

GREETINGS FROM YOUR WORLD BOARD

With the success of our 25th World Service Conference 2000 now behind us, we held our first full board meeting of the new two-year conference cycle on Thursday, 13 July to Saturday, 15 July. The new board members—Saul A, Giovanna G, Ron H, and Tom McC—attended a special session on Wednesday, 12 July to help them become acquainted with and oriented to world service processes. They also met with members of the Executive Committee to review board members' responsibilities. We started our meeting with an all-day action group on Thursday to discuss the board's vision and mission statements and describe our individual and collective visions for the board. This is a process we used when the board was first formed, and we find it to be helpful in unifying us.

Besides the orientation of the new board members, we adopted the annual corporate resolutions that include banking responsibilities and allow the business of NAWS to function. We accepted our committee assignments and established the initial workload for each committee. Revised budgets for WCNA-28 and the database were presented and approved, as well as the presentation and approval of our final CTF report. Please see highlights regarding WCNA-28 and the database on page four.

Once again, we want to remind you that if you have any questions, need any information on a particular topic and/or item, or if you wish to submit input, please contact us, your World Board, via the WSO.

AN INVENTORY OF OUR PAST YEAR

During our discussions we reviewed several of the factors that worked for us as a board over the past year. With our common purpose of providing leadership, services, and support to the fellowship becoming more cohesive, we have been able to implement, administer, and oversee NAWS resources as we fulfilled many of the WSC directives. We believe that through this partnership with the WSC and the NA Fellowship worldwide, we have joined forces to preserve the integrity of the Narcotics Anonymous message so that addicts around

the world can experience recovery in their own language and culture. Our combined team-building efforts have afforded us the ability to provide effective leadership, maintain the stability of the services we offer, and have also helped to minimize and/or eliminate any duplication of work. Incorporating the small groups at the WSC helped to lead the conference through an extremely difficult change, while the use of consensus-based decision-making aided in the restoration of some trust between world services and the fellowship. Although our communication with the fellowship has improved over our second year, we are well aware of the importance of this particular area and we will continue to strive for even more improvements in the future.

In our attempt to become a more accessible and balanced board, we also examined those factors that impeded our growth over the past year. Under the stringent timelines that we were faced with during the past conference year, we were unable to engage in many of the philosophical discussions that face our fellowship. We also looked at our relative inexperience in working within a system such as the World Board, as well as the unrealistic expectations we unwittingly placed on ourselves. We also came to grips with the fact that the world service system is still in a transitional phase. Even with these difficulties, we were able to incorporate a set of guidelines that now assist us in our ability to accomplish all that is on our plate. It has been an intense learning period for all of us on the board, as well as the fellowship we serve, and we believe that this adjustment stage has only strengthened our commitment and resolve to be the best board we can be to the NA Fellowship.

THE COMMITTEE CHALLENGE

A major topic of discussion was the challenges we will face as we implement the committee system. We approached the assignment of work with three premises in mind. First, each committee will contain a "fellowship development" component; second, all committees will identify additional issues under their scope of responsibility after they are created and begin their work (we expect these needs will vary with each committee); and third, just because a committee is responsible for something, does not mean it will

automatically devote a lot of time to that item. It is important that all of the committees work together with the understanding that much of the work of each committee will overlap that of other committees. We do not want to fall into the “old committee system” mentality, where a committee “claims” any one part or all of “its” work. In our single board structure, we need to adhere to the approach that the work we are charged with by the conference is the *board’s* work, not the work of any particular committee.

The committees met for a short time on Saturday, 15 July. The main purpose of this meeting was for the committee members to become acquainted with one another and to realistically discuss the scope of their work, as well as make initial prioritizations of what that work will entail. It will be the responsibility of committee leadership to keep the Executive Committee informed. We believe that with better forecasting and determining what items need to be addressed, we can prevent the overload and stress the project workgroups experienced last year. We want to discourage over-commitment and make every attempt to stay away from doing it *all* within the first year. This, in and of itself, will be a real challenge! Because of the way we will meet as a board over the next two years, we also need to remember that we will have a different efficiency level. This does not mean that the work will not get done—it means that we must approach *doing* the work in a more practical manner than we have been accustomed to in the past. Ongoing communications will be vital for the success of each committee. In essence, what we are talking about is all of the committees overlapping and working together, forming cross-functional teams.

