWGWSS regarding WCNA. These relate to a change in description of the support committee. Also, we reported in the last *NAWS News* our discussions on the world convention statement of purpose in TWGWSS, and we will include language about that, as well.

Be sure to read the enclosed *News Flash* about the change in policy for speakers at the world convention. If you or someone you know want to speak, use the enclosed Flash to submit the information. We will no longer require tapes to select speakers for the world convention. The only requirement is ten or more years clean time for main meeting speakers and five or more years clean time for workshop speakers.

COMMITTED MOTIONS (UPDATED RULES OF ORDER AND A GUIDE TO LOCAL SERVICES SUMMARY)

The WSC committed two motions to the board at WSC 2000. One concerned putting standing rules of order for the conference in TWGWSS. The other motion asked for a simplified summary of the service structure in *A Guide to Local Services*. As we do every year, we are in the process of reviewing the rules of order for the next conference. We have gone back and forth about the pros and cons of putting them into TWGWSS at this time. We are leaning toward doing so, but as we have not made progress on the rules for WSC 2002 yet, we have not included anything in the current draft of TWGWSS. As far as *A Guide to Local Services* summary, we agree that a simplified description of the service structure is a good idea. We're trying to create something that will become a useful service tool. We're still working on a draft.

OTHER TWGWSS CHANGES

We are proposing other straightforward changes to TWGWSS that will be easier to explain when we release the draft so that you can see them. Briefly, there will be an edit to the travel section to reflect our current practice. There will be an update to the budget section, as we have promised you would be forthcoming since before WSC 2000. We are proposing changes to the election procedures (which have caused confusion in the past) that we believe will make this section easier for readers to understand. (In the past, the conference has approved specific election procedures at each conference. We have made minor changes to the improved procedures that went through a successful trial-run at WSC 2000—and it is this modified version that we propose adding to TWGWSS as standing policy.)

Another change concerns language describing the size of the World Board. We are proposing language that clarifies that the board may contain up to 24 members, which will allow the conference to always elect up to that number, but not feel that it is “violating” any policy if it elects fewer members than that to serve on the board at any one time. This suggestion actually came from the floor at WSC 2000. Similarly, to take into account the variable size of the board, the description of the size of board committees would change from “four board members” to “assigned board members.”

We also propose adding a helpful new reference section giving you the introduction, relevant timelines, and deadlines for the conference cycle, plus a listing of other documents of interest for conference participants. Other miscellaneous changes include: a new paragraph about regional reports for the WSC, changing the name of the HRP’s resume form to information form, clarification of the word *vacancy* for the HRP and the board, and other house-cleaning edits.

Again, you’ll see all these changes in context when you receive the draft later. We’ll look for feedback from delegates. We expect to get that feedback from those of you present at the World Service Meeting and look forward to face-to-face discussions then with those who are able to attend.

WSC SEATING WORKGROUP STATUS

The board has formed its advisory workgroup to help form recommendations in response to requests from communities who apply for seating at the World Service Conference. This process is a new one that the board is putting in place this cycle in response to the new policy adopted by the conference at WSC 2000. (That policy can be found in the *Temporary Working Guide to Our World Service Structure (2000 Edition)*; see pages 24-25.) The workgroup consists of Michael McD, David J, and three RDs (Mukam H, New Jersey Region; Seth S, Rio Grande Region; and Michael C, Region of Spain). The board’s Fellowship Relations Committee will coordinate this workgroup for the

board. The workgroup had a preliminary meeting on 22-23 April. Lib E (World Board) also sat in on this first meeting to offer her knowledge about the background relating to this policy. (Lib headed up the board’s Two-Year Conference Workgroup that led to the policy.)

The conference-adopted policy provides that regions that meet certain definite criteria may initiate a “request to be recognized as a conference participant by submitting a letter of intent to the World Board not less than one year before a World Service Conference.” That deadline passed on 27 April 2001. The following seven communities submitted timely requests by that date:

FOR CONSIDERATION AT WSC 2002	DATE RECEIVED
Alaska	29 Sep '00
Arabian Gulf	11 Apr '01
Dividing Carolinas Region	17 Apr '01
Greece	16 Nov '00
Pakistan	17 Apr '01
Poland	10 Apr '01
Turkey	1 Apr '01

The WSC policy creates “Criteria for Recognition of New Conference Participants.” It does not create “Criteria for Regions.” This is a difference of paramount importance. The policy expressly provides that “Due to the complex nature of regional development, each application is considered on a case-by-case basis, rather than through some arbitrary criteria that establishes minimum sizes and structure of regions in order to address local service issues.”

However, in order to be eligible to apply, the policy does specify one absolute requirement. “A new region is eligible to apply for recognition as a conference participant after having functioned as a service body for at least three years.” The timeframe for a dividing region is the same. “For regions forming out of an already existing region, the newly formed region has to have functioned as a separate body for at least three years.” The policy does not give the board any authority or discretion to waive this three-year timeframe.

We plan to engage in dialogue with each of these communities, whether they are eligible to apply for recognition as a conference participant or not. After all, one of the underlying goals of the policy was to foster fellowship development and communication with emerging communities.

PI HANDBOOK EVALUATION INPUT TEAM

We are in the process of finalizing the selection of World Pool members to participate in a workgroup to evaluate the existing input from the fellowship for *A Guide*

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to *Public Information* and *A Guide to Phonenumber Service*. We plan to divide the workgroup into two groups—one group to review and evaluate the input for *A Guide to Public Information* and one group to review and evaluate the input for *A Guide to Phonenumber Service*. We are also planning to develop a simple and effective evaluation tool (e.g., a questionnaire or some such) to assist the workgroup members with their evaluations. In addition, we want to ensure that we provide this workgroup with all the necessary information available to complete the task.

Before making any decisions regarding the outcome of these handbooks, we will wait to receive the evaluations and recommendations from these workgroups. We will continue to keep you apprised of the progress being made in this area. We know this is an important priority, particularly for those involved in public information service. Our limited resources impair our ability to progress with this as quickly as we all would like, and we are unsure how our ongoing resource crunch will affect the timetable for this going forward.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

In accordance with the bylaws, the board held elections in July for its officers. The board unanimously re-elected the existing executive committee members for an additional one-year term. Jon T (Chair), Jane N (Vice Chair), Bob J (Secretary), and Cary S (Treasurer) will serve in these positions for another one-year term. There were no other nominations for this mid-term executive committee election. All four of the EC members stated their willingness to continue for another year.

In keeping with the two-year conference cycle, all other board members also stated their willingness to remain with their current board assignments.

- ◆ First Worldwide Workshop in Europe will be in London, England, **14-16 September 2001**.
- ◆ Regional motions for the *Conference Agenda Report 2002* for WSC 2002, by **26 September 2001**. Issue discussion topic ideas for *CAR 2002* by **26 September 2001**.
- ◆ Issue discussion papers for *CAR 2002* by **15 October 2001**.
- ◆ The first worldwide workshop in the Asia-Pacific will be in Wellington, New Zealand, **2-4 November 2001**.
- ◆ *Conference Agenda Report 2002* will be out by **29 November 2001** in English and translations by **29 December 2001**.
- ◆ Worldwide Workshop, Chicago, Illinois, **1-3 February 2002**.
- ◆ WSC 2002 will be **28 April to 4 May 2002**.