Another committee challenge will be to maintain the full World Board as the primary contact for committee work. Unless it is a specific project, everything will go to and come from the board, rather than through a specific committee. Each of us needs to become accustomed to the idea that it is the board that provides the resources. The committees are the vehicles that the board will use to get the work completed. Basically, the committees are the resources of the board. Because of the ever-evolving needs of each committee, the number of board members assigned to the committees will change as well, in order to accommodate those needs. The committees do not have a life of their own outside of the board. We would like to stress here that as our work starts to

take off, it is important that any questions or input from the fellowship be directed to the WB, instead of focusing on a particular committee.

A major committee challenge will be presenting a vision for the future and preparing an appropriate work/project analysis and strategy. Each committee will need to examine what its responsibilities will be for the next two, four, and six years down the line; set objectives and plan how to achieve those goals; determine what resources to use and when; and maintain open and effective communication with the board. In spite of all the challenges that we are faced with as we begin to apply the committee system to our current structure, we remain confident that we will overcome whatever obstacles arise in our paths. We know we cannot do it alone and we trust that you, the fellowship, will help guide us along our journey.

The following is a brief description of the committees and their assignments:

Events Committee—*responsible for the logistical planning for WSC meetings (agenda items are actually set by the full board), the world convention, and other world service meetings, while serving as a resource for regional/area convention committees. The full board maintains responsibility for themes and the program for the world convention and the agendas for world service meetings. The WB provides administrative oversight and sets the direction for this event, in conjunction with the WCNA host committee.*

- ◆ Lib E
- ◆ Tony W

Executive Committee—*responsibilities include the effective management of the overall resources of NA World Services, as well as the evaluation of the current Fellowship Development Plan; NAWS business and overall planning; internal processes; overall responsibility for the training and orientation for internal WB development; budget; election procedures; literature distribution, handbook, and/or information; Human Resource Panel and Cofacilitator interactions.*

- ◆ Jon T—Chairperson
- ◆ Jane N—Vice Chairperson
- ◆ Cary S—Treasurer
- ◆ Bob J—Secretary

Fellowship Relations Committee—responsible for activities associated within our fellowship and service structure, conference policy and procedures, and proposed changes to our service structure. This may be through the identification of needed articles, bulletins, service materials, etc., or training efforts. Also, it will assist the board in the planning and implementation of fellowship development activities, such as the worldwide workshop system.

- ◆ Michael McD
- ◆ David J
- ◆ Ron H

Guardians—will serve as a resource to the fellowship, the World Board, and to the World Service Conference. This committee will address principle-related issues (e.g., NA’s traditions and concepts) and are charged with moving proactively on such fellowship issues by developing position papers. They also may provide guidance to our membership on issues as identified by the fellowship as problematic, controversial, and/or topical, as well as guiding the WB in philosophical discussions that affect the continuation and growth of NA.

- ◆ Susan C
- ◆ Daniel S
- ◆ Larry R

Publications Committee—responsible for overseeing the development of our fellowship’s new literature, while coordinating and prioritizing the translations of existing literature, mindful of the need for conceptual fidelity of translations and literature. The committee will also be responsible for the revisions of existing literature, updating the literature development plan, and the annual translation priorities, while serving as a resource for area and regional literature committees and local translations committees.

- ◆ Stephan L
- ◆ Bella B
- ◆ Tom McC
- ◆ Giovanna G

Public Relations Committee—responsible for activities associated with how our fellowship and service structure interface with society. The committee will also guide the way we inform the public about NA, covering all public relations with the medical profession, the criminal justice system,

governmental and non-governmental organizations, and the media. This committee will focus on planning to help world services achieve its overall public relations and marketing plans, as well as being a resource to area and regional H&I and PI committees. It is the hope of the board that we can begin to provide the planning and training that will allow world services and the fellowship to work towards a common effort in all our public relations endeavors.

- ◆ Craig R
- ◆ Saul A
- ◆ Claudio L

COMMUNICATIONS TASK FORCE UPDATE

We reviewed the CTF project and presented our final report on Saturday, 15 July. We will not give you much information about the actual report in this issue, since we are including the executive summary of that report with this mailing. This streamlined report has been written to stand alone; it is accessible, concise, and informational. It will also be translated into Spanish, French, Portuguese, and German. We will also post the executive summary, along with addendums A and B on our web page, www.na.org. The conference participants and the members of the focus groups we can locate will receive the entire report via “snail mail.” We would like to remind you that the CTF project has four phases and we are now at the end of phase two, which translates to...we still have a lot of work ahead of us!

As always, if you have any questions regarding this report or any input, please contact us via the WSO or through the NAWS website.

NAWS NEEDS YOU!!!



Here’s your opportunity to give back what was so freely given to you!!!

Help build the World Pool by sending in your service resume. Trusted servants for NAWS projects and elections will come from this pool. You can reach us by letter, phone, email, or visit our website at

www.na.org to request your resume form.

WCNA-28—IT'S HERE! WELL...ALMOST!!

By the time this report lands in your mailbox, some of you may be packing your bags and getting ready to enjoy our celebration of recovery in Cartagena, Colombia—*Nuestra Esperanza de Vida* (New Hope for Life)! We are looking forward to meeting many of our members there. This is an important event for all of NA; especially since it is the first time our world convention is being held in this zone. A world convention offers each and every attendee the opportunity to experience Narcotics Anonymous in the host city's native culture. We must remember that while the core principles of NA, namely our Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts, remain a constant, the "flavor" of NA, as seen in that city's meetings and events, usually take on the personality of a specific community. And, of course, this difference in native culture and customs is even greater when a convention is held in a country outside of the US. What's so special and unique about holding a world convention in another country is to experience this different culture and still feel at home because we are with other NA members. No matter how diverse our fellowship is or how many different languages we speak or how many different customs we practice, in NA we all speak the same language...and that language is recovery.

To all of you traveling to Cartagena, we wish you a safe trip and we'll see you there!

DATABASE UPDATE

We are currently projecting an increase of approximately \$100,000 to what we initially estimated for the database project. Part of this increase is due to difficulties we encountered with the software developer contracted for the project, as well as some modifications that were necessary. We were originally going to have a small web portal, however, once we realized the potential for this enhancement, we decided to expand upon it. Since this program has yearly upgrades, we see use of this system lasting for many years.

Because of some of the setbacks with the database, we have postponed the mailing of the meeting update packets (tentatively) to September. These packets will include the letters we distributed at the WSC and the four-part meeting registration and regional update forms. We are making every effort to ensure that the information we carry in our database will be accurate and up to date. Once again, we want to mention that this project cannot be successful without your help and support. When you do receive your packets, please make sure the forms are filled in with the most recent information regarding your meetings.

FUTURE PLANS

Our next board meeting is scheduled for 12-14 October 2000. We are planning to produce an expanded *NAWS News* after this meeting instead of the *November Conference Report*. This version of *NAWS News* will contain information and more details regarding the progress of the committees and the status of our projects during this conference cycle. However, we will produce a conference report in April 2001. If you should have any questions or would like to request more information and/or any other *NAWS* publications, please contact the WSO at 818-773-9999, ext.771.

In fellowship,
Your World Board

World Unity Day Celebration!

Join us for a two-hour, "listen only" telephone hook-up and hear the Unity Day Speaker. Every region is being offered one free hook-up. See flyer or visit our web site, www.na.org.

WHEN: Saturday, 2 September 2000

TIME: 8:30 pm Eastern Daylight Time

WHERE: Live from Cartagena, Colombia!!!

Nuestra Esperanza de Vida